

## A Message from Christine Araujo Executive Director



### Connecting People to Place.

Congratulations Mayor Michelle Wu on your historic win! TACC looks forward to working with you and your team on advancing an equity agenda in Roxbury.

Before I go any farther, I'd like to invite you to join us for activities on the Roxbury Branch Boston Public Library plaza on December 31 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come interact with the ice sculptures and enjoy the program. At 1:30 p.m., a free trolley will leave for the New England Aquarium for an afternoon of fun.

With Roxbury Main Streets, TACC further enlivens Nubian Square, making it a more robust business district that is more responsive to community retail and service needs. We had great weather at each of the six Saturday *Savor the Square 2021* events which brought residents and visitors into Nubian Square to explore local businesses. Each of the mayoral candidates and many of the City Council candidates attended the events and made purchases from the BIPOC vendors. Thank you to all the partners who stepped up to make each event so successful.

You can continue to help by purchasing gifts/gift cards at Nubian Square businesses. Your dollar has a greater impact on the local economy than any purchase from a big box store or online. Since over 50% of staff at Nubian Square businesses either walk or take a bus to work, your dollar will go to neighborhood residents.

On August 14 and September 12, not only was the Fort Point Channel filled with the sounds of Roxbury and Dorchester residents kayaking and paddleboarding, but also conversations with the TrikeHub tour guides on rides along the Harborwalk to the Boston Children's Museum, Martin Richards Park, and the ICA. The positive energy, smiles, and good humor were truly contagious.

This fall, we bid farewell to Therese Fitzgerald, Director of Research, who spearheaded the *Pathways for Girls* study and brought together the Young Women's Economic Development partnership with ten girl-serving organizations to develop a pilot after-school and summer program to be implemented at two Roxbury sites.

Thanks to generous financial support from the Barr Foundation, TACC has created a new position for a Lead Waterfront Advocate. We hope to hire a neighborhood resident who will be a key member of the *Waterways* four-member team with primary responsibility for expanding Roxbury and Dorchester resident advocacy for the waterfront from within the community. Please help us get the word out to your networks. The full posting is available at [tamcc.org/about-us/careers](https://tamcc.org/about-us/careers).

As we close this year, we thank all our partners and funders in the community and throughout the City of Boston. A special shout out to all of those individuals who have shared their time, talents, and treasure--you have been instrumental in translating recommendations into action for the benefit of the Roxbury community.

Wishing you all the best this Holiday Season and the New Year!

Warm Regards,  
Christine

# UPDATE WINTER 2022

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# Connecting People to Place: An Update

## **WATERWAYS: CONNECTING RESIDENTS OF ROXBURY AND DORCHESTER TO BOSTON'S WATERFRONT**

### **KAYAKING IN FORT POINT CHANNEL: UN DIA DE KAYAK AND THE JOY OF KAYAKING**

On August 14 and September 12, Roxbury and Dorchester residents came together in the Fort Point Channel for full, joyful days of kayaking and on-land activities. New partnerships with TrikeHub (pedicab service), World Ocean School (Schooner Roseway sailing ship), BlackJoy (outdoor concert), Boston Harbor Now/TrillFit (family fitness class), GrubStreet (pop-up poetry), Green Crab (species education), and Mass General Brigham (community care van) increased the number of activities available for multigenerational attendees, complementing existing partnerships with Piers Park Sailing Center (kayaking and paddleboarding), Boston Children's Museum (museum admission), ICA (museum admission), and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay (fishing/crabbing).

Other highlights include:

- New collaboration with BlackJoy provided the foundation for adding a second kayaking day honoring Boston's declaration of September 12 as Black Joy Day that was capped-off by an outdoor concert at the ICA curated by BlackJoy's founder, Thaddeus Miles. Check out *The Boston Globe's* coverage (['We belong everywhere': Celebrating Black Joy in the Seaport](#); 9.12.21) of the day.
- Developed an Our Boston Waterfront map that served as a visual program schedule for on-the-water and on-land activities and increased knowledge of public amenities, transportation options, the Harborwalk, Chapter 91, and year-round free/reduced cost programs, encouraging repeat visits to Fort Point Channel.
- Piloted a Resident Ambassador Program, creating a paid role for Roxbury and Dorchester residents in the planning, running, and evaluation of the kayaking days.

Thank you to everyone who attended, programming partners, and to the 2021 Fort Point Channel Watersheet

Activation Grant Program, Better Beaches Grant Program (Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation), MassHousing, and the Barr Foundation for their support of these programs.

### **TACC RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT FROM THE BARR FOUNDATION**

In October 2021, TACC received a \$300,000 grant from the Barr Foundation's Boston Waterfront Initiative that will support *Waterways* over the next 12 months. The funding will allow TACC to continue to push for a more equitable waterfront through existing activities as well as new activities focused on employment, including the development of a Blue/Green Career Pathways Program. Thank you to the Barr Foundation for your unwavering support.

### **WE'RE HIRING: LEAD WATERFRONT ADVOCATE**

With expanded funding from the Barr Foundation, TACC is excited to announce a new position, Lead Waterfront Advocate, and is currently recruiting applicants. The Lead Waterfront Advocate will be a key member of the *Waterways* four-member team with primary responsibility for expanding Roxbury and Dorchester resident advocacy for the waterfront from within the community.

When *Waterways* was first launched in 2018, TACC and our partner, Kelley Chunn & Associates, acknowledged the pressing need to give voice to a broader group of BIPOC Roxbury and Dorchester residents to influence programs, policies, and accessibility to ensure that the waterfront's evolution reflects the needs and interests of the Roxbury and Dorchester communities.

Please help us spread the word about this job opportunity. The [full job posting](#) is available on TACC's website. Thank you for sharing with your networks.

### **YOUNG WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

Thank you to the members of the Young Women's Economic Empowerment Advisory Group for your dedication and diligence in developing a Theory of Change and Logic Model to respond to the needs articulated in the *Pathways for Girls* study. TACC will resume activities once a Project Manager is hired.

## Connecting People to Place: An Update



### SAVOR THE SQUARE: IMPLEMENTING THE NUBIAN SQUARE MARKET ANALYSIS

What started off as an experiment in 2020 (during the coronavirus pandemic) has evolved into an event embraced by the community, vendors, businesses, and partners. In May 2021, *Savor the Square* kicked off with a celebration of Arbor Day and concluded in October with an acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples.

TACC is excited to extend the *Savor the Square* season through winter activation. A collaboration with Roxbury Main Streets and the Roxbury Branch Boston Public Library will bring ice sculptures to the library plaza on December 31 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., a free trolley will leave from the library plaza for the New England Aquarium, [Middle Passage Marker](#), and the [Boston Harbor Now's New Year's Eve Ice Sculpture Stroll](#).

In the *Nubian Square Market Analysis*, residents and businesses voiced a strong need for Saturday and evening events where music, food, art, and fresh affordable produce was available in Nubian Square. *Savor the Square* brings the need to fruition by coalescing existing businesses and entrepreneurial vendors into one marketplace in the core of Nubian Square. The market complements existing businesses by reducing leakage, increasing foot traffic, and introducing new customers to the businesses which are essential to their survival.

Based on exit surveys, the majority of visitors: 1) think that *Savor the Square* should become a regularly scheduled activity; 2) visited other businesses in the Square; and 3) intend to return for shopping and dining.

*Savor the Square's* success was a team effort. TACC is grateful to:

- **Farmers:** A key component of the open-air market is to provide Roxbury residents and visitors easy access to locally grown and affordable produce; this ongoing effort was advanced through support from Boston Nature Center and New England Orchards. TACC anticipates hosting more farmers next year.
- **Partners and Funders:** Roxbury Main Streets, Boston Cyclist Union, Roxbury Branch Boston Public Library, Boston Harbor Now, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, MassArt Center for Art and Community Partnership,

## Connecting People to Place: An Update

Boston Planning and Development Agency, Berkshire Bank, BlueHub Capital, Eastern Bank Foundation, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, KingBoston, New Commonwealth Fund, Northeastern University, City of Boston Arts and Culture, and the Trefler Foundation. Your support went directly to grow the BIPOC microbusinesses who vended at or provided services to *Savor the Square*.

- Leaders in the Indigenous Community: Daniel Strong Walker Thomas (Global Initiative for Indigenous Advancement), Cedric Woods, Ph.D. (Director, Institute for New England Native American Studies, UMass Boston), Raquel Halsey (NAICOB), and Robert Peters (Artist), just to name a few, thank you for making October 16 such a success; and thank you to the vendors displaying such beautiful work. This is an event not to be missed next year.
- Artists and Performers: The ZYG 808 and Mwalim of the Groovalottos, Albino Mbie, DJ Jammin' Joe Johnson, Ashley-Rose Solomon, Miranda Rae, and a host of other talented performers added a festive and culturally stimulating vibe.
- Health Professionals: Dedicated staff from GotVax, CIC Health (mobile/pop-up clinic), and Boston Medical Center were instrumental in raising awareness and providing resources and access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- And of course, there are those who were in the background who played an instrumental role: Abria Smith (Berklee College of Music), Ola Akinwumi (Arts Boston), and Catherine T. Morris (BAMS Fest) for assistance with booking creatives; City of Boston Special Events staff for your dedication; Concrete Protective Services; and Scott Kirkwood.

If your New Year's resolution is to extend your community involvement, please consider volunteering at *Savor the Square 2022*. There are a lot of ways to get involved including marketing and planning children's activities. Please reach out to us at [admin@tamcc.org](mailto:admin@tamcc.org).

