



Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community



Hi All:

As I write this, I find it hard to believe that I am just weeks away from retiring from a non-profit career that began in 1978 as a VISTA volunteer organizing to fight economic inequality. Over the past 9 years, it was my honor to lead a mission driven organization whose fiercely dedicated team is committed to improving the fabric of Fenway one building at a time and enhancing the quality of life for our neighborhood and beyond.

I have always been motivated to make a difference and the legacy I leave includes doubling our housing portfolio - including our first foray into affordable home ownership, doubling our diverse and creative staff, being a founding contributor of Fenway Cares, Fenway Porchfest, and our own Taste of the Fenway. I have been instrumental in bringing the first non-profit childcare center to the Fenway, and Fenway CDC will be soon be hosting a new skills training center in our backyard.

None of this would have been possible without engaging with businesses, developers, institutions and other hyper-local, city and state organizations for alliances, collaborations, and partnerships. I do not believe in duplicating services that already exist but contribute to expansion whenever possible. Along with my staff and the support of our volunteers and Board, I believe we've made a significant difference for our members, residents, and the community at large. When I look at where we were a decade ago and where we are today, there is so much for us to recognize and be proud of.

Another point of pride is the difference we've made in terms of our local presence. When I interviewed for this position, board leadership expressed a desire for us to be a force in the community, where city, state, and our political representatives looked to us as thought leaders and as gatekeepers for preserving the Fenway and expanding it thoughtfully. We are routinely sought out as affordable housing experts and serve on many task forces and coalitions throughout the City.

I am going to enjoy my retirement knowing that we have a stellar group of senior staff and board leadership who will take Fenway CDC into the future. With a robust housing pipeline, progress on passing life changing laws for those most vulnerable, and a new strategic plan to chart a future path, I encourage you to stay involved knowing that you can make a lasting difference as well.

I will miss you all and wish you nothing but the best in your personal and professional lives.

Leah Camhi
Executive Director