



Annual Report FU 2023

Dear Friends,

Every Thursday afternoon this spring, about a dozen older adults gathered for an art class hosted by LBFE's Creative Connections in the community room of their South



End building. With support from their amazing instructor, Mimi Desir, they spent two hours painting, chatting, and encouraging each other. The building's Resident Service Coordinator, Xing, moved among the students, offering comments and acting as translator, because most of the participants were more comfortable speaking Mandarin or Cantonese. The mood was warm and low-key, until the end of class, when students walked around the tables, exclaiming over each other's paintings.

Last Thursday, with Xing's help, I asked students what they liked about the class. Many mentioned the opportunity to be creative, but another common response was "being with everyone." Said one participant: "It gets everyone together." What a good description of what LBFE Boston does in our programming—we bring people together, and we do it across age and linguistic and cultural differences. Whether through CitySites and intergenerational engagement, or Digital Dividends and technology training, or Creative Connections and the arts, LBFE Boston brings people together.

In my 10th year at LBFE Boston, and my first as Executive Director, I am grateful to have the privilege of doing work that connects us to one another. In the larger world we too often see the consequences of division and social isolation. With your continued support, LBFE Boston will remain a small but bright beacon, bringing joy and connection to older adults throughout Boston and helping to build community wherever we go.

Thank you,

Cynthia Wilkerson, Executive Director

LBFE Boston Programs

Since 1979, LBFE Boston has sought to alleviate social isolation among older Bostonians. While our programs have evolved over the years, our motto remains the same: "Flowers Before Bread." We understand that opportunities for joy, surprise, and growth are essential throughout the lifespan, and we remain committed to creating inclusive, joyful, and expansive programming for Boston's older adults.



"I thought the program was fantastic and can't wait to see it grow." **Toniy, CitySites Older Adult Participant** 



Today, our innovative work focuses on a unique range of intergenerational, technology, and arts programming through CitySites, Digital Dividends, and Creative Connections. We are pleased to share our IMPACT in FY 2023 across LBFE Boston's programs.

Programs by the Numbers



& Digital Dividends

programs were held

Boston programs were held in

# Intergenerational Programs: CitySites & Digital Dividends

Intergenerational engagement, which includes bringing together older adults and younger college students for weekly activities and tech classes, is one of the organization's key areas of focus.

#### CitySites

In partnership with service-learning and community engagement programs at several Boston colleges and universities, we offer weekly intergenerational activities in public/affordable senior housing and senior centers.





#### **Digital Dividends**

Classes of 10-15 adults in public/affordable senior housing are given laptops and internet connectivity free of charge along with weekly training provided by LBFE staff and college students from our partner institutions.

Creative Connections

In 2022, we began offering classes led by professional instructors in painting, dance, and other arts. For many program participants, it was an opportunity to explore a new area of creative engagement.







New Program: Gen2GenQ

In 2023, LBFE Boston Executive Director Cynthia Wilkerson became part of the inaugural cohort of Eisner Prize Fellows. The Eisner Foundation identifies, advocates for, and invests in highquality and innovative programs that unite multiple generations for the enrichment of our communities, and the Eisner Prize Fellow is a new program designed to support leaders pioneering innovations in intergenerational connection.

Cynthia's project, Gen2GenQ, will create opportunities for intergenerational connection between older and younger LGBTQ+ community members in Greater Boston.



Special Community Events

Each year, LBFE Boston hosts one-time community events, programs, and holiday celebrations. Here are just a few of those special moments.



BC Common Tones performing at Springhouse Senior Living



Summer Picnic at Larz Anderson Park in Brookline



Ice Cream Social at Talbot House with Bay Cove Human Services

"I am very grateful for the community we have built... where we all learned and grew together." Jahnavi, Digital Dividends Student Participant "I love the socialization and activities that the students bring..." Barbara, CitySites Older Adult Participant

Special Community Events (cont.)

Each year, LBFE Boston hosts one-time community events, programs, and holiday celebrations. Here are just a few of those special moments.



"I love Little Brothers!" John, Digital Dividends Older Adult Participant "I'm going to have tears in my eyes, but I accomplished something that I always wanted to do." **Dolores, Digital Dividends Older Adult Participant** 



Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors





# HARBOR













Central Boston Elder Services Your connection to care



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Thank you to everyone who joined us in supporting and celebrating 44 years of community, connections, and programming!

# **BrooklineBank**

"Working with LBFE opened my eyes to the power of intergenerational interactions and community." Logan, Digital Dividends Student Participant



### FV 2023 Board of Directors

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"While working with older adults, the majority of them say: 'Art brings joy."" Mimi, Instructor, Creative Connections



"It was an opportunity to visit with people of various ages and mingle with them, and I really enjoyed doing things together." **Anthony, CitySites Older Adult Participant** 

### FØ23 LBFE Boston Staff

Nikki Shults - Executive Director

- Cynthia Wilkerson Program Director
- Stephenie Hou Intergenerational Program
- Manager
- Teresa Yao Digital Dividends Program Manager
- Uju Onochie Intergenerational Program Manager
- Jean DeMayo Communications & Development Manager
- FV 2023 Northeastern University Co-Ops
- Stacy Abonce
- Ben LeFevre
- Annie Lin
- Barbara Ortiz
  - Evelyn Sanborn Richard Santamaria Paula Trevino Kiki Wang

Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



your Legacy. For Generations to Come.

We are eternally grateful to the fourteen members of the LBFE Boston community who bequeathed, on their passing, nearly \$500,000 to the organization over the last ten years. They helped us build three major programs – and hundreds of friendships.

And we thank the following supporters for recently committing to leaving a legacy gift to LBFE Boston in the future:

Andrew L. Bass Mr. Steven Jackson and Rev. Catherine Senghas Jane Kaiser Jean Marino Bob and Christa Murray Jeffrey Neil



INTRODUCING JEFF

#### I saw what LBFE Boston meant to my great aunt, St.

She received services from age 90 until age 105, so I know the importance of the cause and leaving a legacy beyond just family. Having served on LBFE Boston's Board of Directors — and several local church boards — I have also seen first hand how bequests are literally a gift from God, allowing the organization to address the biggest needs in the moment. It's amazing what an unexpected difference they can make.

Contact Jean DeMayo, Director of Development, to discuss planned giving. <u>jdemayo.bos@littlebrothers.org</u> or 617-524-8882

Forever Connected. Forever Remembered.

# Thank You to Our Generous FY 2023 Grantors

Boston Evening Clinic FoundationGrimesThe Boston FoundationHenry TBushrod H. Campbell & Adah F. Hall Charity FundJohn WCambridge Savings Charitable FoundationLiberty NCity of BostonThe RabCummings FoundationCharleThe Eisner FoundationUnited H

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## FY 2023 Friends All Year Long

A very warm thank you to the members of our *Friends All Year Long* monthly giving program! Monthly gifts allow for LBFE to plan for the future and support our older adult friends throughout the year. For more information on how to join, go to www.lbfeboston.org.

Cynthia J. Babaian Samina Baig Cynthia M. Barr Suzanne Christensen Ana Cusi Jean DeMayo Mary Teresa Driscoll Joe Fazio John & Susan Foley Margaret Hannemann Mildred Hathaway Heidi Healey Judith Hughes & Michael Malyszko David A. Kubiak Patricia A. Leighfield Cynthia Medeiros Shannon Montanez Maureen Nelting Nicholas & Bebe Nixon Nancy Papagno Stephen & Ellen Parker Diane B. Paul Xavier Pedroza Billy Pitman Kathleen Rumble Richard Saporito Catherine Senghas & Steven Jackson Lisa Therrien-Annis Mark Wallace Richard Zbikowski









Special Thanks for FV 2023 Support

LBFE Boston's programs and events are supported each year with in-kind gifts of supplies, services, event space, and time. While we cannot list everyone here, we do want to acknowledge some of these special organizations and individuals.

Andrew Bass Andy Beepath Judith Beshwaty Sanjay Bhagat The Common Tones of **Boston College** Olivia Debes Maria Fallavollita Stephanie Graham Holly Hartman Courtney Hisman-Hou Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Trey Hyer Steve Jackson

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#### **Gifts Made By:**

Andrew Bass Sanjay Bhagat Margaret Gibbons

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#### In Memory Of:

"Aunt Betty" Barbara A. Baker **Richard & Carolyn Aszling** The Babaian Family Mr. & Mrs. Harkess Raghubir Leo Niemczyk Dr. Robert L. Berger Ubaldo Francini Ralph & Livia Biagiotti Anita Gavazzi Leda L. Dini Anthony G. Cantanese Mary Noonan Steven Corr Gus Messuri Helen Sprague Barbara A. Baker Rose Elkin Rita Fahy Barbara A. Baker Rathna Ramachandra Iyer

"I loved being with young people." Debbie, CitySites Older Adult Participant

### Commemorative Gifts FU 2023

### Commemorative Gifts FY 2023 (cont.)

#### Gifts Made By:

Shannon Keating Lindsay Long Anne Madaus Jeffrey Marcy Alyssa Messina **Robert Morris** Kip Orlando Ellen Parker Mollie Peddar Kathy Rumble Rocio Saavedra William Shek Alice Smith Kelsey Trimm Pat & Clyde Wilder

#### In Memory Of:

Olivia Flores Macy & Clyde Long Barbara A. Baker Barbara A. Baker Barbara A. Baker Lewis Vincent Olsen Elenor Wolfgang **Betty Lewis** Gerry Mewton George DuBois Jorge Gonzalez Nellie & Sydney Shek Barbara A. Baker Olivia Flores Barbara A. Baker



"Digital Dividends also helped me recognize how desperately our communities need more programs like this..." Megan, Digital Dividends Student Participant LBFE Boston thanks the following community partners who welcome us into their buildings, connect us with talented students who take part in our programs, and support aging services in Boston:

21 ife Communities **Bay Cove Human Services** Boston Centers for Youth & Families **Boston College Boston Housing Authority Boston Senior Home Care** Bunker Hill Community College **Central Boston Elder Services** City of Boston: Age Strong Commission The Community Builders **CSI Support & Development Services** East Boston Senior Center Fthos HallKeen Management Madison Park Development Corporation Maloney Properties

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#### Benefactor - \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Boston Evening Clinic Foundation Bushrod H. Campbell & Adah F. Hall Charity Fund The Glynn Family Foundation, Inc. Grimes King Foundation John W. Boynton Fund Flavio & Juliana Litterio Bob & Christa Murray

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#### Confidante - \$1,000-\$2,499

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#### Companion - \$500-\$999 (cont.)

Mary Strachan & Nicholas Ward Linda Ann Tempelman & Brian Telfer Ms. Patricia M. Thomas Ms. Sher Vogel Mr. Theodore T. Wall Ms. Linda White

















LBFE Boston has been alleviating social isolation and loneliness among our older neighbors since 1979. While our programs have evolved through the years, our motto remains the same: "Flowers Before Bread." Opportunities for friendship, joy, and growth are essential throughout the lifespan.