

Our mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts.

OUR STRATEGIES

The Barr Foundation works to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and expand educational opportunity. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders.

ROOTED IN A MISSION OF SERVICE

Barr's strategies flow from our mission to *invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts*. We recognize the many opportunities in our region to invest in the potential of visionary leaders, effective organizations, and powerful ideas. Our strategies also make concrete our aspiration to serve as both stewards and catalysts.

As stewards, we bring an abiding commitment to stick with complex challenges over the long term, and a willingness to double down on progress. As catalysts, we embrace risk and opportunities to invest in breakthrough ideas.

BALANCING STAYING POWER AND FLEXIBILITY

In our view, the most effective strategies are never static. Strategic planning is an ongoing and iterative process. While we have articulated a clear set of directions for Barr, we fully intend to refine and adapt these strategies based on what we learn along the way, our partnership with others, and in response to how the external environment shifts. Our aim is to ensure we have staying power on complex and vital issues while avoiding rigidity.

ARTS & CREATIVITY

Goal: *Elevate the arts and enable creative expression to engage and inspire a dynamic, thriving Massachusetts.*

Arts and creativity have the power to connect us with each other, to help us understand our dynamic environment, and to imagine new and better futures. In a time of rapidly changing demographics, technological advancements, and evolving art forms, Barr seeks to invest in bold ideas and leaders through three strategies.

STRATEGIES

- 1 Invest in organizations to be adaptive and relevant.
- 2 Join arts with other sectors to foster creative problem-solving, broaden arts participation, share new resources for the arts, and forge new cross-disciplinary alliances.
- 3 Activate public support for arts and creativity.



Barr Foundation

CLIMATE

Goal: *To address climate change, we advance solutions for clean energy, mobility, and resilient communities.*

To leave future generations a better world than the one we inherited, we must address climate change with solutions that acknowledge the unequal burdens that have been placed on communities of color and those who have been underserved and divested.

Climate change is a global challenge. Yet cities, states, and regions are vital agents of change. That's why Barr's Climate Program focuses on advancing equitable solutions and leadership at the local level.

Clean Energy Goal: *Accelerate the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Northeast, the phasing out of natural gas, and modernizing the electric grid to use more clean energy and give people more control over their energy.*

PRIORITIES

- 1 Build a diverse constituency for clean energy.
- 2 Mobilize key stakeholders to advocate for equitable state and regional clean energy policies and programs.
- 3 Promote a narrative connecting the benefits of clean energy to public health and resilience.
- 3 Support research, analysis, and demonstration projects that can enhance policy decisions.

Mobility Goal: *Reduce transportation-related emissions by modernizing our transportation system and accelerating the development of low-carbon communities.*

PRIORITIES

- 1 Build a diverse constituency to advocate for low-carbon transportation and land-use policies.
- 2 Promote a positive narrative of a seamless, 21st century transportation system.
- 3 Strengthen transportation, planning, and development capacity.
- 4 Support pilots and demonstration projects.

Climate Resilience Goal: *Increase the capacity of Metro Boston communities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.*

PRIORITIES

- 1 Build awareness and mobilize a diverse constituency for action on climate risks, impacts, and resilience strategies.
- 2 Mobilize key stakeholders to advance equitable policies and resilience plans.
- 2 Catalyze momentum through demonstration projects that integrate resilience into the fabric of cities.

EDUCATION

Goal: *Advance greater success for all students.*

Every student deserves a high-quality school. At the Barr Foundation, we believe high-quality schools are where every child is known, challenged and supported. In these environments, every student is prepared to meet the demands of college and career, and to navigate the opportunities and challenges that await beyond graduation.

Right now, too many New England students leave high school early—or graduate unprepared for what's next. We support a wide range of public schools across New England that are working hard to change that dynamic. Most are traditional district schools and school systems, though we support other types of public schools, such as charter, pilot, and innovation schools as well.

STRATEGIES

We catalyze new models through support for teams of educators to create a new vision for high school, plan for change, and implement new school designs.

We invest in educators so that our region has the teachers and school leaders it needs to bring these new models to life for students and families.

We build public will by deepening knowledge of what high school is and could be and partnering with local champions of bold new visions for high-quality schools in their communities.