



Greetings!

It's been nearly a year since we've transitioned into virtual lives. While we've worked hard to find glimpses of hope and joy in our lives, nothing is more inspiring than front line workers, and now our older friends, getting vaccinated. It will still be some time before we're all celebrating together, but a new beginning is in sight.

Now is the time to take inventory of the lessons we've learned this year. What gaps and inequities has the pandemic shone a spotlight on? What about the "old normal" do we want to leave in the past? What do we want to hold on to?

One disparity that has become a cornerstone of LBFE's pandemic-era work is the Digital Divide. When in-person socializing became too dangerous people started working from home, attending Zoom meetings and happy-hours, watching more YouTube and Netflix, replacing visits with Face Time. Due to lack of access to devices, no internet connectivity, inability to use the internet, or disinterest - older adults were left behind. We made it our mission in 2020 to get the older adults in our programs access to tablets, internet, instruction/support, and a "place" to go to make friends, socialize, and remain a part of their community. As we begin the next session of our Virtual Intergenerational CitySites program, I am proud of our LBFE Family and how far we've come. You've moved mountains to provide older adults the resources to be a part of the online conversation, and to ensure there was someone on the other end to talk to. I will never forget the kindness and care you've all shown this year.

While we need to remain distanced for a little while longer, we are committed to continuing our work in the digital space. We will someday return to in-person activities - older and younger participants will gather together again to laugh, hug, play a game, share a skill. Maybe we'll even be able to have a picnic this summer in the fresh air, sharing a meal and companionship. When the time comes to transition back to our usual work - we will remember what we learned this year. We will continue to advocate for better, more affordable internet access for older adults. We will continue to deploy student volunteers to provide tech training and support. We will help older adults integrate into what is surely to be a more hybrid world even more dependent on technology.

Until then, thank you for continuing to support LBFE's virtual programming. For allowing us to provide activities, classes, and social spaces to all of our older friends across the city.

Warmly,

Nikki Shults
Executive Director



LBFE In the News

Every fall LBFE partners with FriendshipWorks and Sherrill House for a Service of Remembrance. This year's service was held virtually with poetry, music, and the reading of names. WBUR's Martha Bebinger covered the story to honor the lives lost this year.

[Listen Here](#)



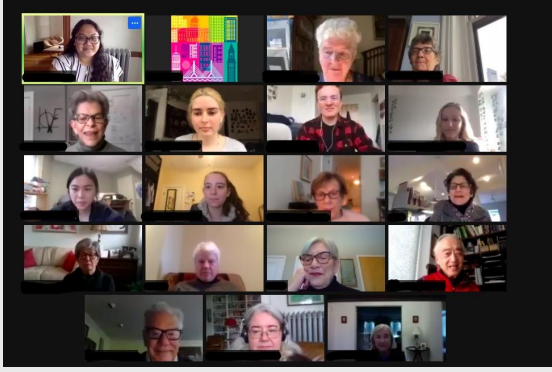
LBFE Awarded Open Door Grant

LBFE has received a \$25,000 grant from the Boston Foundation for intergenerational programs that aim to relieve isolation and loneliness among the elderly, through the Foundation's Open Door Grants program.

[Read Here](#)

New Partnerships

LBFE is pleased to be partnering with two new communities this Spring: Beacon Hill Village and Better Day Adult Day Programs! We kicked off the first partnership with a [virtual intergenerational trivia game](#) last week!



The Washington Post

From The Washington Post

This article, *[She's 90 and Italian. I'm in my 30s and half Indian. Here's why we're the closest of friends](#)* in The Washington Post could have been about any of the college students in our intergenerational CitySites program (minus the fees for service!). Wonderful things happen when older and younger people have the opportunity to meet.

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