



# DORCHESTER FOOD CO-OP ANNUAL REPORT



2017



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## 2018 Annual Meeting

Online voting for Board elections began Wednesday, May 6th 2018. You can cast your vote online or in person until 7:30 pm today.

### 6:30-7pm

Meet and greet fellow member-owners, supporters, and other Dorchester residents while enjoying food provided by Fresh Food Generation. Find out the latest updates and sign up to volunteer.

Vote!

### 7-7:20pm

Project Report  
Treasurer Report  
Voting for Board Candidates closes at 7:30pm.

### 7:30pm

Community dialogue and discussion  
Election results and close

**“To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go, and why you want to get there.”**

- Kofi Annan  
2001 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

## Note from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Dorchester Food Co-op Board, thank you to our member-owners, funders, and supporters for choosing well. Your choice to invest both time and money in the Dorchester Food Co-op is sincerely appreciated.

In 2017, your investment allowed the Co-op to hire a new Program Director with profound community organizing experience, increase membership by 15%, and move one step closer to confirming a permanent site by starting conversations with VIETAid.

We are well on our way.

Building on this momentum, the Board has committed to opening a mobile store and start a buying club within the next 8 months. The look of the mobile store, the locations it serves, and the products offered within the buying club will be based on the combined voice of our member-owners and other Dorchester residents. The Board has set an agenda based on inclusivity. We aspire to encourage community involvement at all levels of the organization as we believe it is THE primary component necessary to continue our path forward. This means we need your continued help to canvass, listen, and develop. Standing side by side, we can make 2018 our best year yet!

Onward.

In Solidarity,  
Nakia Navarro

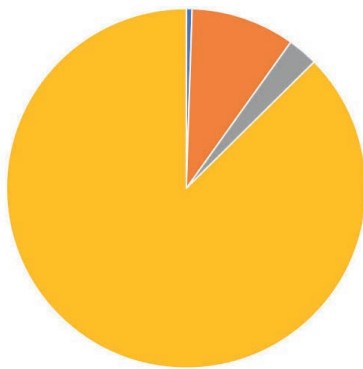
# TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017

- The Dorchester Food Co-op continued to build our membership in 2017, adding 101 new member-owner households over the year, and an additional \$ 8,763 in member equity.
- The total member investment in the Co-op at the end of 2017 was \$53,736.
- In addition, we received \$7,296 in Grants and Donations.

## 2017 Sources and Uses

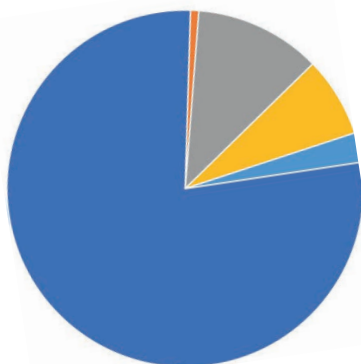
Where we received the money  
and what we spent it on

### Sources



|                                       |                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> | Equity: _____               | \$50,688        |
| <span style="color: orange;">■</span> | Donations: _____            | \$5,422         |
| <span style="color: gray;">■</span>   | Grants: _____               | \$1,575         |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span>   | Sales: _____                | \$300           |
| <span style="color: black;">■</span>  | <b>Total sources: _____</b> | <b>\$57,985</b> |

### Uses



|                                       |                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span>   | Personnel: _____      | \$45,142        |
| <span style="color: gray;">■</span>   | Administration: _____ | \$6,644         |
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> | Marketing: _____      | \$4,215         |
| <span style="color: cyan;">■</span>   | Governance: _____     | \$1,551         |
| <span style="color: orange;">■</span> | Programming: _____    | \$433           |
| <span style="color: black;">■</span>  | <b>Total: _____</b>   | <b>\$57,985</b> |

## 2017 Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/17)

The Balance sheet reflects our overall financial position

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Total Assets (everything we have):      | \$121,981 |
| Total Liabilities (what we owe others): | \$3,044   |
| Total Equity: (what the Co-op owns):    | \$118,937 |

## 2017 Financial Notes

In FY17, we continued to build our membership, adding 101 new member-owner households over the year, generating an additional \$ 8,763 in member equity. The total member investment in the Co-op at the end of 2017 was \$53,736. In addition, we received \$7,296 in Grants and Donations.

## Looking Ahead

Our Grants and Donations were down last year, and thus a larger percentage of our budget was covered by equity. Moving forward, the Board is putting a renewed focus on fundraising, creating revenue streams to support our operating budget, a reserve fund, and revamped programming. We have already received two \$10,000 grants in FY18, and have several other grants pending. We are launching a Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity for our summer Pop-UP series, as well as a Board Challenge and Member Match campaign to raise an additional \$80,000. Our total fundraising goal for FY18 is \$100,000.

## A LOOK AHEAD

### **Boston Art & Music Soul Festival**

“An epic one day, outdoor, multistage, fun-for-all festival that aims to promote, connect and celebrate Afro-centric culture, heritage, and contributions to the American fabric...” Come hang out with us at this years fesitvall!

### **Bowdoin Street Health Center 'Health Fair'**

The Outreach committee will be tabling at this community resource event. Be sure to stop by the table from 10-1pm and bring a friend!

**Pop-Up Store** Coming this August 2018!  
More information soon!

We currently have 659 member-owners. We aim to reach 700 member-owners by the end of August and 800 by the end of the year.

The Outreach Committee is finalizing plans to get our membership engaged and more Dorchester residents connected to the Co-op. Some of the activities include a “Co-op 101” training, canvassing & door knocking in Dot, and the Pop Up Store.

## **Director Report 2017**



### **Christian Perry**

The Co-op experienced a number of transitions and successes this past year, All of which would not have been possible without

the support of the Board, the volunteer committees, and member-owners. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and build the cooperative Dorchester deserves.

## **Membership and Outreach**

Nearly one year ago we celebrated our 600th member-owner and continue to work towards building a membership that reflects the rich diversity of all of Dorchester. In February 2018 we kicked off our first Membership survey and will continue running it through the end of 2018. Understanding who are membership is informs our work in the community and in the co-op. If you are a member and haven't taken the survey, please send an e-mail to: [info@dorchesterfoodcoop.com](mailto:info@dorchesterfoodcoop.com).

## **Site Selection**

This past February 2018, the Board of Appeals approved a VietAID plan to turn two vacant lots on Bowdoin Street into a building with 41 affordable units of housing and a 6,000 square-foot commercial space. As the project's preferred tenant of choice we were ecstatic about this decision. Since the hearing we've worked with VietAID to finalize a timeline and land on our first memorandum of understanding (MOU). While we remain hopeful and fully committed to the VietAID project, we continue to look at other real estate options as part of our due diligence.

## **Communication and Marketing**

This past year we focused a lot of our energy on rebranding, messaging, and using social media to drive membership.

## **Volunteers**

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! This is a project that doesn't move and wouldn't be successful without each of you! I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be building and working alongside each of you.