

# **Latinx Nonprofits in Boston Today: Contributions, Challenges and Lessons Learned**

**Presentation  
Greater Boston Latino Network (GBLN)**

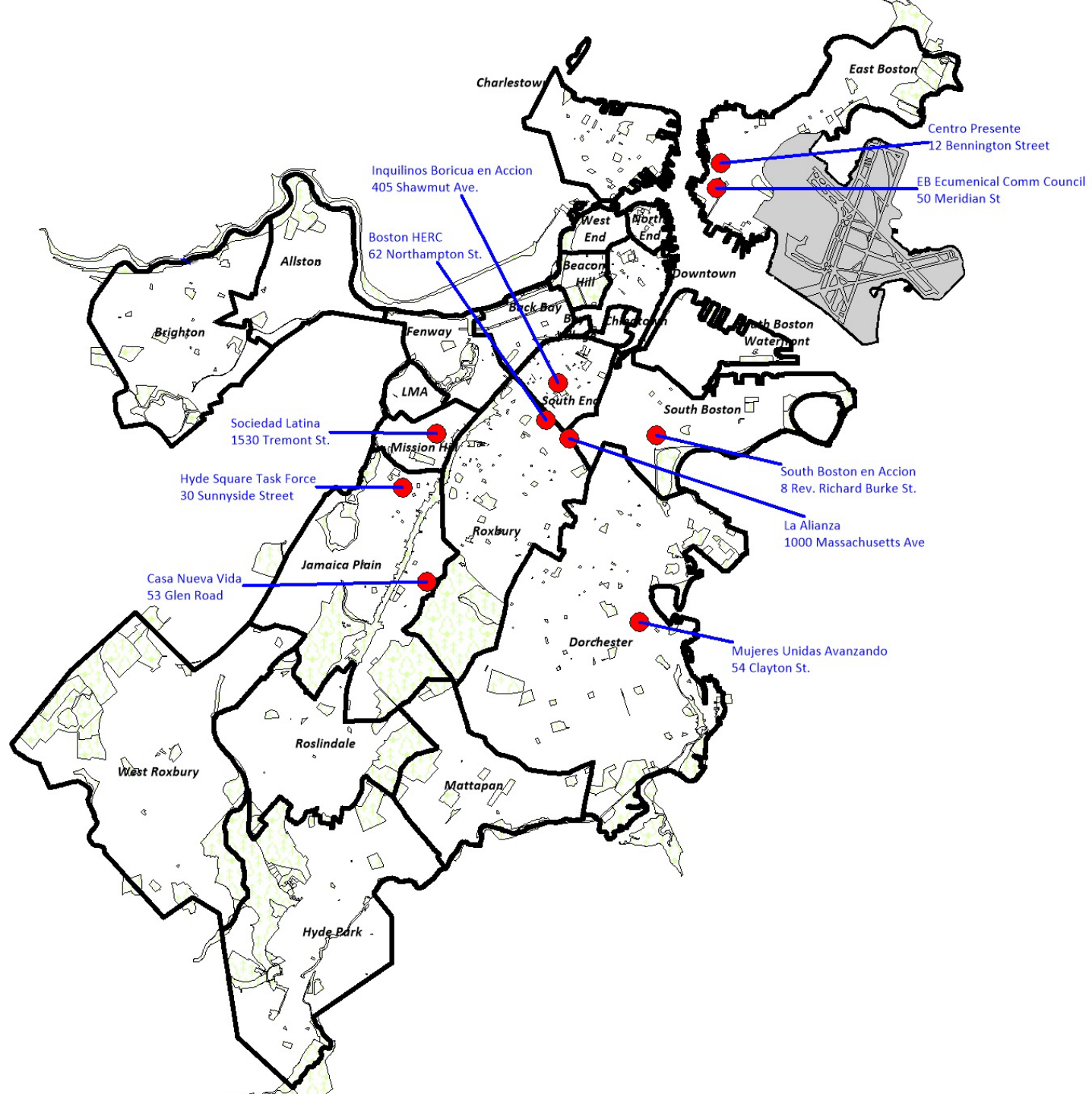
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## 3 Key Questions

- What do Latinx nonprofits contribute to the non-profit environment in Boston?
- What are the systemic and broad challenges facing Latinx 501c(3) nonprofits?
- What lessons can be learned from the work and contributions of Latinx nonprofits in Boston?

# Methodology

- *501c(3)* Latinx organizations were selected based missions and services which:
  - primarily serve the Latinx population and that target attention to community needs and strengthening families, youth and adults;
  - the executive director is Latinx; board of directors are majority Latinx; and, organization promotes cultural proficiency, bilingualism as an asset, as well as the equitable treatment of Latin@s in all areas of life.
  
- Select interviews
  
- Literature and archival research
  
- Analysis of organizational information and data, analysis of 990s filed
  
- Decennial Census; American Community Survey (ACS); Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)



## Contributions?

- Provide range of social and economic services
- Utilize a holistic, strengths-based, community- and family-oriented approaches
- Help to build community strengths and cultural values
- Uniquely positioned to lead strategic and tactical responses to emergent needs
- Serve residents facing the danger of displacement or gentrification
- Building civic bridges among racial and ethnic communities
- Advocating and providing a critical part of Latinx civic voices
- Making important economic contributions

# Challenges?

- Advocacy Role and Rapid Responses: A double edge sword
- Unseen: the invisibility of Latino CBOs inhibits capacity-building
- Overworked in a context of increasing demands
- Meeting the call for evaluation metrics which penalize organizational flexibility
- Cultural empowerment and community-building
- National and divisive anti-immigrant climate
- “Contra Mar y Marea” ...Against all Odds

## Lessons Learned and Recommendations ?

- Generate and build greater collaboration among Latinx nonprofits
- Provide technical assistance related to capacity-building for Latinx nonprofits and community-based organization especially those that do not currently have 501c(3) status
- Challenge and change grantmaking narratives aimed at strengthening some Latinx 501c(3) nonprofits *as anchor institutions*;
- Explore the possibility of developing a new donor class of Latinx professionals and business leaders
- Encourage institutional philanthropic partners to play a leadership role in intentional and measurable supports for the Latinx-led social service sector

*We've recently had several foundations shift away from program specific funding toward general operating funding and multi-year grants, and that is a total game changer for us. It's so helpful for us to be able to build more of our infrastructure. . . . We spend so much less time figuring all of that [grant tracking] out and more time actually doing the work we need to do. It would be huge if more foundations would take that approach.*



*There is a lack of understanding or lack of awareness of what ‘Latinx’ organizations are all about and the significant impact that these small organizations have in the life path of the community. . . . For instance, a couple of years ago the United Way dropped us. Mainly because they considered that we didn’t have the infrastructure to provide evidence-based services in clinical based services, for instance for kids. And yet they don’t give us the resources to implement those requirements. . . . So, we get [bumped] out of that pool of resources.*

*We're not like all these organizations that are very narrowly focused, and that are a lot more attractive to some funders. . . . The organization that's more narrowly focused seems, from the outside, as more strategic, more disciplined. Also, there's a bias towards a certain type of leader. And that leader often times has some sort of Ivy League education, some sort of business orientation. . . . Whereas, most of us who are community-rooted organizations and came out of community, most of us at one point or another were a multi-service organization. Over time maybe we became a little bit more disciplined and found our niche. But our niche is still quite broad.*