

# Our Community. Your Foundation.

## Impact Update: Fall 2019



### Message from the President

This is an exciting time at the Community Foundation. *Our Re-Commitment :2019-2023 Strategic Plan* is fully underway, our Creative Commonwealth Initiative has received a \$1 Million grant to build on our previous work, and Summer's Last Blast exceeded expectation (staff photo at SLB).

What is particularly exciting is that these all tie together in service of our mission: **to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region.** Our role as a community foundation is profoundly distinctive and, as I shared with those of you at Summer's Last Blast, can best be thought of as a match-maker. Our job is to find those who have the resources and desire to improve our region, be it a large Boston-based foundation or a local individual, with those who are doing the work to improve our region - which runs the gamut from the efforts to improve early education, increase access to the arts, or insure that our veterans and elders receive the care and support they deserve. And the best part of our region is that there are many people and organization on each end of that equation.

As we enter the season of bounty, harvest, celebration, and giving thanks - I invite you to find yourself in this equation and to talk with me or one of our great staff members about how we can match you to some truly amazing work that is important, essential, and local. (I've attached a copy of my comments from Summer's Last Blast [here](#) for your consideration.)

Thank you for your partnership with the Community Foundation. Please enjoy this newsletter and let me know what you think at [jvasconcellos@cfsema.org](mailto:jvasconcellos@cfsema.org).

Handwritten signature of John Vasconcellos.

John Vasconcellos, President



### Summer's Last Blast

Summer's Last Blast was ...A BLAST! On Friday, September 13th, all the components of an awesome end-of-summer celebration lined up for our annual fundraiser. Over 360 friends and colleagues joined together in Nonquitt, a gorgeous venue and property of our generous hosts, the Huidekoper and Gebelein families.

[Read more..](#)

**Save the Date of Friday, September 11, 2020. We look forward to spending another fun evening with you at Summer's Last Blast - Celebrating 25 Years!**

## Meet the Women's Fund Executive Director



Joanne Murray, the new Women's Fund Executive Director, shared some of her goals and plans for the fund with us.

### What drew you to apply to lead the Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts?

I have spent my career devoted to empowering girls and women. I believe in their capacity to lift all of us when they are lifted from poverty and educational opportunity, improved economic security, and a chance to lead in their communities.

### How do you see the organization changing in two years, and how do you see yourself creating that change?

I look forward to celebrating the Women's Fund's 20th anniversary in 2020 as the country celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with community partners to augment the already strong presence of the Fund in the South Coast. I am by nature, a collaborator, and already many area nonprofits, and for-profits, have reached out to welcome me. [Read more...](#)

Reach Joanne at [jmurray@womensfundsema.org](mailto:jmurray@womensfundsema.org)

## Creative Commonwealth Update



In June, we awarded \$111,000 in Cultural Expression grants to 11 arts and culture organizations in Fall River and New Bedford. From Casa dos Açores's inaugural FABRIC Festival—a multi-media arts festival showcasing national and international artists, to Coastal Foodshed's Weaving Together Food and Culture at the Dinner Table, a number of pop-up community dinners in different New Bedford neighborhoods, the awardees were innovative and thoughtful.

August brought about an Arts and Culture Funders' Tour where over 20 local and statewide donors joined us for a morning exploring New Bedford public art. Capitalizing on the exciting summer of New Bedford's new projects, the tour visited the Silver Current, Creative Courts and Music in the City, and a number of creative placemaking murals in the North End's International Marketplace. The day wrapped up with a thought-provoking panel discussion with San San Wong, Director of Arts and Creativity at the Barr Foundation, Tracy Furtado from Dream Out Loud, Michael Benevides with FABRIC Festival, and Lee Blake of the New Bedford Historical Society (see photo of panel above, left).

The Barr Foundation recently announced that they are going to invest an additional 1 million dollars into the Creative Commonwealth Initiative over the next three years! This growth and change phase will allow the Community Foundation to dig deeper into capacity building for arts and culture nonprofits and advance our work with youth access to the arts and artistic expression. There is so much more to come—stay tuned!

## Grantee Spotlight YEAH! Corps

One of our Cultural Expression Grant awardees was YEAH! Corps for the project ["Teens Putting Fall River on the Map."](#) Fourteen youth (see photo) were paid for their work over the summer doing research and learning the history of the city. They worked with mentors to hone their skills as artists including painting and Photoshop. Using a space in the Narrows Center for the Arts, they created a thematic map of Fall River using photos, articles, and drawings of each neighborhood and landmark. The map was



unveiled the final project with a fundraiser and reception featuring the local sister duo "The Khourys". [Read more...](#)

## BankFive Foundation Fund

The BankFive Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation just announced the recent awarding of \$30,000 in grants. The Massachusetts Aquaculture Association, \$5,000 recipient, plans to use funds to support coordination, communication, regional economic expansion, and aquaculture industry over the next three years. (photo of John Vasconcellos, Seth Garfield, Bill Eccles and Andrea Rodrigues of BankFive) Read the full article [here](#).



## Grant Opportunities

We are now accepting applications for grants from the Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund through Monday, October 21st at 5PM. Approximately \$20,000.00 will be awarded to local organizations in support of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Economic Self Sufficiency, and/or Victims of Domestic Violence. [Apply Now](#)



Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Training is FREE but RSVP is required: <https://creativecommunitycollab.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Contact Rayana: [rgrace@cfsema.org](mailto:rgrace@cfsema.org)

Creative Commonwealth Initiative

[Creative Community Collaboration](#)  
[AHA! Night Art in Tune](#)  
[Southcoast Emerging Leaders Awards](#)  
[Leadership Southcoast Graduation](#)

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