

Ethan Kehoe

From: Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass. <ekehoe@cfsema.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 12:05 PM
To: Ethan Kehoe
Subject: 2017 Annual Report: Stories of Impact

Our mission is to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Massachusetts

2017 Annual Report: Stories of Impact

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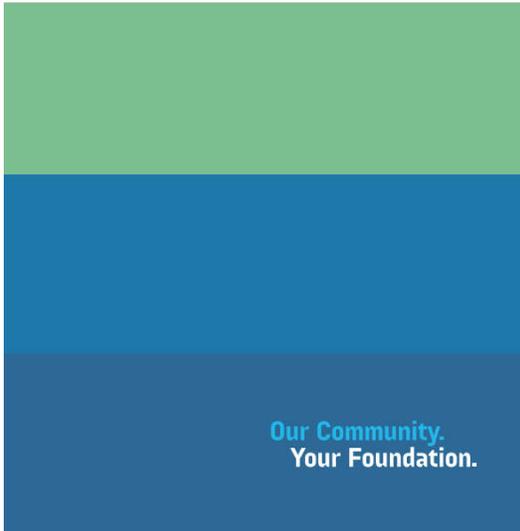
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2017 Annual Report
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2017 Annual Report: **Stories of Impact**

On behalf of the dedicated Board volunteers and staff of the Community Foundation, I am proud to share our 2017 Annual Report with you, **Stories of Impact**.

Stories of Impact is a collection of personal accounts from people and organizations that embody our work to make life throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and beyond better for all.

They represent some of the partners in philanthropy who helped us in 2017 to advance the mission of the Community Foundation to *mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region.*

As we note in the Annual Report these partners, "...provide energy and evidence behind the reality of this Community Foundation operating as 'Your Foundation'." And they inspire us to do the most good for our community, every day.



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In addition to our 2017 Annual Report, we've included a report on our recent 23rd Annual Meeting; the exciting launch of our Creative Commonwealth Initiative's granting phase with support for public arts projects in Fall River and New Bedford; and news about our 14th annual Summer's Last Blast event on September 14.

I hope you enjoy **Stories of Impact**. Let us know what you think.

Regards,

John Vasconcellos

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Our 23rd Annual Meeting



Seth Garfield (Left) and Linda Bodenmann at the Foundation's 23rd Annual Meeting

"I am so pleased that my first act as (Community Foundation Board) Chair is to recognize and honor the incredible commitment, energy, and perseverance of Seth Garfield over the past three and a half years in this role," said Linda Bodenmann as she addressed the more than 70 attendees at the end of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Community Foundation on June 12 at the Charlton College of Business on the campus of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Our host for the evening, UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Robert E. Johnson, welcomed attendees to, "...the crown jewel of the University of Massachusetts system," and urged his guests to find partners in the community who are committed to improving the quality of life in the region.



Chancellor Johnson

Chancellor Johnson's remarks were followed by a feature presentation from Dr. Michael D. Goodman, Professor & Executive Director of the Public Policy Center at UMass Dartmouth, who detailed current economic conditions and their implications for social and economic development in the South Coast region. Dr. Goodman explored trends in the current local labor market while drawing upon historic similarities between Fall River and New Bedford as "Commuter Cities" to the more developed "Job Centers" of Boston and Providence.

He provided data to suggest that a myriad of factors have combined to slow the economic growth of our local urban real estate markets. Dr.

Goodman also cited the consequences of our region's traditional over-reliance on the maritime sector to drive job growth, as well as the overwhelming disparity in local versus state rates of educational attainment that drive job creation outside of the South Coast.



Dr. Goodman

Dr. Goodman ended his presentation with a strong endorsement of the emerging offshore wind industry and its potential impact on job creation in a multitude of sectors including: Marine Science, Tourism and Recreation, Marine Construction, Ship and Boat Building, Marine Technology, and Water Transportation.

The business portion of the 23rd Annual Meeting began with remarks from outgoing Community Foundation Board Chair Seth Garfield who invited Dana Norman, the Treasurer of the Foundation, to present the Finance and Investment Report. In the report, Norman noted the Foundation earned over \$2.8 million in public support in 2017, with total revenue of more than \$7.4 million. In addition, the Foundation provided over \$2.3 million in grants and scholarships during the year. All told, Mr. Norman reported that the Foundation increased its net assets by over \$3.5 million on the strength of its 15.3% return on investments, ending 2017 with more than \$34.5 million in net assets.



Dana Norman (Left) and John Vasconcellos.

With his term of service concluding at the 23rd Annual Meeting, Norman was honored for his contributions to the Community Foundation by Seth Garfield and Foundation President John Vasconcellos.

Foundation Board and Governance Committee member Colleen C. Carney presented the slate of nominees for election to the Board of Directors and the Corporators. The slate included **Maria Rosario** and **Cynthia Rose** who were elected and welcomed by attendees as new members of the Board.

Newly elected Corporators included: Priscilla Ditchfield, Yvonne Drayton, Zachary Gerson-Nieder, Jeffrey Pagliuca, Michael Pierre, Dana Norman, Andrea Rodrigues, Lisa Schmid-Alvord, Ed Siegal, and Lisa Stratton.

Finally, the Board of Directors elected its Officers, including Linda Bodenmann as Chair, Eric Strand as Vice Chair, Louis Sousa as Treasurer, Carl Cruz as Clerk and Seth Garfield as Immediate Past Chair.

Community Foundation President John Vasconcellos addressed attendees, highlighting the advent of the Creative Commonwealth Initiative in 2017 through a partnership with the Barr Foundation. Vasconcellos noted that a year ago, the Foundation had just begun a series of rigorous Community Conversation to develop the framework and inform the direction of a partnership with Barr to impact Arts and Culture in Fall River and New Bedford. The tremendous input and involvement from the community has led to the fully active Creative Commonwealth initiative that is in the process of investing a total of \$800,000 over the next two years in Fall River and New Bedford Arts and Culture.

Vasconcellos also noted a focus of the Foundation over the past year to engage with its Fund Advisors to better connect them with emergent community needs and effective nonprofit organizations demonstrating solutions and measurable results.

Another group the Foundation worked intentionally to better engage, according to Vasconcellos, was the professional advisor community, and he cited a unique and dynamic panel discussion on philanthropy held in May for this audience featuring Dr. Irwin and Joan Jacobs and Patrick and Lillian Carney.

Vasconcellos also pointed to the election of a new class of ten Corporators at the 23rd Annual Meeting as an important benchmark for the Foundation in its efforts to reinvigorate this group on the heels of a first-ever Corporator's Breakfast event in March.



John Vasconcellos

In looking to the year ahead, Vasconcellos called upon a "big idea" from the past in the community's determination to create a Community Foundation for Greater New Bedford in the early-1990s. Vasconcellos described that big idea as one which was, "...well considered, thoroughly researched, and initially funded with generous support from the community." He pointed to the Community Foundation's current endowment as a direct result of, "early believers in that big idea."

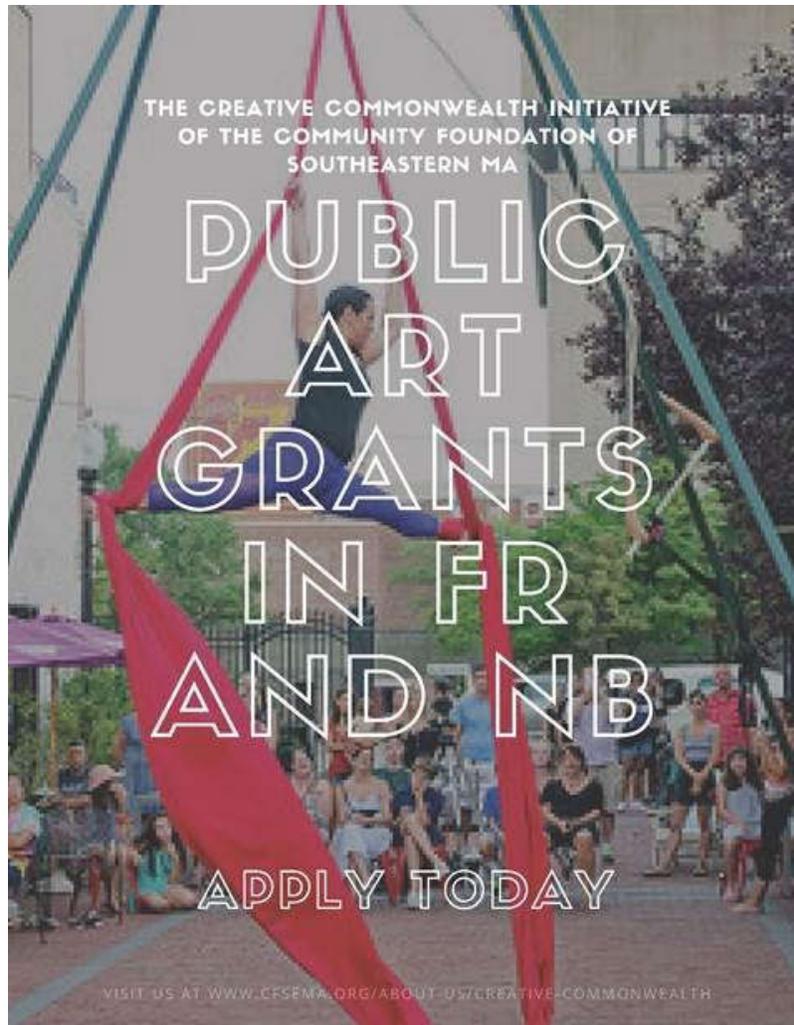
Vasconcellos proposed that in the Community Foundation's evolution over time that the role of the organization has moved beyond being, "a gatherer and giver of philanthropic assets," and that it is required to examine its role as a community leader. In this role, he suggested the Community Foundation: acts in concert with others as a community partner, embraces its obligation to create a better future for all, be counted on to pursue the community's greatest opportunities and address its most critical challenges, and that it should continue to grow and leverage the resources necessary while producing significant and lasting results.

Vasconcellos stated that the Community Foundation will strategically explore its readiness and capacity to act in this community leadership role over the next year through an expansive and inclusive community-driven process which asks, "What's the Big Idea?" as a way to honor the initial vision in the creation of the Community Foundation while delivering an organization that lives up to the promise of: Our Community. Your Foundation.

The 23rd Annual Meeting concluded with an address from newly-elected Chairperson Linda Bodenmann, in which she lauded Past Chair Seth Garfield for his extraordinary contribution to the Community Foundation. Bodenmann ended her remarks with a request that attendees answer the call from the Community Foundation to engage in the "What's the Big Idea?" process over the coming months to help create the greatest possible impact for the community.

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Creative Commonwealth Kicks Off Public Arts Grants



Building on the past year's planning which involved robust community engagement, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has announced the first phase of its Creative Commonwealth initiative with a round of grants to support the creation of public art for New Bedford and Fall River.

A minimum of \$150,000 will be available for public art projects that emphasize accessibility and inclusion and celebrates community-wide ownership of the arts. Projects are to be completed or significantly underway by September 2019 and applicants must be a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit. Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that are impactful, transformative, collaborative, engage the community and demonstrate artistic excellence.

"This initial grant opportunity marks an important milestone for our Creative Commonwealth Initiative as we offer the community a substantial new opportunity to create excellence in our

public arena," said Nicholas M. Christ, President & CEO of BayCoast Bank and chair of the Arts & Culture Committee of the Community Foundation.

"We actively seek proposals from organizations that engage youth and serve culturally diverse populations, and we welcome applicants that embrace artistic risk-taking and bold organizational change," said Priscilla Ditchfield who serves with Christ on the Arts & Culture Committee and chairs its Grants Committee.

Interested applicants can access the Letter of Interest on the Community Foundation website at cfsema.org. Completed Letters of Interest are due by 5PM on July 6 and potential applicants should direct questions to Rayana Grace, Arts & Culture Program Manager, at 508-996-8253 ext. 203 or rgrace@cfsema.org.

A partnership between the Barr Foundation and five community foundations in Massachusetts, the Creative Commonwealth Initiative is rooted in the belief that investments in arts and creativity build thriving communities, and it aims to promote the vital leadership role community foundations can play to advance the arts.

Creative Commonwealth will pave the way for community foundations to deepen and grow support for artists and cultural organizations. The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has been awarded \$500,000 over 24 months to pilot ideas customized to Fall River and New Bedford. These grants follow a year-long planning process funded by Barr in 2017, during which each foundation worked with community leaders to identify opportunities, needs, and priorities.

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Summer's Last Blast September 14 at Gidley Farm



Although we have not even reached the first official day of summer (June 21 if you were wondering), it is never too early to start dreaming of the season's signature party, the Community Foundation's 14th annual Summer's Last Blast!

Presenting Sponsor BayCoast Bank and the Community Foundation are pleased to announce that Summer's Last Blast is scheduled for September 14 at Gidley Farm in Dartmouth.

If you have been to Summer's Last Blast in the past, you know that one of its most unique and exciting aspects is that the location for the event brings guests to some of the most beautiful sites on the South Coast and this year is no exception.

Picturesque Gidley Farm is a 12th generation working farm on 148 acres in the

heart of Dartmouth on Tucker Road. Gidley Farm was purchased in 1669 by Henry Tucker (yup, Tucker Road) because of its (still flowing) spring, located by a path long used by Native Americans. This path became part of the King's Road, the highway of its day which stretched from Plymouth to Newport during the Colonial period.

A spectacular setting for our 14th annual Summer's Last Blast, Gidley Farm will transport you to a bygone era--until you step inside our incredible tent with all the first class finishes, gourmet dining, and top shelf bar that make this event so much fun!

So as we all prepare to welcome summer, don't forget to put September 14 on your calendar, because even though we never want it to end, at least we can send it out in style at Summer's Last Blast!



For Summer's Last Blast sponsorship and ticket information contact Ethan Kehoe, Director of Development, at ekehoe@cfsema.org and 508-996-8253 ext. 216.





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Our Community. Your Foundation.

Support the Community Foundation Annual Fund

The Community Foundation is committed to be the most effective connector, convener, innovator, and funder of philanthropic solutions that improve the quality of life in our region.

We need your help to fulfill this promise. Every donation to our Annual Fund directly supports our effort to provide the greatest local impact for our donors and grantees.

As you read our 2017 Annual Report: [Stories of Impact](#), please consider a meaningful gift to our Annual Fund. Help us to magnify our local impact through your engagement and support. Together, let us make a difference for those people and causes from Our Community who need us most.

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