



CORRIDOR OF PROMISE

This is How We Build
Vibrant Places

The Boston Foundation
2014 Annual Report

The Mission of the **BOSTON FOUNDATION**

As Greater Boston's community foundation since 1915, the Boston Foundation devotes its resources to building and sustaining a vital, prosperous city and region, where justice and opportunity are extended to everyone. It fulfills this mission in three principal ways:

- Making grants to nonprofit organizations and designing special funding initiatives to address this community's critical challenges;
- Working in partnership with donors to achieve high-impact philanthropy; and
- Serving as a civic hub and center of information, where ideas are shared, levers for change are identified, and common agendas for the future are developed.



Creative Placemaking in **UPHAM'S CORNER**

Artist Cedric Douglas wanted to use the “language of the street” to engage Dorchester’s Upham’s Corner community in making art—and so he created the “UP Truck,” a mobile art lab that traveled the neighborhood this summer. Cedric’s was the winning entry in a Boston Foundation and Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) competition for a public art project to celebrate and inspire the cultural richness of Upham’s Corner. Even he was surprised at the extent to which residents embraced the truck. By inviting residents to help create canvases, screen-printed T-shirts and robots, the UP Truck team gathered information about the type of art residents want in their neighborhood.

Upham’s Corner was the site of a pilot program for an initiative that will embrace what is now being called the “Fairmount Cultural Corridor.” It was also the Foundation’s first foray into “creative placemaking,” a national movement that is bringing together



public, private and community partners to help shape the character of neighborhoods across the country through arts and cultural activities. The Foundation and its partners collaborated over the past two years in Upham’s Corner, and now are joining with additional partners to expand their work down the line into Four Corners.

In addition to the UP Truck, numerous events took place celebrating the community’s rich cultural assets, including two large events led by DSNI and Upham’s Corner Main Street involving scores of performers. The Strand Theater was the site of summer movie nights, Jose Mateo Ballet Theater’s holiday performances of the Nutcracker and live jazz from the Berklee College of Music. And Design Studio for Social Intervention created a pop-up food space called “Public Kitchen,” where residents shared recipes and broke bread together. Going forward, 10 artists are receiving public art fellowships and four other artists will be in residence in Fairmount Corridor neighborhoods.



(Above) Cedric Douglas’s UP Truck was embraced by residents.

Upham’s Corner’s Strand Theater (left) was the site of numerous performances—from ballet to jazz.

Boston Foundation Investment: **\$400,000**

Community Groups Collaborating: **11**

National Foundation Dollars Leveraged: **\$680,000**

Lives Touched: **More than 10,000**



Representatives of the 11 diverse, community-based groups, arts organizations and individuals guiding the Fairmount Cultural Corridor initiative.

Read the full report at www.tbf.org/2014annualreport