



Madison Park Development Corporation

Board of Directors Opportunity & Position Description

Organization Overview

Madison Park Development Corporation (MPDC) was founded in the midst of crisis in the 1960s.



Roxbury in the 1960s



Roxbury Today (Madison Park Village III)

The survival of the Lower Roxbury community was at risk. Bulldozers were demolishing hundreds of homes, churches, and businesses through the City of Boston’s urban renewal program. A small, but determined, group of activists fought back. Led by community members including Ralph Smith and C. Vincent Haynes, the group mobilized residents against the further destruction of their neighborhood. They created their own vision for the area and procured the resources they needed to rebuild their once-thriving community. This effort resulted in the creation of the Lower Roxbury Community Corporation in 1966 – with Ralph Smith as its founder and first Executive Director. The organization was a community-based, non-profit that independently developed affordable housing for low and moderate-income residents – making it one of the country’s first Community Development Corporations

The organization was first known as Lower Roxbury Community Corporation and was later renamed Madison Park Development Corporation in honor of a local park which was a victim of the demolition. The new name staked the community’s claim to the land, promoted the concept of resident-led development, and supported a new vision for the neighborhood. Roxbury had experienced “white flight” – due partly to federal housing policies and discrimination. It had become a predominantly minority community made up of African Americans, Latinos and Cape Verdeans. It was also one of the city’s poorest neighborhoods. MPDC continued their efforts to revitalize the area and, over the next 20 years, successfully developed over 500 units of affordable housing on the land originally cleared by the city.



Ralph Smith’s tenure as MPDC’s Executive Director lasted for 23 years – during which time the 546-unit Madison Park Village development was built. In 1989, Danette Jones took over as Executive Director. She oversaw a refinancing and major rehabilitation of the older properties, the purchase of a commercial building with planning for homeownership housing, and the beginning of the youth and resident services programs. Jeanne Pinado, the current Chief Executive Officer, assumed her role in 1998. MPDC is now the state’s largest community development corporation – as well as being among the nation’s oldest – and continues its work to redevelop and revitalize the Roxbury community.

Mission Statement

Our mission today remains true to our history: *to foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury neighborhood that supports the well-being and advancement of the community.*



Leslie Stafford, Health and Wellness Coordinator, with MPDC residents at the “Cooking Matters” events at Tropical Foods in Roxbury

Our Values

Resident leadership

- MPDC believes that residents must have a voice in determining the vision for MPDC and for the Roxbury community.
- MPDC commits to increasing the number of residents who are engaged with community development, listening to resident priorities, communicating MPDC’s priorities to residents, and cultivating community-based leadership and activism so that residents can participate in the work of community development.



Multicultural community

- MPDC believes that Roxbury is the home and hub for a unique multicultural community in Boston.
- MPDC commits to embracing and preserving the multicultural fabric of the Roxbury community in the face of economic and demographic change.

Comprehensive approach to healthy communities

- Healthy communities are those that support the well-being and quality of life for its residents along many dimensions, including physical, economic, cultural, and social. MPDC believes that a healthy community requires a spectrum of assets and capabilities.
- MPDC commits to understanding that spectrum, focusing our efforts and investments on the roles that we play in it, and fostering strategic collaborations with partners who take complementary roles.

Legacy building and advancement

- MPDC believes that it is critical to understand the long-term trends that impact our vision for a thriving Roxbury.
- MPDC commits to making investments today in order to see impact in the future – particularly for youth and for the physical assets of the community.

Overcoming structural racism

- MPDC believes that structural racism impacts the lives of many Roxbury residents.
- MPDC commits to supporting Roxbury residents to mobilize their individual and collective power to overcome these barriers, and to advocate for policy, systems, and environmental changes necessary to eradicate structural racism.

Our Programs

Real Estate Department

We have a strong track record of developing affordable and high quality housing for low and moderate-income families in and around the Roxbury neighborhood.

- We house over 3,000 residents in 1,212 low and moderate-income rental homes in Roxbury, South End and Mattapan.



- Our current development plans include affordable and mixed-income housing, commercial and retail space and historic preservation that contribute to the character and vitality of Dudley Square and Roxbury.
- We believe that a diverse economic base is necessary for a vibrant community.
- We work collaboratively with other organizations such as Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) and The Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.



Dudley Greenville Apartments (Completed in 2014)

Community Action Department

We provide comprehensive programming to residents to help them mobilize, empower themselves, and address quality-of-life issues in the Dudley Square area.

Civic Engagement

Our civic engagement programming leads to increased voter participation and broader civic engagement within the community.

Health Equity and Community Wellness

MPDC promotes healthy homes, healthy people, and healthy communities. We empower residents and encourage them to connect with each other – and with the community.



Public Safety

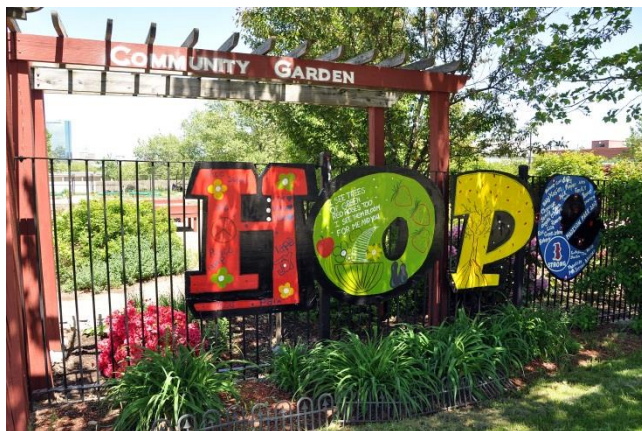
Public safety is important in every community. MPDC partners with residents and other agencies to promote the public safety goals of our neighborhood.

Youth Development

Our community's young people are one of its greatest resources. MPDC offers many programs to cultivate the success of our younger residents. Our offerings help them to learn the skills they need to further their education, find employment, and succeed as adults.

Resident Leadership and Engagement

Every community needs strong leaders to guide them – and it is important to identify and nurture the leaders of tomorrow. MPDC offers programming to help develop leadership skills in both our adult and youth residents.



Hope Community Garden located on Malcolm X Blvd.

Hibernian Hall

A cultural destination that contributes to our mission of neighborhood revitalization in Lower Roxbury.

Arts and Culture



Mad River Theater Works, "Freedom Bound"



- In 2005 its beautiful performing space was restored by MPDC as a community arts center.
- Hibernian Hall now presents high quality, affordable theater, dance and music for the benefit of Greater Boston audiences.
- We ensuring affordable access to the arts for low income communities.
- We support artists and arts ensembles of color to increase their visibility and expand audiences for their work.
- This historic building helps secure the public's support and appreciation for what Dudley Square has to offer.
- Hibernian Hall also brings stability to the neighborhood at night – which helps support the public safety goals of the area.
- It serves as a community anchor and as a vibrant public space that makes the Dudley Square neighborhood more attractive and appealing.

Board of Directors

Board members are elected by a majority vote of the existing Board members for a one year term and can be re-elected annually. Board members are unpaid volunteers. The Board may consist of up to fifteen (15) members. Currently there are 10 members and we seek to add 3-5 new members.

Board Composition and Desired Skill Sets

MPDC strives to have a Board with racial and ethnic diversity reflecting the community it serves, as well as gender parity. Other attributes MPDC seeks are:

- Individuals with real estate experience or expertise
- Individuals with financial and investment expertise



- Individuals with knowledge of community arts and culture programming
- Individuals with a legal background
- Individuals ages 18 to 24 years old who can add a youth perspective
- Roxbury residents and/or people who work in Roxbury and who have a knowledge of the neighborhood's history, challenges and opportunities
- Individuals who earn 80% or less of the Boston area median income or who live in low income neighborhoods and are not government employees

Role of Board Members:

Board Members attend regular board meetings starting in January, March, May and June on the third Monday evening of the month at MPDC's Roxbury office. On a monthly basis, members discuss committee reports about organizational projects and activities, review and approve resolutions pertaining to their fiduciary role, including adoption of an annual budget, and entering into financial and real estate transactions and contracts and makes policy decisions. The Board actively participates in planning and adopts and monitors the organization's strategic plan. The current 5-year plan was adopted in June 2016. Members serve ambassadors for the organization and are able to articulate the organization's mission and goals and garner community support. Members participate on at least one of the following committees: Real Estate, Finance, Investment, Fundraising, Scholarship, and Governance. The Board annually elects officers to the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk/Secretary. The Board is responsible for hiring and evaluating the Chief Executive Officer and setting his/her annual compensation.