Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design
Building Partnerships - Strengthening Communities

COGdesign officers. L to R: President Karen Clay, Treasurer David Jay, Vice President Valerie Burns

Cover: Simora shows off his tomatoes at the Folsom Street Community Garden, a 2016 COGdesign project created in collaboration with the Food Project in Dorchester.
Dear Friends of COGdesign;

2016 for COGdesign was a busy year! Under the guidance of Executive Director Meg Muckenhoupt, an active Project Committee, and an engaged board, we supported 13 designers to create 5 new project designs. Some were large, some small, but all important. We are excited about the diversity of the projects and the tremendous impact these have had on local communities. While we are still navigating the transition from founder led non-profit to our current model of executive director, we have made great strides in reorganization and staying true to our mission of serving underserved communities with landscape design expertise.

Some highlights from the year:

January
COGdesign volunteer designer David McCoy of Geographia Landscape Design has completed a design for The Codman Academy, a public school in Dorchester designated an Expeditionary Learning Mentor School.

February
COGdesign volunteers Carolyn Edsell-Vetter and Suneeth John designed an entrance for UTEC who provides counseling, job training and jobs, and life skills support for a multi-racial, multi-ethnic young clientele and their families.

March
COGdesign volunteers Trevor Smith and Marie Macchiarolo completed a two-phase plan for The Food Project community garden in vacant lot at 25-27 Folsom Street, Dorchester.

April
During April Vacation Week, the Food Project installed a community garden designed by COGdesign volunteers Trevor Smith and Marie Macchiarolo on a vacant lot on Folsom Street, Roxbury.

New Bedford Abolitionist Park began discussion with COGdesign volunteer designers, Heather Heimarck and Barbara Connelly, for a historic park celebrating abolitionists and New Bedford’s long tradition of interracial, intercultural collaboration.

August
COGdesign volunteer designer, Holly Samuels worked with the Quincy Housing Authority (QHA) staff and residents to redesign the Germantown rotary to better serve residents’ needs and to make a more beautiful entrance to the Germantown properties.

Boston’s Symphony Park, a COGdesign project site designed by COG volunteer designer and former board member, Jon Pate, has a new sculpture by Jacob Kulin.

September
Greater Ashmont Main Street and COGdesign in Peabody Square, Dorchester gathered to celebrate the installation of seventeen new concrete planters in Peabody Square

November
Darrah Cole’s talk for COGdesign on the Rose Kennedy Greenway’s recent plantings and design collaborations with Lynden Miller and Pat Cullina.

COGdesign hosts a reception for designers at New England Grows.

December
The Egleston library project was approved by library board. Next step fundraising and installations. Amy Nyman and Amy Wolfs, are volunteer COG designers.

These are only the highlights. There were numerous other exciting projects that were designed and numerous ones that went onto installation. While we want to recognize our successes, we also understand there are areas that we need to grow. These include:
• becoming more financially stable
• encouraging more designers of color to apply for COGdesign opportunities
• assuring there is a diverse representation at community design decisions
• working with community groups to move beyond the design to installation
• continuing to recruit talented and diverse Board members with expertise in critical areas from technology to marketing

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to your ongoing partnership and to continuing our mission to help improving the health, environment, and lives of underserved groups.

In gratitude,
Karen M. Clay
2016: COGdesign by the numbers

15 designers, landscape architects, and project managers worked pro-bono with
nine organizations in
six cities: Boston, Dedham, Natick, New Bedford, and Somerville, MA. Together, they donated
574 hours of professional time valued at $44,012.

Thank you to Ellen Abdow • Love Albrecht • Valerie Burns • Aqsa Butt • Karen Clay • Barbara Conolly • Jane Couture • Heather Heimark • David Jay • Jean Krasnow • Nancy Lattanzio • Karen Longeteig • Ruth Riske • Holly Samuels • Trevor Smith, • Margery Stegman • Terese D’Urso

Right: A landscaper talks with students at the Codman Academy playground, a COGdesign project, while installing a design by COGdesign volunteer David MccCoy.

Below: detail of Barbara Conolly and Heather Heimark’s draft design for Emancipation Park, New Bedford
Past COGdesign projects designed since 2005 were visited and photographed by COGdesign summer intern Keira Lee, a landscape architecture student at UMass Amherst. Lee’s work was funded by a grant from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Landscape Design Council. Keira visited sites including the Children’s Room (left), the Shirley Eustis House, and the Columbia Point community garden.

Keira’s findings: COGdesign clients need more support for planning and carrying out maintenance of designs.

Left: The Childrens Room, a 2008/14 COGdesign project. Photograph by Keira Lee.

Volunteers began five new projects for 2017 in Dorchester and Roxbury: a healing garden at the Codman Health Center; the Egleston Square Branch Library grounds, entrance plantings at the Lilla Frederick Pilot Middle School, a community gathering place on an Uphams Corner vacant lot, and a master plan for First Church Roxbury. For complete details, see cogdesign.org/ projects.

COGdesign’s Spring 2017 project volunteers are Valerie Burns • Carolyn Cooney • Aida Hernandez • David Jay • Jean Krasnow • Laura Kuhn • Karen Longeteig • Amy Nyman • Holly Samuels • Elizabeth Thompson • Betsey Weiss • and Amy Wolfson.

Christopher Binns shows a vacant lot in Jones Hill, Uphams Corner, Dorchester, to COGdesign volunteers.

Frederick Middle School Principal Pauline Lager talks with COGdesign VP Valerie Burns.
Public Programs

In May, COGdesign sponsored a walk through the Arnold Arboretum’s Bussey Brook Meadow with Teri Rueb, the creator of the audio sound walk *Other Order*, a GPS-enhanced software application that senses the participant’s movement and location in the landscape and plays back sounds at specific points through the landscape. *Other Order* is available for download as a podcast on iTunes and Google Play.

COGdesign hosted a reception and an outreach table at the New England Grows, the landscape convention. Look for us next December!


Cole discussed how the Conservancy has renewed its landscape through design, careful plant choice, and an organic soil improvements with special attention to Lynden Miller’s work with the North End and Patrick Cullina’s work in the Wharf District. Thank you to Amanda Gallagher for helping out with the reception.

Photo courtesy of the Conservancy.
Thank you to our donors

Donors with an asterisk (*) supported the Rosalie Johnson Fund which honors COGdesign co-founder Rosalie Johnson and the projects and events she prized.

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($1000 or greater gift)

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Jean and Jordan Krasnow
Karen Longeteig *
Sally Muspratt
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Beacon Hill Garden Club
Landscape Design Council of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
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## Financial Summary

### Unrestricted Activity FY 2016

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Unrestricted operating revenue:</td>
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<td>Earned program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned non-program</td>
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<td>Contributed revenue</td>
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### Operating expenses FY 2016

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<td>Total operating expenses</td>
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<td>Net unrestricted activity - Operating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net unrestricted activity - Non-operating</td>
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<td>Total net unrestricted activity</td>
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## Revenue by Source FY 2016

- Earned: 94%
- Investment: 6%
- Contributed: 0%

## Expenses by Functional Grouping FY 2016

- Program: 81%
- General & Administrative: 10%
- Fundraising: 10%
Above: The Friends of the Egleston Branch Library contemplate the possibilities of the library’s back yard, a 2017 COGdesign project site.