Every year, we rely on donations to our Annual Fund for nearly 20% of our operating budget. Thanks to your generous support this past year, we were able to accomplish a great deal. We convened diverse groups to explore solutions to systemic and seemingly intractable issues, provided strategic philanthropic advice to funders and nonprofits, and invested significantly in leaders and organizations that are making a difference.

We hope you will consider a gift this year. Your support makes a tremendous difference in our ability to carry out our mission.
As you may know, our President and CEO, John Vasconcellos, is retiring at the end of the year, so we also wish to honor and thank him for his service to the Community Foundation. Along with your annual donation in support of the work of the Community Foundation, please consider making an additional gift to the **John Vasconcellos Fund**. This new endowment will support, in perpetuity, John’s passion for innovation, growth, and sustainability for communities that are democratic, fair, inclusive, and respectful, all hallmarks of John’s transformational leadership.

Photo: © John K. Robson

Donate to the John Vasconcellos Fund

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**New Fund Dedicated to Offshore Wind Supply Chain, Workforce Development, and Training**

The Mayflower Fund with the SouthCoast Community Foundation

![Mayflower Fund logo](image-url)

We recently announced the creation of **The Mayflower Fund** – a significant commitment to workforce and economic development that Mayflower Wind will pursue if it is successful in the Massachusetts offshore wind procurement process now underway. The company will devote between $27 million and $47.5 million to the Fund, depending on the size of the contract awarded, to build inclusive, equitable, and diverse employment, training, and supply chain opportunities related to the offshore wind industry in the Southeastern Massachusetts region. You can read more about the Fund [here](#).

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**Case Study for the Arts**
On October 26th, we hosted an Arts Affinity Tour with funders and creative leaders to discuss the impact arts and culture can have on urban centers and communities, specifically in New Bedford and Fall River. To inspire the conversation, we created a case study of Fall River in the form of a video that celebrates the creative energy taking place in that city. You can enjoy the video here.

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**Grant Update**

**Leadership Equity Fund Issues 2nd Round of Grants**

The second round of Leadership Equity Fund grants has just been issued to four organizations totaling $50,000. Congratulations to the following organizations!

- [BAMSI](#)
- [Buy Black New Bedford](#)
- [Coaching4Change](#)
- [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#)

The Fund addresses racial disparities and works towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive society. Grants support and serve two purposes; nonprofit organizations working to end racism and run by leaders who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) and the professional development and advancement of employees of nonprofit organizations who identify as BIPOC. If your organization meets these criteria, we encourage you to apply.

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**Workshop Opportunities**

**Are you a Nonprofit Operations Expert?**

Next spring, the Community Foundation will co-host Institute for Trustees, an annual conference, which will take place for nonprofit board members and executive directors. The conference is made up of workshops that discuss board development, financial sustainability, fundraising, strategic planning, board/staff relations, and more. If you are a subject matter expert in these areas, we encourage you to fill out the RFP to
The Community Foundation has partnered with the Essex County Community Foundation, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts on this event. It will be held virtually from April to June. We will be sure to share details on how to register to participate soon.

**NAACP Media Outreach Strategies Seminar**

Hosted by [NAACP New Bedford](#) and led by media consultant, Rafael Pizarro, this seminar will cover how to write press releases, engage the media, and tell your story effectively. The virtual session is free to attendees thanks to recent funding from our [Leadership Equity Fund](#).

Wednesday, December 1

7 – 8 pm

[RSVP](#)

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**Staff Update**

**Supporting the YWCA Board Leadership Program**

In June, our [Leadership Equity Fund](#) awarded a grant to the [YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts](#) so they could offer a [Board Leadership Program](#) to support the professional development and advancement of employees of nonprofit, private, and public sector organizations who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. The program is made up of six sessions each dedicated to an aspect of Board responsibilities.

Additionally, our Director of Finance, Charles Holley, along with Doreen Lopes, Youth
Opportunities Unlimited Board Treasurer, co-presented to the program attendees during a session dedicated to finance. We look forward to seeing these future leaders thrive and contribute to the community!

**Cape Cod Foundation Visits New Bedford**

On October 7th, we hosted the Cape Cod Foundation sharing organizational updates and best practices. We then provided a tour of New Bedford, a visit to the Whaling Museum, and lunch at a local favorite hot spot, The Black Whale. Collaborating with fellow Community Foundations within Massachusetts is how we ensure we stay informed and inspired. You know what they say, we are stronger together.