Civic Leadership in Action



"TBF's willingness to leverage its research and community connections in conjunction with its grant-making is unmatched."

— Governor Maura Healey

ANNUAL FUND FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

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continued on inside back cover

The Annual Fund for Civic Leadership powers TBF's work convening leaders, producing research, building coalitions, and advocating for policy change across Greater Boston.



CONTINUING LEE'S LEGACY

For the past five years, Lee Pelton guided the Boston Foundation with a steady hand, a thoughtful approach, and a clear vision for a more equitable Boston. As an advocate for equity, a partner to local changemakers, and a dedicated leader and mentor inside and outside the walls of TBF, Lee made a marked impact on Greater Boston and a lasting contribution to the Foundation's strength.

As we continue our work and seek our next leader, we do so with clarity and strength, with the ambition to keep building partnerships and committing to the work that can solve our region's most critical problems.

Thank you, Lee, for your leadership.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In times of change and turmoil, we know that steadfast resolve, long-term leadership, and consistent commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities are indispensable. For more than a century, the Boston Foundation has served as a funder, a partner to donors and nonprofits, and a civic leader.

Through the tenures of Paul Grogan and Lee Pelton, and into our future, we have been and remain committed to listening thoughtfully, researching to build understanding, convening to bring the most knowledgeable voices together, and advocating to make this region even stronger and more equitable.

None of that works without you and your commitment. We hope you will stand in partnership with us, investing with us in this vital work, so together we can build a city and region that works for everyone.

Dwight Poler
Board of Directors, Chair

ON THE COVER: TBF staff and partners pose with Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and the winners of the Mass. ADU Design Challenge, a statewide competition to provide innovative building plans for affordable accessory dwelling units. Photo courtesy Office of the Governor

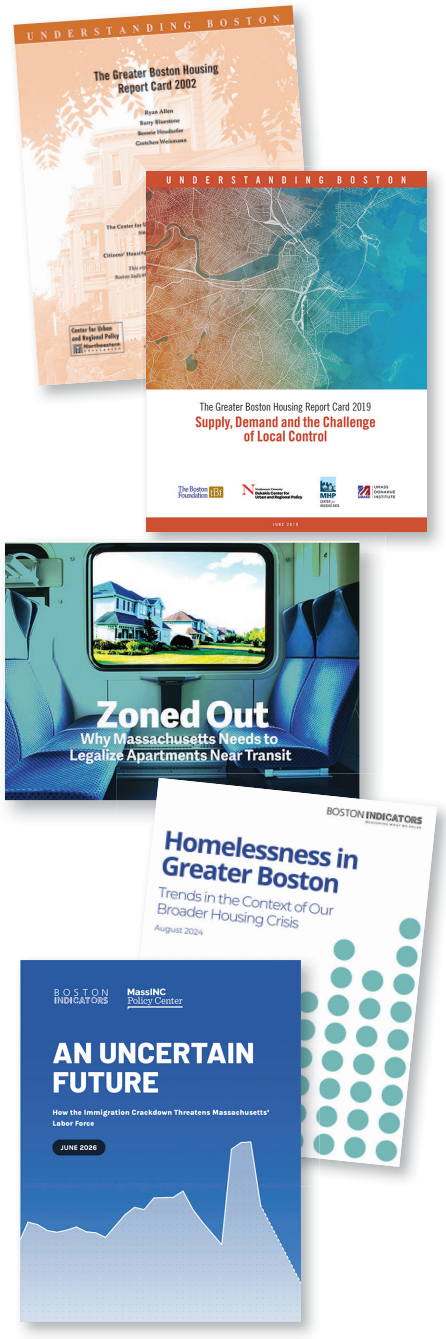
ANNUAL GIFTS FUELING LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS

Policy and systems changes are seldom "quick wins." Your gifts to the Annual Fund for Civic Leadership provide the fuel for the Boston Foundation to invest in time-intensive, long-term research, partnerships, and advocacy that lead to substantive solutions to complex problems.

Housing Affordability: An Ongoing Journey

The Boston Foundation's support for affordable housing resonates through our 111-year history. From helping to found settlement houses and community land trusts to researching key housing issues, advocating for zoning and permitting reform, expanding down payment assistance, and protecting homeowners and renters, TBF's unwavering resolve has been made possible by gifts to the Annual Fund.

In 2002, TBF produced the first of what's become an annual fixture in housing policy circles, the *Greater Boston Housing Report Card*. These reports and TBF's related research, advocacy, and partnerships have helped produce several legislative wins over the years. Recently, the *Housing Report Card* has built the case through data to support a statewide commitment to housing construction. The 2019 *Report Card* showed new housing was concentrated in just a dozen communities statewide, and suggested how local zoning adjustments could even that burden. Our 2020 report *Zoned Out* focused on statewide zoning changes to spark multifamily housing construction near transit. Both backed the advocacy shaping the current MBTA Communities law; the data show the current and potential impact.



We continue to use data, research, convening, and advocacy to advance innovation in housing. We have studied and supported the statewide legalization of "accessory dwelling units" by right. Our Wealth Gap Partnership has leveraged our research and influence to expand funding for down payment assistance and support the 2024 Affordable Homes Act. And two reports we produced this year explored other avenues for reform: updating building codes and local permitting requirements, which often derail development of much-needed homes.

Housing is just one example. Similar impact comes in areas from immigrant rights protection to workforce ESOL programs to criminal justice, wage equity, early education funding, and more. Your Annual Fund donations power our commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities across the Commonwealth.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP: A PARTNERSHIP WITH DONORS



Civic leadership begins and ends with community.

Always **listening** to identify critical issues, we develop **research** and **convene** people and coalitions that illuminate needs and explore solutions.

In **partnership** with you and fellow Annual Fund donors, we **invest** in the people and processes that advance policies and elevate community priorities and **advocate** for equitable, lasting change.

LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IN 2027?

12+ The number of reports and research briefs planned from Boston Indicators, our research center, including the 2026 Greater Boston Housing Report Card and a landscape study of the Massachusetts population with disabilities.

20+ Our slate of planned forums and convenings includes discussions on housing, child well-being, climate, meaningful careers, and deeper explorations of the wealth gap data released this fall as Mass ECHOS, funded in part by TBF.

300+ The annual number of local media stories leveraging our research, capturing our convenings, and exploring key issues spotlighted by our advocacy work.

When you give to the Boston Foundation's Annual Fund for Civic Leadership, you provide the energy that propels TBF's unique impact.

"Time and again, the Boston Foundation, our community foundation, steps up for residents in need. On behalf of our city, thank you to everyone who supports the Boston Foundation. We are so grateful for all that you do."

— **Mayor Michelle Wu**

ANNUAL FUND FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

WHY GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP?







Other organizations give grants. Other organizations do research and hold convenings. But no other organization can match the combined power of our research hub, Boston Indicators, our convening events at the Edgerley Center for Civic Leadership, and our advocacy in partnership with and support of experienced community voices—alongside our discretionary grants, impact investments, and donor partnerships. Each piece both feeds and is strengthened by the others.

Your gift is what connects all of this—the research, convenings, and advocacy, and the behind-the-scenes work that ties it all together. That's civic leadership in action: improving lives and strengthening communities across Greater Boston and beyond.

How to Give

Give in whatever way works best for you: Use the enclosed reply form and envelope, give online at tbf.org/civicleadership, recommend a grant from your donor-advised fund (at TBF or elsewhere), or contribute by wire, stock, or other non-cash assets. Full instructions for every option can be found at tbf.org/giftinstructions.

Questions?
We're glad to help – reach us at AnnualFund@tbf.org or call 617-338-2213.

PHOTOS: CRAIG BAILEY

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At the Boston Foundation, we place equity at the center of everything we do. We believe that civic leadership and civic engagement are the most powerful ways to advance justice and equity in Greater Boston. This important work is made possible by donors to the Annual Fund for Civic Leadership.

To make a donation, fill out and return this reply card in the supplied envelope or visit us online at tbf.org/civicleadership.

www.tbf.org

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For questions, please contact us at 617-338-2213 or AnnualFund@tbf.org.

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