

HELPING TO BUILD THE GOOD CITY

Greater Boston's Community Foundation

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2004 AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION



The Foundation's "beyond grantmaking" role as a partner in civic leadership was the focus of much of the work in 2004. Here are a few of the highlights:

Receiving Close to \$42 Million in Gifts and Making More than \$50 Million in Grants

Some 1,025 new contributions, totaling close to \$42 million, are received from individuals, families, foundations, and corporations. The Foundation makes more than \$50 million in grants, up \$2 million from last year.

Understanding Boston

This series of reports, convenings, and action agendas expanded in 2004, with the release of **12 reports** reflecting fresh research, **25 major convenings**, and several task forces determined to make a difference in the areas of housing, cultural support, and education.

Gifts to the Civic Leadership Fund Surpass Goal

Inspired by the Foundation's increasingly visible role as a civic leader and social innovator, donations to the Civic Leadership Fund top **\$550,000**, \$100,000 beyond the goal.



Launching a New Goldberg Seminar

A new Carol R. Goldberg Seminar is launched on the **Role and Impact of Colleges and Universities** in the Greater Boston community.

Workforce Investments

A grant of \$1.5 million from the Skillworks initiative to the Workforce Solutions Group helps to make **\$6 million available** for skill-based programs.

Increasing Voter Participation

A nonpartisan Voter Participation Initiative shows impressive results in fall municipal elections, with a **60 percent increase in voters in 45 targeted precincts**, compared with a 0.6 percent loss in the other precincts.

Gaining Recognition

The *Boston Herald* writes, "...[The Boston Foundation] is trying to revive the urban middle class, taking the lead in coordinating the area's fractured arts community, hatching an effort to give the state more control over failing schools, funding get-out-the-vote efforts... Boston is better for it."

Charity Navigator, America's premier independent evaluator of charities, gives TBF a "four-star exceptional rating."



The **Boston Indicators Project** is praised and used as a model for regions around the world, as well as the Institute of Science, the National and International Indicators Committees, and the federal GAO (Government Accountability Office). Its information campaign wins a Council on Foundations Award for Excellence in Communications.

Creating a World-Class Citistate

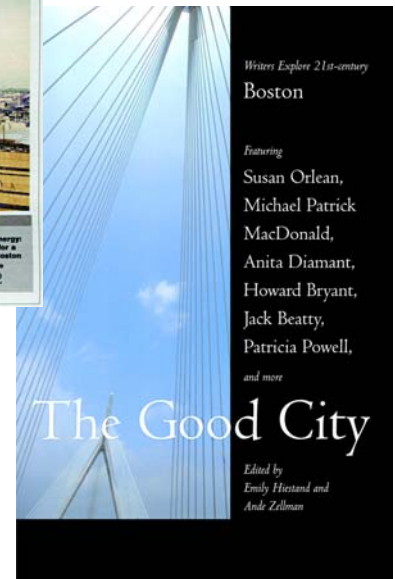
Boston Unbound, commissioned by the Foundation, researched and written by urban experts Curtis Johnson and Neal Peirce, and printed by the *Boston Globe*, analyzes the most critical challenges Boston faces in the 21st century. The *Boston Business Journal* praises the Foundation for the report.

Helping Nonprofits Adapt to Change

A provocative new series about **the health and resiliency of the nonprofit sector** is launched with two major forums attended by hundreds of nonprofit representatives.

The Good City is Released

An anthology of essays by well-known Boston authors, sponsored by TBF, is released at a Boston Public Library reception attended by the Mayor, and **30,000 copies are distributed to all delegates and media** attending the 2004 Democratic National Convention.



\$25.4 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS GENERATED

In addition to annual contributions from donors, the Boston Foundation also generates millions of dollars in resources to benefit Greater Boston. Here is a brief summary:

More than \$3 million is received for special initiatives, in the areas of civic engagement, gay and lesbian funding, homelessness prevention, racial justice, out-of-school time programming for teens, and workforce development.

\$6 million is made available for the workforce development field in Massachusetts as the result of a \$1.5 million grant to the Workforce Solutions Group from a special Boston Foundation-convened initiative called Skillworks. In addition, a **\$500,000 Boston Foundation investment in Skillworks raises \$2.4 million** from other private and public sources in 2004, with a total of \$10 million pledged over the next five years.

Close to \$600,000 in additional funds are managed and distributed for other organizations to support arts service organizations and workforce development.

More than \$2 million is generated by collaboratives housed at the Boston Foundation, including EdVestors and the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

Some \$2 million in additional funds is distributed by other foundations in collaboration with the Foundation, including \$250,000 for homelessness prevention, \$770,000 for the Racial Justice Collaborative, \$500,000 for the New Economy Initiative, and \$425,000 for the Skillworks initiative.

A Program Related Investment of \$1.5 million for pre-development costs associated with single room occupancy housing for very low-income individuals is estimated to **leverage some \$10 million every year over the next 10 years.**



TBF Finance and Administration staff: Anna Gallo and Stacey Riddick

UNDERSTANDING THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

Established in 1915, the Boston Foundation is Greater Boston's community foundation—a major grantmaker, partner in philanthropy, key convener, provider of information, and civic leader.

Innovation

The Foundation's grantmaking, special initiatives, and civic leadership promote innovation across a broad range of compelling community issues, from educational excellence to affordable housing to galvanizing support for the arts.

Information

By commissioning timely research and sharing information at a series of forums called *Understanding Boston*, the Foundation contributes to a growing body of data about our region. The Foundation also sponsors the *Boston Indicators Project*, which provides a comprehensive, constantly-updated body of information about every aspect of life in Greater Boston through an award-winning state-of-the-art website at www.bostonindicators.org.

Impact

In its unique role as a grantmaker, developer of special initiatives, and civic leader, the Foundation focuses on tangible, measurable results with its own funding and special initiatives, while leveraging millions of dollars in investments from other foundations, donors, and government. It also establishes cross-sector task forces to tackle the toughest community challenges, such as affordable housing and support for the arts.

Governance and Staff

The Foundation is overseen by a 20-member Board of Directors selected to represent diverse interests within the community. Almost 50 staff members work closely with donors, grantees, civic leaders, and community residents. The staff includes professionals in the areas of grantmaking, philanthropy, finance and administration, and communications.

Grantmaking

Through its Discretionary, Designated and Donor Advised Funds, the Foundation awards close to \$50 million in grants annually to some 2,000 nonprofits in Boston and across the country.

Primary Funding Areas

Grants address a broad range of core areas including Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement, Education and Out-of-School Time, Health and Human Services, Housing and Community Economic Development, the Urban Environment, and Workforce Development.

Special Initiatives

Special grantmaking initiatives designed by the Foundation's staff address the most pressing areas of contemporary community life. Currently the Foundation's special initiatives focus on community safety, Pilot schools, the New Economy, and the largest workforce development public/private partnership in Boston's history.

Donors

With some 750 separate funds established either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes, the Foundation works closely with donors to achieve their philanthropic goals. Some donors give unrestricted funds, others earmark gifts for special purposes, and a number work closely with Foundation staff to focus their dollars on the areas of community life they care about most.

Assets

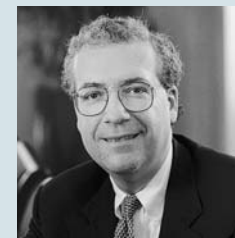
The Foundation's endowment stands at close to \$650 million. Its charitable assets are invested in *The Fund for the 21st Century*—which is a pool of investment management products created specifically for the Foundation, and including nationally-renowned, principally Boston-based money managers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Current



CATHERINE D'AMATO
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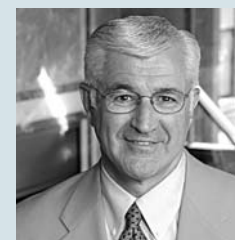
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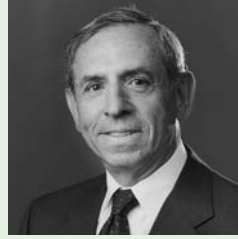
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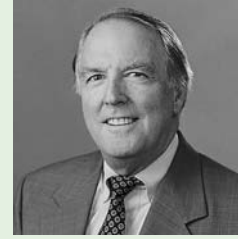
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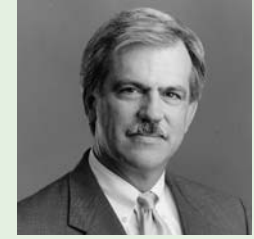
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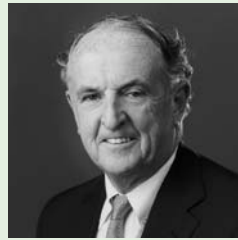
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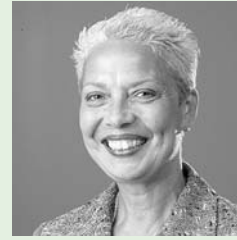
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Good City, for me, is one that is constantly changing, growing, and improving itself from within. And I'm proud to say that the Boston Foundation contributed mightily to this ongoing process of reflection, examination, and striving over the last year.

Through the Foundation's "Understanding Boston" series of reports and convenings, hundreds of people attended some 25 forums at the Foundation—participating in lively discourses about old problems, new challenges, and, especially, opportunities for real and lasting change. Wide-ranging and unfettered discussions took place on topics as diverse as strengthening our cultural sector, reforming public education, developing affordable housing, and re-examining the nonprofit sector itself.

I am especially grateful that the Foundation hosted four major convenings on the topic of community safety. Violent crime in Boston continues to agonize our city's residents—and challenge our resources and resolve—but this year, the Boston Foundation and its partners made invaluable contributions to the dialogue about this most important issue. The first forum explored one of the most destabilizing factors we face—that of incarcerated young people returning to their old neighborhoods. Other sessions focused on the specific challenges of girls and examined the various laws and procedures that affect community safety. One convening was held in the Grove Hall neighborhood, resulting in a moving conversation between authorities, young people, and families.

In the area of community safety and in so many other areas, the Foundation is playing a powerful civic leadership role—working side-by-side with government, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other foundations. As a result, it is no surprise that donations to the Boston Foundation's Civic Leadership Fund, which supports and acknowledges this work, surpassed all of our expectations this year, totaling more than \$550,000.

Much of this good work is spearheaded and informed by the Foundation's Board of Directors. This Board is larger than at any other time in the Foundation's history, and all of its 20 members are actively involved in the work. Whether it's Chris Gabrieli tirelessly working with the Foundation and other funders to improve after-school programming, or Paul Guzzi and Bennie Wiley collaborating with the Foundation to encourage talented young people to stay in Boston, or Micho Spring, sparking the Foundation to examine the special challenges of the Latino community, this is a truly engaged group—all civic leaders in their own right.

Our donors are also more active than ever. They take advantage of the many convenings held at the Foundation to learn more about our community—and of the opportunities the Foundation offers them to co-fund exciting, promising nonprofit activities. Some \$348,000 in co-funding was provided by our donors, allowing the Foundation to expand its own resources to provide even more support to its grantees.

As the Foundation approaches its 90th anniversary in 2005, we also took the opportunity to look back at some of the donors who were "There from the Beginning," through their generosity and vision. And so, we move toward this important institutional milestone with pride in our accomplishments, humility about the work that remains, and tremendous hope about the future of the good city.

Reverend Ray A. Hammond
Chair

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In the Introduction to *The Good City: Writers Explore 21st Century Boston*, an anthology of essays commissioned by the Boston Foundation this year, I wrote: *The good city is innovative and fun, it is prosperous, it strives for justice and sustainability, but above all, it is alive.*

I'm delighted to be able to use these same words to describe the Boston Foundation in 2004. Our engaged board, talented staff, knowledgeable advisors, generous donors, and dedicated partners in all sectors have helped to make this year innovative, fun, prosperous, just, sustainable, and, above all, alive. And, all of these same people have helped to shape the Foundation's formula for positive social change—including fresh research, major convenings, task forces of experts and activists, and detailed, measurable action agendas for real progress in many of the areas of civic life that have an impact on all of our region's residents.

Some of the research we commissioned this year focused on specific issues, such as housing or human services spending or transportation. Other studies cut a broader swathe through our region's character and challenges. June saw the release of the Boston Foundation-commissioned report *Boston Unbound: Creating a World-Leading Citistate*, written by metropolitan experts Neal Peirce and Curtis Johnson, after interviewing some 300 civic leaders in Boston, and comparing their findings with other cities.

According to their report, Greater Boston has all of the qualities to become one of the most rewarding places on earth to live, work, learn, and prosper. They credit this promising conclusion on the depth and the variety of our intellectual and financial power, as well as a continuing atmosphere of innovation, which always has always set this region apart. They warn, however, that these marvelous attributes also contribute to a sense of complacency about our exalted position in the country and in the world—something we simply cannot afford as we move forward. The authors also commented on the “tribalism” that still has the power to stop progress in

this city. But, for the most part, admiration and affection shines through every page of their report, while they call on all of us to do a better job of building on our strengths.

Another publication commissioned by the Foundation was inspired by the approaching Democratic National Convention. Boston Foundation Vice President Mary Jo Meisner saw that unique event as an opportunity to reach out to people from around the country—even the world—with an updated, contemporary reflection of our city.

To seize this opportunity, we commissioned two of our region's finest editors and 15 well-known local authors to write a book about today's Boston. The result was *The Good City*, a remarkable anthology of new essays that touch on everything from politics to race to the positive and negative effects of neighborhood gentrification.

The book was published by Boston's nonprofit Beacon Press and distributed by the nonprofit group, Boston 2004, to all 30,000 delegates and media members attending the convention. It is now in bookstores across the country.

You will find brief excerpts from *The Good City* throughout this annual report. In my introduction, I explored some of the problems that have haunted Boston through the years. But I ended my essay—and I end this letter—on a note of optimism, because Boston has always supported a wonderful kind of civic activism that has made our city what it is today and will continue to forge our future. We at the Boston Foundation are proud to support that powerful brand of community activism that has shaped today's Boston—and we are proud to be playing a role in helping to build the Good City.

Paul S. Grogan
President and CEO