

# Back Bay Association Annual Meeting

November 15, 2021  
The Colonnade Hotel



The Back Bay Association hosted its 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at The Colonnade Hotel. Welcomed to the hotel by Ronald Druker, President of The Druker Company, the meeting was well-attended by the Back Bay Association Board of Directors and membership, and featured special guest Dr. M. Lee Pelton, President & CEO of the Boston Foundation engaged in an enlightening conversation with Boston Public Library President, David Leonard. Dr. Pelton discussed what he termed the “triple pandemic” of Covid-19, economic devastation, and racial injustices that have long plagued Boston. He also

enlightened attendees to the difference between “equity;” what each person receives in education, health, housing, environment, nurturing, or the “inputs.” This is in contrast to “equality” that can be considered the “output”, of gaining employment, wealth accumulation, home-ownership, and contributing to society. The important topic of homelessness also came up and a robust discussion ensued about how to tackle this human tragedy in support of helping people get help for mental health, substance use disorders, housing and employment.



Chair of the Nominating Committee, Lynne Kortenhaus President of Kortenhaus Communications, nominated

the slate of directors, including three new Board members, Gretchen Z. Fisher, Managing Director, Corporate Real Estate US & Europe, Manulife/John Hancock, Sandy Edgerley, President, Hexagon Properties (Founder of The Quin), and Jerome Smith, Senior Manager, External Affairs, Amazon. In addition, Ms. Kortenhaus confirmed the nomination of new Back Bay Association Chair of the Board of Directors, Carlos Bueno, Managing Director of The Newbury Boston. Mr. Bueno described the strategic plan that the Back Bay Association Centennial Committee conducted (in anticipation of the Association’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023) and that



“none of us would have ever thought that we would experience an international global pandemic, the likes of which none of us experienced in our lifetimes!” He described that the Back Bay Association has been the voice and has led the way for the business community in the Back Bay. “Our organization, especially over the past 15 years, became a power-house that has been able to provide leadership that tackled problems and bridged differences in our neighborhood.”

The Back Bay Association has been very active in helping to shape policy that made Back Bay more business-friendly, while also projecting this jewel of the Back Bay. He continued, “As we now turn our focus, once again, away from the past and all we have been through toward the FUTURE and all that we look forward to, I want to pledge the commitment of the Back Bay Association’s membership and Board of Directors: we are building an organization that will support businesses and provide the greatest leadership to improve, promote and protect the Back Bay, both its businesses and the neighborhood for many years to come.”



In his first act as Chair, Mr. Bueno joined Meg Mainzer-Cohen, President of the Back Bay Association, in bestowing the “Heavy Lifting Award,” to Elliott Laffer, Chair of the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay for the organization’s tireless voluntary leadership and involvement with all matters, and that, though the two organizations may sometimes disagree, they do so without being disagreeable! This type of bridge-building supports positive

collaborations between residents and businesses, which is beneficial for all.

In conclusion, Ms. Mainzer-Cohen thanked all sponsors of the Annual Meeting, including Platinum Sponsors: UrbanMeritage, Liberty Mutual, Samuels & Associates, Asana, Tavistock, Boylston Properties, Saunders Real Estate, AvalonBay, and Gold Sponsors: CBT Architects, L3 Capital, Related Beal, Glynn Hospitality Group, Elkus Manfredi, and Silver Sponsors: Marriott Copley Place and Kings.