

**The Trustees**  
200 High Street, 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
tel 617.542.7696  
[thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org)

February 20, 2024

Ms. Sheila Dillon  
Chief and Director  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

On behalf of The Trustees of Reservations, I am pleased to submit the enclosed proposal for consideration by the Mayor's Office of Housing, City of Boston.

By this letter, I am formally expressing The Trustees' interest in acquiring the vacant parcel located at 115-123 Bird Street from the City of Boston. Our intention is to develop this space into a new community garden. Should we be granted ownership of this parcel along with the requested funds for renovation, we will convert the currently unused lot into a thriving community hub within this densely populated neighborhood. The Trustees' stewardship of the land will guarantee the perpetual protection, preservation, and maintenance of the open space for the public's use. It will yield a sustainable source of food, benefiting not only the gardeners but also their families and friends. Additionally, the garden will contribute to the neighborhood's aesthetic, educational, and cultural dimensions. Envisioned enhancements include decorative plantings, comfortable seating, workshops, diverse programming, and designated meeting spaces. These features will collectively create a vibrant and communal environment, ensuring that the garden becomes a dynamic focal point within the neighborhood for both residents and visitors alike.

As the largest owner of community gardens in the city, The Trustees is ideally positioned to carry out this project, and we are proud of the success we have found in our other Boston community gardens. The Bird Street Community Garden will enable us to expand our presence in Dorchester to the Upham's Corner neighborhood and increase access to fresh, healthy food, greenspace, and programming to even more Boston residents.

Enclosed is the proposal and its required attachments. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Vidya Tikku, Vice President of Urban Outdoors, at [vtikku@thetrustees.org](mailto:vtikku@thetrustees.org) or 978-870-1225. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With best regards,

Katie Theoharides  
President & CEO

**PROPOSAL FORM**

**SUBMITTED TO:** MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING

**DATE RECEIVED BY MOH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED BY: NAME:** Katie Theoharides

**ADDRESS:** 200 High St, Boston, MA 02110

**TELEPHONE:** 617-542-7696

**EMAIL:** ktheoharides@thetrustees.org

Under the conditions set forth by the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), the accompanying proposal is submitted for:

**Property Address:** 115-123 Bird Street, Dorchester, MA

For this proposal to be properly evaluated all questions must be answered by the Proposer. The Awarding Authority (MOH) will regard all responses to questions and all submissions as accurate portrayals of the Proposer's qualifications and any discrepancy between these statements and any subsequent investigation may result in the proposal being rejected.

- i. The name(s) and address(es) of all persons participating in this application as principals other than the undersigned are:

Vidya Tikku, 200 High Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Use separate sheet and attach if additional principals are involved.

- ii. The applicant is a/an:  
Corporation  
(Individual/Partnership/Joint/Venture/Corporation/Trust, etc.)

A. If applicant is a Partnership, state name and residential address of both general and limited partners: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. If applicant is a Corporation, state the following:

Corporation is incorporated in the State of: Massachusetts  
President is: Katie Theoharides, President & CEO  
Treasurer is: David Croll, Secretary, Board of Directors  
Place of Business: 200 High Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

C. If applicant is a Joint Venture, state the names and business addresses of each person, firm or company that is a party to the joint venture:

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A copy of the joint venture agreement is on file at: \_\_\_\_\_ and will be delivered to the Official on request.

D. If applicant is a Trust, state the name and residential address of all Trustees as:

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Trust documents are on file at \_\_\_\_\_  
And will be delivered to the Official on request.

iii. Bank reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

iv. If business is conducted under any title other than the real name of the owner, state the time when, and place where, the certificate required by General Laws, c.110, §5 was filed:

v. Number of years organization has been in business under current name: \_\_\_\_\_

vi. Has organization ever failed to perform any contract? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes/No

If answer is "Yes", state circumstances): \_\_\_\_\_

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We propose the following purchase price: \$ 100.00

vii. AUTHORIZATION:

The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without collusion of fraud with any other person. As used in this certification, the word "person" shall mean any natural person, business, partnership, corporation, union, committee, club, or other organization, entity, or group of individuals.

K. Theoharides

Signature of individual submitting proposal

President & CEO

Title

The Trustees of Reservations

Legal Name of Organization

Dated at: 10:59 AM

This 26 day of 2024

NAME OF ORGANIZATION:

The Trustees of Reservations



MIMI HALL  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
My Commission Expires  
December 6, 2030

BY: Katie Theoharides

TITLE: President & CEO

i. ATTESTATION:

Katie Theoharides being duly sworn deposes and says that (he/she) is the President & CEO of The Trustees of Reservations and that all answers to foregoing questions and all statements contained herein are true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 26 day of 2024

Notary Public: Mimi Hall

My Commission Expires: 12/6, 2030  
(Month) (Year)

NOTE: This proposal form must bear the written signature of the applicant.

If the applicant is an individual doing business under a name other than his own name the application must state so, giving the address of the individual.

If the applicant is a partnership a partner designated as such must sign the application.

If the applicant is a corporation, trust or joint venture the application must be signed by a duly-authorized officer or agent of such corporation, trust or joint venture and contain written evidence of the authority to bind the entity.

(Please include the name of the agency or department and position held in that agency or department.)

DIAN TAMM  
2025 JUN 14  
10:00 AM  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Proposal Summary Sheet**

The Trustees respectfully requests the acquisition of 115-123 Bird Street and \$150,000 in funding to support the development of this underutilized, vacant parcel into a new community garden serving the Upham's Corner community. We envision a well-maintained community garden with 40-50 individual plots. The garden is estimated to provide food access to approximately 200 individuals, with excess produce distributed amongst neighbors and local food pantries. It will also service an additional 4,400 residents in the half mile radius around the garden with educational and special events and open space access. Programming will be offered by both The Trustees and community partners.

As the first private, non-profit conservation organization in the nation, The Trustees has more than a century of experience in protecting some of the most beautiful and special places in Massachusetts. Improving quality of life and sense of community for residents of Boston is of special concern, and the Bird Street Community Garden will enable us to take another vital step towards reaching our goal of making greenspace and healthy food available to everyone, everywhere. Our proposal demonstrates The Trustees' readiness for this acquisition with all other necessary funds for the development of this parcel in-hand. Additionally, evidence of community support is outlined and underscored by our letters of support from community members, partners, and state representatives.

If awarded a grant, The Trustees will continue toward a final design for the garden, engaging the community throughout the summer of 2024 in the design process. An initial conceptual design is included as part of the "Design and Construction Narrative."



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Project Narrative**

*Organization Goals*

For more than 130 years, The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees), has preserved and cared for some of Massachusetts' most treasured natural, scenic, and historic sites for public use and enjoyment. The Trustees is the first land preservation nonprofit of its kind in the world and the Commonwealth's largest conservation and preservation organization. A steward of distinctive and dynamic places of ecological, historic, and cultural value, The Trustees owns and manages 120+ diverse properties across the state, spanning more than 27,000 acres from working farms, landscaped and urban gardens, and community parks, to barrier beaches, forests, campgrounds, inns and a dozen historic houses, many of which are National Historic Landmarks. The Trustees welcomes more than 2 million visitors to its properties each year including 140,000 members. With a commitment to creating healthy, active, and culturally curious communities throughout Massachusetts, The Trustees offers more than 5,000 events and programs annually, designed to draw people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures outdoors, and to inspire a love for the natural world.

While an organization with a statewide reach, The Trustees' Boston presence has expanded in the last decade, marked by a 2014 merger with the Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN). The combination of The Trustees' experience, resources, and credibility with BNAN's history of community building, community garden and greenway development is integral to driving green space solutions in Boston neighborhoods. Our work in Boston encompasses a broad set of activities that connect all residents to our mission through food, community development, and volunteerism; advocacy of public parks and open space; diverse programs that encompass and encourage active lifestyles and healthier living; and sustainability, by planning for the Boston of our future. We seek to support a community diverse in culture, income, and age, and to reflect the ongoing evolution of Boston's neighborhoods.

The Trustees remains a vital part of the Boston community today as the largest owner of community gardens in the city managing 56 gardens. In the coming years, we aspire to grow our community garden footprint in Boston, strengthening our gardens' role in the city's permanent open space and local food production infrastructure. We seek to expand our network of community gardens to neighborhoods where they can make the most impact—helping to stretch families food budgets and connecting people to nature and to their community.

### *Project Goals and Partners*

The Trustees respectfully requests the acquisition of 115-123 Bird Street and \$150,000 in funding to support the development of this underutilized, vacant parcel into a new community garden serving the Upham's Corner community. We envision a well-maintained community garden with 40-50 individual plots that can help us to expand our impact in the neighborhood. The garden is estimated to provide food access to approximately 200 individuals, with excess produce distributed amongst neighbors and local food pantries. It will also service an additional 4,400 residents in the half mile radius around the garden with programming and open space access. The community garden will feature lush perennial borders with native plantings that will help to capture stormwater runoff and a community space for programming, meetings, and gatherings. While the community garden may be locked at the gardener's discretion to protect crops and infrastructure, it would be opened and made accessible for events run by our engagement team or events hosted by the community. Anticipated partners include CommonWealth Kitchen, The Food Project, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Dorchester Food Co-op, Upham's Corner Public Library, and surrounding neighbors.

Soil would be tested and remediated as necessary ensuring a healthy growing space for generations to come.

### *Statement of Need*

Community gardens are vital community resources, contributing significantly to the quality of life for area residents. They support food access, allowing residents to grow their own fresh, culturally relevant produce for themselves, their families, and their communities. A Dartmouth College study of The Trustees' community gardens in 2021 estimated that more than \$2 million worth of food is being grown to supplement family food budgets. Additionally, gardening offers participants many benefits that support healthy lifestyles, including physical activity, improved nutrition and food access, reduced stress and improved mental health, increased social contact, and culturally valued activities.

The benefits of community gardens extend beyond those afforded to the gardeners themselves to the surrounding residents. Urban green spaces like our community gardens can have a positive impact on residents' physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Some studies suggest that proximity to and use of urban green space is associated with physical activity levels and cardiovascular health, among other positive health indicators. Access to natural environments can also improve overall mental health, including reduced stress levels, improved general mood, reduced depressive symptoms, and improved mindfulness and creativity. Additionally, by providing a space for community activities and social gathering as our gardens do, they encourage positive social interactions and improve social cohesion, which in turn enhances health and wellbeing. Notably, our gardens are frequently one of the few places within the neighborhood that bring together people of all ages, financial means, cultures, and immigration status. These gardens are the cultural centers for their neighborhoods, representing the true diversity and spirit of generosity of the people that work the soil.

Our gardens are effective in mitigating a range of environmental impacts including increased temperatures, pollution, and flooding. Parks and open greenspace can yield important cooling benefits to local urban environments, remove air pollution and improve air quality, and by decreasing impervious surface area, community gardens help capture stormwater runoff. They also provide pathways for native pollinators in the city's ecosystem, creating green islands and corridors that run across our neighborhoods.

As we look ahead, we are challenged by the fast-rising demand for access to garden plots by people looking to grow their own food and enjoy their urban outdoors. Several of our gardens have waiting lists with over a hundred people. The COVID-19 pandemic, an unpredictable economy, and inflation have dramatically increased demand as area residents look for creative ways to supplement tight food budgets. According to a 2022 survey from the Greater Boston Food Bank, at least 1.8 million people—or 32 percent of the state’s adult population—are food insecure. And Black and Latinx communities and families with children bear the greatest burden.

Community gardens require good sunlight and well drained soils and are often in competition for land with other high demand uses like housing. New gardens are at the center of healthy communities and must be prioritized, especially in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and East Boston where residents face a disproportionate health inequity.

In response to the staggering rise in requests for garden plots, The Trustees is looking to add a minimum of 300 new garden plots in the next 4 years to its ownership and management in Boston. The total anticipated cost of building a new community garden at Bird Street is anticipated to be \$691,291. This figure takes into account The Trustees’ standards of excellence in soil testing and quality, and construction, including investments to support the visitor experience and community use. The Trustees has funds secured to match the \$150,000 grant request submitted to the City with this proposal.

We anticipate the primary users of the new Bird Street Community Garden to be residents of the Roxbury and Dorchester neighborhood immediately surrounding the property. A 40-plot garden could directly benefit up to 200 individuals whose family members tend plots growing culturally relevant crops. Interested gardeners will be assigned plots based on a lottery held publicly, just as we have done at the previous gardens built by us across the city.

#### *Project Progress and Timeline*

Our project will be completed in three phases upon selection as owner of Bird Street:

- Phase 1: Community engagement, design conceptualization, due diligence, and land acquisition. Anticipated Completion: August 2024
  - Host 2-3 community meetings on-site to solicit input for garden design and layout
  - Engage a landscape architect to develop alternate designs for the new community garden
  - Develop estimates from a contractor to inform our budget and fund requirements for construction
- Phase 2: Complete soil testing, finalize construction documents, bid project to contractors, open construction contract, and begin construction. Anticipated completion: November 2024
- Phase 3\*: Complete Construction, host plot lottery, develop a garden leadership team, open & activate the garden. Anticipated completion: May 2025

\*By the end of Phase 3, we will have completed the construction of the Bird Street Community Garden, ready for spring planting. Construction will begin early the preceding fall and will continue until winter weather prevents further progress; construction will commence again in late winter/early spring.

### *Long-term Management, Operation and Sustainability*

All of The Trustees' 56 community gardens across the City of Boston are overseen by Trustees' staff and managed in reference to a Routine Maintenance Plan and individual garden maintenance plans, which provide guidelines for addressing and caring for bulletin boards, signs, litter, vandalism, vegetation, sheds, sun shelters, fencing, water services, hedging, pruning, weeding, and more. The Trustees' dedicated Community Garden team consists of 4 FTEs—a Stewardship Manager, two stewards, and an urban grower—led by our Vice President, Vidya Tikku. The community gardens are also supported by a group of dedicated volunteers who contribute more than 25,000 hours annually to help with garden stewardship and operations. With a highly accomplished and specialized team, we are able to minimize costs for community garden maintenance and improvement by keeping labor in-house as much as possible. Our leadership staff set standards of excellence to ensure best practices throughout our portfolio of community gardens. The annual maintenance for the garden is supported by The Trustees' community gardens endowment funds, and annual fundraising from foundation, public, and corporate grants, and individual gifts.

During Phase 3 of the project, a volunteer team or individual, from amongst the gardeners, will be self-selected or elected by gardeners at Bird Street. This individual or team will manage the day-to-day operations of the garden, including coordinating the process of obtaining a garden plot and plot turnover, and is supported by Trustees staff for social, infrastructure, community relations, and program needs. Trustees staff and volunteers will manage the landscape plantings, water services, and permanent garden infrastructure, as well as the programmatic area of the garden with support and consultation from the gardeners.



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Developer Experience**

The Trustees has worked for 130+ years to conserve remarkable landscapes and connect people to the natural, cultural, and historic places that make Massachusetts unique. Today it is more important than ever to mobilize our communities to care about and advocate for natural and cultural preservation, sustainable food systems, and health and quality of life. To this end, we are seeking to enhance community gardens in neighborhoods throughout Boston, with a focus on gardens in low-income neighborhoods with limited access to healthy food.

As the largest owner of community gardens in Boston, The Trustees manages 56 gardens on 16 acres across the city. The organization has been managing community gardens for over 35 years and has been very active completing comprehensive renovation projects that seek to engage larger groups of people, improve soil conditions, install permanent infrastructure, increase urban ecological functions, and beautify the landscape.

In July 2023, we celebrated the opening of the new 30-plot garden at Winthrop Street—our first new garden in 5 years. This garden was the culmination of more than 2 years of work with community leaders and with support from the City of Boston Grassroots Fund, Boston Community Preservation Committee, and the Boston Celtics Foundation. A unique feature of this garden is a commemorative entrance gate recognizing the Boston Black Panther Party who were active in Roxbury in decades past. The project emerged from a neighborhood initiative seeking to recognize the history of social justice work that took place on the property now occupied by the garden. A community-led process facilitated by our Outreach Coordinator, the public sculpture and sign were designed and fabricated by Park MacDowell of the Boston architectural and engineering firm Payette. The success of this collaborative effort speaks to what our Outreach Coordinator can accomplish working with our community partners.

Our strong background and experience in developing and maintaining community gardens ideally positions us for this work. The Bird Street Community Garden will join a long list of garden and open space projects completed in the last ten years, including:

- Winthrop Street Community Garden, 21-25 Winthrop Street, Roxbury
- Paul Gore & Beecher Community Garden, opposite 108 Paul Gore Street, Jamaica Plain
- Greenwood Community Garden, 140-142 Greenwood Street, Dorchester
- Dacia & Woodcliff Community Garden, 31-37 Woodcliff Street, Dorchester
- Nightingale Community Garden, 512 Park Street, Dorchester
- Southwest Boston Community Garden, Rowe Street Roslindale

- Southwest Corridor Community Farm, 57 Lamartine Street, Jamaica Plain
- Spencer Community Garden, 96 Spencer Street, Dorchester
- 10 & 29 Josephine Community Gardens, Josephine Street, Dorchester
- Barry Community Garden, 39 Barry Street, Dorchester
- Bullard Community Garden, 33 Bullard Street, Dorchester
- Julian, Judson & Dean Community Garden, 48 Julian Street, Dorchester
- Highland Community Garden, 10-14 Highland Avenue, Roxbury
- Dartmouth Green, 29-31 Dartmouth Street, South End
- Factory Hill Community Garden, Town Street, Hyde Park
- Woolson Community Garden, 44 Woolson Street, Mattapan
- Lucerne, Balsam & Irma Community Garden, 74-76 Lucerne Street, Dorchester
- Windermere Community Garden, 9 A Windermere Road, Dorchester
- Leyland Street Community Garden, 6-20 Leyland Street, Dorchester

### **Project Team Members**

**Vidya Tikku, Vice President, Urban Outdoors, The Trustees:** Vidya will oversee project implementation and is the primary liaison between The Trustees and the City of Boston. Born and raised in India, Vidya was formally trained and worked as an architect in New Delhi, where her work transitioned over the years from residential designs to exploring environmental impacts of urban growth. In 2000, she secured a master's degree in architecture and urban design at Washington University in St. Louis, where she learned about engaging with the community in planning urban growth. She worked as a program manager at the Neighborhood Parks Council in San Francisco before moving to the East Coast to serve as the Vice President at Boston Natural Areas Network until 2014. Vidya is currently the Vice President of Urban Outdoors at The Trustees. Her accomplishments include establishing an operating endowment for the Boston community gardens annual operations, more than tripling it since its establishment in 2014. She has also successfully developed models for community stewardship and productive relationships among community, government, elected officials, and philanthropy, and creating innovative programs serving youth, teens, city residents and general public. She has served on the MA NOFA Board and as the Board President for New England Grassroots Environment Fund. She currently sits on the Board of the Mass Land Trust Council. Vidya also holds a certificate in International Environmental Policy from the Harvard Extension School in Cambridge.

**Jordan Takvorian, Stewardship Manager, Greater Boston, The Trustees:** Jordan's role as Stewardship Manager for Boston Community Gardens sees him overseeing all infrastructure and maintenance work at our 56 community gardens. This includes maintaining, improving, or replacing all plot dividers, composters, shade structures, sheds, water systems, raised beds, fencing, perennial borders, and garden pathways. He will oversee all capital projects included in this grant request. Jordan oversees two Stewards and one Urban Grower who perform routine maintenance across the network. He also collaborates heavily with volunteers—both the individual garden coordinators as well as corporate volunteer groups that come out for one-off events such as compost turning or fence painting. Jordan is an active gardener and ecology buff and lets those interests melt together in the community gardens where native plants are integrated into perennial borders while fostering good food growing practices in the individual plots. Before joining The Trustees, he worked in environmental restoration in Armenia and around New England. Jordan has a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Connecticut.

**Annabel Rabiyah, Engagement Manager, Greater Boston, The Trustees:** Annabel leads educational events and programming at all of our 56 community gardens and at other Boston-based sites. They will work with the new Bird Street Community Gardeners to develop skill-building and family-friendly programming that engages both the gardeners and the community. They run our Seed, Sow, & Grow workshop series that builds community by teaching gardening and healthy cooking skills. Annabel also facilitates The Trustee's Master Urban Gardener program—an intensive training for community and home gardeners who wish to develop and subsequently share their skills with the community to expand food access. Annabel worked for The Trustees previously as our Garden Programs Coordinator and most recently before their current role was the Farm Manager at Boston Medical Center. Annabel has a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from McGill University and a Master of Science in Nutrition from Columbia University.

**Josh Hasenfus, Construction Supervisor, The Trustees:** Josh manages construction projects throughout the state for The Trustees as a member of The Trustees' Landscapes and Buildings Team. Projects range from renewals of building infrastructure to large scale landscape projects. Josh works closely with Trustees colleagues as well as a network of craftspeople, suppliers, and consultants to achieve project goals. Josh is a Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional, Massachusetts Certified Arborist, and holds a Construction Supervisor License. He has a A.S. in Landscape Contracting from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass-Amherst.

**Ray Dunetz Landscape Architects (RDLA):** Ray has assisted with preplanning and provided us with preliminary design documents. He will continue to assist with community relations, the design process, and the final development of construction documents. Ray Dunetz and Carol Moyles, both of RDLA, have served as consultants. RDLA was founded in 2002 by Ray Dunetz. RDLA was founded on the basic underlying principles of how nature, aesthetics, physical and cultural contexts, and history affect our designed environment. They strive to achieve the blending of these essential elements with the visions of their clientele to produce designs which are creative, thoughtful, and timeless. Ray has over 25 years of experience in the field of landscape architecture and worked with such notable firms as Sasaki Associates, EDAW, Rhodeside and Harwell, and Walker-Kluesing Design Group. He has worked on award-winning designs for historic, institutional, commercial, and recreational projects including the Greenways Master Plan in Buffalo, NY, Tisch Family Library at Tufts University in Medford, MA, and the Newport Hospital Courtyard & Main Entrance in Newport, RI, while with these other firms.

Resumes for project team members are attached.

If awarded, we will seek 2-3 bids from qualified Boston-based contractors to complete the work, prioritizing those with experience in community gardens, and making our best efforts to recruit small local businesses, minority, women, and veteran-owned business enterprises.

## **VIDYA TIKKU**

8 Birch Hill Lane, Lexington, MA 02421; Ph: (415)706-5052, vtikku@thetrustees.org

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### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Successful and dedicated professional with expertise in facilitating organizational success through building and leading motivated teams of staff and volunteers, skilled facilitation, strategic planning and efficient work planning models. Experience in fundraising, financial administration and operations oversight, project management, community outreach & engagement, building collaborative partnerships with community, advocates, government agencies and stakeholders. Strong experience in urban environmental advocacy, sustainability and food access, research and stewardship.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**2014- Present**            *The Trustees of Reservations, Regional Vice President  
Greater Boston & Urban Outdoors*

- Design and implement Property Business plans, articulate and lead the vision and strategies for the Boston Community Gardens network, the Boston Waterfront Initiative, Governor Hutchinson's Field, Pierce Reservation, Leatherbee Woods.
- Design and implement the Urban Outdoors initiative statewide, including the Mobile Adventurers in Boston, New Bedford & Fall River.
- Lead the Boston region's property business planning, visitor experience, programming, volunteer development and partnerships with partner organizations and the community.
- Develop & sustain key partnerships with City and State administrations with a focus on urban conservation opportunities across the Commonwealth.
- Design a viable financial model for Boston regional operations and the statewide Urban Outdoors initiative, including enterprise design and development.
- Plan and oversee signature events to raise organization profile, promote membership.
- Manage regional volunteer programs including management of nearly 500 volunteers.
- Oversee regional engagement and stewardship staff to run property operations.
- Support local governance committee, represent organization externally in Greater Boston
- Cultivate individual donors and pursue foundation and corporate grant opportunities.
- Work with statewide marketing, stewardship and program teams to help develop and implement our agricultural, art & landscape, coastal resilience and programmatic visions.

**2005- 2014**            *Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN), Vice President*

- Grew the annual organization budget from 2005 to 2012 from \$450,000 to \$1.2M
- Oversight and implementation of BNAN's strategic plan; Annual programs development, implementation and evaluation
- Support 2 urban conservation projects- Neponset river greenway and East Boston Greenway
- Support Board of Director
- Develop annual program budget development and oversight of financial reporting
- Development, coordination and implementation of BNAN research projects including the Citywide Urban Wilds & Community Gardens database and Economic Impacts of Boston's Gardens
- Lead staff for new BNAN initiatives and partnership development with community organizations
- Oversee garden capital, renovation projects
- Creative food access programming, including Produce to Pantries, Boston Is Growing Gardens (BIGG) & the Gardening with Refugee Organizations (GRO) programs
- Coordinate new staff & intern hires, volunteer initiatives, communications and administrative operations.
- Oversight of administrative and program staff, as needed.

**2001- 2004**                    **Neighborhood Parks Council, San Francisco, CA**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER- District Park Planning**

- Lead staff to work with 12 district volunteer resident groups and City agencies to develop neighborhood open space priorities, capital and maintenance needs and budgets, advocate for open space funds in City and State budgets.
- Develop and lead volunteer days and programs at neighborhood parks to increase use, develop local leadership and support
- Lead staff for the research project- The Blue Greenway- An Open Space Gap Analysis

**2000- 2001**                    **Development Alternatives, Orchha Initiative, India**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER**

Conducted financial review of the Orchha Taragram enterprise, to develop recommendations for increasing outreach, impact and efficiency for the local enterprise development initiative, using innovative solar technology and recycling programs to support the local farming community.

**1995- 2001**                    **Eshan Constructions, N. Delhi, India**  
**ARCHITECT**

Worked as a part time consultant, responsibilities included development of residential designs and oversight of on-site construction.

**1999- 2000**                    **Ashish Ganju & Architects, N. Delhi, India**  
**ARCHITECTURAL INTERN**

Worked on the environmental impact and restoration plan for the historic town of Ayanagar; conducted site surveys and developed construction documents.

**PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

- Advisory Board, City of Boston, Grow Boston, 2022 to present
- Board of Directors, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, 2022 to present
- Board of Directors, MA Northeast Organic Farming Association, 2015 to 2022
- President, Board of Directors, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, 2013 -2019
- Member, Boston Food Justice Council, City of Boston, 2017- present
- Professional mentor, Community Fellows Program, BU School of Management, Institute for Nonprofit Management & Leadership, 2015
- Fairmount Greenway Open Space Task Force, 2012 to present
- Annual Fund Captain, Fayerweather Street School, Cambridge, 2014-2017
- Founding member, Gardening through Refugee Organizations (GRO)
- Member, Greha-India, 1998- current
- Member, Council of Architecture, India
- SPUR Waterfront Committee for San Francisco, 2001- 2004
- San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance, 2001- 2004
- San Francisco Mid-Market PAC Committee, 2001- 2004

**EDUCATION**

- **Harvard Extension School**  
Certificate, 2017; Environmental Policy & International Development
- **Washington University, Saint Louis, MO**  
Masters in Architecture & Urban Design, 2001; Thesis: Urban Design Studio, Barcelona
- **Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi**  
Certificate in Enterprise Management, 2000
- **T.V.B. School of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, India**  
Bachelors in Architecture, 1999

## RESEARCH PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2024: Potential Policy & Community Implications of Equitable Organic Waste, Compost & Urban Agricultural Systems in the US, Published in Environmental Health perspectives, Vol 131 Issue 11
- 2014: Boston's Community Gardens- Database and Mapping
- 2009: Food Production In Boston's Community Gardens and its Financial Impact
- 2008: Boston's Urban Wilds- Database and Mapping
- 2003: Green Envy: GIS-based Gap Analysis of open spaces in San Francisco.
- 2002: Analysis of Capital Spendings of the San Francisco Rec & Parks Dept.: 2000-2002
- 2001: Civic Plazas: Urban Design thesis study in Barcelona, Spain.
- 2001: Impact of River Restoration projects on City Morphology, with Professor Thomson, Washington University, St. Louis, USA
- 1999: Creating Archetypes: Dissertation study exploring the processes leading to creation of new urban archetypes, TVB School of Habitat Studies, India.
- 1994: Study of tribal settlements of Arunachal Pradesh, India: HUDCO document, A study of the dwelling typologies and their environmental impacts, folk culture and socio-economic survey of the Apatani and Nishi tribes.
- 1993: Study of a contemporary urban village, Mehrauli, New Delhi, India, INTACH

## HONORS & AWARDS

- **Champion of Diversity**, Trustees, 2024
- **Certificate of Recognition**, Mayor Walsh, City of Boston, 2014
- **Gold Medal, Dissertation Study**, TVB School of Habitat Studies, 1999

## COMPUTER SKILLS

- MS Office, PageMaker, Adobe Photoshop, Power Plan

## INTERESTS

- Urban open space conservation and advocacy
- Environmental improvement projects that create impactful urban design and community development
- Traveling

## LANGUAGES

- Proficient in English, Hindi, Kashmiri. Very basic knowledge of French, Gujarati, Sanskrit

# Jordan Takvorian

2504 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021  
978.602.2553 | [JordanTakvorian@gmail.com](mailto:JordanTakvorian@gmail.com)

## EXPERIENCE

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**Trustees** Boston, MA  
Stewardship Manager May 2022 - Present

- Develop regional stewardship annual plans through prioritization of baseline standards
- Manage three staff including two stewards and one urban grower to advance regional and statewide goals including the maintenance of 56 community gardens and pocket parks as well as City Natives Nursery
- Work to expand garden network plot inventory by up to 20%

**Trustees** Boston, MA  
*Steward* August 2015- May 2022

- Perform routine property maintenance including mowing, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, mulching, seasonal cleanup, snow removal, and renovating and revitalizing garden beds
- Lead nursery production of native trees, shrubs, and perennials as well as vegetable seedlings, primarily by seed, increasing sales from \$1,000 to \$45,000 a year
- Coordinate and motivate volunteer groups to screen compost, mulch beds, rake leaves, and spread stonedust among other tasks
- Teach classes on native plants, garden design, tool maintenance, and propagation
- Maintain social media pages (boscomgardens\_trustees) on Facebook and Instagram
- Help setup & run Trustees' major winter event - Winter Lights

**Flour Bakery + Café** Boston, MA  
*Front of House Manager* May 2013- July 2015

- Recruit, hire, train & mentor new employees, edit & update employee training manual
- Supervise & delegate tasks to staff to ensure efficiency & optimal customer service
- Support the day-to-day operations of the business by opening, closing, interacting with customers, managing staff, and maintaining scheduling, payroll and inventory

**Lunenburg High School Greenhouse** Lunenburg, MA  
*Interim Greenhouse Manager* June 2012- April 2013

- Oversee daily operations of a teaching greenhouse
- Cultivate, propagate, and maintain diverse collection of greenhouse plants as well as outdoor landscaping

**Armenia Tree Project** Yerevan, Armenia  
*Birthright Armenia* September 2011- May 2012

- Research individual and foundation donor prospects resulting in grants of between 1000-10,000 dollars to conduct environmental restoration and education projects
- Present environmental education topics to rural schoolchildren based upon national environmental curriculum

**Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden**

Cape Town, South Africa

*International Horticulture Fellow*

October- December 2010

- Conduct site surveys with CREW program to locate and/or monitor endangered plant populations used in land-use planning decision making and to update REDD listings
- Partner with underprivileged schools through Outreach Greening program to develop native plant gardens on site, & conduct horticultural workshops promoting environmental responsibility
- Follow planting plans to install plants in the redesigned Proteaceae garden beds

**Lakeview Tree Nurseries**

Lunenburg, MA

*Horticulturist*

Feb- Sept 2010, Feb 2011-Aug 2011

- Serve as sales representative to assist customers selecting plants
- Propagate a diverse variety of annual and perennials through cuttings, grafting, and seed
- Install plants on homeowner property

**New England Wildflower Society**

Framingham, MA

*Atkinson Conservation Fellow*

April 2009- November 2009

- Coordinate volunteers in six states to conduct rare plant surveys, habitat management, and botanical inventories
- Process field forms & conduct data entry to maintain NEPCoP records in access database

**Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps**

Brookhaven, NY

*Native Plant Corps Member*

April 2009- November 2009

- Inventory, map with GPS, and mechanically remove invasive plant species on public land
- Conduct formal and informal presentations on ecology, native plants, and the pine barrens to schoolchildren and government agencies updating land use planning goals

**Prides Corner Farm**

Lebanon, CT

*Assistant Woody Propagator*

May 2007- May 2008

- Maintain propagation schedule, propagating woody plants primarily from cutting and grafting
- Manage plant production facilities including greenhouse, containers, and stock beds

**Tower Hill Botanic Garden**

Boylston, MA

*Horticulture Intern*

May 2006- September 2006

- Perform general landscape maintenance including pruning, planting, mulching, trail - maintenance, edging, mowing, and weeding on diverse 132 acre campus
- Coordinate weekly garden volunteers
- Lead weekly garden tours for guests

- Operate typical garden equipment including tractors, lawnmowers, blowers, weed whackers and roto-tillers

## **EDUCATION**

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University of Connecticut	Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Horticulture
New England Wildflower Society	Certificate, Field Botany

# Annabel Rabiyah

EMAIL: annabel.r@gmail.com

CELL: (617) 233 1743

## EMPLOYMENT

### **BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER**

Boston, MA

*Farm Manager*

April 2022 - Present

- Developing and implementing crop plan for the farm season in accordance with BMC's food pantry and food service needs. The rooftop farm includes ~3000 sq. ft. of intensive succession crop growing space and produces ~5,000 lb of food annually.
- Preparing and monitoring the annual farm budget.
- Coordinating and running a weekly farmers market June-October.
- Hiring and overseeing 2 seasonal farm staff over the growing season
- Overseeing a research trial assessing soil media, and supervising a research assistant in conducting the trial.
- Coordinating and running daily tours, educational events, and volunteer sessions on the farm.

### **THE TRUSTEES**

Boston, MA

*Program Coordinator & Corporate Partnership Garden Coordinator*

April 2019 - April 2022

- Supported Engagement Manager in programming for the 56 Boston community gardens. Responsibilities include: leading workshops, site support for gardens, community event planning and outreach, and greenhouse planning and planting for seedling sales at our plant nursery in Mattapan. Worked regularly with Shopify and ACME sales platforms.
- Co-organized the Boston Gardeners' Gathering, an annual conference (now in its 46th year) typically attended by 500 people. Co-coordinated the Master Urban Gardener certification course.
- Designed all the promotional materials for our events, as well as the program for our annual conference.
- Managed two community market gardens (~1/4 acre total) as part of a corporate partnership with Blue Cross.

### **CITYSPROUTS**

Boston, MA

*Garden Educator & School Partnership Specialist*

August 2017 - June 2019

- Onsite garden specialist at various public schools across Boston and Cambridge, responsible for garden maintenance and technical support, and co-planning and teaching curriculum-based lessons to students aged 3-14 in the garden and classroom.
- Worked with the leadership team to implement and support school garden programming. Responsibilities included: curriculum development, planning and leading workshops for teachers and external partners, planning staff professional development, supporting and mentoring new Garden Educators, data collection and analysis through Salesforce, and representing CitySprouts in local networks and conferences.
- Organized the seed order and planting schedule for our 21 garden sites at the Dudley Greenhouse.

### **NUBIA**

Boston, MA

*Farm Manager*

May 2016 - September 2017

- Oversaw 2 seasons of NUBIA's Seed & Yield program. Responsible for maintenance, planting, and harvesting of 9 growing sites across Roxbury and Dorchester. Each season we grew over 7,000 pounds of produce, half of which was donated to local Hunger Relief Organizations. Sites were a mix of in-ground, raised beds, and one rooftop garden. I managed and ran weekly farmers markets at Boston Medical Center and ISBCC Mosque. I supervised a group of 12 high school youth employees.

## EDUCATION

### **Columbia University**

Master of Science (M.S.), Nutrition, 2013 – 2014

### **McGill University**

Bachelor of Arts and Science, Cell/Molecular Biology, 2009 – 2013

New York, NY

Montreal, QC

## ORGANIZING WORK

### **AWAFI KITCHEN**

*Co-founder and Manager*

July 2017-Present

- A cultural initiative that uplifts stories of Iraqi food and history. We host pop-up restaurant events, cooking demonstrations, and presentations on Jewish Iraqi history.
- Notable projects include: Featured chef in *Folk and Folklore* diasporic pop-up series, Artistic Director for *In the Kitchen*, featured presenter for an Iraqi culinary and architectural heritage event set in *Al-Mudhif* at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia.
- Awafi Kitchen has been featured in Eater Boston, Civil Eats, Jewish Food Society, ShakoMakoNet, Playbill Magazine, The Forward, Jewish Currents, and more.

### **IRAQI SEED COLLECTIVE**

*Co-founder and member*

January 2020 - Present

- A nation-wide collective of Iraqi-heritage growers to cultivate and save seeds from Iraqi heirloom varieties that are at risk of extinction. We are actively saving seeds from 20+ vulnerable Iraqi crops. Seeds saved by the collective are featured in the Experimental Farm Network and Truelove seed catalogs.

## LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)

Spanish (working proficiency)

Arabic (limited working proficiency)

French (elementary proficiency)

## CERTIFICATIONS

Assessment of Program Practices Tool (APT) Observer

Master Urban Gardener

CPR/First Aid

ServSafe Manager

TIPS

JOSH HASENFUS

East Walpole, MA  
339.203.8237  
jhasenfus@thetrustees.org

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## EDUCATION

**AS, Landscape Contracting- Stockbridge School of Agriculture**  
Umass Amherst

**2004-2006**

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## EXPERIENCE

**Landscape Construction Specialist, The Trustees**

**2018- Present**

Responsible for the completion of a large range of projects throughout the state as member of the statewide projects team.

**Superintendent-Central Management Unit, The Trustees**

**2015-2018**

Managed the stewardship needs of (15) properties in Central Region of Massachusetts.

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## SKILLS

- Project management
  - Communication
  - Technical expertise
  - Problem-solving
  - Leadership
  - Attention to detail
- 

## CERTIFICATIONS:

- Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional (MCLP)
  - Massachusetts Certified Arborist (MCA)
  - Construction Supervisor
  - Pesticide Applicator License
  - Hoisting Engineer
  - OSHA-10
- 

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE:

**Winthrop Community Garden, \$450,000**

Roxbury, MA

- New construction of new community garden space with fully accessible pathways and community gathering space.

**Berkeley Community Garden A-Row Renovation, \$400,000**

South End, Boston

- Renovation of community garden section with new fencing, curbing and restoration

**Armstrong-Kelley Park, \$1.1 million**

Osterville, MA

- Complete renovation of historic park in the village of Osterville. Project included new entrance, parking area, stormwater infrastructure, landscape pond, horticultural displays and a Children's Garden.

**Stevens-Coolidge Place, \$900,000**

North Andover, MA

- Large scale renovation and expansion of historic public garden that included a new entry drive, parking area, stormwater infrastructure and garden areas.

**Mary Cummings Park, \$550,000**

Burlington, MA

- An expansion of an existing park with new parking area, pathways, wetland board walk, lawn area, pollinator meadow and tree plantings.

**Crane Estate Rose Garden, \$700,000**

Ipswich, MA

- Stabilization of garden space with new wood pergola on concrete structure and extensive masonry restoration. Replacement of large concrete fountain and extensive plantings.

**Worlds End Carriage Road Renovation, \$250,000**

Hingham, MA

- Renovation of Olmstead designed carriage roads with improved drainage capacity for climate change resiliency. Extensive tree renewal throughout the site.

**Long Hill Public Gardens, \$1.5 million**

Beverly, MA

- Large expansion of an existing public garden with the installation of multiple new gardens including large tented gathering space, a new entrance with parking area and numerous pedestrian circulation improvements.

**DeCordova Pondsides, \$1.5 million**

Lincoln, MA

- A transformation of the Pondsides area of the property with multiple project investments including a large public gathering space, pedestrian pathway improvements, driveway renewal and plantings.



RAY DUNETZ  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

## RAY DUNETZ, PRINCIPAL

### EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, BLA, 1985

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture, Inc.  
Principal, 2002 to present

Walker-Kluesing Design Group  
Landscape Architect 1993-2002  
Landscape Architect 1988-1989

Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc  
Landscape Architect, 1990-1993

EDAW, Inc.  
Landscape Architect, 1989-1990

Sasaki Associates, Inc.  
Landscape Architect, 1985-1988

National Park Service  
Landscape Architect, 1984-1985

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Gala Chairman, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 2015

Design Awards Juror, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 2015

Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund Committee  
2012-present

President, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 2009-2011

Member, American Society of Landscape Architects 2002-present

### ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Adjunct Faculty, Boston Architectural College  
Boston, MA, 2012-2013

Critic, Harvard Graduate School of Design,  
Studies in Landscape Representation Studio,  
Cambridge, MA 2006

Critic, Boston Architectural College  
Boston, MA 2006

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors, Friends of Fairsted,  
Brookline, MA 2015

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES [cont'd] Board of Directors, Loring-Greenough House,  
Jamaica Plain, MA 2007-2014

Design Committee Member, JP Centre South  
Main Streets 2008-2009

PROFESSIONAL  
REGISTRATION  
AND CERTIFICATIONS

Massachusetts #1015  
Certified Playground Safety Inspector 2014  
LEED Green Associate 2009



Materials

Materials purchased by the grantee to carry out the program, not direct construction materials, which should be included in "hard costs"

Indirect costs

Nonprofit organizations may include 10% of the direct subrecipient costs (soft costs only) as indirect costs in the budget without providing additional documentation. If the organization has a different negotiated indirect costs rate with the federal government, please contact the Program Manager.

**DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: ITEMIZATION**

	TOTAL (\$)	Grassroots (\$)	Applicant Organization (\$)
<b>HARD COSTS</b>			
Demo/removals	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Earthwork/excavation/geotex	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Drainage/utilities	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
Paving/masonry/concrete	\$ 439,500.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 329,500.00
Fencing	\$ 35,810.00	\$ -	\$ 35,810.00
Site furnishings/structures	\$ 59,500.00	\$ -	\$ 59,500.00
Planting	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
* Other (provide detail below)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General conditions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Hard costs subtotal (without contingency)</b>	<b>\$ 599,810.00</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 449,810.00</b>
Contingency	\$ 59,981.00	\$ -	\$ 59,981.00
<b>Hard costs subtotal (with contingency)</b>	<b>\$ 659,791.00</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 509,791.00</b>
<b>SOFT COSTS</b>			
Construction Documents	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Bid documents	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Civil engineering/survey	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Project management (non-staff)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** Other consultants (provide details below)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permits	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ 6,500.00
<b>Soft costs subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 31,500.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 31,500.00</b>
<b>SUBRECIPIENT COSTS</b>			
Staff time, project management (including fringe)	\$ 17,000.00	\$ -	\$ 17,000.00
Staff time, non-project management (including fringe)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Indirect costs (10% of subrecipient costs)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Subrecipient costs subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 17,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 17,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 708,291.00</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 558,291.00</b>

\* Other costs (provide detail on costs included in this category below):

\*\* Other consultants (provide detail on costs included in this category below):

**DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: SOURCES AND USES**

Please complete this page with the sources and uses of funds. The Sources Total should equal the Uses Total, and each of those should equal the Total Project Costs from the budget itemization. Please edit the names of funding sources to match actual funding sources for this project.

SOURCES OF FUNDS		USES OF FUNDS	
	Amount (\$)		Amount (\$)
Grassroots Funds	\$ 150,000.00	Construction	\$ 599,810.00
Applicant Organization	\$ 558,291.00	Contingency	\$ 59,981.00
Foundation 1: _____		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 659,791.00</b>
Foundation 2: _____		Consultants	\$ -
Foundation 3: _____		Materials	\$ -
Grant 1: _____		Staff	\$ 17,000.00
Grant 2: _____		Other soft costs	\$ 31,500.00
In-kind donations		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 48,500.00</b>
		Overhead	\$ -
		Fee	\$ -
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>SOURCES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 708,291.00</b>	<b>USES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 708,291.00</b>



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Evidence of Financing Statement**

This request to the Mayor's Office of Housing Grassroots Open Space Land and Funding opportunity will provide transfer of the parcel (115-123 Bird St), with a clear title to The Trustees and \$150,000 of funding to support the design and construction of the new community garden at the site.

The Trustees has secured a significant pool of funding from an anonymous foundation to support our initiative (described above) to expand our community garden footprint in the City of Boston over the next five years. Funds are in hand and will be allocated from that pool to support the anticipated capital costs needed to complete the proposed Bird Street Community Garden.

Additionally, The Trustees is contributing in-kind support for this project which includes staff time, plantings, and a long-term commitment to annual maintenance as the new Bird Street Community Garden will be incorporated into The Trustees' community gardens annual operating budget. This includes the ongoing cost of utilities, basic maintenance, public programming and education initiatives, and staff salaries. A copy of our most recent financial statements is attached, which provide evidence of our positive financial position and access to funding.

The Trustees pursues a range of funding opportunities to further support this work in perpetuity. This includes public-private partnerships, such as the current collaboration between The Trustees Community Gardens, the City of Boston, and an anonymous donor and revenue generating events like our annual garden tours among others.

Documentation for secured funding is included below. Please note: The Trustees' most recent audited financials have been attached as a separate document due to its large size.



**The Trustees**  
200 High Street, 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
tel 617.542.7696  
[thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org)

March 4, 2024

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

This letter is to confirm that The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) has the required funds in place to support The Trustees' application to the Mayor's Office of Housing, City of Boston, 115-123 Bird Street Open Space Land and Funding. Our intention is to develop this parcel into a new community garden serving the residents of Dorchester.

The Trustees has secured a significant grant from an anonymous foundation to support the organization's expansion of our community garden footprint in the City of Boston over the next five years. If The Trustees is awarded the 115-123 Bird Street parcel, funds will be allocated from this grant to support the anticipated capital costs needed to complete the proposed community garden.

Thank you for your past support and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Brian Therrien  
Chief Financial Officer

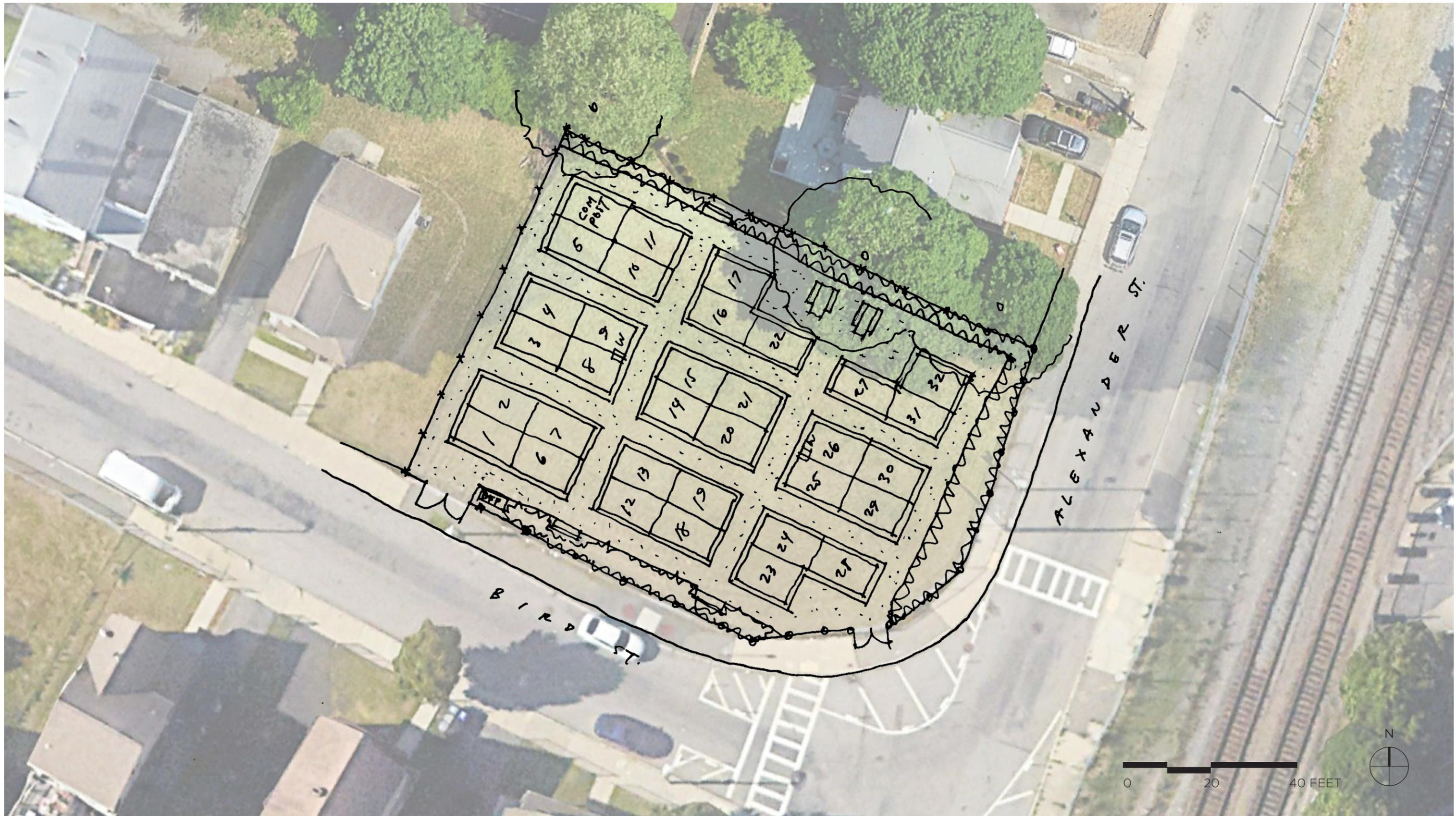


**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Design and Construction Narrative**

The attached conceptual design from Ray Dunetz Landscape Architects shows a proposed configuration for a new 40-plot community garden at Bird Street, with a designated greenspace with picnic tables and raised garden beds. The garden will provide new gardening space for the neighbors to grow their own culturally relevant food and a space for the community to gather and connect with their outdoors and each other. Our design plan aims to preserve the tree canopy along the norther parcel boundary—as is desired in the RFP—and we will work with an arborist for minimum disruption. Importantly, our plan promotes accessibility for individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges, with paved pathways throughout the garden, raised garden beds, and an accessible communal area for gatherings and vendors. We will plant common areas with native plants grown in our very own nursery in Mattapan, called City Natives.

Our project team intends to hold further community meetings over the summer of 2024 to inform the final design and field any concerns regarding maintenance, noise, and construction.



CONCEPT DESIGN

**BIRD STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN**

DORCHESTER, MA

FEBRUARY 2024





**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Community Participation and Support**

Throughout The Trustees' history of community garden development, expansion, and renovation, community participation and engagement have been fundamental. We seek input from each unique neighborhood throughout the process, from gauging initial interest, to confirming design plans, and continue to engage the community in the day-to-day management of each garden.

Bird Street will be no exception. We have communicated with the neighbors and abutters of the parcel and have their support. Upon selection as owner and developer, we will host 2-3 community meetings where the neighbors will work directly with the project's landscape architect to give feedback and help finalize the garden design, materials and other infrastructure details including, fence, irrigation system, circulation paths, garden edging and size, and other features. We will provide translation services at these meetings to make sure everyone who wants to participate is able to do so.

Attached are four letters of support from community members and partners. Additionally, we have included letters of support from John Fitzgerald, Boston City Councilor, District 3, and Liz Miranda, State Senator, Second Suffolk District.



196 Quincy Street  
Dorchester, MA 02121

617-522-7900 

[info@commonwealthkitchen.org](mailto:info@commonwealthkitchen.org) 

[www.commonwealthkitchen.org](http://www.commonwealthkitchen.org) 

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

On behalf of Commonwealth Kitchen I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

Commonwealth Kitchen has collaborated with the Trustees on a variety of projects including connecting our businesses to farm stands and other sales outlets, supporting their work at the Boston Public Market, and providing small-batch processing to turn surplus produce from their farms and urban gardens into value-added products like marinara, pickles and pesto that are sold at farm stands, farmers' markets, and other outlets. We welcome the opportunity to have them here in our neighborhood and continue to deepen our partnership work

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jen Faigel", is written over the typed name.

Jen Faigel  
Executive Director

2/22/24

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,

*Terrill Jordan*  
*8 Gayland St.*  
*Dorchester, MA 02125*

2/22/24

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,



140 magnolia st

413-277-5939

2/22/24

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,

*Daisy Zayas*  
130-A Magnolia St  
Dorchester Ma 02125  
857-308  
6525



**JOHN FITZGERALD**  
**Boston City Councilor**  
**District 3**

February 28, 2024

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

My name is John FitzGerald, the Boston City Councilor for District 3. I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

As the City Councilor for District 3, I represent part of Uphams Corner and much of its surrounding area. When I was running for city councilor, I stressed the importance of building communities within the neighborhoods I serve. While the proposed project may technically be just outside of my district's boundaries, I have no doubt that the project will give a great benefit to my constituents in the greater Uphams area. The trustees currently manage 7 community gardens within my district, which have brought not only beauty but much needed community support to the neighborhood.

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,

**John FitzGerald**  
Boston City Councilor, District 3



## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE

### **LIZ MIRANDA**

STATE SENATOR  
SECOND SUFFOLK DISTRICT

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 519  
617-722-1673  
[LIZ.MIRANDA@MASENATE.GOV](mailto:LIZ.MIRANDA@MASENATE.GOV)

**Chair** - Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion  
**Vice Chair** - Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

Ways & Means, Census, Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice  
Community Development and Small Businesses, Elder Affairs,  
State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

February 29th, 2024

Ms. Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing  
Mayor's Office of Housing  
City of Boston  
12 Channel Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Dillon:

My name is Liz Miranda and I am the State Senator of the Second Suffolk District and I am writing to express my support for The Trustees of Reservations' (The Trustees) acquisition and development of 115-123 Bird Street in Dorchester. The Trustees' plan to develop this underutilized open space into a community garden serving the residents of Upham's Corner will significantly boost the quality of life of area residents, increase food access in an underserved corner of the city, and add much-needed new opportunities for exercise and recreation.

For over a century and a quarter, The Trustees has been deeply ingrained in the communities throughout Massachusetts, tirelessly dedicated to safeguarding cherished locales, nurturing them with care, innovating dynamic programs to engage the populace, and generously sharing knowledge with local allies and collaborators. Through its endeavors in community gardens, The Trustees enriches Boston's neighborhoods and its inhabitants in multifaceted ways. While these gardens stand as picturesque and fruitful entities on their own, they serve as a conduit for a plethora of activities and developmental experiences that enhance the livability and vibrancy of a city. Strengthening community gardens aligns with five pivotal objectives of The Trustees' work: fostering civic participation and fortifying community bonds, facilitating lifelong educational journeys, advocating for active lifestyles and recreational opportunities, enhancing nutritional access and public health initiatives for all, and safeguarding and conserving open spaces.

The Trustees is the largest owner of community gardens in the city, caring for 56 gardens across eight neighborhoods that serve nearly 10,000 residents. They have the experience and the expertise to bring this project to fruition. I strongly urge the Department of Neighborhood Development to decide favorably on The Trustees' application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz." with a large, stylized "O" below the name.

**Senator Liz Miranda** |she/her|  
Second Suffolk District  
(Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Mission Hill,  
Jamaica Plain, South End, Roslindale, Fenway)

**Development Timetable**

APPLICANT'S NAME: The Trustees of Reservations

Assuming that you are designated as Tentative Developer by the Public Facilities Commission on June 2024, indicate your planned development schedule by providing target dates for the key development milestones listed below.

Applicants for CDBG funding must provide a timeline that allows for construction to begin within 90 days and complete within 12 months of the signing of a grant agreement.

<b>Development milestone</b>	<b>Anticipated completion date</b>
Community Participation in Design Complete:	August 2024
Zoning Relief Anticipated? Y/N	No
Final Bid Documents Complete:	September 2024
Contractor Selected (Hired):	October 2024
All Funds Raised & Committed to the Project:	June 2024
Grant Agreement Signed:	June 2024
Construction Start:	November 2024
Construction Complete:	May 2025



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Diversity and Inclusion**

We plan to follow the Boston Resident Jobs Policy guidelines and will bid our project to include small local businesses, minority, women, and veteran-owned business enterprises, making our best efforts to recruit them.

To maximize our efforts, we plan to include an optional Supplier Diversity Questionnaire to potential contractors which will provide additional information that can be used as a component of our selection of vendors amongst various other dimensions in the bidding process.

The Trustees' Diversity Belonging Inclusion and Equity Roadmap provides an overarching vision for creating inclusive spaces of belonging for Trustees staff, members, volunteers, and communities across our organization and 120+ properties. Our DBIE commitment will help us embody this work more fully as we act as stewards for the places and stories in our care and ensure that we will be a part of the future of our communities. We have identified three strategic pillars to move our DBIE vision forward, one of which is the *Suppliers and Vendors* pillar which leverages our organization's economic influence to expand sourcing and economic opportunities for diverse suppliers and vendors. Over the next four years we will focus on incorporating supplier diversity best practices into our organization's purchasing processes, design and test a capital project and diversity supplier framework, as well as convene peer organizations to share best practices and leverage our collective economic influence.



**The Trustees of Reservations  
Bird Street Community Garden Design and Construction**

**Operating Budget**

Attached below is The Trustees' Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget which includes The Trustees' 56 Boston Community Gardens. New community gardens will be incorporated into the operating budget for the Boston Community Gardens portfolio, and therefore, into The Trustees' organizational budget.

Operating costs associated with the Bird Street Community Garden will include staff time, programming costs, materials, and general stewardship and management of the garden. As mentioned, volunteers play a prominent role in caring for The Trustees' community gardens. Upon project completion, the Bird Street Community Garden will elect a lead volunteer or team of volunteers from the community for routine care and oversight.



**The Trustees of Reservations**

Consolidated Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2024 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

Operating Revenue and Support:	(thousands)
Property and Program Revenue	\$ 20,145
Membership	9,690
Contributed Revenue	12,012
Endowment Support For Operations	8,757
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 50,604</b>
Operating Expense:	(thousands)
Salaries, Fringe, and Payroll Taxes	\$ 34,201
Property Expenses	10,473
Other Expenses	8,336
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 53,010</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (2,406)</b>

## AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

Developer's Name: The Trustees of Reservations

Any person submitting an application for under this RFP must truthfully complete this Affidavit and submit it with their application.

1. Do any of the principals owe the City of Boston any monies for incurred real estate taxes, rents, water and sewer charges or other indebtedness?  
No
  
2. Are any of the principals employed by the City of Boston? If so, in what capacity?  
(Please include name of principal, name of agency or department, and position held in that agency or department).  
No
  
3. Were any of the principals ever the owners of any property upon which the City of Boston foreclosed for his/her failure to pay real estate taxes or other indebtedness?  
No
  
5. Have any of the principals ever been convicted of any arson-related crimes, or currently under indictment for any such crime?  
No
  
6. Have any of the principals been convicted of violating any law, code, statute or ordinance regarding conditions of human habitation within the last three (3) years?  
No

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this

26 day of February, 20 24

SIGNATURE: K. T. Williams

TITLE: President & CEO

ORGANIZATION: The Trustees of Reservations

ADDRESS: 200 High Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

**CHAPTER 803 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In compliance with Chapter 60, Section 77B of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended by Chapter 803 of the Acts of 1985, I hereby certify that I have never been convicted of a crime involving the willful and malicious setting of a fire or of a crime involving the fraudulent filing of a claim for fire insurance; nor am I delinquent in the payment of real estate taxes in the City of Boston, or being delinquent, an application for the abatement of such tax is pending or a pending petition before the appellate tax board has been filed in good faith.

This statement is made under the pains and penalties of perjury this 26 day of February (month), 2024 (year)

H. Theodoridis  
Applicant Signature

-----  
Co-Applicant Signature (If Applicable)

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR  
TRANSACTION WITH A PUBLIC AGENCY CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY  
M.G.L. c. 7C, s. 38 (formerly M.G.L. c. 7, s. 40J)**

**INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**NOTE:** The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) shall have no responsibility for insuring that the Disclosure Statement has been properly completed as required by law. Acceptance by DCAMM of a Disclosure Statement for filing does not constitute DCAMM's approval of this Disclosure Statement or the information contained therein. Please carefully read M.G.L. c. 7C, s. 38 which is reprinted in Section 8 of this Disclosure Statement.

**Section (1):** Identify the real property, including its street address, and city or town. If there is no street address then identify the property in some other manner such as the nearest cross street and its tax assessors' parcel number.

**Section (2):** Identify the type of transaction to which this Disclosure Statement pertains --such as a sale, purchase, lease, etc.

**Section (3):** Insert the exact legal name of the Public Agency participating in this Transaction with the Disclosing Party. The Public Agency may be a Department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or some other public entity. Please do not abbreviate.

**Section (4):** Insert the exact legal name of the Disclosing Party. Indicate whether the Disclosing Party is an individual, tenants in common, tenants by the entirety, corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, LLC, or other entity. If the Disclosing Party is the trustees of a trust then identify the trustees by name, indicate that they are trustees, and add the name of the trust.

**Section (5):** Indicate the role of the Disclosing Party in the transaction by checking one of the blanks. If the Disclosing Party's role in the transaction is not covered by one of the listed roles then describe the role in words.

**Section (6):** List the names and addresses of every legal entity and every natural person that has or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real property. The only exceptions are those stated in the first paragraph of the statute that is reprinted in Section 8 of this Disclosure Statement. If the Disclosing Party is another public entity such as a city or town, insert "inhabitants of the (name of public entity)." If the Disclosing Party is a non-profit with no individual persons having any beneficial interest then indicate the purpose or type of the non-profit entity. If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet and incorporate it by reference into Section 6.

**Section (7):** Check "NONE" in the box if none of the persons mentioned in Section 6 is employed by DCAMM or an official elected to public office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Otherwise list any parties disclosed in Section 6 that are employees of DCAMM or an official elected to public office.

**Section (8):** The individual signing this statement on behalf of the Disclosing Party acknowledges that he/she has read the included provisions of Chapter 7C, Section 38 (formerly Chapter 7, Section 40J) of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

**Section (9):** Make sure that this Disclosure Statement is signed by all required parties. If the Disclosing Party is a corporation, please make sure that this Disclosure Statement is signed by a duly authorized officer of the corporation as required by the statute reprinted in Section 8 of this Disclosure Statement.

DCAMM's acceptance of a statement for filing does not signify any opinion by DCAMM that the statement complies with applicable law.

This completed and signed Disclosure Statement should be emailed to [realestate.dcammm@mass.gov](mailto:realestate.dcammm@mass.gov) or otherwise delivered to:

Deputy Commissioner for Real Estate  
Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance  
One Ashburton Place, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR  
TRANSACTION WITH A PUBLIC AGENCY CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY  
M.G.L. c. 7C, s. 38 (formerly M.G.L. c. 7, s. 40J)**

The undersigned party to a real property transaction with a public agency hereby discloses and certifies, under pains and penalties of perjury, the following information as required by law:

- (1) REAL PROPERTY: 115-123 Bird Street, Boston MA 02125
  
- (2) TYPE OF TRANSACTION, AGEEMENT, or DOCUMENT: Sale
  
- (3) PUBLIC AGENCY PARTICIPATING in TRANSACTION: Mayor's Office of Housing, City of Boston
  
- (4) DISCLOSING PARTY'S NAME AND TYPE OF ENTITY: The Trustees of Reservations, non-profit organization

- (5) ROLE OF DISCLOSING PARTY (Check appropriate role):
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lessor/Landlord                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lessee/Tenant            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seller/Grantor                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buyer/Grantee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe): _____ |   |

- (6) The names and addresses of all persons and individuals who have or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real property excluding only 1) a stockholder of a corporation the stock of which is listed for sale to the general public with the securities and exchange commission, if such stockholder holds less than ten per cent of the outstanding stock entitled to vote at the annual meeting of such corporation or 2) an owner of a time share that has an interest in a leasehold condominium meeting all of the conditions specified in M.G.L. c. 7C, s. 38, are hereby disclosed as follows (attach additional pages if necessary):

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
The Trustees of Reservations	A non-profit for the purpose of conservation and preservation
_____	_____
_____	_____

- (7) None of the above-named persons is an employee of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance or an official elected to public office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except as listed below (Check "NONE" if NONE):

NONE

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>POSITION:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR  
TRANSACTION WITH A PUBLIC AGENCY CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY  
M.G.L. c. 7C, s. 38 (formerly M.G.L. c. 7, s. 40J)**

- (8) The individual signing this statement on behalf of the above-named party acknowledges that he/she has read the following provisions of Chapter 7C, Section 38 (formerly Chapter 7, Section 40J) of the General Laws of Massachusetts:

*No agreement to rent or to sell real property to or to rent or purchase real property from a public agency, and no renewal or extension of such agreement, shall be valid and no payment shall be made to the lessor or seller of such property unless a statement, signed, under the penalties of perjury, has been filed by the lessor, lessee, seller or purchaser, and in the case of a corporation by a duly authorized officer thereof giving the true names and addresses of all persons who have or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in said property with the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any stockholder of a corporation the stock of which is listed for sale to the general public with the securities and exchange commission, if such stockholder holds less than ten per cent of the outstanding stock entitled to vote at the annual meeting of such corporation. In the case of an agreement to rent property from a public agency where the lessee's interest is held by the organization of unit owners of a leasehold condominium created under chapter one hundred and eighty-three A, and time-shares are created in the leasehold condominium under chapter one hundred and eighty-three B, the provisions of this section shall not apply to an owner of a time-share in the leasehold condominium who (i) acquires the time-share on or after a bona fide arms length transfer of such time-share made after the rental agreement with the public agency is executed and (ii) who holds less than three percent of the votes entitled to vote at the annual meeting of such organization of unit owners. A disclosure statement shall also be made in writing, under penalty of perjury, during the term of a rental agreement in case of any change of interest in such property, as provided for above, within thirty days of such change.*

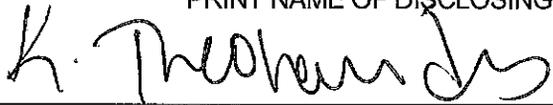
*Any official elected to public office in the commonwealth, or any employee of the division of capital asset management and maintenance disclosing beneficial interest in real property pursuant to this section, shall identify his position as part of the disclosure statement. The commissioner shall notify the state ethics commission of such names, and shall make copies of any and all disclosure statements received available to the state ethics commission upon request.*

*The commissioner shall keep a copy of each disclosure statement received available for public inspection during regular business hours.*

- (9) This Disclosure Statement is hereby signed under penalties of perjury.

The Trustees of Reservations

PRINT NAME OF DISCLOSING PARTY (from Section 4, above)

 2/26/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE of DISCLOSING PARTY      DATE (MM / DD / YYYY)

Katie Theoharides, President & CEO  
PRINT NAME & TITLE of AUTHORIZED SIGNER

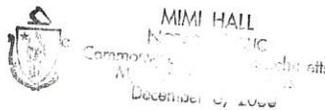
**Conflict of Interest Affidavit Form**

The undersigned hereby certifies, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that neither they, nor those with whom they have business ties, nor any immediate family member of the undersigned, is currently or has been within the past twelve months, an employee, agent, consultant, officer or elected or appointed official of the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing. For purposes of this affidavit "immediate family member" shall include parents, spouse, siblings, or children, irrespective of their place of residence.

I declare under penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true, correct, accurate, complete and correct in all respects.

WITNESS:

BORROWER:



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Suffolk, ss.



Then personally appeared the above named Katie Theoharides, President & CEO, of The Trustees of Reservation and executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed as President & CEO aforesaid and the free act and deed of The Trustees of Reservations, before me.



Name:  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Internal Revenue Service  
District Director

Department of the Treasury

P. O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: MAR 23 1999

Trustees of Reservations  
572 Essex Street  
Beverly, MA 01915-1530

Person to Contact:  
Kathy Masters 31-04015  
Customer Service Rep.  
Telephone Number:  
877-829-5500  
Fax Number:  
513-684-5936  
Federal Identification Number:  
04-2105780

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to your request for a copy of your organization's determination letter. This letter will take the place of the copy you requested.

Our records indicate that a determination letter issued in January 1935 granted your organization exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That letter is still in effect.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Trustees of Reservations  
04-2105780

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

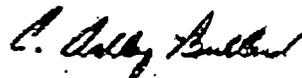
Your organization is not required to file federal income tax returns unless it is subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If your organization is subject to this tax, it must file an income tax return on the Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization's present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your organization's exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it with the organization's permanent records.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

This letter affirms your organization's exempt status.

Sincerely,



C. Ashley Bullard  
District Director