

DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013



Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Dear Neighbors & Friends,

We have a lot to celebrate!

As many of you know, the Obama Administration has focused on supporting place-based change efforts through their Promise Neighborhoods Initiative at the US Department of Education. DSNi was awarded a Promise Neighborhood planning grant in the fall of 2010 which allowed us to convene an extensive community and collaborative listening, learning, and planning process known as the Boston Promise Initiative (BPI). This effort, which involved over 800 residents and partners, resulted in our neighborhood receiving a \$6 million implementation grant over 5 years that will help us make great strides towards realizing our vision for the *Dudley Village Campus* (DVC).

The DVC's goal is to jointly create a neighborhood in which **all** our children and young adults, from birth through age 24, have access to excellent education and the family and community supports they need to succeed. The DVC effort continues our proud 29-year tradition of investing in innovative strategies for community building and revitalization.

We also celebrated the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School (DSNCS), which opened its doors on September 5th, 2012! This is *OUR* neighborhood school! We have seen tremendous parent and community engagement for the 144 kids in K1, K2 and first grade (4-6 year olds), and we know this is key to student and school success. With the addition of second grade there will be a total of 176 students in September 2013. We're off to a great start.

These are just two of the most visible examples of the tremendous work being done by residents, community partners, and DSNi. They sit atop a long list of work that makes a deep difference in our lives and in our community.

In the coming year, DSNi will continue to organize and plan for the development of the Dudley Village Campus (DVC). We will focus our work in our 3 strategic areas:

- (1) Youth Opportunity and Development;
- (2) Community Empowerment; and
- (3) Sustainable and Economic Development.

Some examples of what's to come:



- Expansion of *Stronger Leaders, Brighter Futures (SLBF)*, a mentoring program developed by youth and adult partners which was born out of the need for a greater presence of caring, consistent adults in the lives of DVC youth;
- Increased focus on the *Dudley Learning Center*, a learning and leadership development vehicle for the DVC and community building field
- Continued investment in the *No Child Goes Homeless* Campaign, a partnership creating a strong network which will ensure that every DVC child has a place to call home.

As you can see, we are working collaboratively to continue making our community better. There are truly no limits to what we can accomplish together!

From the early days of DSNi, the challenges of our community has **required** us to be resident led and to focus on the WE, which is a large and inclusive tent. Many challenges have been addressed, but tremendous hurdles remain. Fortunately, there are more opportunities in front of us than ever before. These opportunities **require** us to focus on the WE and everyone must roll up their sleeves and make it happen!

We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year and welcome you to join us in our work because it takes a village to raise all of our children.

Best,

Glenn Knowles
Board President

Christopher M. Jones
Executive Director

Board of Directors 2011 - 20013

Residents (21)

Jolivia Barros
Keila Barros
Paul Bothwell
Kimberly Bautista
Evelyn Correa
Jonathan Correia
Luis M. Cruz
Margaret Daniels-Tyler
Joseph Deler
Darryl Drumgold
Diane Dujon
Janice Fidalgo
Rosa Galvao
Theresa Glynn
Rafael Gonzalez
Chris Jones
Alexandra Knowles
Glenn Knowles
Hamilton Rodrigues
Josephine Tavares
Ronald Verna
Fred Woodard

Agencies - Core (7)

Children's Services of Roxbury
The City School
The Food Project
Project Hope
Quincy St Missional Church
WAITT House
YouthBuild Boston

Businesses (2)

Ideal Sub Shop
Suffolk Construction

Religious Organizations (2)

Crosstown Church
Saint Patrick's Church

CDC's (2)

Dorchester Bay EDC
Madison Park CDC

DSNI Staff

Jose Barros
Luzia Centeio
Luz Colon
Ros Everdell
Joceline Fidalgo
Denise Gonsalves
Christopher Jones
May Louie
Alicia Mooltrey
Liz O'Connor
Ayesha Rodriguez
Ingrid Romero
A. Bayoán Rosselló-Cornier
Harry Smith
Sunday Taylor
Travis Watson
Jason Webb
Gloria Wilkins

Interns

Shakeda Muldrow
Abadur Rahman
Jesse Seamon
Tiffany Shira
Brett West
Brianna White
Emily Zhu

Leadership Transition at DSNI

As many of you know already, John Barros has taken a leave of absence from his role as Executive Director at DSNI and is a candidate for Mayor of Boston.

John leaves the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) after more than 24 years of exemplary service: beginning with his work on the Dudley Youth Committee (then called Nubian Roots) in the late 80s, then with his groundbreaking role as the first youth member of the Board in 1991. After a break to attend Dartmouth College and an early career move to Chubb Insurance in NYC, he returned to serve as the Vice President of DSNI and the Dudley Neighbors, Inc. (DNI) Boards. And of course, beginning in 2000, serving as Executive Director.

During John's tenure at DSNI he has overseen remarkable growth and organizational development, moving DSNI from a small, nonprofit to a stable, well-funded community organization, currently serving as the City's lead agency for the national Promise Neighborhoods Initiative, and setting a standard of developing youth leadership to play a role in all aspects of community life.

Among other things, he oversaw expansion of the community land trust to include 225 new units of housing and a community greenhouse, Fannie Mae's recognition of Dudley as a "Just Right" neighborhood, renovations of three neighborhood playgrounds and opening of two new community centers, the opening of two new schools, more than 2000 registered voters, and the creation of about 4,000 youth jobs (summer and year-round). John also oversaw the development of major grant applications, securing funding from the US Department of Education (one in 7 Promise Neighborhoods nationwide in 2012), the Ford Foundation, and the Kellogg-funded Thrive in Five Initiative. DSNI has also emerged as a national leader in supporting local hiring for construction projects and set a new standard for developers in Boston in complying with hiring standards for residents, workers of color and women. John's leadership has teed up the organization to actualize even greater levels of success in service to the Dudley Village Campus. A Dudley resident, John will no doubt stay involved in the life of the community.

John will be replaced by Christopher M. Jones in the role of Executive Director. Chris left his position as Assistant Dean for Graduate Education at MIT to assume the leadership of DSNI. He is an alumnus of both the Department of Nuclear Engineering and the Technology and Policy Program at MIT, and his work there focused upon leveraging assets and partnerships to support university goals for recruitment of graduate students. During his tenure, graduate applications from underrepresented minorities rose from approximately 300 to 1300, and enrollment doubled from 7% to 14%, a significant progression toward MIT goals. Chris first became involved with DSNI through Dudley Children Thrive, an initiative that links families with young children to neighborhood resources as well as other families. He has served as a volunteer at DSNI in many capacities, most recently as Vice President of the elected Board.

Chris lives in the Dudley neighborhood with his wife, Dr. Jerrilyn Jones, and their two young daughters. The Joneses, though not native Bostonians, quickly developed deep roots here, through their work with DSNI and through Dr. Jones' work at Boston Medical Center and with Boston Emergency Medical Services. They hope to enroll their daughters in the Boston Public Schools in fall 2014.

The DSNI Board, the DNI Board, DSNI staff, members and volunteers want to thank John for his more than two decades of humble service to the community. John, we will miss you and we wish you the best of luck in all things!



Organizational History

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative is a nonprofit community-based planning and organizing entity birthed in 1984 out of the passion, ingenuity and determination of Dudley residents seeking to reclaim a neighborhood that had been ravaged by disinvestment, arson fires and dumping. DSNI's mission is ***to empower Dudley residents to organize, plan for, create and control a vibrant, diverse and high quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners.***

When many had given up, DSNI dared to gather neighbors to create a comprehensive plan and a shared vision for a new, vibrant *urban village*. To fulfill the community mandate for *development without displacement*, DSNI gained eminent domain authority, purchased vacant land, and protected affordability and family stability through a community land trust. The once garbage-strewn vacant lots have been rebuilt with quality affordable houses, parks and playgrounds, gardens, community facilities, and new businesses.

Through our Board structure, residents lead an effort that includes all neighborhood stakeholders in a democratically-elected, community accountable process. Together, we have created greater civic participation, economic opportunity, community connections, and opportunities for youth. We have built community across our diversity –of language, race & ethnicity, age. We have invested in our young people and the youth in turn have invested in the community.



Boston Promise Initiative on the Dudley Village Campus

Since 2010, DSNI has been engaging the community and partners to plan and work towards this vision: *“All children growing up in the Dudley Promise Neighborhood have access to effective schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and career.”*

This year, the US Department of Education selected us as a Promise Neighborhood grantee so we can implement our Promise plan here on the Dudley Village Campus. We are working on strategies to achieve the following across the Dudley neighborhood:

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



Boston
Promise
Initiative

DSNI is the lead agency for implementation, responsible for coordination, fundraising, and data management, but of course, it takes all of our collaborative efforts to achieve our vision.

To accomplish this work, we have more than 165 community and institutional partners, including: The City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, BPE, Project Hope, The Barr Foundation, The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, Thrive in 5, Associated Early Care and Education, The Boston Children's Museum, The Opportunity Agenda, Boston After School and Beyond, Children's Services of Roxbury, University of Massachusetts Boston, UMass Boston Center for Community Democracy and Democratic Literacy, and many others. For a complete listing of Boston Promise Initiative partners go to www.dsni.org.

To help keep us aligned, moving forward together, and focused on results, DSNI is introducing a “community report card” this year. This will be the first of many yearly reports on how well we are doing making progress toward our shared goals. (is this a place to say Please join us on this journey, or something like that)

DSNI Youth Opportunity & Development Highlights

Dudley Children Thrive enrolled over 450 families- 90% of who have engaged with at least one event or activity around nutrition, word building or wellness.

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School opened its doors in September with 132 kids in K1, K2, and 1st grades. Over 7 partners are engaged in extended learning opportunities, including Reading Buddies, which engaged 25 volunteers reading with students each week. Demand grew with over 500 students entering the lottery for 44 K1 seats in September 2013.

Twenty-two trained community volunteers provided 60 hours of tutoring through Saturday School with 70 English Language students from Dearborn Middle School and 18 Burke High School students, half of who needed to retake the MCAS exam in order to graduate.

Forty-seven youth and young adults were hired during the summer of 2012 to implement projects relating to early literacy, community planning, food sustainability and cultural exploration.

Twelve Youth Community Organizers employed during the school year created a film about the importance of early literacy.

Fourteen 8th-12th graders were matched with community mentors in the Stronger Leaders Brighter Future mentoring pilot.

The Young Alumni Network was launched to engage 18-30 year olds that were once connected to DSNI. Care packages were sent out to college students to encourage them before taking their final exams.

Twelve thousand dollars was generated by Project Hope to contribute to past and current Dudley Youth Council member's higher education expenses.

Get Involved With DSNI Youth Opportunity & Development!

DSNI Youth Committee

Brings together young people and adults in creating educational and career opportunities and leadership development for youth in the community

DSNI Education Committee and L.O.V.E. (Learning Our Value in Education) Campaign

Engages parents and families in addressing issues facing students and advocating for education reform. The campaign organizes community members in supporting all neighborhood youth in their pursuit of academic success

Dudley Children Thrive School Readiness Roundtable and the Word Build Campaign

Connects residents and organizations as partners dedicated to discovering and developing creative ways to build, support and engage families as First Teachers. The campaign engages and empowers families and the community to interactively talk, read & play with children in order to build vocabulary.

Dudley Youth Council and the Get Hype Campaign

Mobilizes youth in the community to establish a united youth voice in the Dudley area, motivating and empowering young people to better the local and broader community through positive action. The campaign strives to get high school aged youth motivated about their education, life and future



Community Empowerment Highlights

Leadership & Learning

DSNI launched the Dudley Learning Center (DLC) (with the support of the Ford Foundation) with a September 2012 conference, "Growing Community: Development without Displacement." The DLC is a training, technical assistance, and learning resource for community builders, and has especially supported communities interested in community land trusts and in community/youth engagement. Over the past year, we've consulted, trained, and shared with a number of communities throughout the country, as well as hosted hundreds of visitors.

In addition, here in the Dudley community, we offered Community Leadership sessions on Values & Vision, Community Organizing, Developing Leaders, Meeting Design & Facilitation, and Grassroots Resource Development.

The new documentary about the Dudley neighborhood, **Gaining Ground**, is finished! It is being shown on Sat. June 29th 12 noon at the Museum of Fine Arts (Remis Auditorium) as part of the Roxbury Film Festival. We will be working on a full release of the film.

An exciting development - We've increased our capacity to develop, collect, analyze and use data to understand our current reality, and to focus, monitor and improve our work.

We are participating in the Boston Place-based Community of Practice, convened by the UMass Boston Center for Democratic Literacy and Community Democracy. We share learnings and approaches, and align our efforts so that we can have greater impact together.

Civic Engagement

DSNI mobilizes to maximize non-partisan voter education and participation. An active and informed voting population increases our ability to have systems respond to community priorities. We had record voter participation in the November 2012 national and state elections. 2013 is turning out to be a lively election season. There were two special elections this spring, to elect the First Suffolk State Senator (Linda Dorcea Fory from Dorchester was elected) and to elect a new US Senator (Ed Markey is facing off with Gabriel Gomez). This fall's City election has 12 mayoral candidates certified to be on the September 24th Preliminary Election Ballot, including John Barros, who is currently on leave from DSNI. There are dozens of candidates vying for the 13 City Council seats. A new Mayor and a new City Council will be elected on November 5th.

Neighborhood Governance

The new 2013-2015 DSNI Board of Directors is being elected to guide the work of DSNI in a way that is true to the community's values, vision, and plans.

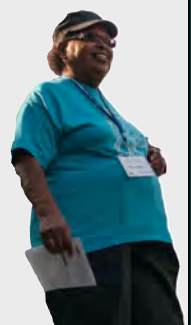
Get Involved With DSNI Community Empowerment!

Watch and sign up for our Community Leadership training series offered as part of our **Dudley Learning Center / Resident Development Institute!** If you want to help design and facilitate trainings, please join our Leadership Development Committee.

DSNI's **civic engagement** work focuses on strengthening our community's impact through voter participation and engaging with public agencies. Join us this fall in get-out-the-vote activities and in organizing non-partisan candidates' forums.

If you're interested in using data and research to benefit the community, join our **Data Committee**.

Over the summer, we will start inviting families to sign-up to be part of the **Dudley Village Campus**.



DSNI Sustainable & Economic Development Highlights

Publication and distribution of “For The People, By The People”, the best practices booklet for maximizing resident, minority, female and minority/women owned business enterprises on construction projects.

Launched community planning process in partnership with City of Boston to complete disposition of all remaining city-owned land in the Dudley Triangle.

Partnership with The Food Project and ACE to create *Dudley Real Food Hub* to expand neighborhood access to fresh healthy food through farmers markets, backyard gardens, and the community greenhouse, and to engage youth and families in activities that promote healthy eating and fitness.

Serving as Neighborhood Partner in Quincy and Whittier Street Choice Neighborhoods Initiative to connect families to economic opportunities and secure agreements from local developers to maximize construction hours for local residents, minorities and women on neighborhood development projects.

Partnership with Project Hope and neighborhood schools to implement *No Child Goes Homeless* initiative to support homeless students and families.

Partnership on *Upham’s Corner Artplace Initiative* with Upham’s Corner Main Street and Design Studio for Social Intervention to expand arts and cultural programming and promote creative economic opportunities in the neighborhood.

Get Involved With DSNI Sustainable & Economic Development!

DSNI Sustainable & Economic Development Committee

The Sustainable & Economic Development Committee meets the fourth (4th) Thursday of every month, 6:00pm at DSNI to review local development projects to ensure that they meet the community's vision.

No Child Goes Homeless Campaign

The *No Child Goes Homeless* initiative is creating strong network of neighborhood partners, institutions, schools, and city agencies to provide crisis intervention, resources, and organizing support to ensure that no child in target area goes homeless.

Upham’s Corner Artplace Initiative

The *Artplace Initiative* meets the fourth Tuesday of each month to plan arts and cultural programming in the neighborhood.

Dudley Workforce Collaborative

The Dudley Workforce Collaborative meets to ensure that resident, minority, female and minority/women owned business enterprise work hours are maximized on neighborhood construction projects.



Partners and Collaborators

Access Painting
Action for Boston Community Development Inc. (ABCD)
Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)
Artists for Humanity
Associated Early Care and Education
Berklee City Music
Best Buy
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
Bird Street Community Center
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston
Blue Hill Avenue Task Force
Boston Afterschool & Beyond
Boston Arts Academy
Boston Centers for Youth and Families
Boston Children's Museum
Boston Children Thrive in 5 / Dudley Children Thrive
Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness
Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
Boston Community Capital
Boston Housing Authority
Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)
Boston Parent Organizing Network
Boston Police Department
Boston Private Industry Council (PIC)
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Public Schools
Boston Redevelopment Authority
BPE / Boston Teacher Residency
Boston Tenant Coalition
Boston United for Students
Boston Youth Fund
Bottom Line
Bowdoin Street Health Center
Casa Esperanza
Career Collaborative
Center for Law and Education
Child Witness to Violence Project
Children's Health Watch
Children's Services of Roxbury
City of Boston
City Connects
City Fresh
City Life/Vida Urbana
City Year
Civic Engagement Initiative
Community Servings
Community Ventures Consulting
Crosstown Church
CVC Unido/Catholic Charities Teen Center
Dearborn Middle School
Design Studio For Social Intervention
Discover Roxbury
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
Dorchester/Roxbury Labor Committee
Dotwell
Dudley Neighbors, Inc.

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Fairmount Greenway Task Force
Family Independence Initiative
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts
Family Service of Greater Boston
Foreclosure Roundtable
Franklin Park Coalition
Full-service Schools Roundtable
Gordon College
GOTCHA Youth Jobs Collaborative
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
Harvard University, Graduate School of Education
Haynes Early Education Center
Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures
Homes for Families
Interaction Institute for Social Change
Jeremiah E. Burke High School
King and Son Affordable Construction
La Alianza Hispana
LIFT - Boston
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
Madison Park Development Corporation
Mason Elementary School
Mass 2020
Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
MA Alliance for Portuguese Speakers
MassVote
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
MassHousing
Mothers for Justice and Equality
Net Work
NetAge
Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation
Orchard Gardens Pilot School
Project Bread
Project HIP-HOP
Project Hope
Project RIGHT
Quincy Geneva Housing Corporation
Quincy Street Missional Church
ReadBoston
Renew Boston
Roxbury Builders Guild
Roxbury Community College
Roxbury Cultural Network
Roxbury Master Plan Strategic Oversight Committee
Roxbury Neighborhood Council
Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center
RoxVote
S.A.W. (Sisters At Work)
Smart from the Start
St. Kevin's Area Planning Collaborative
St. Patrick's Church
Strategy Matters

Studio G Architects
Suffolk Construction
Tech Boston
Technology Goes Home
The Action Center for College Educational Services and Scholarships (ACCESS)
The City School
The Food Project
The Jones Payne Group
The Salvation Army
Thompson Island Outward Bound
Tufts University
University of Massachusetts, Boston - College of Public and Community Service
University of Massachusetts, Boston - Center for Community Democracy & Democratic Literacy
University of Massachusetts, Boston - Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy
University of Massachusetts, Boston - McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies
Urban Edge Housing Corporation
Vine Street Community Center
Vital Pictures
WAITT House
Winthrop Elementary School
WriteBoston
YouthBuild Boston

Funders

Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
Anonymous
ArtPlace
Barr Foundation
Boston After School & Beyond
Boston Renew Center
Boston Opportunity Agenda
Boston Private Bank
BUS
Children's Services of Roxbury
Citizens Bank
Cox Family Foundation
Culture For Change
Emmanuel Gospel Center
Health Resources in Action
Ida S. Barter Trust
Klarman Family Foundation
Ludke Foundation
MIT Media Lab
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
Roxbury Trust Fund
Sovereign Bank
State Street Bank
TD Charitable Foundation
The Black Ministerial Alliance
The Boston Foundation
United States Department of Education/Promise Neighborhoods
United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley
Uphams Corner Community Center Youth Grants

*cover photograph taken at Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School



Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

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