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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past year, the Summer Fund has undertaken an in-depth analysis of available data to define the shifting needs of the communities that it serves. This process has resulted in concrete findings that will inform the Summer Fund’s grantmaking strategy moving forward.

In the Greater Boston Area, demographics are continually shifting. Over the past few decades, the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville have all seen increases in their racial and ethnic diversity. Shifts in the demographics of these cities has resulted in shifts in the needs of each community served by the Summer Fund.

Homelessness, economic mobility and access to cultural enrichment continue to be major challenges in the Greater Boston area. Demand for the Summer Fund’s grantmaking initiatives in these areas continues to outpace the available resources.

In response to shifting demographics and needs, the Summer Fund will take a more proactive approach to grantmaking. By bolstering its internal data management systems and grounding its grantmaking strategies in community needs, the Summer Fund is equipped to provide more informed resources to the communities that it serves.

2018 SUMMER FUND FACTS

18,909 Youth Served
52 Partner Camps
100 Partner Sites
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Summer Fund is to ensure that underserved children and youth in the Greater Boston area have access to a wide variety of affordable, high-quality camp-based recreational and learning opportunities by providing resources for operational support, capacity building and professional development.

The Summer Fund is committed to being a donor collaborative that is intentional in its response to the ever-changing needs of underserved youth in the Greater Boston areas. This document develops a holistic narrative of the challenges faced by underserved youth and families within the Summer Fund’s catchment area of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Somerville. By defining and compiling key indicators of community need, reporting on the Summer Fund’s grant portfolio, and synthesizing data-driven strategic recommendations, this needs assessment sets the foundation for informed more grantmaking moving forward.

This document draws heavily on the U.S. Census, the various municipalities that the Summer Fund serves, as well as internal data collected from grantees. Metrics reviewed in this assessment include: median family income, poverty rate, income distribution, racial composition, homelessness rates, as well as less empirical data points such as access to transportation and healthy food. The goal in compiling this information is to stratify data geographically and create a catalogued breakdown of demographic and socio-economic trends. This information is then compared to the Summer Fund’s grant portfolio to determine whether the Summer Fund’s deployment of resources is commensurate with the observable needs of the communities it serves.

This needs assessment is part of a broad strategic effort by the Summer Fund to utilize data and metrics to better connect the Fund’s grantmaking efforts to needs of youth and families within its catchment area. This document creates a foundation for more informed grantmaking by defining the context in which the Summer Fund is situated with empirical data. Moreover, it creates a feedback loop between community needs and the Fund’s preexisting systems such as its eligibility criteria, application, grantmaking, and reporting. This community-based needs assessment will continue to bolster the Summer Fund’s capacity to make more informed decisions regarding the distribution of resources within its geographical purview.
SECTION 2
DEFINING NEED

Since the inception of the Summer Fund, the Greater Boston Area has become increasingly diverse. This trend is especially visible among children under 18, who made up approximately 17% of all Boston residents in 2015, and are predominantly Black and Latino [1]. As the poverty rate among minority populations is significantly higher than that of non-Hispanic white households, the socioeconomic dynamics of each neighborhood has been affected by this shift in demographics, necessitating a reevaluation of community needs. Many neighborhoods find themselves in greater need of resources serving minorities and foreign born residents. Other neighborhoods lack access to healthy food, affordable transportation, or educational and enrichment experiences. The Summer Fund aims to provide underserved youth with access to these and other resources by supporting summer programs that are equipped to respond to needs within their respective communities.

The benefits of summer programs for school aged youth are substantial. Research shows improved social and emotional learning skills among youth who complete summer programs [2], and finds that youth who complete summer programs demonstrate faster progression in regards to their 5 C’s: communication, community, competence, character, and confidence [3]. Programs with an academic learning component also help to curb summer learning loss, which disproportionately impacts low-income youth from communities of color. Summer programs help provide working parents with much needed child care in an environment that is mindful of nutrition, safety, social/emotional wellness, and cognitive development. Such programs are also sound social investments, as studies have shown that each dollar invested in summer learning programs has the potential to return between $7-16 in value [3].

Across the country, there is a significant gap between the demand for summer enrichment experiences and the resources available to meet that demand. Nationally, only 34% of families report sending a child to a summer program, but 50% express the desire to participate [2]. Barriers to access include affordability, lack of safe transportation, and lack of awareness.

SECTION 3

CITY PROFILES

The Summer Fund serves the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville. Each of these communities has unique characteristics and needs to which the Summer Fund must respond. By examining the socio-economic and ethnic trends of these cities, the Summer Fund can more effectively respond to changing community needs through its general operating support grants.

**Poverty Rates**
Each of the four municipalities within the Summer Fund’s catchment area experience poverty at a rate higher than the state average. Boston’s poverty rate is highest amongst the four Summer Fund cities, with just under 30% of residents living below the Federal Poverty line. Meanwhile, more than 60% of Chelsea residents live below 200% of the federal poverty rate, which indicates that the incomes of Chelsea residents are far below those of Cambridge and Somerville.

**Share of Impoverished Youth**
Given that Boston’s population is far greater than that of Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville, it has a far larger share of youth living in poverty. Of the 37,232 youth living in poverty within the Summer Fund’s catchment area, 31,651 (85%) live within Boston’s city limits. As a result, the Summer Fund allocates the majority of its resources to Boston youth, however it does so in a way that is commensurate with the observed levels of poverty in each of the cities that the Fund serves.
**Income Distribution**

In both Boston and Chelsea, more than 50% of the population is earning less than $50,000 per year. In Cambridge and Somerville, income distribution is skewed towards higher income brackets, which creates unique challenges for those living in poverty within those cities. Understanding income distribution is an integral aspect of informed grantmaking as it helps to define the types of unique challenges faced by underserved youth and families in each of the cities served by the Fund.

**Ethnic Distribution**

The ethnic distribution of the cities served by the Summer Fund is in constant flux. Boston and Chelsea have become increasingly diverse over the past half century and are both majority-minority communities. In Cambridge and Somerville, ethnic distribution has remained largely constant over the past few decades, with each community’s population remaining majority white.
CITY PROFILE

BOSTON

As the largest municipality within the Summer Fund’s catchment area, Boston garners a large percentage of its investments at over 60%. Boston’s 22 neighborhoods have become increasingly diverse over the past half century from both a socio-economic and ethnic standpoint. In 2018, more than half of the city’s population was documented as non-white individuals. While family incomes have been increasing in the City of Boston over the past few decades, 40% of the city’s families still make fewer than $50,000 a year. In a city where the average rent is more than $1,300 per month and 30% of youth are living below the federal poverty line, the demand for Summer Fund resources remains as high as ever.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 658,279
Child Population: 107,291
Number of Families: 124,198

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $66,222
As % of MA Median: 73.2%
Poverty Rate: 21.1%
Child Poverty Rate: 29.5%

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 11,138
# of Camps Serving 10+:Boston Youth: 42
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Boston: 60.51%
The City of Cambridge is the second largest municipality within the Summer Funds catchment area, and approximately 12% of the Fund’s resources are directed towards Cambridge youth. While income metrics might indicate a low need for philanthropic resources in Cambridge, a large percentage of the youth population lives in public housing developments. The higher cost of living that results from gentrification has negatively impacted low-income residents and has compounded issues such as youth homelessness.

**Demographic Profile**
- Total Population: 108,757
- Child Population: 12,611
- Number of Families: 18,805

**Socio-Economic Profile**
- Median Family Income: $107,897
- As % of MA Median: 119.2%
- Poverty Rate: 14.0%
- Child Poverty Rate: 14.0%

**Summer Fund**
- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 1054
- # of Camps Serving 10+ Cambridge Youth: 19
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Cambridge: 12.61%
The City of Chelsea is the smallest municipality served by the Summer Fund in terms of population, but it is by far the most diverse with over 75 percent of its population identifying as non-white. Chelsea also has the lowest income metrics of the cities served by the Summer Fund, with more than 26 percent of youth living below the federal poverty line and more than 70 percent of its population making fewer than $50,000 per year. Chelsea has far fewer private and non-profit resources available to it than other cities within the Summer Fund’s catchment area, which further underscores the demand for the Summer Fund within the City.

**Demographic Profile**

- Total Population: 38,244
- Child Population: 9,794
- Number of Families: 7,863

**Socio-Economic Profile**

- Median Family Income: $53,219
- As % of MA Median: 58.8%
- Poverty Rate: 19.3%
- Child Poverty Rate: 26.6%

**Summer Fund**

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 532
- # of Camps Serving 10+: Chelsea Youth: 7
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Chelsea: 5.38%
CITY PROFILE

SOMERVILLE

Somerville has undergone significant gentrification over past few decades and as a result, has a high percentage of wealthy residents. While this reduces the overall need for resources within the community, it magnifies the need for Summer Fund resources that are allocated towards Somerville’s low-income youth. As the community continues to shift to suit the needs of newer, wealthier residents, resources that have historically been available to low-income families in Somerville may no longer be accessible. The Summer Fund’s resources in Somerville aim to serve these families by ensuring that summer camps in the city are able to subsidize camperships for residents that are grappling with the ill-effects of demographic shifts.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 79,507
Child Population: 9,474
Number of Families: 13,983

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $84,896
As % of MA Median: 93.8%
Poverty Rate: 13.3%
Child Poverty Rate: 20.6%

Income Distribution of Somerville

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>% of Population</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $14,999</td>
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<td>$15,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $199,999</td>
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<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>4%</td>
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Ethnic Distribution of Somerville

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>% of Population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/AFAm</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 454
# of Camps Serving 10+ Somerville Youth: 6
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Somerville: 3.27%
Each neighborhood in Boston has its own unique traits, personality, and needs. Through an in-depth examination of data, both quantitative and qualitative, this section provides an overview of Boston's neighborhoods as well as the Summer Fund's presence in each. This enables more informed grantmaking that is responsive to the changing demographics of the Boston Metro Area.

Child Poverty Rates by Neighborhood Over Time

Child Poverty Rates By Neighborhood
Child poverty rates vary by neighborhood, and are especially high in Mission Hill, Fenway, and Roxbury. The overall child poverty rate in Boston varies year to year. Child poverty rates are trending upwards in Mattapan, Mission Hill, and Fenway, while decreasing in Allston, Charlestown, and South Boston.
Child Poverty Rates By Neighborhood

Given the high cost of living in Boston, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) can be a misleading indicator of poverty. Some consider 200% of FPL to be more representative, as households in that range still struggle financially. For example, in 2014 200% FPL for a family of 4 was $48,500, but a 2-parent 2-child household in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton area required $85,793 for a secure standard of living. Poverty in neighborhoods like Dorchester and East Boston become more apparent using this measure, as does the scope of poverty in Mission Hill and Roxbury.

Share of Boston Population and Impoverished Population by Neighborhood

This chart shows how the distribution of Boston's population compares to the distribution of those living in poverty. Roxbury has a much higher share of impoverished residents than its population would predict, and Mission Hill has almost twice its expected share. Conversely, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and especially West Roxbury house far fewer of Boston's poor than their population would suggest.
Boston Income Distribution by Neighborhood

The above chart indicates that some neighborhoods have earnings clustered towards the lower end of the range (below $50,000 as represented by the yellow bar segments), such as Roxbury, Mission Hill, Mattapan, East Boston, and Dorchester. Other neighborhoods are quite affluent, such as the North End, Back Bay, and Beacon Hill.

Boston Ethnic Distribution by Neighborhood

Predominantly Black neighborhoods of Boston are Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Roxbury. These areas tend to be in the lower income bracket. East Boston has the largest share of Hispanics, followed by Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Roxbury. The largest concentration of Asians is the Downtown area (which includes Chinatown), followed by Allston. Many neighborhoods are majority white, but especially Beacon Hill and the North End, which are two of the wealthiest areas in Boston.
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

ALLSTON

Allston is a relatively affluent neighborhood, with a majority-White but overall diverse population. Allston has the 2nd highest concentration of Asian residents, behind Downtown/Chinatown. Notable for a large and youthful student population, 78% of Allston residents are 18-34 years old, 54% are enrolled in college or university, and 28% live in student housing. These characteristics contribute to a higher official poverty rate, as many students have low/no income while in school.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 19,399
Child Population: 829
Number of Families: 1,343

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $67,538
As % of Boston Median: 101.8%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 3.5%
Child Poverty Rate: 19.9%

Income Distribution of Allston

- $150,000+: 14%
- $100,000-149,999: 20%
- $75,000-99,999: 11.5%
- $50,000-74,999: 15.7%
- $35,000-49,999: 8.0%
- $25,000-34,999: 11.2%
- $15,000-24,999: 15.3%
- $14,999 and under: 4.2%

Ethnic Distribution of Allston

Summer Fund

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 220
- # of Camps Serving 10+: 3
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Allston: 1.35%
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

BACK BAY

Back Bay is a historically homogenous neighborhood that has grown more diverse since 2000, with the share of White residents dropping from 83% to 76%. Back Bay is also one of the most affluent neighborhoods in Boston, as over half of all families earn an annual income of over $150,000. Rent is accordingly one of the most expensive in Boston: median rent is at $2,030 per month, while market rent is as high as $3,627 (both 2nd highest in the city). Given the income distribution, Back Bay does not demonstrate a significant need for Summer Fund resources.

Demographic Profile

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<thead>
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<th>Value</th>
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<td>18,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Population</td>
<td>1,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Families</td>
<td>3,410</td>
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Socio-Economic Profile

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Median Family Income</td>
<td>$159,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of Boston Median</td>
<td>240.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Share of Boston Impoverished pop</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate</td>
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</table>

Income Distribution of Back Bay

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<tr>
<td>$100,000-149,999</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$75,000-99,999</td>
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<td>$50,000-74,999</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>$35,000-49,999</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000-34,999</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000-24,999</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14,999 and under</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Ethnic Distribution of Back Bay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>White</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian/PI</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Summer Fund

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Youth at Summer Fund sites</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Camps Serving 10+ Back Bay Youth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Back Bay</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
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NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

BEACON HILL

Beacon Hill very homogenous: 87% of residents are White and only 10% are foreign born. It is the most affluent neighborhood in Boston, with the highest median income and highest share of families earning over $150,000. Beacon Hill has the 3rd highest median rent in the city ($1,810), which is notable given the prevalence of single person households (over 50%). With few families on the low end of the income distribution, and limited youth presence, Beacon Hill does not demonstrate a significant need for Summer Fund resources.

**Demographic Profile**

- Total Population: 9,211
- Child Population: 666
- Number of Families: 1,466

**Socio-Economic Profile**

- Median Family Income: $187,324
- As % of Boston Median: 282.9%
- % Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 0.7%
- Child Poverty Rate: 0.0%

**Summer Fund**

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 2
- # of Camps Serving 10+ Beacon Hill Youth: 0
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Beacon Hill: 0.02%

Ethnic Distribution of Beacon Hill

Income Distribution of Beacon Hill
Like its neighbor Allston, Brighton is a relatively affluent, majority-White neighborhood, with a large student population. 60% of residents are between the ages of 18-34, and 28% are enrolled in college or university. This contributes to the poverty rate as many students have low/no income while in school.

Demographic Profile

- Total Population: 49,055
- Child Population: 4,425
- Number of Families: 6,740

Socio-Economic Profile

- Median Family Income: $69,138
- As % of Boston Median: 104.4%
- % Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 7.8%
- Child Poverty Rate: 20.2%

Summer Fund

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 370
- # of Camps Serving 10+: Brighton Youth: 5
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Brighton: 2.42%
Charlestown is a majority-White neighborhood notable for its income disparity. 55.8% of families earn over $100,000 a year, however 17.4% of families earn below $15,000. Charlestown is growing fast (19% since 2000) and has the largest share of children under age 5 in the city, making its high child poverty rate relative to overall poverty concerning. Despite the 2nd lowest median rent in the city ($1,127), Charlestown lacks access to key resources for low income families, there is only one food pantry in the neighborhood and zero meal programs.

**Demographic Profile**

- Total Population: 18,314
- Child Population: 3,442
- Number of Families: 3,867

**Socio-Economic Profile**

- Median Family Income: $114,373
- As % of Boston Median: 172.7%
- % Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 2.7%
- Child Poverty Rate: 38.2%

**Summer Fund**

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 167
- # of Camps Serving 10+: Charlestown Youth: 3
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Charlestown: 2.36%
Neighborhood Profile

Dorchester

Dorchester by far the largest Boston neighborhood by population, with over twice as many residents as any other area. It is also among the more diverse neighborhoods in Boston, with one of the highest shares of Black residents, and a larger than average foreign-born population (34%). Dorchester skews young, with school age children making up 17% of residents. Over 9000 youth live in poverty, the most of any neighborhood. The income distribution is weighted towards the bottom of the range, with nearly half of families earning less than $50,000.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 124,864
Child Population: 28,183
Number of Families: 26,691

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $52,119
As % of Boston Median: 78.7%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 22.6%
Child Poverty Rate: 32.6%

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 3,001
# of Camps Serving 10+ Dorchester Youth: 32
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Dorchester: 29.74%
The Downtown area includes Chinatown, the Leather District, and the Financial District. The neighborhood population has been growing rapidly, up 48% since 2000. While majority-White, Downtown has by far the largest share of Asian residents of any neighborhood, at over 31%. Income distribution is weighted towards the top, but is otherwise evenly distributed. There are very few school-age children relative to the total population, and the child poverty rate is also low relative to the overall rate. This indicates a lower need for Summer Fund resources.
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE
EAST BOSTON

East Boston is a growing neighborhood, with population increasing 17% since 2000. It is a particularly diverse neighborhood, with the highest share of Hispanic residents in the city, and over half of its population foreign born (both shares are increasing). Family income is evenly distributed, but child poverty is particularly high, with nearly 3000 youth living in poverty (3rd highest in the city). Isolated from the rest of Boston by water, it is difficult for residents to access resources outside of their neighborhood, which is an issue as there are only 2 food pantries in the area.

Demographic Profile
Total Population: 46,208
Child Population: 9,679
Number of Families: 9,540

Socio-Economic Profile
Median Family Income $51,711
As % of Boston Median 78.1%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop 6.8%
Child Poverty Rate 30.1%

Income Distribution of East Boston

Ethnic Distribution of East Boston

Summer Fund
# of Youth at Summer Fund sites 719
# of Camps Serving 10+ East Boston Youth 7
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to East Boston 9.61%
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

FENWAY

Fenway is an area with high income disparity: there is nearly the same share of families earning over $150,000 as there are earning less than $15,000. Ethnically the neighborhood is diverse, with the 3rd highest share of Asian residents in the city, and a growing Hispanic community. There are very few children in the Fenway area, but among that population the poverty rate is high. There is a large student population, with 43% of residents living in dorms or other institutions, contributing to the high poverty rate.

Demographic Profile

| Total Population: | 32,275 |
| Child Population: | 766   |
| Number of Families: | 1,906 |

Socio-Economic Profile

| Median Family Income | $61,542 |
| As % of Boston Median | 92.2% |
| % Share of Boston Impoverished pop | 5.9% |
| Child Poverty Rate | 56.5% |

Income Distribution of Fenway

- $150,000+: 23.4%
- $75,000-99,999: 12.8%
- $50,000-74,999: 8.8%
- $35,000-49,999: 14.2%
- $25,000-34,999: 6.3%
- $15,000-24,999: 4.6%
- $14,999 and under: 7.6%

Ethnic Distribution of Fenway

- White: 22.3%
- Black/African American: 19.1%
- Hispanic: 14.2%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 10.9%
- Other: 25.3%

Summer Fund

| # of Youth at Summer Fund sites | 50 |
| # of Camps Serving 10+ Fenway Youth | 2 |
| % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Fenway | 0.54% |
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

HYDE PARK

Hyde Park is an area of growing diversity, with a high share of Black and Hispanic residents and a declining White population. Hyde Park is also the youngest Boston neighborhood, with 22.8% of its population under 18 years old. Hyde Park has lower level of poverty than would be expected given its population, with only 2.8% of Boston’s poor compared to 5.5% of its population. Subsequently there are relatively few resources available for low-income families (including only 2 food pantries) despite over 1300 youth living in poverty.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 36,123
Child Population: 8,230
Number of Families: 8,967

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $73,792
As % of Boston Median: 111.4%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 2.8%
Child Poverty Rate: 16.5%

Income Distribution of Hyde Park

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 779
# of Camps Serving 10+ Hyde Park Youth: 14
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Hyde Park: 5.31%
Jamaica Plain is a diverse neighborhood that has seen the effects of gentrification. Despite a steady total population, the share of White residents in the area has been growing since 2000, while Black and Hispanic shares have shrunk. The income distribution is weighted towards the high end of the range, with nearly 45% of families earning more than $100,000. Nonetheless, there are over 1,600 youth living in poverty, the 6th highest amount among Boston neighborhoods.

**Demographic Profile**
- Total Population: 39,176
- Child Population: 6,352
- Number of Families: 7,763

**Socio-Economic Profile**
- Median Family Income: $90,484
- As % of Boston Median: 136.6%
- % Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 4.8%
- Child Poverty Rate: 25.4%

**Summer Fund**
- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 1,113
- # of Camps Serving 10+ Jamaica Plain Youth: 10
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Jamaica Plain: 3.99%
Mattapan has by far the largest share of Black residents of any Boston neighborhood. It also has high levels of poverty, with over half of all families earning less than $50,000 a year. The child poverty rate is especially high, and over 2,200 youth are living in poverty, the 4th highest total in the city. Mattapan’s overall population has remained steady since 2000, and limited housing development activity in the area suggests this trend will continue. Mattapan’s food resources are concentrated in certain areas, making access difficult for some low-income residents as transportation options are limited.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 25,792
Child Population: 5,537
Number of Families: 6,018

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income $48,682
As % of Boston Median 73.5%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop 4.4%
Child Poverty Rate 40%

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites 631
# of Camps Serving 10+ Mattapan Youth 15
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Mattapan 5.74%
MISSION HILL

Mission Hill is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Boston, as well as the most impoverished. While not heavily populated, Mission Hill is home to nearly twice as many of Boston’s poor as would be expected given its population, including over 1300 youth. Mission Hill has the lowest median family income and highest neighborhood poverty rate among both overall and among children. An astounding 82% of children live under the 200% Federal Poverty Level threshold. Despite its small size, the population has increased over 20% since 2000, and development activity indicates this trend is likely to continue.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 16,973
Child Population: 1,977
Number of Families: 2,301

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income $28,764
As % of Boston Median 43.3%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop 5.1%
Child Poverty Rate 66.5%

Income Distribution of Mission Hill

Ethnic Distribution of Mission Hill

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites 222
# of Camps Serving 10+ Mission Hill Youth 5
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Mission Hill 3.18%
The North End is Boston’s most homogenous neighborhood, with a 90% White population. It is among the most affluent as well, with family income heavily concentrated at the top of the distribution. It also boasts the highest market rate rent in Boston at $3,674 per month. The North End is one of the smaller neighborhoods with a low child population and a negligible child poverty rate. As such, the need for Summer Fund resources here is low.
Roslindale is a diverse, relatively affluent neighborhood. Its family income distribution is weighted towards the top, and it has a low overall poverty rate. There has been little population growth since 2000, and development trends indicate this trend is likely to continue. There is a sizable youth population, meaning despite its relative affluence there are still nearly 1,000 children living in poverty.
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

ROXBURY

Roxbury is the 2nd largest Boston neighborhood and is growing fast, having seen a population increase of over 24% since 2000. It is very diverse, with the 2nd largest share of Black residents in Boston and a sizable Hispanic population. Roxbury is among Boston’s most impoverished neighborhoods. Over 64% of families earn below $50,000, resulting in Boston’s 2nd lowest median income. Roxbury is a youthful area with an above average share of children, who unfortunately suffer from Boston’s 3rd highest child poverty rate. Over 5,000 children are living in poverty, behind only Dorchester.

Demographic Profile

Total Population: 51,714
Child Population: 11,462
Number of Families: 10,941

Socio-Economic Profile

Median Family Income: $33,661
As % of Boston Median: 50.8%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 13.1%
Child Poverty Rate: 48.4%

Summer Fund

# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 1036
# of Camps Serving 10+ Roxbury Youth: 16
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to Roxbury: 11.23%

Ethnic Distribution of Roxbury

Income Distribution of Roxbury
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE
SOUTH BOSTON

South Boston is a largely homogenous neighborhood which has seen a slight increase in diversity as its high share of White residents has been decreasing since 2000. In the same time span the overall population has grown rapidly, up 24% and poised to continue. It is an affluent neighborhood with notable income disparity, as a quarter of South Boston families earn less than $25,000. It also has a high child poverty rate relative to its overall rate, which may be attributable to the fact that South Boston has three large public housing developments.

Demographic Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>35,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Population</td>
<td>4,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Families</td>
<td>6,534</td>
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</table>

Socio-Economic Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Family Income</td>
<td>$78,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of Boston Median</td>
<td>119.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Share of Boston Impoverished pop</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Youth at Summer Fund sites</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Camps Serving 10+ South Boston Youth</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to South Boston</td>
<td>6.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The South End is a diverse, affluent neighborhood with a notable income disparity. While 43.7% of families earn over $150,000, 20.2% are earning less than $25,000. The South End is one of Boston’s fastest growing neighborhoods, with population growth of over 45% since 2000 and showing no signs of slowing. The South End is home to a number of public housing developments that are home to a large population of low-income, black and Hispanic families. The area surrounding these developments has been heavily gentrified, meaning that resources for low-income families have become less prevalent in recent years.

### Demographic Profile

- **Total Population:** 31,920
- **Child Population:** 4,403
- **Number of Families:** 6,119

### Socio-Economic Profile

- **Median Family Income:** $116,487
- **As % of Boston Median:** 175.9%
- **% Share of Boston Impoverished pop:** 5%
- **Child Poverty Rate:** 22.2%

### Summer Fund

- **# of Youth at Summer Fund sites:** 382
- **# of Camps Serving 10+ South End Youth:** 12
- **% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to South End:** 4.48%
The West End is the smallest Boston neighborhood for which data is readily available, comprising less than 1% of the total population. It has recently begun experiencing rapid growth, seeing a population increase of nearly 50% since 2010. It seems likely that the majority of new residents are affluent, as the median rent is currently the highest in Boston at $2,350 and over 75% of West End families earn over $75,000.

Demographic Profile
Total Population: 6,062
Child Population: 537
Number of Families: 900

Socio-Economic Profile
Median Family Income: $128,000
As % of Boston Median: 193.3%
% Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 0.8%
Child Poverty Rate: 14.9%

Summer Fund
# of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 11
# of Camps Serving 10+ West End Youth: 0
% of Summer Fund Money Allocated to West End: 0.09%
Neighborhood Profile

West Roxbury

West Roxbury is an affluent neighborhood that is largely White but has seen an increase in diversity since 2000. The poverty rate is low, and the median income is over $100,000. Due to this socioeconomic identity, there are few resources available for the low-income families that do live in the neighborhood. There are no food pantries or meal programs in West Roxbury and limited transportation makes it difficult for residents to access resources in other areas of the city.

Demographic Profile

- Total Population: 32,891
- Child Population: 7,023
- Number of Families: 8,531

Socio-Economic Profile

- Median Family Income: $105,407
- As % of Boston Median: 159.2%
- % Share of Boston Impoverished pop: 1.8%
- Child Poverty Rate: 10.8%

Summer Fund

- # of Youth at Summer Fund sites: 454
- # of Camps Serving 10+ West Roxbury Youth: 5
- % of Summer Fund Money Allocated to West Roxbury: 1.99%
ISSUE-BASED GRANTMAKING INITIATIVES

With over 50 grantees across four cities and more than 40 community partners, the Summer Fund is uniquely situated to develop and manage partnerships that provide resources to critical community needs. Having identified homelessness, lack of economic mobility, and lack of access to cultural enrichment as major issues facing young people in the Greater Boston area, the Summer Fund has developed three strategic initiatives that focus on these issues.

The Homeless Campership Fund provides resources to homeless shelters and partner camps in order to ensure that youth experiencing homelessness have a safe place to go during the summer. The Teen Leadership Institute provides youth with the skills and competencies necessary to take control of their careers and develop lasting professional connections. The Cultural Access Initiative provides resources to camps and develops connections with local enrichment providers to remove barriers to these experiences.

2018 INITIATIVES KEY OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Campership Fund</td>
<td>420 Youth Subsidized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Leadership Institute</td>
<td>170 Youth Trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Access Initiative</td>
<td>12,000 Youth Served</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Problem
Youth Homelessness is a growing issue in Massachusetts and Greater Boston as the number of families in shelters has increased by 93% over the last ten years, a rate far above the national average. The unpredictable nature of homelessness prevents families from establishing the healthy life practices and consistent routines that children need. Homeless youth are more likely to participate in alcohol and drug use, engage in gang activity, and exhibit higher rates of depression and self-harm. Studies show that stable environments can help improve health and educational outcomes in young children, helping to mitigate the ill effects of sustained homelessness.

The Landscape

Boston: In 2017 Boston recorded over 2,000 homeless children for the 4th consecutive year, and Boston Public Schools reported over 3,500 students experienced homelessness at some point during the 2016-17 school year.

Cambridge: The Cambridge homeless survey recorded 84 homeless children on a single night January 2018, while the Cambridge Public School system identifies around 400 students who experienced homelessness.

Somerville: In 2017, US Department of Housing and Urban Development reported 21 homeless youth in the city, and Somerville Public Schools reported 94 youth experiencing homelessness.

Chelsea: Despite being one third the size of Cambridge, Chelsea Public Schools report a similar number of youth experiencing homelessness, most recently identifying a total of 363 homeless students.

Homeless Campership Fund
The Summer Fund’s Homeless Campership Fund (HCF), supported by the Liberty Mutual Foundation, eases the burden faced by families experiencing homelessness by providing children access to a safe and productive environment during the summer months. Through this funding mechanism, Summer Fund camps provide youth with food, transportation, and supervision; all of which are invaluable resources to parents. In 2018, HCF partnered with over 30 shelters and summer programs to provide over 1,200 weeks of camp to youth affected by homelessness at no cost to their families. While this figure is impressive, it represents less than half of the 3,120 weeks requested by the Summer Fund's partners in 2018. Additionally, HCF partner agencies represent only a small fraction of those providing services to homeless families in Greater Boston, which indicates that need far outweighs the available resources.
The Problem
Since the beginning of the 2000’s, job prospects for teens have become increasingly scarce as youth have begun competing with older and more experienced workers in the labor market. The impact of this employment trend is felt keenly by historically disadvantaged groups. In Boston, the employment rate for White youth age 16-19 is 32.2%, higher than the rates for Black (22.3%), Hispanic (31.4%), or Asian (25.6%) subgroups. Research shows that the lack of early work experience can have a negative impact on employment and earnings later in life. Positive impacts of early exposure to the workforce include the development of hard and soft professional skills, improved academic outcomes, and the development of sustained professional connections.

The Landscape
There are several programs throughout the Greater Boston area that provide support to teens seeking employment, including Boston Center for Youth and Families and the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC). In Cambridge, the Office of Workforce Development coordinates several job programs, including the Mayor’s Summer Youth Program, while in Somerville the Somerville Mayor’s Job Program serves a similar function. In Chelsea, opportunities are more limited. The main job placement hub for teens is the Chelsea Works Collaborative, which places around 200 youth each year. These programs provide invaluable experience to their participants but in order to ensure that these youth can be successful, workforce training programs are necessary.

Teen Leadership Institute
The Summer Fund’s Teen Leadership Institute (TLI), supported by Bank of America and implemented in partnership with Hale Reservation and the Boston Private Industry Council, provides students with the tools and training to achieve success in summer jobs at youth-serving organizations. In 2018, the TLI provided 170 Boston Public High School teens job training, workplace skills, leadership development and CPR training to better prepare them for success in a summer employment opportunity. Youth who participate in job placement programs are trained on key skills such as conflict resolution, building positive culture, teamwork development and interview skills. By providing workforce training workshops to participants, the Teen Leadership Institute provides local organizations with a highly trained youth workforce and empowers youth participants to become upwardly mobile in their careers.
CULTURAL ACCESS

The Problem
Many youth in the Greater Boston area are underexposed to cultural resources. Particularly within communities of color, residents report difficulty in accessing Boston's cultural and educational resources. Youth, especially, are unsure at which institutions and creative spaces they are welcome. Many feel that certain cultural venues and events in the city are "not for them." Other barriers to accessing cultural resources include lack of transportation/concerns about safe travel, high cost of entry, lack of suitable accessories (e.g. swimsuit for the beach), and lack of knowledge regarding resources that address these issues. Among low-income populations, increased exposure to cultural resources can be associated with improved outcomes around health, education, and personal security. Neighborhood cultural ecology also contributes to other dimensions of wellbeing by increasing social connection, fostering political engagement and encouraging exploration of cultural identity.

The Landscape
Boston: The city is home to more than 1,500 nonprofit arts and culture organizations, comparable to much larger cities such as San Francisco and Chicago. However, arts and culture organizations outside of downtown are likely to be small and underfunded. Cambridge/Somerville: Both cities boast a thriving local arts scene, with over 1,000 professional artists and cultural organizations operating in the area. Affordability and location issues can still impose barriers to access for low-income families. Chelsea: This area has fewer resources available, although in 2018 the Chelsea Cultural Council awarded grants to 13 local artists and cultural organizations. Limited transportation options make it more difficult for residents to access cultural opportunities outside of the city.

Cultural Access Initiative
The Summer Fund’s Cultural Access Initiative (CAI) is a key resource for many Summer Fund camps. By subsidizing field trips for youth in greater Boston, the CAI provides camps with the opportunity to explore some of the area’s foremost cultural institutions. In 2018, over 12,000 campers enjoyed free field trips, on-site cultural activities, and other arts and historical experiences provided by 25 participating cultural organizations. CAI fosters the development of long-term relationships between our summer camp partners and cultural resource providers, increasing opportunities for future participants.

"Our kayaking trip, funded through the Cultural Access Initiative was something that our families will remember for years to come. Many youth in East Boston live on the coast but have never had an opportunity to truly explore the ocean. Through CAI, they were finally able to do so."

-East Boston Social Centers
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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