



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.



**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.



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

While climate change is a global challenge, cities, states, and regions have become vital agents of leadership. We believe that Barr can help catalyze and advance solutions and leadership across our region in ways that also spur broader action. We focus on the two areas that produce the most greenhouse gas emissions: 1) how we generate and use energy; and 2) how we move around—each with a distinct goal and set of strategies.

Acknowledging that the effects of climate change are already a reality, we also introduced, in 2016, a special initiative in climate resilience to explore opportunities to enhance such efforts in Boston.

**Clean Energy Goal:** Reduce the energy sector’s emissions by building the path to a clean, efficient, and modern energy system.

**Strategies:**

1. Accelerate the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Northeast.
2. Promote sharing of effective clean energy practices, policies, and communication strategies across the U.S. and globally.

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

**Strategies:**

1. Improve and modernize the region’s transportation system.
2. Accelerate the development of low-carbon communities.



**Goal:** Connect all students to success in and beyond high school.

Based in a shared vision of high expectations for all students, we believe that all students can be: exceptionally well prepared for next steps in life; informed of opportunities to connect to success in high school, college, and career, and; empowered to make choices that prepare them for success. To advance that vision, our strategies focus both regionally and locally in Boston.

**Regional Goal:** Achieve a new vision of secondary education in New England.

**Strategies:**

1. Promote a new definition of student success.
2. Support new secondary schools and models.
3. Advance flexibilities and autonomies.

**Boston Goal:** Expand access to K-12 quality in Boston.

**Strategies:**

1. Support the growth of high-quality schools.
2. Support school replication within networks of high-performing schools.
3. Attract high-capacity partners.