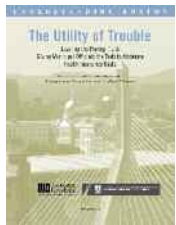


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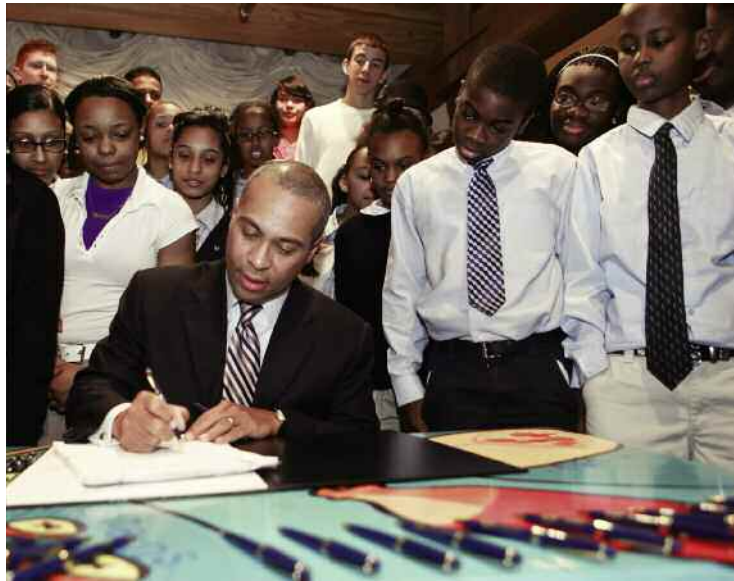
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**Pioneering Education Reform Coalition Convened by the Boston Foundation Plays Key Role**

On January 18th, while the country was celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick signed a sweeping education reform bill that will help to level the playing field for thousands of children of color and immigrants struggling in the Commonwealth’s schools.

“We are standing up for children today,” said the Governor. “This is the beginning of the end of the achievement gap in Massachusetts.”

The landmark legislation was supported by a broad coalition of community leaders convened by the Boston Foundation. Called the *Race to the Top Coalition*, the group played a key role in informing the issues addressed by the bill and helped position the Commonwealth’s application for millions of dollars in federal “Race to the Top” funding. While Massachusetts was not one of the two states to receive the funding in April, it will apply for a second round of funding in June.

“I have more gratitude than I can express for those who worked in partnership for the passage of the bill,” said Governor Patrick at the bill’s signing.

Students from Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, MATCH Charter Public High School and East Boston High School were present for the bill signing.

**Rebuilding Haiti**  
The Boston Connection

In response to January’s devastating earthquake in Haiti, Boston Foundation donors Jim Ansara and Karen Keating Ansara, together with the Board of the Foundation, established the **Haiti Relief and Reconstruction Fund** with a \$1 million challenge grant from the Ansaras. Within two weeks, the initial \$2 million goal was reached and the Fund continues to build. (See story on page 3.)

*continued on page 2*



**Education Reform** from page 1

“The Coalition’s success proves how effective a diverse group of concerned citizens can be if they mobilize around an important issue and have staying power,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. The group held major press conferences at the State House, provided legislators with information about school performance and urged them to pass robust education reform legislation.

Among other innovations, the new bill doubles the number of charter school seats in the state’s worst performing school districts. The Boston Foundation has been a major supporter of lifting the cap on charter schools and has published groundbreaking research showing that students in charter schools consistently outperform their

peers at traditional schools.

The bill allows for at least four in-district charter schools to open in Boston and 10 others statewide—all without union approval. It also establishes new Innovation Schools as proposed by the Governor and new Horace Mann charter schools as recommended by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

In addition to establishing new and innovative schools, the bill provides superintendents with new intervention powers in the state’s most underperforming districts. In early March, the Boston Public Schools took advantage of these new powers when

it announced that staff at six Boston schools will have to reapply for their jobs and five principals will be replaced after the schools were listed among nearly

three dozen statewide that will probably be declared “underperforming and subject to drastic change.”

“This historic bill places Massachusetts where it should be,” said Mr. Grogan, “in the front of re-imagining public education in America. It affirms that the status quo is no longer acceptable and its passage allows classrooms across our state to embrace true reform and innovation.”

## Race to the Top Coalition

INVESTING IN OUR STATE’S CHILDREN

The Race to the Top Coalition held two high profile press conferences and worked behind the scenes to support the legislation.

### Race to the Top Coalition Members

- Black Leaders for Excellence in Education
- The Boston Foundation
- Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children, Inc.
- Boston Leaders for Education
- Boston Municipal Research Bureau
- Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation
- Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
- Leaders for Education
- Massachusetts Charter Public School Association
- Mass High Tech Council
- Mass Insight
- Metrowest Chamber of Commerce
- Metro South Chamber of Commerce
- Progressive Business Leaders Network
- Stand for Children
- Strategic Grant Partners

## Rebuilding Haiti The Boston Connection

In a swift response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12th, Boston Foundation donors Jim Ansara and Karen Keating Ansara joined with the Board of the Foundation to launch the **Haiti Relief and Reconstruction Fund** at the Boston Foundation. The Ansaras announced their intention to match contributions to the fund, dollar for dollar, up to the first \$1 million.

While up to one-quarter of the fund's resources were quickly funneled to relief efforts, the rest of the resources are focused on the long-term reconstruction of Haiti and solidarity with the Haitian American community in Boston as it copes with the grief and economic impact of the disaster.

On January 26th, the Boston Foundation held a remarkable *Understanding Boston* forum to discuss Boston's role in rebuilding Haiti. With Jim Ansara on the ground in Port au Prince, working alongside doctors from Partners in Health, Karen Keating Ansara represented the couple at the forum, calling the Boston Foundation a "first responder philanthropist" to the earthquake.

"The poor are at the earth's mercy," she said. "And in this case, little mercy was shown—except for the mercy shown by the Haitian people themselves, by first responders from all over the world, and by the millions of Americans who

gave despite a crippling economic crisis here at home." She went on to build a compelling case for moving forward with what she called "smart mercy," meaning helping the Haitian people reconstruct their own country in their own way, a process that will continue long after the world has grown weary of the disaster.

Dr. Alix Cantave, Associate Director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute, spoke next, providing a context for the connections between Haiti and Boston, which has the third largest Haitian American community the United States. "This relationship goes back more than 200 years," he explained, "and it is rooted in the struggle against slavery." In fact, Haiti, which was founded through a slave revolution against Napoleon's army in 1804, served as a model for the abolition movement in Boston and across America.

The emotional center of the forum was a stirring report from Dr. Joia Mukherjee, Medical Director for Partners in Health. Dr. Mukherjee had just returned from Haiti, where she was part of a team that treated 800 people in a few short days. While there, she had made her way to the famous statue, called Neg



Karen Keating Ansara spoke of "smart mercy" in response to the earthquake.



Dr. Alix Cantave put the relationship between Boston and Haiti in context.



Dr. Joia Mukherjee had just returned from Haiti, where she was part of a team that treated 800 people.

*continued on page 4*

### Haiti from page 3

Mawon, or Free Man, that stands in front of the now destroyed national palace. As she stood gazing at the statue, filled with emotion, a Haitian woman she had never met before embraced her and quoted the lines at the foot of the statue: "The free man will never be broken."

(Top) Tracy Kidder;  
(Bottom from left)  
Wilmer Ruperti,  
Karen Keating Ansara  
and Paul Grogan



## The Haiti Fund Meets the Initial \$2 million Goal

During a luncheon held at the Boston Foundation on February 10th that featured Tracy Kidder, author of *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, the story of Dr. Paul Farmer's work in Haiti, the announcement was made that the Haiti Relief and Reconstruction Fund at the Boston Foundation had completed its initial \$2 million goal.

"Donors have responded to the urgent need for help and to the extraordinary generosity of Jim and Karen Keating Ansara, who are matching donations, dollar-for-dollar up to \$1 million," said Boston Foundation President and CEO Paul S. Grogan. "This outpouring reflects the long history and connection between Boston and Haiti and our community's willingness to respond to the distress of the Haiti nation."

The lunch, which featured presentations by Haitians and Haitian Americans as well as Haitian art, music and poetry, was sponsored by Wilmer Ruperti, Chairman and CEO of Venezuela-based Maroil Trading and Global Ship Management, who flew in for the event and announced a gift of \$100,000 to cap the Fund's initial goal.

After Dr. Mukherjee's moving remarks, there was a live report from New York Times correspondent Marc Lacey, who called in from Port au Prince, adding a sense of immediacy to the forum through his vivid description of the massive rescue efforts and a Haitian government in ruin.

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. Panelists included: the Honorable Marie St. Fleur, Massachusetts State Representative; Carline Desire, Executive Director of the Association of Haitian Women in Boston; John Ambler, Senior Vice President of Oxfam America; and Linda Mason, Chair of Mercy Corps.

Representative St. Fleur, the first Haitian American elected to a state legislature in the U.S., spoke about the spirit of the Haiti Fund. "We are setting an incredible example here in Boston," she said. "Aid is important, but simultaneously we have to focus on rebuilding. The work the Ansaras are doing is so critical because they are involving Haitians at every step. And when everyone else flies away, they will still be there."

From the audience, another Haitian American State Representative, Linda Dorcena Forry, echoed her sentiment. "This tragedy will leave the front pages," she said, "but we have to stay focused. There is enormous commitment in this room. Let's keep this energy going!"



"We are setting an incredible example here in Boston," said Rep. Marie St. Fleur.



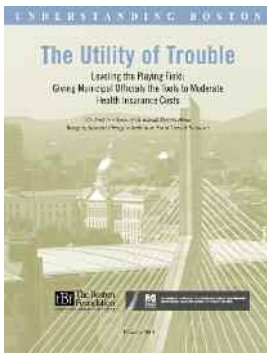
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the Haiti Fund

## Saving Millions for Massachusetts Cities and Towns

### A Boston Foundation “Utility of Trouble” Report

**M**aking front-page news in the Boston Globe on March 3rd was a new Boston Foundation report on health plan design which shows that cash-strapped cities and towns across the Commonwealth—including Boston—could save significantly if they had the same ability as the state to design their own health insurance plans. For Boston alone, the savings could exceed \$40 million. The report was released within days of two other Globe articles about the high cost of health insurance for cities and towns. It is the first in a series of Boston Foundation reports about bringing systemic change to scale in an era of limited resources.



Called *The Utility of Trouble*, the report calls for a leveling of the playing field by giving municipal officials the tools to moderate health insurance costs. It was written by Bob Carey, former Director of Planning and Development for the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, for The Edward Collins Center for Public Management at the McCormack Graduate School at University of Massachusetts Boston.

“At a time when Boston may be forced to close branch libraries because of budget deficits, this report offers a strategy to cut costs instead,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. “These research findings hold out the possibility of pushing back against the seemingly inexorable rise in health care costs.”

The report identifies savings through participation in health care pools, including the state’s Group Insurance Commission, commonly known as the GIC. According to the research, Boston could have reduced its 2010 health premiums by between 15.6 and 17.1 percent, for a savings of between \$41.4 and \$45.4 million, by joining the state’s GIC.

The City is unable to join the GIC, however, without first receiving 70% union approval, according to state law. This requirement and the associated tradeoffs involved are a major barrier to municipal participation in the GIC. Several cities and towns, including Boston, have called for cities and towns to have the same ability as the state to design health insurance plans.



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**Understanding  
Boston** for  
the report

## The Boston Indicators Report Details Widening Inequality

### A Great Reckoning: *Healing a Growing Divide*



A Summary of the  
Boston Indicators Report  
2009

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

Boston Indicators  
Reports are  
published biennially.

The American dream is receding for low-income families in Boston and the nation as widening inequality reduces options and opportunities, yet our future prosperity depends on improved outcomes for their children. That is the message at the heart of the 2009 Boston Indicators Report—*A Great Reckoning: Healing a Growing Divide*.

The Boston Foundation released the report on December 16th at a John LaWare Leadership Forum moderated by Boston Foundation President and CEO Paul S. Grogan and attended by hundreds of civic, business and community leaders.

Charlotte Kahn, Director of the award-winning Boston Indicators

Project, presented the findings. Using stunning charts, she illustrated a growing divide between the two ends of the income spectrum. “The U.S. now has the greatest gap between rich and poor among all of the world’s wealthy developed nations,” she said, “and Suffolk County is one of the most unequal counties in the nation.” She explained that the inequality is the result of our region’s “knowledge economy,” which rewards those with a good education but harshly punishes those without.

“Why should this matter to all of us?” she asked. “Because, in addition to the moral imperative, projections for Boston and the nation show that the inequality is associated with greater rates of educational disadvantage, neighborhood violence, single parenthood, obesity and preventable chronic disease. And the groups at greatest risk for all of these problems are increasing as a percentage of the population. With intense global competition for the best-educated workers, every child in the Commonwealth must be seen as a scarce and precious resource.”

The Report calls for “bending the curve” in education, particularly in outcomes among low-income African American and Latino students; placing health “in front of the health care cart;” stimulating job growth; and taking a hard look at tax policies that place all but the very wealthy at a serious disadvantage.

“Sobering though this report is, it is enormously important,” said Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, who spoke after Ms. Kahn. “It proves that disparities are widening and the distance between our neighbors is growing.” He characterized the stubborn achievement gap highlighted in the report as, “not just

JOHN LAWARE  
LEADERSHIP  
FORUM



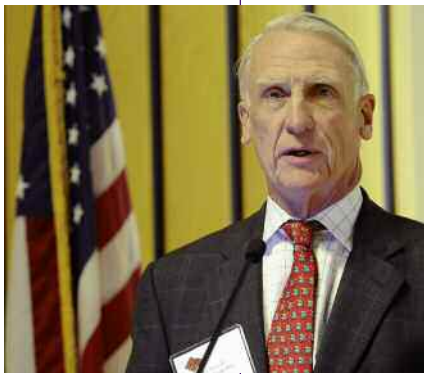
Co-sponsored by  
business and civic  
groups and informed  
by the Boston  
Indicators Project,  
the LaWare Forum  
encourages and  
tracks progress in  
education, housing,  
jobs and new  
leadership.

an educational or economic setback, but a moral setback,” and said that the report will serve as a benchmark for his administration’s progress in educational attainment.

Judith Kurland, Chief of Programs and Partnerships for Mayor Menino’s Office, spoke next. “The Mayor relies on the Boston Indicators Reports to tell us where we are making progress and what isn’t working,” she said. “The message of this report is that we need to be more creative and persistent when it comes to addressing disparities in our city.”

After comments from civic leaders in the audience, John Hamill, Chairman of Sovereign Bank New

England—who convenes the LaWare Leadership Forum with Mr. Grogan and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston President Eric Rosengren—made closing remarks. “The people in this room are capable of countering the trends in this report,” he said. “We have to be focused and meld the great work we’ve done in the past with what needs to be done now to ‘bend the curve’ for our children and our city today.”



John Hamill, a convener of the LaWare Forum, made closing remarks



(Front) Governor Patrick talks with Charlotte Kahn, Director of the Boston Indicators Project. (Back) Mary Jo Meisner, Vice President for Communications, Community Relations and Public Affairs at the Boston Foundation, introduced the Governor.

## The Open Indicators Consortium

For the past three years, the Boston Indicators Project and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, with support from the Barr Foundation, have been working with a team of faculty and students from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and partners from around the nation to create a state-of-the art, open source data visualization platform for nonprofits and government agencies. The Open Indicators Consortium, as it is called, also includes founding member organizations from Atlanta, Chicago, Columbus, New Haven, Phoenix and Providence. With the goal of democratizing data, open source software allows for rapid analysis and visualization of trends, patterns, community assets, needs and priorities at various geographic levels. The Boston Foundation, with the Greater Lowell, Rhode Island and New Haven Community Foundations, have received funding from the Knight Foundation to build on this platform and develop innovative ways to communicate complex data in the form of scorecards, dashboards and other easily “consumable” formats.

GO TO

[bostonindicators.org](http://bostonindicators.org)  
for the report

## The Boston Foundation Hosts Valerie Jarrett



Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama, with Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation

On February 19th, the Boston Foundation was honored to host Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama, for a round-table discussion on innovation and economic development with a specific focus on green technology as a generator of jobs. Some 20 area business, civic and academic leaders who specialize in the energy sector met with Ms. Jarrett in a robust exchange on current trends, effective strategies and needed investments. Ms. Jarrett was interested in hearing about local projects that utilize green energy as well as innovative ideas for future development in order to inform national policy on the issue. The discussion was part of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to bring leaders from across sectors together to discuss competitiveness issues and strategies for the future.

## Bending the Curve Sunday Evenings on NECN



Once again, the Boston Foundation has teamed up with NECN to examine some of the critical issues facing Greater Boston and the region. *Bending the Curve* is inspired by the Boston Indicators Report, *A Great Reckoning: Healing a Growing Divide*, which focuses on the devastating impact of income inequality in Boston (see article on page 6).

NECN's Chet Curtis and Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, co-host the hour-long specials.

The series began in January with a broad discussion about the report by four panelists who confront issues of income inequality every day, including Carol Johnson, Superintendent of the Boston

Public Schools, and Tiziana Dearing, President of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Boston. In February, the series examined the relationship between the economic gap and the achievement gap in education. Guests included Paul Reville, Education Secretary for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and State Rep. Marty Walz, Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. The March episode looked at the impact of income disparities, with a discussion that included Gary Gottleib, President & CEO of Partners HealthCare, and Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Councilor At Large. The topic for April was Transportation and included the state's Secretary of Transportation, Jeffrey Mullan.



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and choose  
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Born and raised in New Bedford, Massachusetts,

Greg Shell received a Bachelor of Science degree from MIT and a

Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School, where he was a Bert King and Robert Toigo

Foundation Fellow. He is a member of the International Active team at GMO, managing portfolios that are invested in U.S. industries. In addition to his role on the Board of the Boston Foundation, he Chairs the Board of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School and serves on the Boards of The Partnership, the Museum of African-American History and the Chestnut Hill School. He is also a member of Black Leaders for Education.

## Greg Shell

**G**reg Shell is a member of the *Race to the Top Coalition*, convened by the Boston Foundation to encourage passage of education reform legislation that was signed into law in January—and he is still pinching himself over the positive outcome (see article on page 1).

“I think the technical proficiency of this bill may never be fully appreciated,” he explains.

“It offers an unprecedented opportunity to turn around our schools in greatest need. One of the core messages is: ‘We’re going to empower superintendents around the state to put the right teachers in the right schools.’ As well, it gives charter schools like Roxbury Prep—that have a record of excellence in student achievement in inner-city neighborhoods—a chance to replicate their model.” Mr. Shell is proud to be Chair of the Board of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, a public school that serves grades 6-8 and prepares students to enter and graduate from college.

“It’s clear that Paul Grogan’s visionary leadership of the Coalition and Mary Jo Meisner’s hard work were critical to getting the bill passed,” he adds. “The Boston Foundation put its reputation on the line for this. It was a very courageous thing to do and it has really paid off.”

Mr. Shell is passionate



about education. “It is the one transformational opportunity we have to lift people from their circumstances, however difficult,” he explains. “Families can change in one generation. The cycle of poverty can be broken, and now we know—thanks in part to research conducted by the Boston Foundation—that it can be done systematically.”

He has been intrigued with charter schools since researching them for his senior thesis at MIT and now he has seen first hand what one school can do to transform its students. “We have found the crown jewel of education and it is in the methodology,” he explains. “You can create outstanding results with autonomy and accountability—and with teachers who make kids reach for a higher standard.”

**“You can create outstanding results with autonomy and accountability—and with teachers who are attracted to the goal of making kids reach for a higher standard.”**

*continued on page 10*

## Priorities and Public Safety



Len Engel

In early December, the Boston Foundation released an Understanding Boston report that identifies rapidly growing corrections costs as a severe economic burden for the state. The report was released at a forum attended by local and state public officials as well as experts in criminal justice—all of whom praised the report as important and timely.

Written by Len Engel, Senior Policy Analyst for the Crime and Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice, *Priorities and Public Safety* tracks the recent explosion in corrections-related costs. At more than \$1.2 billion, the state budget for Criminal Justice is higher than those for Higher Education or Public Health without any compelling evidence of an increase in public safety. The report includes a listing of principles and practices that have worked in other states and could guide corrections reform in Massachusetts.

Following Mr. Engel, Massachusetts Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Mary Beth Heffernan presented an eye-opening snapshot of the state's prisoners, revealing that most come into the system reading at less than a 9th grade level and many at less than a 6th grade level. "In addition, our prisons are de facto mental institutions," she said, "with 66% of females and 25% of males having open mental health cases."



Secretary Mary Beth Heffernan

**Greg Shell** from page 9

He tells one moving story about just how low standards can be for students. One year, he was invited to give the graduation address and hand out diplomas at Roxbury Prep. "I noticed that one young gentleman got more applause than anyone else and later I asked about it," he says. "It turns out that this kid had been functionally illiterate! He came to Roxbury Prep as a 6th grader and he could barely read. He had been a victim of what you might call 'social promotion,' year after year. Through his, and Roxbury Prep's, unwavering dedication, he is now a successful student with dreams of going to college. But prior to entering our school, this student was being failed on

so many levels. Society can't function that way."

According to Mr. Shell, too often public education is treated as if there are conflicting interests when it comes to student outcomes. "This zero-sum mentality, where student achievement comes at the expense of teacher rights, is already becoming a relic," he says. "When kids are the priority, when they're surrounded by people who have high aspirations for them and are committed to meeting their developmental needs, the students readily respond. And that's what Roxbury Prep and many other great schools have found. They re-imagine what's possible for children. Once you do that, it unlocks a door—and every time it happens successfully, it's magical."

## The Word on the Street Voices of Our Young People

**S**treetSafe Boston, the Boston Foundation initiative dedicated to curbing youth violence in Boston's neighborhoods, held a moving "Word on the Street" session in early December that gave voice to four young men who live in neighborhoods focused on by the initiative.

The session opened with a brief statement from Abrial Forrester, a StreetSafe Program Coordinator, who connects youth with neighborhood resources. "When I was coming up, I felt socially threatened every day," he said, "and I didn't know how to get help. So, I understand the immediate needs—whether it's getting a GED, health care, housing or a job."

Anthony Robinson, Lead Streetworker for the Initiative, said that the goal for all of the streetworkers is to build lasting relationships with proven-risk youth and work with the initiative's program coordinators who connect them with services.

The four young men spoke eloquently of their own experiences. One said he had been shot on two occasions—once because he was just "walking down the wrong street." All of the men said they have buried numerous friends and family members struck down by violence.

When asked by audience members about how to counter the violence, two major themes emerged: jobs and activities, especially sports that offer youth the opportunity to interact physically in a safe setting.



*The Word on the Street is a compelling series of discussions that bring together residents, civic and business leaders and funders of StreetSafe Boston to learn about the devastating impact of youth violence on our city—and to share strategies for stopping the violence.*

## Boston By Night Tours Attract Media Attention

Robert Lewis Jr.



**A** major article in the *Boston Globe* on February 20th by Joseph P. Kahn, titled "An eye-opening ride into the city within the city," focused on the Boston Foundation's *Boston By Night* tours. Led by Vice President for Program, Robert Lewis Jr., the tours travel into neighborhoods served by StreetSafe Boston, a Boston Foundation initiative focused on reducing youth violence. The tour stops at playgrounds, community centers and other neighborhood-based sites for conversations with streetworkers, police officers, program coordinators and youth themselves. Some 250 philanthropists and civic and business leaders have taken the tour and \$2 million has been raised for the program.

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## There at the Beginning Boston Arts Academy



**U**nder the leadership of Headmaster Linda Nathan, Boston Arts Academy, one of the first pilot schools in the Boston Public Schools, has gained national, even international recognition. More than 90 percent of the school's grad-

uates go on to college, the result of a rigorous approach that combines a focus on the arts with a dedication to academic excellence. The Boston Foundation and its donors were "there at the beginning" with a \$30,000 grant in 1998 when the school first opened and since then have provided another \$800,000 in funding.

**This series is about the impact the Boston Foundations's unique role as a grantmaker has had on Greater Boston. Time and again, the Foundation has been 'there at the beginning,' providing seed capital for innovations in all areas of community life.**

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