



Dear Friends:

I am honored that the Board asked me to take on the role of Hyde Square Task Force's Interim Director. I have accepted the position and look forward to working with the youth, board, staff, community members, and our many partners – both current and future.

This is a pivotal moment for Hyde Square Task Force. When HSTF began, Hyde/Jackson Square was the cocaine capital of New England. For over two decades Claudio Martinez focused his energy on unleashing the capacity and creativity of youth in Hyde/Jackson Square, Roxbury and Boston. Hyde Square Task Force became the place where low income, underachieving Latino and African American youth could receive love, support, training and the tools to personally succeed while improving and revitalizing their community. And most recently, HSTF is being recognized for its ability to use the arts to create personal and social change. We are all very grateful to Claudio Martinez, who with the Hyde Square Task Force youth, took on significant issues and tirelessly advocated for changes in the community and the schools until the objectives were reached.

Now as I take on the role of Interim Executive Director, Hyde/Jackson Square and Boston are very different places than they were twenty years ago. With new challenges and exciting opportunities, the Hyde Square Task Force is well placed to continue making significant contributions. Soon we will begin the renovation of our Youth Community Development Center, located behind the Blessed Sacrament Church on Centre Street. The improvements will include much needed life safety systems, increasing functionality and accessibility so we can expand our arts, education and leadership programs and invite others to share their resources with our community. We also look forward to bringing people together through the expansion of our arts and civic activities on the Church plaza and in the community by creating new relationships, connections and economic vitality for Boston's Latin Quarter.

I ask for your support as I take on this new role of Interim Executive Director. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to talk, think together, or ask questions. I invite you to join us as a volunteer or as a donor. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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

Yi-Chin Chen

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*Yi-Chin has worked for Hyde Square Task Force for more than a decade and the last three years she held the position of Deputy Director. In addition, currently she serves as the Vice President of*

*the Hyde/Jackson Square Main Streets Board of Directors, is a member of the Boston's Children's Hospital Center for Collaborative Community Research (C-CORE) Community/Academic Advisory Board, and the Success Boston Student Transitions Group. She was a founding member of the Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness and was a member of the working group that created the Massachusetts Statewide Action Plan, which was presented to Governor Deval Patrick in June 2009. Yi-Chin holds a master's degree in Social Work from Boston University with a specialization in macro social work and a certificate from the BU Institute for Nonprofit Management & Leadership. In 2011, she received the prestigious Hubie Jones Urban Service Award presented by the Boston University School of Social Work for her outstanding leadership with empowering youth and families in low-income communities.*