



#### DEAR BROOKLINE COMMUNITY,



When I look back on our most recently completed fiscal year, I couldn't be more proud of the many "firsts" we helped to make happen. From facilitating a community-wide engagement process to get your input into where the Town of Brookline could invest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to launching participatory grantmaking led by the Racial Equity Grant Committee for the Racial Equity Grant Program, we've accomplished so much through partnership.

**These partnerships** are also part of a larger effort to build a better Brookline for all. For us, that vision means many things. It means everyone in our community has access to the essentials we all need to succeed. It means everyone in the community feels safe and welcome. It means everyone who lives, learns, works, and plays in Brookline is thriving.

While making this vision a reality will require collective efforts from across our community, we recognize that considerable barriers still exist at this moment in time. The pandemic continues to impact both physical and mental health, especially for our most vulnerable residents. Many of the federal and state-level economic protections implemented in 2020 that helped lift families out of crisis and poverty have now expired. The loss of these supports coincides with rising inflation and greater economic instability at this time in our country. Combined, this is putting an intense strain on our friends, neighbors, and partners.

**But this is the exact moment** for which community foundations in general and BCF in particular were built. Through our grantmaking, we can provide flexible, sustainable support to our partners working across Brookline to meet urgent and emergent community needs. By continuing to engage with our community we can help surface shared challenges and uplift community-led solutions. And through trusted partnerships with generous donors, we can direct our shared investments back into the community where our community tells us they are needed most.

**Today, as we welcome our new Executive Director Aba Taylor to BCF,** I invite you to see what your support, partnership, and commitment has already made possible. This annual report celebrates the collective efforts and partnerships that are creating enduring, positive change for the Brookline community. None of it would be possible without you, our community of nonprofit partners, donors, community leaders, Town officials, and more.

**Thank you for your continuing support of BCF** and your investment in Brookline. Together, we are one step closer to making our vision of a better Brookline for all a reality.

GIOIA PERUGIN

President, Board of Trustees

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# vision

A better Brookline for all

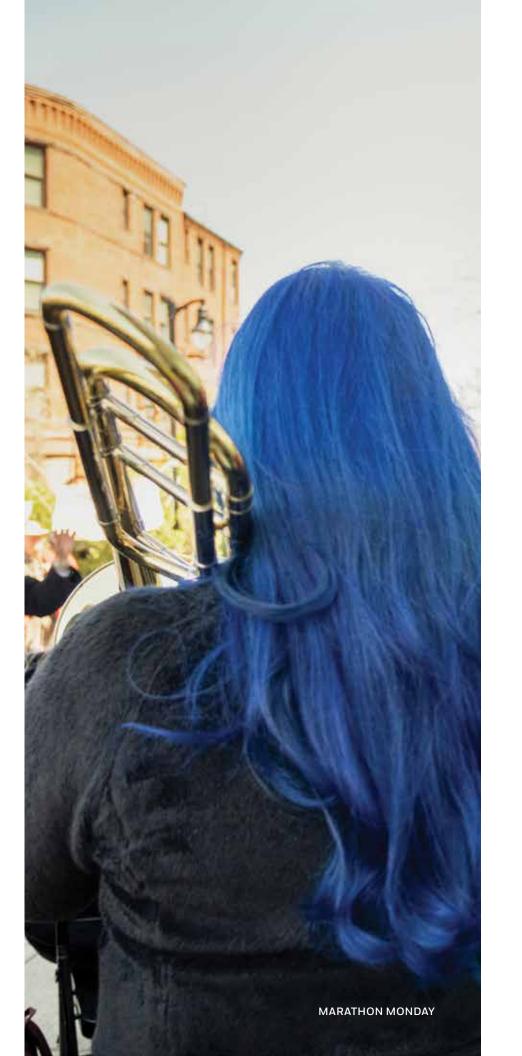
# mission

The Brookline Community Foundation creates opportunity and promotes equity through the transformative power of giving

# values

**LEAD BY LISTENING •** Listening helps us deeply understand community strengths, challenges, needs, and opportunities so we can be an effective collaborator and partner. **ANCHORED IN EQUITY •** Equity is the vision we're working towards and the process we're using to get there that helps hold us accountable to our community and ourselves.

**SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT** • Sustainability is crucial for our nonprofits, our neighbors, and our own organization. Investing in Brookline lets us address needs today and well into the future. **COMMUNITY FIRST • Our community** guides our work. We use your insights and guidance to design and refine our work so we can reach our shared goals together.



our collective impact

2Life Communities (formerly Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly) Abilities Dance Incorporated

BCF Fund for Brookline

Boston Worker's Circle Center for Jewish Culture

and Social Justice

Brookline Arts Center

Brookline Center for Community Mental Health

Brookline Council on Aging/Brookline Multi-service

Senior Center Corporation

Brookline Early Education Program

Brookline Food Pantry

Brookline High School

Brookline Housing Authority

Brookline Hub, Inc

Brookline Improvement Coalition, Inc.

Brookline Interactive Group (BIG)

Brookline Office on Diversity, Inclusion

and Community Relations

Brookline Recreation Department

Brookline Robotics Initiative

Brookline Teen Center

Carroll Center for the Blind

Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation, Inc.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Family ACCESS

Food for Thought

FriendshipWorks

Gateway Arts/Vinfen

Heath Extended Day Program

Jewish Family and Children's Services

Joana Chacon/ National Educator Anti-Racism Conference

Kalliope Reed Quintet

LEAP Self-Defense (dba Girls' LEAP)

MAB Community Services, Inc.

Martin Trust Partnership in Education for Early Learners

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange

Organized Youth

Parks and Open Space

Public Schools of Brookline

Ruffin Ridley Extended Day Program

Springwell, Inc.

Steps to Success, Inc.

Studios Without Walls

Temple Beth Zion

Town of Brookline Finance Department

Town of Brookline/Brookline Adult and Community Education

Town of Brookline/Public Schools of Brookline

**VOICES** Boston

Women Thriving, Inc.

Yachad

July 2021 - June 2022

DONORS, RAISED

\$2,121,248

ORGANIZATIONS. COMMUNITY GROUPS, & STUDENTS RECEIVED

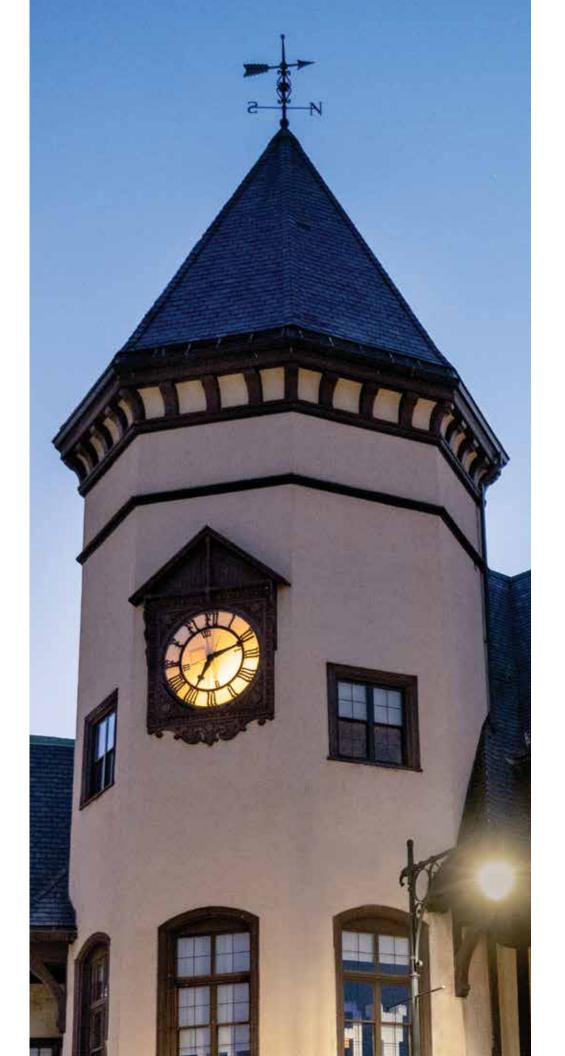
\$1,200,747

in grants, sponsorships & scholarships



As we continue to collaborate and strengthen our efforts to create a better **Brookline for** all, we and our partners have remained steadfast in our commitment to community. **BCF** is proud to highlight some of the work that has sustained and uplifted the Brookline community over the past year.

# living our values



## **Lead by Listening**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE INVESTMENT

When the United States government released the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021, they recognized that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted every community differently. One community might need to expand and enhance broadband internet access to support remote learning, while another might need to provide direct payments to essential frontline workers. But learning about community needs, challenges, and opportunities requires deep listening.

Through a community-wide effort, BCF engaged a series of partners to do just that: listen deeply to the voices, stories, and ideas of the Brookline community to help identify investment opportunities for ARPA funding that would address community needs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. In September 2021, BCF began working with the Town of Brookline in an effort to integrate community voice into Brookline's recovery efforts, educate the public on ARPA funds, and hear the ideas of community members—especially those who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and those who typically do not have the opportunity to engage in critical decision-making processes.

Over the course of 10 weeks, the Brookline community came together to share stories, ideas, inspiration, and most importantly to listen to over 800 community members. Whether through open community conversations, focus groups, or surveys, community members shared their perspectives and ideas. Using their strong relationships and grassroots reach, the Brookline Asian American Family Network, the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health, the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Brookline Education Foundation, Brookline Housing Authority, Brookline Improvement Coalition, the Brookline Senior Center, Brookline Teen Center, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Steps to Success, the Town of Brookline, and Women Thriving all hosted focus groups to ensure this process was inclusive and reflected the diversity of the communities most impacted.

Thanks to this groundswell of community engagement, we gained invaluable insights and created a comprehensive report outlining priority investment areas, which was shared with the Town's administrative leadership, the Select Board, and the Brookline community as a

whole. Because of this collective listening effort, the Brookline community identified several key investment opportunities, including increased mental health support and enhanced access to essential resources. The Town allocated funding through an open grant program to nonprofit organizations and Town agencies positioned to deliver and expand supportive services locally.

"It's because of the entire community's commitment to engaging with and listening to our community—from Town officials to organizations, from local businesses to community members—that we arrived collectively at such an informed and reflective series of recommendations," said Gioia Perugini, President of the BCF Board of Trustees. "I'm grateful for the entire community for their willingness to share, engage, and listen to help bring us to this point together and to direct funds in a way that reflects what our community identified as their needs."

BCF is immensely grateful to the Town of Brookline, Focus Group Leaders, and the entire community for sharing your stories and developing a shared vision for equitable investment!

## **Anchored in Equity** ABILITIES DANCE

Central to creating enduring equity is ensuring access and representation. However, in the dance world, accommodations for disabled performers aren't often available. "As a disabled dancer, I couldn't find work opportunities for myself," says Ellice Patterson, Founder and Executive Director of Abilities Dance. "And I didn't see the stories being told that I wanted to see." Providing work opportunities for disabled dancers and telling stories that are often excluded from traditional dance narratives inspired Ellice to create Abilities Dance.

Abilities Dance is a Brooklinebased nonprofit using dance to promote intersectional disability rights in Boston and beyond. They have a performing company of folks with and without disabilities, as well as a growing educational program that provides accessible, welcoming dance education in the community. "We have choreographers, composers, musicians, set designers, visual artists, and more talented people from all across the country contributing to this work," said Ellice. Since their first show in 2017, the company has continued to grow, expand, and share its core message of equity and inclusivity through vibrant performances. "I really love the opportunity to continually learn. I learn so much from our artists and interns, and I'm always challenging myself to provide more equity internally and externally," says Ellice.

Recently, Abilities Dance premiered Inversion, an original ballet, at the Calderwood Pavilion on November 4th, 2022. Cocreated by Ellice and Abilities Dance Music Director Andrew Choe, the idea for Inversion emerged from their lived experiences. "After our successful Firebird ballet, we started thinking about other ballets we could do. Then we thought 'what if instead of trying to fit our stories and personalities into an existing ballet, we create a whole new one that has our stories at its core?'" Ellice explained. Central to Inversion is a discussion about neurodiversity. "Many dancers in Inversion identify as neurodivergent, so learning how folks might experience these inequities and how to embody being in someone else's shoes, that's all part of the dancers' process."

Abilities Dance partnered with Gateway Arts in Brookline to create the set for the ballet. Additionally, Abilities Dance livestreams performances to ensure audiences who can't attend in person have access, and they also provide movement descriptions via audio for blind and low-vision audience members. "But we do more than describe it," Ellice explains, "we actually build a narrative that enriches the whole experience of the performance."

Today, the Abilities Dance team is looking forward to deepening ties to the Brookline community.

"There are people all across the country contributing to this work. There are folks contributing to equity work through so many channels and groups. We're excited about this work and are looking forward to sharing it with the community."



photo by Bill Parsons/Maximal Image

instead of trying to fit our stories and personalities into an existing ballet, we create a whole new one that has our stories at its core.

BCF is proud to support Abilities Dance and congratulates them on the world premiere of Inversion!

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## **Sustainable Support**

## BROOKLINE IMPROVEMENT COALITION





For over 60 years, community development corporations (CDCs) have been the bedrock of local community development by elevating community voices and engaging community members in collaborative problem-solving to build more equitable and sustainable communities. Since 1980, the Brookline Improvement Coalition (BIC)—the only CDC working in and with the Brookline community—has been a cornerstone of sustainable support. Originally, BIC started as a partnership between community members and the

Town of Brookline, with a focus on converting rental properties into condominiums to provide pathways to home ownership. Today, BIC owns and manages several properties that provide stable, affordable housing to community members. "I was excited to be involved with BIC because I deeply believe that part of building an inclusive community is creating more affordable housing opportunities," said BIC's Executive Director Bob Van Meter. But housing is just the beginning. In addition to maintaining and

improving their current properties,

BIC is scaling crucial efforts to elevate community voice, advocate for improved affordable housing access, and provide community members with essential resources. Recently, BIC partnered with the Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) to support BHA residents with additional resources to cover rising food costs and back to school supplies. Through this partnership, BIC provided BHA families with \$25,000 worth of gift cards to purchase back to school supplies and nutritious food so children could begin the school year with all the essentials they

need to be ready to learn. "We can tune into community needs, build partnerships with organizations like the Brookline Housing Authority and others, and play the role of a convener that can bring resources to bear on issues in the community," explained BIC Board President Deborah Brown.

Looking ahead, BIC is also working to establish a local tenants' union to elevate the voices, experiences, and ideas of Brookline renters. "More than 50% of Brookline community members are renters," Deborah explained. renters "Having a tenants' union

will bring collective voice to addressing and fixing housing issues, and provide collective power in elevating key issues renters are facing in the community."

Ultimately, for Deborah, Bob, and the entire BIC team, this work is about creating short- and long-

More than 50% of Brookline community members are

term sustainability for everyone who calls Brookline home. "Our work isn't always glamorous, but that's exactly what a community development corporation does," Deborah shared. "Because safe, stable housing is so important to health, wellness, climate resiliency, economic advancement, and more, it's our job to do everything we can-from repairing housing units to creating a collective vision for affordable housing—to ensure every member of our community has these

BCF is proud to be funding BIC's work providing sustainable support to the Brookline community!

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## **Community First**

# **BROOKLINE TEEN CENTER**

At the core of the Brookline
Teen Center's (BTC) mission is
a deep understanding of the
role responsiveness plays in
supporting the youth community.
"What the pandemic has shown
us is that we needed to be
responsive," says Alicia Adamson,
BTC's Executive Director. "We
want to be responsive with our
programming because that helps
us respond to the ever-changing
and ever-evolving needs of our
kids and community."

Since its opening in 2013, BTC has been a beacon for Brookline youth and provided a safe, nurturing platform "where all teens can explore, create, and discover who they are." When the pandemic disrupted core community programming—and destabilized networks of community support— BTC found an opportunity to look towards community and reimagine impact. "All young people—regardless of race, class, age, gender, or how they identify are at risk for not knowing what next steps to take. Working at BTC, I see us as intercepting the risk-balls and giving youth an opportunity to explore and create positive decisions that can enrich their lives."

As part of their commitment to

responsive, community-centered programming, BTC has launched several new initiatives to provide opportunities for Brookline youth. As part of BTC's summer program, they formed a new partnership with the Coolidge Corner Theater so youth could attend the movies together every two weeks. They also partnered with Chestnut Hill Reality to provide complimentary shuttle service from Hancock Village to BTC so youth from South Brookline could easily reach the center. "It was a great pilot to see how we could engage young people from South Brookline with no transportation. Chestnut Hill Reality has been supporting residents who are refugees from Ukraine in particular, and because BTC was free over the summer, we wanted to reach out and engage the new youth in our community." Additionally, BTC expanded

their supper club, allowing them to provide dinner to 150 Brookline youth on Thursdays and Fridays all summer. "It's about providing hot meals to support kids who are food insecure," Alicia explained. "But it's also about community-building. BTC staff and the kids all sit down and eat together. Sometimes we play games like charades. Sometimes we discuss

topics like identity and racism. We really want to learn about and from our youth: what their experiences are, where their hearts are, what's on their minds."

Looking ahead, BTC is preparing to launch college readiness programming for collegebound students, including free SAT preparation courses and application guidance. But for Alicia and the entire BTC team, what matters most is building, nurturing, and supporting Brookline youth at the community level. "As a Black woman leading this organization in a predominantly white town, it's a huge opportunity for kids who may not see these kinds of leadership roles as being available for them. Representation matters. It's part of our youth's development to encounter people and experiences different from theirs. And it's how we create empathetic human beings and citizens who embrace diversity," Alicia explained. And she sees BTC as one part of a wider community network supporting youth. "It's not just about BTC. It's about the Brookline community taking care of teens. The teen agenda has to be a shared one. We have to show our teens that there is a future forward for them."

BCF is deeply grateful for the important work BTC does in and with the Brookline community, and is proud to support their efforts through our grantmaking.





#### Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2022\*

ASSETS

Total Assets	\$9,552,214
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust	\$106,574
Fixed Assets - Net of Depreciation	206,383
Prepaid Expenses	16,397
Net Pledge Receivables	203,160
Investment Assets	8,248,122
Cash	771,578

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	25,303
Grants Payable	4,750
Payroll Tax Liabilities	2,806
Deferred Revenue	28,700
Total Liabilities	\$61,559

**NET ASSETS** 

Without Donor Restrictions 3,486,090 With Donor Restrictions 6,004,565 **Total Net Assets** \$9,490,655

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** 

\$9,552,214



#### **BCF Endowed Opportunity and Equity Fund**

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Patricia Aronson Miriam Aschkenasy

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The Hope Foundation

We regret any errors and encourage you to contact us if you have questions about your gift.

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# for all

Alicia Adamson (center), Executive Director of the Brookline Teen Center. stands with BTC youth at an event. Our heartfelt thanks to Alicia and every member of the Brookline community for all you do to provide vital programs, services, support, and care to every member of the Brookline community. We're grateful for your leadership and your partnership in this work!