



The Lenny Zakim Fund
BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

The Lenny Zakim Fund Announces New Board Members

The Lenny Zakim Fund (LZF) recently welcomed five new members to its board of directors. Established in 1995, The Fund provides grants, training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to grassroots nonprofits and leaders who are passionate about social, racial, and economic justice. The Fund's mission is to listen to small, community-based organizations and individuals most impacted by inequity and provide the funding, essential resources, and support they need to create lasting change.

"We are thrilled to welcome these five amazing women and their diverse lived experiences. Their addition is right on time as the organization embarks on a strategic planning process to chart its future and we're excited about their future contributions to that work given their strong skillsets," said Executive Director Eric Esteves.

The new board members include Lilee Dethchan of Lynn; Felicia Heywood of Sharon; Erika Rodriguez of Roslindale, Jill Snider of Boston's South End; and Aprylle Wallace of Stoughton. The Zakim Fund board and staff also bid a fond farewell to outgoing board members Beth Dill, Yasmin Cruz Ferrine, Ron Marlow, and Miki Akimoto.

Felicia Heywood has a strong record of advocacy for children and marginalized communities within the Commonwealth. She is currently the Senior Vice President of Administrative Operations at Advocates, Inc. Felicia began her career at The Home for Little Wanderers and has gained experience across the spectrum of child and family focused social services, consistent with her long-standing passion for supporting children and families. Felicia served as the Vice President of Behavioral Health/Clinical Services for The Home, as well as the co-chair of the agency's Diversity and Youth Permanency Committees until 2021. She has worked for the Department of Children & Families, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, and New Life Counseling & Wellness Center. Felicia has co-chaired The Children's League of MA Intensive Foster Care Task Force, has served on various committees within the Association for Behavioral Health, and is a member of the Child Welfare League of America, National Association for Social Work, and the Greater Boston Association of Black Social Workers. Felicia is currently serving as co-chair of The Lenny Zakim Fund's Community Investments Committee and previously served on the Boards for the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children and Beauty Without Borders. She is a graduate of Smith College and Salem State University.

Lilee Dethchan is the Vice President of Finance and Administration at the Handel and Haydn Society (H+H). Prior to joining H+H, Lilee was the operational CFO in the public sector with the MBTA, as well as other leadership positions in nonprofits and the private sector. Having immigrated from Thailand due to a civil war, Lilee is committed to serving people. Lilee spent her youth in Boston before joining the military as part of giving back. Lilee's commitment to giving back includes being the financial subject matter expert (SME) with the Special Commission for Homeless Youth, whose work is part of a larger policy change/improvement surrounding budgetary needs and compliance with state and federal policies for homeless youth. Lilee's alma mater is Simmons University.

Erika Rodriguez is a community organizer and nonprofit leader, who most recently served as Chica Project's Executive Director. Erika's leadership focus while at Chica Project was to

close the opportunity divide for Latinas and other Women of Color by empowering them with the skills, confidence, and network necessary to thrive personally and professionally. She previously worked for Beantown Society, The City School, and Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA). Erika is a first-generation Dominican, born and raised in Boston, and was a student in the Boston Public Schools and the METCO program. Erika's work with underrepresented women is thoughtful, strategic, and visionary. Her passion and energy have been directed toward empowering youth of color to analyze power and oppression in society and to embrace their gifts, strengths, and leadership through love and the spirit of community. A recipient of the Boston Neighborhood Fellow Award and as well as El Mundo Boston's Latino 30 Under 30 Award, she was a fellow in the first cohort of The Zakim Fund's Transformational Leadership Cohort program. Erika holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Africana Studies from Simmons University.

Jill Snider has worked in public service for over 10 years. Currently she is a Senior Philanthropic Advisor at Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) where she is also a volunteer with JF&CS's Family Table. Prior to joining JF&CS, Jill was a fundraiser at The Greater Boston Food Bank, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Jill was a volunteer Friend with Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston's Friend 2 Friend M.A.G.I.C. (Monthly Activity Group In the Community) program for many years. Jill has an MPA in Finance and an MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from New York University. She has a BA from Middlebury College where she oversaw the "Midd Kid for a Day" program which brings Vermont and upstate New York middle schoolers - many from remote rural areas - to campus to spend a day living the life of a college student. Jill has since served as a Class Agent for Middlebury's Class of 2004, and as a member of her 10-Year College Reunion Committee. She lives in Boston's historic South End.

Aprylle Wallace is the Senior Vice President of Human Resources at The Greater Boston Food Bank where she provides executive-level leadership and guidance to the organization. More specifically, she develops and implements strategic talent management programs that advance the organization's mission while setting, enforcing, and evaluating human resources policies, procedures, and best practices. Prior to joining The Greater Boston Food Bank, she was responsible for strategic and tactical human resources activities at Metalor Technologies for 11 years, which included supporting employees located internationally. Throughout her career, Aprylle has led successful Human Resources teams and initiatives. Aprylle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Johnson & Wales University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Bryant University. She is a Certified Human Resources Professional, a Registered Parliamentarian, and a volunteer who has served on various boards and held a number of leadership positions in organizations throughout New England.

About The Lenny Zakim Fund

Since its founding, LZF has awarded over \$10 million in grants across Eastern Massachusetts. Social justice at The Lenny Zakim Fund is about more than just grantmaking – it is about coming together in partnership to support leaders and the grassroots in their work against systemic oppression and their fight for equity. Social justice at The Lenny Zakim Fund is about more than just grantmaking – it's about coming together in partnership to support emerging community leaders in their work against systemic oppression and their fight for equity. In The Fund's first year of grantmaking, twelve recipients received a combined total of \$52,200 in funding. Since that time, it has awarded over 1,400 grants and more than \$10 million to organizations providing services in diverse ways within a variety of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

For more information about The Lenny Zakim Fund, visit www.thelennyzakimfund.org.

