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## **Barr Foundation Expands Climate Program with Support for Resiliency**

*\$5 million invested in 2018 will fund projects to build awareness, mobilize key constituencies, and support pilot projects to build climate resilience in Boston*

BOSTON – December 13, 2017 – Seven years after launching a Climate Program that has invested over \$120 million to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and energy sectors, [the Barr Foundation today announced](#) the addition of climate resiliency as a third priority, with an initial investment of \$5 million in 2018.

Focusing first on Boston, with the potential to expand to other parts of the metropolitan area in the future, [Barr's resilience focus area](#) acknowledges that, even with Boston's concerted efforts to mitigate them, the impacts of climate change are inevitable, and coastal cities such as Boston are particularly vulnerable.

"With leadership in Washington abandoning international commitments and undermining federal efforts to act on climate, cities around the country are stepping in to provide leadership," said Barr Foundation President, Jim Canales. "Barr's commitment to climate resilience recognizes the importance of community and local leadership, and it manifests our own sense of urgency to further this work at a critical moment. We intend for resilience to remain a key focus area for years to come."

Barr's goal in this work is to ensure that climate resilience is integrated and institutionalized across various sectors, such that it becomes an essential consideration in planning for the future, building new and adapting existing buildings and infrastructure, creating open spaces in ways that the public can enjoy while also offering protection from sea level rise, and engaging all communities—especially low income and communities of color—in addressing this challenge. The specific goals of Barr's Resilience portfolio will include:

- Building awareness of climate impacts, risks, and resilience strategies;
- Mobilizing key constituencies to advance policy and implement resilience plans;
- Supporting demonstration projects that integrate resilience into the fabric of cities.

"Boston is committed to creating a climate ready city for our residents and future generations of Bostonians," said Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, "With support from partners like the Barr Foundation, we're able to make that a reality. We're taking immediate action now to safeguard our residents from sea level rise in our most vulnerable neighborhoods like East Boston and Charlestown, and will continue to invest in our city and our people. I thank the Barr Foundation for their support of this crucial work."

"Kudos to the Barr Foundation for continuing to focus on Boston and the Commonwealth's climate resiliency as a top priority in 2018," said James E. Rooney, president & CEO of the

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. “Our coastal city must continue to plan for and address the potentially devastating future impacts of climate change, despite a lack of federal leadership on this important issue, so I am pleased to see an organization like the Barr Foundation committed to taking the lead in bold fashion.”

“Cities are a laboratory for innovation and catalytic change, and now is a crucial time to invest in resilience efforts that will help the communities of the Boston metro area and beyond better prepare for the impacts of climate change,” said David W. Cash, Dean of the McCormack Graduate School and member of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston. “The Barr Foundation has always been at the cutting edge of strategic investments that can be transformative, and resilience and adaptation are in need of such focus now.”

“The extreme weather events across the country this year underscore the scale of the challenges before us, the urgency for action, and the many opportunities Greater Boston has to prepare for rising seas and other climate impacts,” Canales said. “This moment calls for us to embrace creativity, to invest in smart and sustainable solutions and, most importantly, to come together to address the challenge of a changing climate.”

In the coming weeks, Barr will provide more details as to when and how potential partners can best propose project ideas for the Foundation to consider. Barr will also soon launch a national search for a new resilience program officer to join its Climate team.

For more information about Barr’s resilience work, visit:  
<https://www.barrfoundation.org/climate/climate-resilience>.

To register for email updates about future developments and opportunities, visit:  
<http://bit.ly/ResilienceBarr>

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