THE BOSTON FOUNDATION’S CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Seizing This Moment

The Boston Foundation
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continued inside back cover
I have followed the Boston Foundation’s civic leadership for many years—its compelling research, public policy work, and unique power to convene. While my professional life has been in higher education, most recently as the President of Emerson College, civic leadership always has been an essential aspect of my professional and personal identity. I am very fortunate, now, to be able to do full time what I’ve been doing part time for most of my adult life.

The Boston Foundation’s role in our city has evolved to meet the needs of the times since it was founded in 1915. But in 2001, it set off on an entirely new course. Led by my predecessor Paul S. Grogan, the Boston Foundation expanded its mission and became the primary civic leader for Boston and our region—with its influence felt across the country.

Now, the triple pandemic of COVID-19, economic hardship and the very public exposure of the systemic racial disparities that plague our country provides us with an astonishing opportunity to rethink, reimagine and reshape Boston for years—if not decades—to come.

Today, we need extraordinarily strong, committed and collaborative leadership in our public, private, nonprofit and civic sectors to seize this moment and build back better.

I pledge to you that the Boston Foundation will be in the forefront of that charge.

M. Lee Pelton
President and CEO

Lee Pelton began his tenure as President and CEO of the Boston Foundation on June 1, 2021.
Greater Boston depends on the Boston Foundation to lead the way through the most critical issues we face as a city and region. Since March of 2020, that has meant responding to the triple pandemic of the health care crisis and the drive to vaccinate all community members, the economic devastation suffered by those who could least afford it, and the racial reckoning prompted by the murder of George Floyd.

The response to these challenges demanded the full weight of the power of the Boston Foundation’s civic leadership. Through the COVID-19 Response Fund—the first fund to be established in the wake of the pandemic—the Foundation raised and distributed $15 million to nonprofits on the front lines of the COVID crisis. In addition, our donors with Donor Advised Funds have made $34 million in grants to COVID-related work.

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Some 50 webinars and other virtual events attracted thousands of participants eager for the release of important research about the effects of the pandemic on health, housing, hunger, education and other essential areas of community of life. Provocative, illuminating reports and conversations also focused on the devastating effects of systemic racism in Boston.
“One of the first calls I received when the pandemic hit was from the Boston Foundation—offering its partnership and tremendous financial support. Between its grantmaking and civic leadership, the Boston Foundation has been central to the response to COVID-19 in Massachusetts.”

Michael Curry
President, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

SEIZING THIS MOMENT

For 20 years, the Boston Foundation has been a center of unique partnerships with community members, nonprofits, government, higher education, businesses and others, all working together to make life better for those who struggle most. While we’ve made tremendous progress, we never have faced a moment like this one. An unparalleled and continuing health crisis, a heightened awareness of the challenges experienced by low-income people of color and a renewed movement for civil rights presents us with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lead the way toward real, measurable, positive change.

The Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership

Because of this unique moment, the Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership is more vital than ever. It enables the Foundation and our many partners to have a powerful impact on issues that are critical to improving the lives of Greater Boston’s most vulnerable individuals and families—as well as strengthening the economic competitiveness of our entire region during uncertain, even perilous, times. Opportunities for real, lasting change only come once in a generation. We need to take advantage of this one.
SUPPORT THIS YEAR’S CAMPAIGN

“As Chair and Vice Chair of the Boston Foundation’s Board of Directors, we are proud of its role as a civic leader for Greater Boston. The Foundation is an essential community resource in times of emergency, a gathering place for open, data-based conversations about critical issues—and an organization that is driven by big ideas and even bigger goals for our city and region.”

Linda Mason and T.J. Rose

Every year, hundreds of generous donors make the Boston Foundation’s civic leadership work possible through their donations to the Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership. In 2020-2021, more than 500 individuals, companies and organizations donated to the Fund, supporting our research, virtual forums, communications and public policy work. (See list of last year’s donors on the inside covers of this brochure.)

How to Contribute
We hope that you will support the 2021-2022 Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership at the Boston Foundation.

Just tear off and complete the attached reply card and return it in the pre-paid envelope. You can also find out more and donate online by going to tbf.org/civicleadership

Please feel free to contact our Manager of the Annual Campaign, Taylor Garry, to learn more and ask any questions you may have: taylor.garry@tbf.org or 617-338-4064.
The Boston Foundation's expert gift planning team has worked with an increasing number of families on their estate planning process in 2021. As a 106-year-old community foundation, our work has long been centered on deploying philanthropic resources from our Permanent Fund for Boston, which has been contributed to by hundreds of generous Bostonians as a part of their legacy planning. Not only is the Foundation a large and strong platform for fulfilling long term charitable goals, we are also exceptionally flexible and offer customized solutions that reflect your circumstances and values. To learn more, please call Emma Penick at 617-338-2340 or Betsy Townsend at 617-338-4158.

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Please make your charitable contribution payable to the Boston Foundation and mail it in the return envelope. For questions, please contact Taylor Garry at 617-338-4064 or taylor.garry@tbf.org.

To recommend a grant to the Annual Campaign for Civic Leadership from your Donor Advised Fund at the Boston Foundation, please complete the following:

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For questions, please contact Taylor Garry at 617-338-4064 or taylor.garry@tbf.org.