

Human longing is for nothing less than  
the reconciliation of time and place, of past and future,  
of the many and the one, of the living and the dead.

Boston is precious because it lives in the national imagination,  
and increasingly the world's, just so—  
as a still brilliant map of America's good hope.

—James Carroll from *Mapping Boston*

# Helping to Build The Good City

The Boston Foundation works closely with its donors to make real, measurable change in some of the most important issues of our day. A number of key areas of community life benefited from the Foundation's "Understanding Boston" model for social change in 2005:

*Research* This year, the Foundation's third biennial *Boston Indicators Report* identified the key competitive issues facing Boston and the region and offered an emerging civic agenda. The Foundation also released the third annual "Housing Report Card" and a report on ways for towns and cities to build affordable housing without increasing school costs. Other reports focused on goals for Boston Harbor and the Waterfront—and the impact and role of Greater Boston's higher education institutions through the Carol R. Goldberg Seminar.

*Major Convenings* All Boston Foundation reports are released at forums attracting thousands of people every year. In 2005 alone, the Foundation held some 20 forums on a diverse set of issues—including two major housing convenings, sessions focused on strengthening the nonprofit sector and community safety—and forums examining the effects of the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina on national and local philanthropy.

*Task Forces* Task Forces of experts and stakeholders are convened and facilitated by the Foundation. This year's included committed civic leaders seeking to create a new state funding mechanism for cultural facilities, strengthen the nonprofit sector state-wide, and chronicle the impact of the region's colleges and universities while calling for the creation of a new alliance of their leaders.

*Public Policy* This year, more than ever before, the Boston Foundation helped to inform and shape legislation addressing important areas of community life, including incentives to produce affordable housing, new funding vehicles for the state's cultural facilities, and increased support for workforce development programs that train for local employers' needs.

# Honoring Our Past. Shaping Our Future.

*Greater Boston's Community Foundation | Celebrating 90 Years*

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# 1915: The Boston Foundation Opens Its Doors

A look at the year that Charles E. Rogerson and his son, Charles M. Rogerson, founded the Permanent Charity Fund—later to become the Boston Foundation—reveals areas of community life that have changed dramatically over the last 90 years, and others that have remained remarkably the same. As the clouds of what would be called World War I were gathering abroad, Boston was facing its own local challenges.

Boston has more than doubled its population since 1870 and is now the fifth largest city in the nation, with residents numbering **670,585**.

Democrat **James Michael Curley**, “the Mayor of the Poor,” is serving the first of his four terms.

**First generation and foreign-born immigrants make up more than 70 percent of the population**, with newcomers arriving by the thousands every year.

Italian immigrants and Jews from Eastern Europe settle in the decaying **North End**, described by some as “all bedrooms,” comprising one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the world.

Among the Foundation’s first grantees are the city’s many **Settlement Houses**, which provide services to immigrants and work to improve conditions for the poor.

**Infantile paralysis**, later known as polio, has reached worldwide epidemic proportions.





D.W. Griffiths' *Birth of a Nation* opens at the Tremont Theatre, and **William Monroe Trotter** leads blacks on a march to protest the film, segments of which glorify the Ku Klux Klan.



Boston is the intellectual center of the **Suffrage Movement** and scores of women march down the city's streets for the right to vote.



**Boston's park system**, largely designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, is considered to be the finest in the nation.

A young musician named **Arthur Fiedler** joins the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**.

**Boston is a major manufacturer of a variety of goods and products**, from textiles to shoes, but working conditions are poor, hours are long, and wages are low.

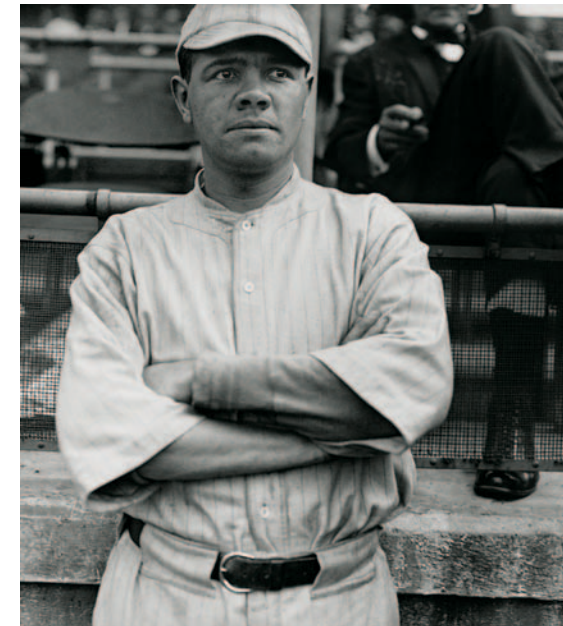
**The North Bennet Street Industrial School** begins its first Vocational Guidance and Placement program—and its founder, Pauline Agassiz Shaw, retires.

The streets are filled with **horse-drawn carriages as well as automobiles**. The price of gas has escalated to an unprecedented 25 cents per gallon and transit fare on Boston's subways is five cents.



Construction on the **Custom House Tower** is completed. At 496 feet, it is allowed to exceed the city's height limit of 125 feet because it is a federal building.

A 20-year-old rookie named **Babe Ruth** plays his first full season with the Boston Red Sox, and the team wins the World Series.



# 2005: At the Boston Foundation

In addition to grantmaking, the Foundation's role as a center for new information and a major convener and civic leader was the focus of much of the Foundation's work in 2005. Here are a few highlights:

## **A Record Year Sees More than \$63 million in Grants Made and New Gifts Received of More Than \$53 million.**

Grants, totaling \$63 million, exceed last year's by \$13 million and set a new record. New contributions are more than \$53 million—the second highest in the Foundation's history and exceeding last year's total by more than \$10 million. Donors create 56 new funds. At year's end, the Foundation's assets top \$686 million.

## **A New Spending Rule Adds \$2 Million for Grants**

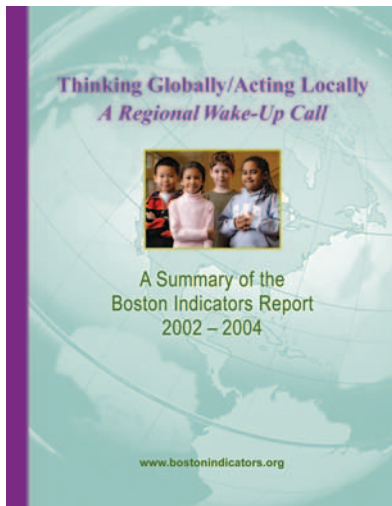
The Foundation leads the way among community foundations nationally by adopting a new spending rule of six percent for its discretionary assets, increasing the amount available next year for grants by \$2 million.

## **The Boston Indicators Report Sounds a Regional Wake-Up Call and Offers a Civic Agenda**

**Thinking Globally/Acting Locally**, the third biennial Boston Indicators Report, identifies the key competitive issues facing our region—warning that technological and demographic changes are accelerating rapidly and will profoundly affect the future. The report also presents an emerging “civic agenda” designed to strengthen Greater Boston and the region.

## **Total Gifts to the Civic Leadership Fund Surpass Goal Again**

Inspired by the Boston Foundation's increasingly visible role as a civic leader and social innovator, donations to the Civic Leadership Fund top \$678,000, surpassing the goal of \$600,000.





## Understanding Boston

This series of fresh research, convenings, and action agendas produces 12 reports about the city and region, holds some 20 forums, and supports special task forces focused on the contributions of higher education to the region, increasing support for cultural facilities, and revamping the state's criminal records (CORI) system.



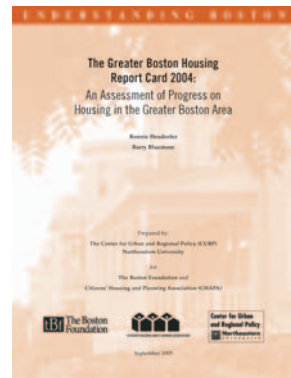
## Informing Public Policy

The Foundation's civic leadership informed public policy in several key areas, including incentives to produce affordable housing, new funding vehicles for cultural facilities, and workforce development programs to meet local employers' needs.



## The Third Annual Greater Boston Housing Report Card is Released

An assessment of progress in housing shines a spotlight on the fact that Greater Boston has become the most expensive metropolitan area in the United States, with high housing costs playing a significant role.

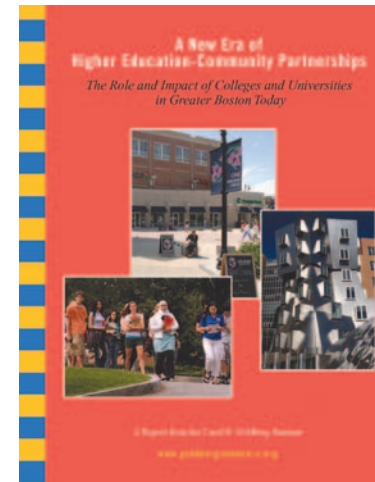


## Community Conversations

A series of community conversations is launched to engage Boston's major ethnic groups in discussions about the challenges facing them. The first two focus on the Latino and Asian communities.

## A Goldberg Seminar Report is Released on Higher Education's Role in Greater Boston

Leaders in higher education come together to examine the vital role that Greater Boston's 75 colleges and universities play in enhancing community life. A special gathering paves the way for future collaborations.



# Understanding the Boston Foundation

Established 90 years ago, in 1915, the Boston Foundation is Greater Boston's community foundation—a major grantmaker, partner in philanthropy, key convener, provider of information, and civic leader.

## *Innovation*

The Foundation's grantmaking, special initiatives, and civic leadership promote innovation across a broad range of compelling community issues, from educational excellence to affordable housing to workforce development to galvanizing support for the arts.

## *Information*

Through its *Understanding Boston* series, the Boston Foundation commissions fresh research—adding to a growing body of knowledge about the most important issues facing Greater Boston. The Foundation shares this information through a series of popular forums that are attended by thousands of people every year. The Foundation also sponsors the *Boston Indicators Project*, which provides a comprehensive, constantly-updated body of information about every aspect of life in Greater Boston through an award-winning state-of-the-art website at [www.bostonindicators.org](http://www.bostonindicators.org).

## *Impact*

In its unique role as a grantmaker, developer of special initiatives and civic leader, the Foundation focuses on tangible, measurable results through its funding and special initiatives, while leveraging millions of dollars in investments from other foundations, donors, and government. It also establishes cross-sector task forces to tackle the toughest community challenges, such as affordable housing and support for the arts.

## *Governance and Staff*

The Foundation is overseen by a 20-member Board of Directors, selected to represent diverse interests within the community, and made up of 43 staff members who work closely with donors, grantees, civic leaders, and community residents to have a positive impact on Greater Boston. The staff includes professionals in the areas of grantmaking, philanthropy, finance and administration, and communications and public policy.

## *Grantmaking*

Through its grants from Discretionary and Designated Funds to Greater Boston—and its Donor Advised Funds—the Foundation and its donors make more than \$63 million in grants to thousands of nonprofit organizations in Boston and across the country.

## *Primary Funding Areas*

Grants address a broad range of core areas including Housing, Social Services, Health, Education, Cultural Institutions, Arts and Humanities, Conservation and the Environment, Community Development, and Civic Affairs.

## *Special Initiatives*

Special grantmaking initiatives, designed by the Foundation's staff, address the most pressing areas of contemporary community life. Special initiatives include those that focus on civic engagement and voter participation, community safety, the new economy, the environment, pilot schools, homelessness prevention, and workforce development.



### *Donors*

With some 850 separate funds established either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes, the Foundation works closely with its donors to achieve their philanthropic goals. Some donors give unrestricted funds, others earmark gifts for special purposes, and a number work closely with Foundation staff to focus their dollars on the areas of community life they care about most.

### *Assets*

The Foundation's endowment stands at more than \$686 million. Its charitable assets are invested in *The Fund for the 21st Century*—a pool of investment management products created specifically for the Foundation that includes nationally-renowned, principally Boston-based money managers.

## \$19.5 Million in Additional Funds Generated

In addition to annual contributions from donors, the Boston Foundation also generates millions of dollars in additional resources to benefit Greater Boston. Here is a brief summary:

**Close to \$3.3 million received for special initiatives**, including those in the areas of civic engagement, homelessness prevention, racial justice, out-of-school time programming for teens, and workforce development.

**A \$500,000 Boston Foundation annual investment in SkillWorks raises \$2.3 million** from other private and public sources in 2005, with a total of **\$12 million pledged over five years**.

**Close to \$800,000 in additional funds are managed and distributed**, including those for arts service organizations and the Polaroid Fund.

**Close to \$2 million is generated by collaboratives housed at the Boston Foundation**, including \$403,000 for English for New Bostonians, \$255,000 for Home Funders, and \$316,000 for the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

**More than \$1.1 in additional funds is distributed** in collaboration with the Foundation, including \$518,000 for homelessness prevention, \$235,000 for Civic Engagement, and \$2.3 million for Workforce Development.

A Program Related Investment of \$1.5 million for pre-development costs associated with single room occupancy housing for very low-income individuals is estimated to leverage some **\$10 million every year over the next 10 years**.



**Carol F. Anderson**  
*Former Managing Director*  
 HarborVest Partners, LLC



**Richard M. Burnes, Jr.**  
*General Partner*  
 Charles River Ventures, Inc.



**Louis Casagrande**  
*President*  
 Children’s Museum



**Atsuko T. Fish**  
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Senior Management (from left): Ruben Orduña, Vice President for Development; Kate Guedj, Vice President for Philanthropic and Donor Services; Gail Snowden, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Mary Jo Meisner, Vice President for Communications, Community Relations and Public Affairs; Jerrold Mitchell, Chief Investment Officer; Paul Grogan, President and CEO; Terry Lane, Vice President for Program; Stephen Chan, Special Assistant to the President.

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 Anita M. Connors,  
*Travel & Events Planning Coordinator*  
 Anna A. Gallo, *Receptionist*

## Letter from the Chair

The Boston Foundation's 90th Anniversary has led me to think about those who guided this organization in 1915. Back then, it was called the Permanent Charity Fund and the board was made up of just seven people—but their grantmaking was surprisingly innovative for such new philanthropists. Clearly, they were acutely aware of the searing poverty in which Boston's newest immigrants lived—and they responded.

Among the very first grants went to Settlement Houses to provide instruction in English and numerous other services to immigrants. Some of those organizations still exist, in the form of organizations like Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses and United South End Settlements. It is remarkable, in fact, how many community-based institutions funded back then are still thriving—from the Women's Educational and Industrial Union (now the Women's Union) to the North Bennet Street School. Like the Boston Foundation, these institutions have survived because they have successfully adapted to change.

Today, the Boston Foundation's board is larger and far more diverse than it was in 1915—and I'm proud to say that the Foundation is not just adapting to change, it is helping to drive it.

I had the honor of moderating a forum—one of 20 "Understanding Boston" forums held last year—on the Criminal Offender Registration Information (CORI) system and its role in preventing some people from moving forward with their lives. What a stimulating discussion we had that morning. And, just weeks later, the Foundation was asked to share its report on CORI with our state's legislators, to guide them in their policymaking.

This is just one example of the good work that is driven and informed by a deeply committed staff and an extremely active board. In the spring, we lost several treasured members of the board to term limits. I am particularly grateful to Hanson Reynolds, who served as vice-chair, and whose wise counsel and positive energy contributed so much. We will also miss the contributions of Judge Marianne Bowler and Ira Jackson. But, we are delighted to welcome new members: Jackie Jenkins-Scott, President of Wheelock College; and Paul La Camera, General Manager of WBUR—and we look forward to the contributions they will make.

This year, our donors stepped up to the plate more than ever before, offering close to \$500,000 in co-funding, which allowed the Foundation to expand its own resources in support of grantees. Our donors are the lifeblood of this institution. The very first was a financier named James Longley, whose bequest of \$4 million gave the old Permanent Charity Fund the capacity to make a discernable difference in Boston. Today's donors are not only providing financial support, but many are actively engaged in their philanthropy.

The name of this foundation has changed, but there is no question that it is "permanent," nor that it is redefining the word "charity," through a dynamic mix of grantmaking and civic leadership. We celebrate this 90th anniversary with pride in the things we have accomplished—with our donors and other partners—a keen awareness of the work that remains, and a tremendous sense of hope about the future.

Reverend Ray A. Hammond  
Chair

# Letter from the President

As the Boston Foundation celebrates its 90th anniversary, the city and region this community foundation serves has in many ways never been healthier or more dynamic. Informed observers agree that we have successfully converted to a Knowledge Economy, which rests heavily on ideas and innovations in higher education, health care, technology and finance.

Greater Boston has undeniable advantages in these arenas—including thousands of skilled professionals, a unique constellation of colleges and universities, and peerless teaching hospitals and research labs. And, we have the most diverse population in our history. In short, Boston has made itself into one of the most vital and attractive cities in America, if not the world.

That's the good news. The bad news is that these advantages are occurring in the midst of continuing disparities for far too many children and families—disparities in education, in income and in health care. Masked by our achievements is the heartbreaking tragedy of generations of children who are not being prepared to succeed. And today, more than ever, our future prosperity depends on preparing all of our young people for success.

I say this, in part, because our position as a hub of innovation is in some jeopardy right now. This didn't happen as suddenly as a plane crashing into a building or a flood sweeping away an entire region, but it has the potential to become our very own, slow-motion urban disaster.

Those who say that we can thrive in a Knowledge Economy also tell us that an educated, skilled and talented workforce is essential to this economy. And that is a disturbingly accurate description of the very people we are beginning to lose to

other regions of our country. In fact, ours is the only state in the nation that experienced a net population loss last year. If it weren't for foreign immigration, the picture would be far bleaker.

A primary reason for this alarming trend is, of course, our high cost of living, especially our inflated housing market. By now, I'm sure you have learned that our region is deemed to be the most expensive in the country in which to live. This is not where we want to be number one.

We know, however, what steps we must take to counter these dangers—to meet what I call the “talent imperative.” We need to build more housing in order to retain and attract new talent. We need to educate the next generation of workers and help new Bostonians receive the English skills they need to advance. And, we need to train a workforce for the more than 60,000 jobs that go unfilled every day in our state.

The narrative section of this annual report describes a concerted effort on behalf of the Boston Foundation—and our many donors and partners—to address these issues through grantmaking and through civic leadership.

We approach this work with a tremendous sense of optimism, because we know that this city has reinvented itself, over and over again, and that we can do it again. Working together, we not only will adapt to these changes, we will embrace them and emerge stronger than ever before.

Paul S. Grogan  
President and CEO



Boston Foundation staff in front of the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts. As we celebrate 90 years as Greater Boston's community foundation, we take the opportunity to remind readers that 90 years is also the average age of our state's cultural facilities. We invite you to work with us and our partners to meet the bricks and mortar needs of these institutions, which are so vital to the economic and spiritual well-being of our region.



## Honoring Our Past.

### *Meeting the Talent Imperative*

**B**oston's history reveals a city that has adapted, again and again, to the economic and social realities of the day—first serving as a center of international maritime commerce, then as a leader of industry. The historian Thomas H. O'Connor tells us that by the early part of the 20th century, however, when the Boston Foundation was founded, Boston's textile factories were deteriorating and the city's influence was weakening. In his book "The Hub," O'Connor quotes Barrett Wendell, who moaned, "We are vanishing into provincial obscurity. America has swept from our grasp. The future is beyond us."

Mr. Wendell was wrong. Boston would go on to successfully build a new economy based on service industries, finance, and retailing and wholesaling. And, by the end of the century, the city and the region had successfully adapted to the Knowledge Economy, which is fueling prosperity today. Greater Boston has numerous advantages in this economy, including thousands of skilled professionals, hundreds of start-up technology and venture capital firms, an extraordinary array of 75 topnotch colleges and universities, and world-renowned hospitals and research laboratories.