

## Message from Hyde Square Task Force Board Chair, Nelson Arroyo

Dear Members of Hyde Square Task Force's Community, Partners, and Friends,

Hyde Square Task Force has connected with more than 18,000 youth in the city of Boston over the past 24 years. We strive to be a distinctive voice to represent Boston's Latin Quarter, advocate for our youth, and to make a difference in people's lives.

As you may know, in early winter of last year our former executive director resigned. The board of directors named our Deputy Director, Yi-Chin Chen as the Interim Executive Director, while we conducted a search for a new leader. The search process lasted five months and included the consideration of several candidates, including Yi-Chin, who was the board's selected candidate.

As often happens with leadership changes, the process provided the opportunity to have deep discussions about HSTF, the new executive director role, and hopes for the future. After these discussions, the board and Yi-Chin decided together that this is a good time for her to move on to new opportunities and the next phase of her professional career. Yi-Chin has committed to supporting the board and HSTF by remaining at HSTF through September 15th. We are very grateful for her 12 years of service, especially for her dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm during her eight months as Interim Executive Director. She has laid the groundwork for a solid future.

We hired Third Sector New England to assist us in identifying an interim executive director as soon as possible and to re-launch our search process for an executive director.

Change always seems to be a constant of life, and as we embark on this search, we hope you'll be a part of our journey. We assure you that HSTF will continue to deliver on its mission. Staff, board, and friends of HSTF will stay focused using the stability and strength we have built over two and a half decades.

We are excited about our following accomplishments during last year, which have energized our whole organization:

- 1,210 children, teens, and young adults were engaged in a variety of arts, cultural, college preparatory, and community-building programs.
- 100% of our graduating seniors enrolled in college; 100% of 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> graders were promoted to the next grade level; and 74% of college-success program participants are on track to graduate.
- We received an ArtPlace America national grant award—one of three recipients in Massachusetts out of a total of 38 national grantees and over 1,300 applicants.
- We have reached 63% of our \$2.4 million capital campaign goal for the Youth Community Development Center project, and we expect to break ground in spring 2016.

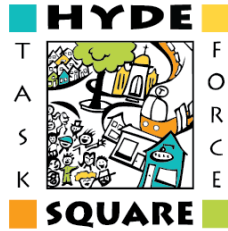
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach me directly at [NelsonArroyo@HydeSquare.org](mailto:NelsonArroyo@HydeSquare.org).

I thank you for your support. We will not rest until we identify a new executive director who embodies the spirit of Hyde Square Task Force and who can lead us into our next 25 years. Please join me in wishing Yi-Chin all the best in her new endeavors. I leave you with a message from her.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Arroyo".

Nelson



## Message from Hyde Square Task Force Interim Executive Director, Yi-Chin Chen

Dear HSTF Supporters,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation as the Interim Executive Director of Hyde Square Task Force. For the last 12 years, I have had the privilege of serving as a member of this fantastic team. I work alongside some of the most respected leaders in the community, and together we help create opportunities for thousands of youth and families to grow, thrive, and build a safer and more vibrant community. I am very proud of what we have accomplished.

I am humbled by the support that I've received over the course of my time with HSTF. Since I came on board in 2003, HSTF has grown from operating in a small storefront office to running programming 7 days a week in our 13,000-square-foot Youth Community Development Center. Our commitment and impact in arts and culture, education, and civic engagement can be seen in our neighborhood and in our city.

Looking back, I am very thankful to have played a role in reaching so many of HSTF's milestones. I am especially proud of what we've accomplished during the last eight months while I've served as the Interim Executive Director. We engaged more than 1,200 youth in our programming and provided thousands of others with opportunities to reconnect with their community and with each other. We ended this fiscal year with one of the most significant accomplishments in our organizational history—being named as one of the 38 national award recipients with ArtPlace America. I owe my sincere gratitude to the youth, staff, board, and the community for your unwavering support during the last few months.

I'm excited about the next chapter of my journey, wherever it takes me. I'm equally excited about HSTF's vision for youth and Boston's Latin Quarter. HSTF is strong and is poised for both the opportunities and challenges ahead. Your ongoing support will allow HSTF to continue to thrive and grow. I ask that you lend your commitment in the future just as you have supported me over the last 12 years.

My last day will be September 15<sup>th</sup>, and I look forward to reconnecting with all of you in my next endeavor.

Much love and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yi-Chin Chen".

Yi-Chin

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For all media inquiries, please contact Barbara Civill, Director of College Success and Community Ventures: [Barbara@HydeSquare.org](mailto:Barbara@HydeSquare.org) or 617-524-8303