



Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

Annual Report 2013-2014



Happy 30th Anniversary Neighbors & Friends,

2014 marks 30 years of effecting positive community change for the Dudley neighborhood! This change is built on a strong history of resident engagement and collaborations with partners and would not have happened without your continued commitment to the neighborhood.

We have lot to celebrate! Our vision has always been the realization of a vibrant Dudley Village Campus (DVC) where all children growing up in the DVC 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 past year has been about taking major strides towards that vision ...

- The Boston Promise Initiative (BPI) has allowed us to launch our first ever Investments in Neighborhood Change grants specifically designed to encourage and empower residents and organizations to work together and turn all of the Dudley Village Campus into a community of opportunity;
- Answering the challenge from local residents to “be bold and transformational, but also pragmatic and practical” we started Fair Chance for Family Success, a **resident-led** partnership of DSNI, Family Independence Initiative and neighborhood partners to support families in the Dudley neighborhood in setting and achieving their own goals;
- We continue to focus on **youth development** and we kicked off efforts that will engage residents and partners to understand how to accelerate pathways through college and training into sustainable careers.

We could go on forever about the phenomenal work that residents and partners are doing with us - all with a focus on continuing to move the DVC towards our community vision.

Join us for the next celebratory events! As always, we’re looking forward to the Multi-Cultural Festival (Saturday, August 9th) and this year, in honor of our 30th, we’ll host a Homecoming Weekend (November 7th & 8th) – including a screening of Gaining Ground, a new documentary about the Dudley neighborhood and all of you who have made it great!

We look forward to working with you over the next 30 years to realize the potential of the Dudley neighborhood.

“One isn’t necessarily born with courage, but one is born with *potential*. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.” Maya Angelou

Thank You



Glenn Knowles,
President, Board of Directors



Christopher M. Jones,
Executive Director



Exciting things are happening throughout the year as we celebrate DSNI's 30th Anniversary. This is a very special moment in the history of DSNI and the Dudley neighborhood. We will pause to celebrate and reflect on 3 decades of community revitalization and the lessons that we have learned over these years. Our reflections will be the springboard to collectively envisioning what it will take to make the next 30 years even better than the first. We will be celebrating this milestone with residents and partners and welcoming back all of those who have been part of the DSNI family over the years during our Homecoming Weekend.

Community Screening of Gaining Ground

Date: Friday November 7, 2014

Time: 5:30pm Reception, 6:30pm Screening, 7:30pm Panel Discussion

Place: The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester MA

The Homecoming Gala

Date: Saturday November 8, 2014

Time: 7:00pm General Reception, 7:30pm Dinner & Program, 9:00pm Dessert & Dancing

Place: U.Mass Boston, Campus Center, 100 Morrissey Blvd.

30th Anniversary updates and stories will be posted on our anniversary website throughout the year:
www.dsni30.org. Event tickets are also available via the website.

Honorary Committee

David Abromowitz

John Barros

Sonia Chang-Diaz

Carole Charnow

Senator Linda Dorcena-Forry

Danny Glover

Paul Grogan

Carlos Henriquez

Tito Jackson

Glenn Knowles

Judith Kurland

Che Madyun

Roger Medoff

Former Mayor Thomas Menino

Gus Newport

Governor Deval Patrick

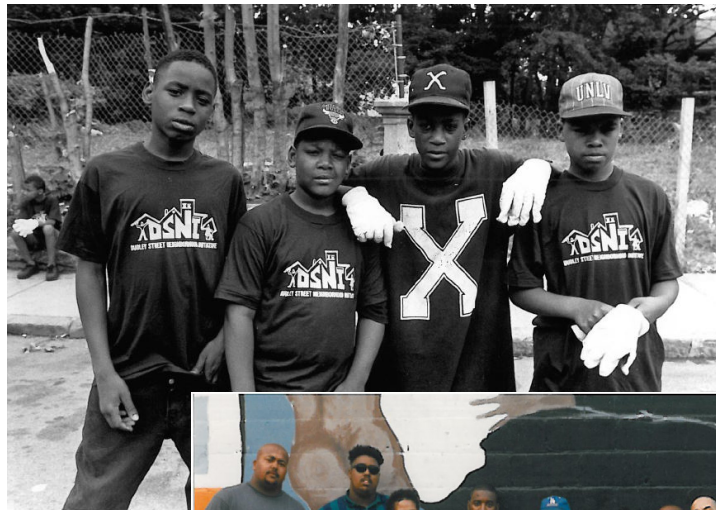
Jesse Soloman

Peg Sprague

Lauren Thompson

Clayton Turnbull

Rogelio Whittington



Sustainable Economic Development

Sustainable Economic Development engages residents, community partners and other stakeholders in planning and controlling the physical and economic development of the neighborhood in order to move towards our vision of a vibrant and thriving community.

Highlights:

73 Families in DVC, including 35 in BPI partner schools, who received housing services from Project Hope through No Child Goes Homeless initiative

Secured 44% of the total sub-contract value on Choice neighborhoods construction projects for minority owned business enterprises totaling \$16,438,519

Secured 10% of the total sub-contract value on Choice neighborhoods construction projects for women owned business enterprises totaling \$3,656,263

100 Local workers hired on Choice neighborhoods construction projects. 106 residents received OSHA, asbestos, lead paint trainings.

right: Cedric Douglass, DSNI's ArtPlace commissioned artist



“Once people move into their home, they don’t leave. Out of all these people only one person has moved so I know my neighbors. We watch out for each other and help each other out”.

- Land Trust Homeowner, Diane Dujon



left: Choice Neighborhoods construction workers



40+City-owned parcels transferred to Dudley Neighbors Inc., including 1.5 acre community farm, as part of final disposition of City land in the Dudley Triangle.

105 families engaged in kickoff of Fair Chance for Family Success initiative to support families in building knowledge, income, and savings, in partnership with Family Independence Initiative.

More than 500 residents, artists, merchants and youth participated in Upham’s Corner Artplace activities and exhibits. New partnerships forming with Four Corners neighborhood to create Fairmount Cultural Corridor along Fairmount commuter line.

Expansion of Community Land Trust model to other neighborhoods, including support for establishment of Chinatown community land trust and launching urban farming pilot initiative with Urban Farming Institute and Trust for Public Land.

Youth Opportunities and Development

Youth Opportunities and Development encompasses DSNi's work along the age continuum from 0-24 connecting young people to a supportive community with caring adults, enriching opportunities and responsive systems that support them in being successful in school career and life.

Highlights:

Piloted the first early childhood technology project where Tech Goes Home taught 19 families and staff at SMILE Preschool how to use ipads at home and within the classroom to increase language and literacy skills of preschool children.

475+ parents and children participated in fun literacy activities increasing their connection to 4 local libraries.

DSNCS students with Reading Buddies, achieved a 3.2 literacy step increase, prior to the end of the year, which is .2 steps above the goal for the year.

65 Youth Organizers, Peer Leaders and Supervisors hosted 20 different interactive events during the year.



above: DSNi and The Food Project building raised-bed gardens



left: DSNi mentoring program, Stronger Leaders Brigher Future

"...having a mentor has changed my life in many ways, I am able to solve many issues I have with school and everyday life. She has helped me to find my self-worth, love myself and discover who I am as a person."
-9th Grade Mentee



right: DSNi board member, Dominique Graham, leading a "rhyme flash mob"

650+ newsletters are distributed monthly to families with children 0-13 yrs old, providing them with resources and tips to support their child's growth and development.

Recruited 60+ Caring Adults to be reading buddies, mentors, tutors and early childhood volunteers, many of whom volunteered in more than one area.

DSNi Youth Organizers, engaged over 350 people in 2 rounds of Community PlanIt, a dynamic, online organizing tool, providing input food access, informal and formal education and arts and culture in the community.

Youth Voice Project Peer Leaders, surveyed two-hundred twelve 16-24 year olds to gather information about ways to support opportunity youth in Boston.

Boston Promise Initiative

The Boston Promise Initiative is a strategy designed to create a community of opportunity, centered on strong schools that allows every child to learn, grow and succeed. Toward this end, BPI seeks to transform the Dudley Street neighborhood of Boston into the Dudley Village Campus (DVC), creating a neighborhood where every child has access to a continuum of services and support systems that can guide them for cradle to college to career.

DSNI is the lead agency for implementation, responsible for coordination, fundraising and data management alongside community partners.

Highlights:

Launched Requests for Proposal: Investments in Neighborhood Change and will invest about \$600,000 into non-profits that serve children who attend schools within the DVC.

We conducted a neighborhood survey, gathering data on 467 households, resulting in over \$10,000 in incentives being given to families. Residents were asked questions pertaining to childcare & education, economic stability, family functioning, and community engagement.

Fourteen of the 20 Boston Promise Initiative Organizers hired to conduct the neighborhood survey were residents of the Dudley Village Campus. Over \$35,000 was invested in jobs and resident leadership.



above: DSNI Community Summit



left:
BPI Survey
Team



above: 2013 DSNI Annual Meeting

Community Empowerment

We believe that if community stakeholders, under the leadership of residents are fully engaged, informed and equipped to act collectively to realize the community's shared vision, then systems, policies, programs, institutions and the neighborhood will transform into the community's vision.

Highlights:

Dudley Street Community elected 2013-2015 DSNI Board of Directors

Offered Resident Development Institutes throughout the year, engaging 60+ community residents and partners in sessions related to operationalizing our shared community values, improving fundraising skills and competencies, and working collaboratively for community change.

Conducted voter education and outreach across the Dudley Village Campus for both the Mayor's election and the special election for State Representative.

Over 180 people attended DSNI's Community Summit Generations of Change

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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.



1990 DSNI board and staff. Photo by Michele McDonald for Boston Globe Magazine

2014-2015 DSNI Board of Directors

Resident - African American

Margaret Daniels –Tyler
Diane Dujon (appointed seat)
Dominique Graham
Ron Verna
Fred Woodard

Resident - Cape Verdean

Keila Barros
Joshua Fidalgo
Valdivino Goncalves
Josephine Tavares

Resident - Youth

Eurica Colon
Janice Fidalgo
Kilmandja Goncalves
Tayquan Pomare-Taylor

Business

Ideal Subshop
Suffolk Construction Company

CDC's

Dorchester Bay EDC
Madison Park CDC

Resident - Latino

Evelyn Correa-Gonzalez
Luis Cruz
Ivelise Rivera
Tania Rivera

Resident - White

Paul Bothwell
Catherine Flannery
Alexandra Knowles (appointed seat)
Glenn Knowles
Laura Papia

Agency

Boston Staffing Alliance
Children's Services of Roxbury
Dudley Economic Empowerment Partners
The Food Project
Project Hope
Project RIGHT
Quincy Street Missional Church

Religious Organizations

Iglesia El Buen Pastor
St Patrick's Church

Funders

A.C. Ratschesky Foundation
ArtPlace America
Barr Foundation
Berkman Family Fund
Boston After-School & Beyond
The Boston Foundation
Ford Foundation
Hyams Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Ludcke Foundation
United Way of Mass Bay
U.S. Department of Education



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