

Executive Summary 2022

The mission of Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) is to build a strong, thriving, and diverse community in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Working closely with neighborhood leaders, government officials, residents, businesses, and partners, we access and activate resources to:

1. Develop and preserve homeownership and rental housing across income levels
2. Create and sustain economic development opportunities for businesses and individuals
3. Build community through organizing, civic engagement, and leadership development

DBEDC was founded in Dorchester in 1979 by local civic associations to address the problems of economic disinvestment, unemployment, crime, community tensions, and the shortage of quality affordable housing undermining Boston's Dorchester community. Many of these issues persist today, partly due to prevailing aspects of systemic racism, rising rents, and the limited city and state resources allocated for job development, small business assistance, skills training, and support for our most vulnerable community members. DBEDC partners with the community to address these longstanding challenges to create opportunities for individuals, families and businesses throughout the community.

DBEDC has a 43-year history of strategic, impactful action and immersive community engagement. Since its inception, DBEDC has built and preserved over 1,200 units of affordable housing and over 200,000 square feet of commercial space. We have issued more than \$10 million in direct and indirect small business and home improvement loans, resulting in 1,000s of new and preserved jobs. We have created robust workforce development and re-entry programs, small business technical assistance and lending programs, technology classes, leadership training and summer camps for children, while also advocating for climate change resiliency measures and housing policies.

Below is just a sampling of projects we have recently completed or are actively advancing.

The **Indigo Block** development, which opened October 2021, created 80 units of mixed-income housing adjacent to the Uphams Corner station on the MBTA Indigo

commuter rail line. Indigo Block also includes nine condominiums for purchase, priced within reach of area residents. Lastly, this transit-oriented development offers a separate 20,000 s.f. light industrial commercial property available for small, emerging neighborhood businesses.

Columbia Crossing, currently in pre-development, will be a transformative property, helping to anchor the new Uphams Corner Arts and Innovation District. 62 units of affordable housing, 6725 s.f. of affordable commercial space for arts and innovation use, and 5,000 s.f. of civic space are planned.

Dorchester Bay is partnering with Hebrew Senior Life to develop **9 Leyland Street**, a senior housing property also in pre-development. 9 Leyland will offer 43 affordable, age-restricted, supportive living units in Uphams Corner. This development will be a model for connecting senior residents to services like health care, nutrition, and social activities.

In January of 2022, DBEDC testified in front of the Massachusetts Revenue Committee in support of the **HERO act**. The HERO act will allocate \$600 million to advance affordable housing and climate change resiliency measures if passed.

In January of 2022, DBEDC launched and is leading the **Boston Workforce Development Coalition**, which includes key local workforce development partners to bring more employment counseling, skill building training and access to resource opportunities to individuals, especially returning citizens. The Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program (CERP) from the State is supporting this effort this year with \$407,337 for the Coalition to provide services and create inter-agencies linkages and an infrastructure support system.

With a recent series of substantial funding sources secured, we will be significantly growing a number of our programs and services, most notably our real estate development and acquisition efforts, loan fund, workforce development and technical assistance programs. We have also increased our capacity to bolster climate change resiliency and social justice advocacy efforts. This growth of programmatic offerings is a testament to the strength and vision of our organization. We plan to continue meeting our communities' needs and helping the Uphams Corner neighborhood thrive for the next 43 years and beyond.