



The Lenny Zakim Fund Announces New Appointments to the Board of Directors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Lenny Zakim Fund (LZF) recently welcomed the election of three new members to its board of directors as part of a board expansion initiative.

Established in 1995 by the late civil rights leader Lenny Zakim, the Lenny Zakim Fund continues to reflect his work and ideals by providing financial support, training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to grassroots 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.

The new board members include **Loren Van Allen**, of Roslindale; **Michael Eckton**, of Winchester; and **Ron Marlow**, of Randolph. "I am thrilled to welcome our newest members to the Board of Directors. With their clear commitment to social justice and wide-ranging experience, the board feels certain Loren, Michael, and Ron will add tremendous value to the work we do," said Board President Suzi Kaitz.

Coming from government, business, and the nonprofit sectors, the new board members bring years of experience and leadership to help expand the Fund's equity-focused work and advance its leadership role in the local philanthropic landscape. "Their deep professional background, passion for social justice, and diverse lived experiences truly represent the integrity and community spirit of the Fund," noted Executive Director Eric Esteves.

Loren Van Allen is a Donor Relations Officer at the Boston Foundation and a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy®. Prior to joining the Boston Foundation, Loren was a fundraiser in private secondary education and higher education at Phillips Academy, Brandeis University, and the MIT Sloan School of Management. A native Bostonian, Loren is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She currently serves as a member of the board at the Advancement Network, a national organization working to connect professionals at community foundations around the country; a member of the endowment committee for the Martha's Vineyard Museum; and a member of the Women Fighting Hunger Committee at the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Michael Eckton is the co-founder of Crestwood Advisors and serves as CEO & Managing Partner as well as one of the firm's Portfolio Managers. He has helped individuals and families more effectively manage their investments and enhance their financial security for over 30 years. As CEO & Managing Partner, Michael guides the firm's strategy and is responsible for implementing and managing the resources to support the strategic direction of the firm. Michael holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society Boston. Michael has been named multiple times to Boston Magazines "Five Star Wealth Managers". He has an MBA in Finance from New York University Stern School of Business and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Delaware.

Ron Marlow is the Director of Workforce Development and Alternative Education at ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development). Prior to ABCD, he served as Vice President for Workforce Development for the National Urban League in New York. Ron has held senior leadership roles with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, MassHousing, and the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance. He is an alumnus of Pennsylvania State University and Northeastern University. Ron also serves on the boards of Greater Boston Legal Services and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

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. In 2020, the Fund awarded more than \$1 million in grant funding for the first time and more than half of the organizations receiving grants were led by people of color. It also launched a COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund that awarded nearly \$350,000 to more than 50 organizations.

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

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