



REDEFINING POSSIBILITY

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
Annual Report 2014-2015

DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

2013-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and our community would like to express our deep gratitude and affection for our outgoing board members. We thank you for your commitment to service, neighborhood revitalization and community empowerment. The accomplishments of the last two years could not have been achieved without your expertise, guidance and spirit. As we look to a new Board serving for the next two years, know that you have inspired a generation of activists to emerge and stand with you on the long line of leadership that is the Dudley neighborhood and our surrounding communities.

Happiness Agbi

Keila Barros

Paul Bothwell

Claudino Centeio

Eurica Colon

Evelyn Correa-Gonzalez

Luis M. Cruz

Margaret Daniels-Tyler

Diane Dujon

Janice Fidalgo

Joshua Fidalgo

Catherine Flannery

Kilmandja Gonçalves

Valduvino Gonçalves

Dominique Graham

Nathian Hernandez

Alexandra Knowles

Glenn Knowles

Laura Papia

Tayquan Pomare-Taylor

Ivelise Rivera

Tania Rivera

Josephine Tavares

Ron Verna

Fred Woodard

Boston Staffing Alliance

Children's Services of Roxbury

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

Dudley Economic Empowerment Partners

The Food Project

Ideal Sub Shop

Iglesia El Buen Pastor

Madison Park Development Corporation

Project Hope

Project RIGHT

Quincy Street Missional Church

St. Patrick's Church

Suffolk Construction

ORGANIZING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Juan Leyton, Executive Director & Glenn Knowles, President of DSNI Board of Directors



Former DSNI Executive Director, Chris Jones (left), handing off his DSNI office keys to our new Executive Director, Juan Leyton.

Now 31 years old, DSNI celebrates an amazing history and trajectory of building community power and control of land in the Dudley neighborhood. What was once thought to be impossible – building Community Land Trusts – has been made reality by the leadership and organizing of Dudley residents. Today, thanks to that struggle, many residents can afford to live in the Dudley neighborhood. And now other communities in Boston are learning from DSNI's experience and developing community land trusts to protect their affordable housing.

However, we continue to face challenges despite all the new development, unemployment rates in the neighborhood are high, many of our children don't have a permanent home, the threat of displacement is present in a way we have never seen before, and our youth face limited options for post-secondary educational and professional opportunities. Furthermore, as our founders predicted, Dudley has become an attractive neighborhood for development. This new context has tested one of our core values of development without displacement and is putting pressure on our community, requiring us and our partners to stand tall and respond to potentially displacing forces.

This past year, we have made tremendous strides in addressing these challenges and opportunities through a number of organizing efforts and initiatives including the Boston Promise Initiative, Fair Chance for Family Success, and the Fairmount Cultural Corridor — to name a few. Through a DSNI-led community planning process, the community came to the agreement that we would work towards five whole neighborhood level outcomes. They are:

- Strong and Healthy Families
- Vibrant and Thriving Communities
- Children Entering School Ready to Succeed
- Successful Students and Schools
- Post-Secondary Completion and Career Readiness

We are showing impact across these outcomes at great scale because of the deep collaborations that we hold with our partners. We want to take this opportunity to highlight our progress and our partners.

From its inception and throughout its history, DSNI's approach has been innovative and groundbreaking. We want to continue in that path, while staying rooted in our core approach: community organizing. As we move forward, we strengthen and deepen our commitment to resident leadership so that we can address our neighborhood challenges as a community.

We invite you to join us in this adventure – together we are stronger!

Sincerely,

[Glenn Knowles](#)

Board President

[Juan Leyton](#)

Executive Director



WELCOME TO THE DUDLEY VILLAGE CAMPUS



DUDLEY REAL FOOD HUB



DSNI partners with The Food Project (TFP) and Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) on the **Dudley Real Food Hub (DRFH)** initiative. The organizations collaborate on activities that improve the food and environmental health of the neighborhood. DRFH's goal is to create opportunities that build healthier food habits, a stronger food culture and more active lifestyles for residents of Roxbury and North Dorchester. This year, a resident-led DRFH steering committee identified five key strategies for future work:

1. Build a resident-owned supply chain for healthy fresh foods in local stores.
2. Secure vacant land and designate it in perpetuity as for growing food.
3. Design a strategy around how the Dudley community can meaningfully change school food.
4. Expand existing food access points for low-income residents.
5. Advocate and plan for additional physical development to support the neighborhood food system.

Learn more about the Dudley Real Food Hub:
www.dsni.org/sustainable-economic-development

Dudley Village Campus (DVC)



DATA MATTERS

- 26% of children in the DVC eat 5+ vegetables a day
- Within the **Dudley Triangle** there are 66 gardens, including raised bed, in-ground & potted gardens.



Fair Chance for Family Success: Hakim Harris

In partnership with the Family Independence Initiative, DSNI launched the Fair Chance for Family Success Initiative. The Initiative supports families working together in groups to set and meet economic, educational and professional goals. There are currently 105 families enrolled in Fair Chance and all eleven cohorts are meeting regularly. Learn how Hakim and his family, were able to purchase a home in conjunction with Fair Chance programming by visiting the link below.

To learn more about Fair Chance for Family Success, visit:
www.promiseboston.org/fair-chance-for-family-success

► DUDLEY NEIGHBORS INC. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Dudley Neighbors, Inc (DNI) is the nation's largest Community Land Trust (CLT). It plays a crucial role in preserving affordable housing in the Dudley St. area and provides residents with a way of controlling development in the neighborhood.



DNI's major goal is to increase the number of affordable housing units in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan by 1,000 units within 10 years -- including homes that would sit on existing or new land trusts. DNI protects residents from displacement in a rapidly gentrifying city.

Through consulting and training services, DNI has worked with other neighborhoods -- such as Chinatown and the Four Corners community of Dorchester -- to help them start their own CLTs. DNI has laid the groundwork to launch a strategic campaign that advances sound housing policy. The recently-created Boston Community Land Trust Network is a testament to the effectiveness of our past work and the promise of our future.

DATA MATTERS

- Supported **creation of 2 additional CLTs** in Chinatown & Four Corners
- **225 homes** are now on the DNI Community Land Trust
- Increased community engagement with at least **150 attendees participating in the DNI annual meeting**, including residents, elected officials, resource providers for home improvement, lenders, and other resource providers.

Learn more about the DNI Community Land Trust:
www.dudleyneighbors.org



Artist-in-Residence: Nansi Guevara

The Fairmount Cultural Corridor (FCC) is a creative place-making initiative that organizes the collaborative efforts of residents, artists, community organizations and businesses to support vibrant, livable neighborhoods along the Fairmount Commuter Line. These neighborhoods are made stronger through an active local creative economy. As part of the initiative, FCC partners have hired four Artists-in-Residence and one Artist-in-Transit to carry out the work within local organizations, schools and the Upham's Corner and Four Corners neighborhoods. Nansi Guevara is one of FCC's Artist-in-Residence and worked with Burke High School in Dorchester to develop an extraordinary mural, *Keepin' These Dreams*, in partnership with the school's arts program.

OUTCOME #3

Children Enter School Ready to Learn



► DUDLEY CHILDREN THRIVE



Dudley Children Thrive (DCT) connects parents, residents, and early childhood organizations as partners dedicated to developing creative ways to build, support, and engage families as first teachers.

DCT is the framework for DSNI's "Birth to 5" work as the lead agency for the Boston Promise Initiative. DSNI's Youth Opportunities and Development team organized three groups to facilitate work and share resources among parents, resources providers, and anchor institutions: The School Readiness Roundtable (SRR), Early Learning Network (ELN), and Birth-to-5 Workgroup, respectively. Collaboration between these groups focuses on early literacy, nutrition, and wellness.

Learn more about Dudley Children Thrive:
www.promiseboston.org/dudley-children-thrive

DATA MATTERS



50% of DCT families report an increase in the number of time per week they read to their child and 80% report reading to their child 3 or more times per week.



First Teacher

First Teacher is a movement of parents and guardians of children ages 0-5 working together to prepare our kids for kindergarten and beyond. Through monthly parent-led workshops and play dates, parents and guardians share ideas around everyday activities that can help build our babies' brains, study accessible and persuasive brain science, and seek out and give much needed knowledge, support, and commiseration! DSNI partners with First Teacher on a number of efforts within the 0-5 work area.

To learn more about First Teacher visit:
www.promiseboston.org/thrive-in-5

► STRONGER LEADERS, BRIGHTER FUTURES



Through our **Stronger Leaders, Brighter Futures** mentoring program, DSNI matches youth in 8th to 12th grade with caring adults. The mentoring program focuses on building skills, helping youth reach their goals and connecting youth with different resources in and out of the community. Youth are matched in 1 to 1 relationships and are required to meet on a weekly basis.

In addition to the weekly meetings, mentors and mentees are provided with different training and workshop opportunities and come together for bi-monthly group activities. Through our partnerships with organizations such as Mass Mentoring, we are able to provide mentoring pairs with free tickets to a range of events and activities in Boston.

Learn more about Mentoring at DSNI:
www.promiseboston.org/mentoring

DATA MATTERS

- 60% of our mentors come from Roxbury and Dorchester
- Over 50% of matches are returning for a second year



Latino STEM Alliance

The goal of the Latino STEM Alliance (LSA) is to inspire students to consider STEM-related careers through hands-on STEM enrichment activities and relevant role-models. DSNI and the Boston Promise Initiative have partnered with the LSA to provide robotics instruction at Dearborn 6 - 12 STEM Academy, Winthrop Elementary School, Martin Luther King, Jr. K - 8 School, and the Salvation Army Kroc Center. We are currently identifying other funding opportunities to support the quality and expansion of these programs to other schools in the neighborhood.



► YOUTH JOBS & G.O.T.C.H.A



Each year DSNI hires between 30 to 50 youth through school year and summer employment opportunities. We focus on ensuring that there are quality job opportunities for youth in our neighborhood. At DSNI, we focus on building four critical skills: communication, community organizing, critical thinking and teamwork.

Youth are divided into teams and tasked to complete projects that are integrated into DSNI's work. This past year youth were divided into the following teams: Arts, Parks, Food, and Education. Through employment, we also provide comprehensive training opportunities for both the youth employees and their supervisors. Leveraging local experts and resources, staff integrate professional development opportunities each week, providing time for young people to develop their skills and be exposed to things that will help them in their education, career and personal futures.

As the lead organization of the **GOTCHA (Get Off the Corner Hanging Around)** youth jobs collaborative, DSNI partnered with other organizations to advocate for youth jobs at the city and state level.

Learn more about Youth Opportunities & Development:
www.dsni.org/youth



DATA MATTERS

- GOTCHA employed about 400 youth in school year and summer jobs during FY15
- GOTHCA invested \$560,000 in youth salaries



Youth Voice Project

The **Youth Voice Project (YVP)** is composed four motivated Youth Peer Leaders that assist and reach out to Opportunity Youth in the Boston Area. As a team, they strive to provide creative research and outreach strategies to generate insightful data regarding Opportunity Youth in the DVC as well as the Greater Boston Area. Trained by facilitators from DSNI and the Boston Youth Service Network, the Peer Leaders bring excitement and passion to their work. Currently YVP is spearheading a Social Media Campaign in promotion of the Connection Center. They are also conducting outreach to opportunity youth throughout Boston to garner insight on how to create more pathways for Opportunity Youth.

► WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS



DSNI played the role of lead community planning partner on The City of Boston's Choice Neighborhoods Plan, known as the Quincy Corridor Transformation Plan. The project redeveloped a severely distressed 129-unit HUD-assisted housing development and redeveloped the former Pearl Hot Dog Factory in Dorchester into the Bornstein & Pearl Food Production Small Business Center. Together, these three projects paid over **\$20 million to minority and women owned businesses** and had an **average workforce of 56% Boston residents, 65% minorities and 8% women.**

Learn more about DSNI's Workforce Development initiatives, please visit:
www.dsni.org/for-researchers



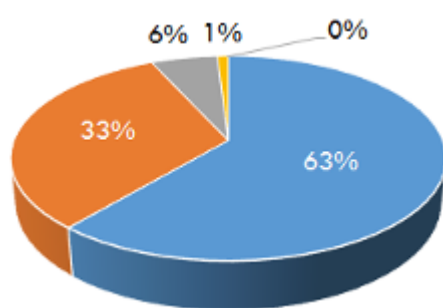
► FINANCIAL REVIEW: July 1st 2014 - June 30th 2015

Revenue

Corporation & Foundation Grants	\$ 2,363,445
Government Funding	\$ 1,237,501
Special Events	\$ 89,129
Individual Donations	\$ 38,756
Earned Income	\$ 9,088

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 3,737,919



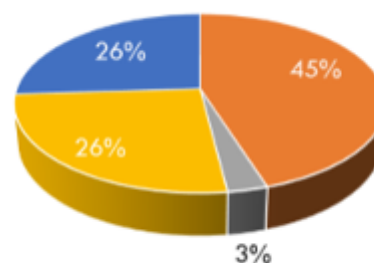
- Corporation & Foundation Grants
- Government Funding
- Special Events
- Individual Donations
- Earned Income

Expenses

Program Costs	\$ 1,690,604
General Administrative	\$ 966,257
Community Capacity Building*	\$ 952,310
Special Events	\$ 121,020

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 3,730,191



- Program Costs
- Special Events
- Community Capacity Building
- Administration & General

* Community Capacity Building represents dollars that are distributed to our partners through the Boston Promise Initiative and collaborative funding opportunities.

► DSNI FUNDERS

ArtPlace America
Barr Foundation
Boston Center for Youth & Families
Boston Public Health Commission
Eastern Bank
Ford Foundation
Foundation Beyond Belief
Hyams Foundation

Klarman Family Foundation
Kresge Foundation
Lenny Zakim Fund
Liberty Mutual
Ludcke Foundation
Mass Mentoring
Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition
Massachusetts Service Alliance

Paul & Edith Babson Foundation
Ratshesky Foundation
Surdna Foundation
The Boston Foundation
The Browne Fund
U.S Department of Education



FIND DSNI

located

504 Dudley Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

web

www.dsni.org

twitter

[@dsni_org](https://twitter.com/dsni_org)

facebook

Facebook.com/dsni.org

email

info@dsni.org



LET'S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING