



MACDC's Boston Committee Goals & Principles for Imagine Boston 2030

In 2015, the city of Boston launched a city-wide planning process, Imagine Boston 2030 to “engage the public in creating a framework to guide the preservation, enhancement, and responsible growth of our city between now and 2030.”

MACDC and its members want to ensure the plan is a good one for the diverse neighborhoods in which we work and the families we serve. Toward that end, we have formed a working group that will help CDCs actively participate in this process by engaging local residents and advocating for a plan that advances our mission of economic inclusion and neighborhood improvement.

As part of this effort, MACDC's Boston Committee has developed a shared set of goals and principles that will guide our participation in the process.

Goals:

- Improve, or at least maintain, the economic, racial and ethnic diversity of residents and businesses in our neighborhoods and across our city.
- Sustain Boston as a city of distinctive and cohesive neighborhoods with unique cultural, physical and social assets.
- Expand housing opportunities across a range of incomes so that Boston can welcome new residents without displacing existing ones.
- Create a city where residents of all incomes live in safe neighborhoods that provide access to good schools, jobs, parks, homes, cultural & faith institutions and amenities that ensure a high quality of life - through all stages of life.

Principles for action:

1. **Community Voice:** Implement a planning process that is shaped by the community and engages a broad array of local residents and business owners, including people of color, working class, non-English speakers and those less likely to participate in planning processes. The process must also be transparent so that stakeholders have equal access to data and information and are able to see how community input was used to shape decisions and outcomes.
2. **Smart Development:** Boston needs to grow new housing and new jobs and this will require greater density, smart design, mixed income and mixed use developments and a transportation infrastructure to support the growth. We need to take a smart, nuanced approach that entails mutual respect between and among large institutions, developers, neighborhood residents and other stakeholders so that both the benefits and costs of development are broadly and fairly shared, and new development does not drive further displacement.

3. **Affordable Housing:** Achieve or exceed the housing goals laid out in the Mayor's Housing 2030 plan, with the goal of building even more affordable and moderate income housing while also maintaining the stock of affordable and lower priced housing that already exists in the City of Boston. The City must invest heavily in the creation and preservation of affordable housing and support the creation of mixed income developments and neighborhoods. At minimum, we must embed current inclusionary development requirements into any new zoning, while maintaining the opportunity to significantly increase the percentage of new housing that is affordable to people with low and moderate incomes.
4. **Small & Local Businesses:** Promote the preservation and development of commercial and industrial space that is available to and affordable to locally owned businesses, while offering a broad array of programs that help people of color, lower income people and other Boston residents to start and grow their own businesses.
5. **Jobs:** Improve economic opportunity by preserving and expanding the number of jobs in the City of Boston and ensuring that Boston residents have a fair opportunity to secure those jobs in every sector of the economy from construction, to retail, to finance, to technology and others.
6. **Institutional Master Planning:** Boston's universities, hospitals and other large institutions are essential to our future. We need to support their growth and success but not at the expense of local residents. Institutional master planning needs to be genuine and community oriented and those plans need to balance the competing and varied needs of all stakeholders. The City's Master Plan needs to align with the individual IMPs and both zoning and specific development approvals need to be consistent with those plans.
7. **Public Safety:** Public safety and crime prevention need to be key considerations in land use planning, building design, transportation planning, public spaces and development decisions.
8. **Public Transportation & Walkability:** Improve public transit in the City of Boston and integrate new transportation technologies and opportunities to that Boston residents have the mobility they need to access opportunity. Promote equitable transit oriented development that leverages and strengthens both our transportation systems and our housing market. Priority should be given to developing (and preserving) walkable neighborhoods that provide residents with opportunity to safely walk to jobs, shopping and recreation.
9. **Public Spaces:** Create vibrant, accessible public spaces that leverage and highlight our city's creative talents, historic assets and diverse population while supporting recreation and healthy living.
10. **Implementation:** The plan must be developed with a continuous eye toward how it will be implemented and a commitment to develop the policies, programs and funding necessary to achieve the plan's vision.