

Impact Update: May 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Hello South Coast!

I am humbled, honored, and privileged to assume the role of President and CEO of the Southcoast Community Foundation. I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, John Vasconcellos, for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the organization and to the Board, staff, and our committees during his presidency. The success of the Foundation has been propelled collectively by their many achievements and commitment. It is truly inspiring.

I look forward to furthering this vital work, matching donors and resources with community needs for the 41 cities and towns we serve within the region, touching the lives of individuals, families, and nonprofits serving Southeastern Massachusetts.



Over the next several months, my focus will be on building relationships with all of you and learning what touches, moves, and inspires you for change in this region. I hope you will join us during our Annual Meeting on June 14th to hear more about our exciting future and say hello.

My door is always open.



Leonard M. Lee
President & CEO

ANNUAL FUND OF SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Spring Appeal



It is an exciting time at the SouthCoast Community Foundation. We have experienced exceptional growth over the past several years and are so grateful to you, our loyal supporters, for making it all possible. As we embark on our next transformational chapter with the leadership of our new President and CEO, Leonard M. Lee, we would like to enlist your support for our Annual Fund. Your contribution allows us to build on our success and further our mission, mobilizing philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs. We hope you will help us move forward vigorously by supporting our [Annual Fund](#) as generously as possible.

GRANT UPDATE

The Polaroid Fund



Schools on Wheels is providing 6,000 students with customized backpacks and grade-level school supplies.

Educational and Employment Aspirations Get a Boost in New Bedford

6,000 students (pre-K through college-age) are receiving customized backpacks and grade-level school supplies during the 2021-2022 school year through the Schools on Wheels program, Pathways to Success. And thanks to Discovery Language Academy, adult non-native English speakers are improving their English language fluency, so they can self-advocate in the workplace and engage in civic events. These two programs are made possible, in part, by a Polaroid Fund grant from the SouthCoast Community Foundation. Twelve New Bedford nonprofits are receiving a total of \$97,000 from the Fund dedicated to enhancing the skills and education of New Bedford youth and its workforce. Click [here](#), to learn more about the grantees.





Top: Students from the Discovery Language Academy's Adult English Language Program.
Bottom Left: Dr. Lisa and Richard Gandifo of Mattapoisett, seen here with mentees, volunteer weekly at the Donovan House in New Bedford through the Schools on Wheels program.
Bottom Right: UMD student and mentee, Candido, also volunteers for Schools on Wheels as a reader to ESL students in his native Spanish.

CREATIVE SOUTHCOAST BLOG

FRACC

Fall River Arts & Culture Coalition

Who is FRACC?

Even from the highway, you get a sense of the proliferating art scene in Fall River. A colorful *Viva Fall River* mural on the side of Rt 195 is one of many recent public art installations across the city. What's helping to drive this new creative energy? In part, – the [Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition](#) (FRACC), which boasts over 100 members from all corners of Fall River who are committed to improving the lives of the people that live and work in the region. In late 2021, FRACC launched the City's first Arts & Culture Plan, which was sponsored, in part, by your Community Foundation. This multi-year plan fosters a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable creative economy in the city. Executive Director, **Ashley Occhino**, whose name may be familiar from her time at the New Bedford Art Museum, is shepherding the implementation of the multi-year plan, playing a pivotal role in FRACC moving toward its goals. Read this month's [blog](#) to learn more.



EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

27th ANNUAL MEETING

IN-PERSON

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022

5:30 PM

University of
Massachusetts Dartmouth
Main Auditorium
Reception to follow.

More details to come!



Free Workshop:
Business Strategies for Artists with Shey Rivera Ríos



Wednesdays, June 15 & 22, 2022 | 2 – 4 p.m.

Artists often run their own creative businesses. And as the world changes, artists continue building alternative structures to sustain themselves. This two-part workshop, presented in partnership with Assets for Artists, will present strategies for developing a more sustainable art practice and will also take a look at what opportunities exist for artists in today's economy. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Photo by Cat Laine, Painted Foot Studio

SouthCoast Spring Arts Festival



Now through Sunday, May 15

SouthCoast Spring Arts presents over 60 diverse events for all ages in Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Mattapoisett, Marion, and Wareham. Activities include plein air painting, drum circles, an improv workshop, exhibitions, walking tours, open studios, and much more. Visit the [website](#) for the full

20mi² A Destination Weekend



June 9 - 11

In partnership with an ever-growing list of presenting partners from arts organizations, businesses, non-profits, and creative individuals, 20mi² spotlights points of interest in the city and the depth of what New Bedford has to offer throughout its 20-square miles. Check out what is [in store!](#)

IN THE NEWS

CommonWealth Magazine

CommonWealth

POLITICS, IDEAS & CIVIC LIFE IN MASSACHUSETTS

The SouthCoast Community Foundation with our community foundation partners, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Essex County Community Foundation, and Greater Worcester Community Foundation are producing a series of commentaries for **CommonWealth Magazine** on the importance of arts, artists, and arts organizations in creating equitable, thriving communities. The first article in the series debuted on April 14th, [Using Art to Address Social Issues](#).

STAFF



Congratulations to our Programs Officer, **Werlaine Badio** (L), for completing the **YWCA Board Leadership Program** and to our Accounting Clerk, **Nhamaa Cortes** (R), who has just begun the course! The program covers all aspects of board responsibilities including best practices, financial oversight, fundraising, and governance. Enrollment consideration is focused on diverse communities, cultural backgrounds, and levels of experience for those who have not yet served on a Board of Directors. This program is funded in part by the [Leadership Equity Fund](#) of SouthCoast Community Foundation.

 **Our Community.**
Your Foundation.

