

## Economic and Workforce Development Workshop Summary

June 20, 2016

The purpose of this workshop was to review aspects of the economic landscape, share the City's programs and strategies for workforce development and to learn about the economic development principles that may inform future Request for Proposal (RFP) creation and development priorities.

The PowerPoint presentation, development parcel information handout, and OWD reports can all be found online at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>.

### **OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING**

Prior to the start of the workshop, staff from the BRA and City of Boston spoke with workshop participants. Several informational presentation boards from previous workshops were displayed, as well as boards highlighting development parcel information.

### **WELCOME AND UPDATE**

Lara Merida, Deputy Director for Community Planning, welcomed participants and reviewed the goals of the PLAN: Dudley Square study and context.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW**

John Barros, Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston provided remarks on the economic landscape in Boston, market trends and strategies the City is pursuing to enhance economic opportunities in Boston's neighborhoods. Chief Barros underscored the importance of encouraging development in Dudley Square that meets the vision of the neighborhood and at the same time is able to deliver feasible outcomes. He pointed out that new development and neighborhood change will be expected to improve the economic outlook for residents and provide greater opportunities for Roxbury. In addition, he stressed that the City and community will need to act quickly in order to catch the current economic cycle. Finally, Chief Barros took questions from the audience.

Dana Whiteside, Deputy Director for Community Economic Development then presented more detailed information around current conditions and trends in Boston and Roxbury. He highlighted information such as the top five industries in Boston, number of jobs, percentages of jobs held by Roxbury residents and jobs located within the district. He then covered trends, future projections and discussed job creation opportunities through development.

# PLAN: Dudley Square

*Preserve. Enhance. Grow.*



## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW**

Trinh Nguyen, Director of Office of Workforce Development (OWD), gave a presentation highlighting OWD's work and findings on the Boston workforce. She presented information on unemployment, earnings and education. Director Nguyen emphasized the continuum which links workforce development and jobs to education and how OWD is working to scale up programs to enhance this connection. Additionally, she highlighted strategies to support Boston's labor market and residents' needs. While some strategies include the implementation of new programming, she acknowledged opportunities to work with existing institutions to bolster workforce development.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The next PLAN: Dudley Square workshop is scheduled for Monday, July 18th at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building. We will continue the discussion from the June 20th workshop. The focus will be to engage stakeholders in small group discussion around economic development priorities; review data and updated information requested on the June 20th workshop; and meet the consultant team of Next Street Financial and have an introductory overview on the principles of economic development feasibility. More details about this workshop will be coming soon. We look forward to having you join us!

## **ABOUT PLAN: DUDLEY SQUARE**

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of Requests for Proposals ("RFPs") for publicly-owned and vacant privately-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit the project website at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>

For any questions, comments or to join our mailing list please contact:

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