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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tree Boston Awarded \$120,000 Cummings Grant**

*Dorchester nonprofit receives 3 years of funding from Cummings Foundation*

Dorchester, June 8, 2026 –Tree Boston has been selected as one of 150 nonprofits to receive funding through Cummings Foundation’s annual grant program, which awarded \$35 million this year. Chosen through a competitive review process that drew a record 959 applicants, Tree Boston will receive \$40,000 over the next three years to support Boston residents through urban forestry.

Tree Boston recognizes the inequities of Boston’s tree canopy coverage and believes that trees are a vital component of developing, building, and maintaining healthy and vibrant communities. They work at the intersection of environmental justice, racial and social equity, public health, and climate change to advocate for a healthy and equitable urban forest in Boston.

"We greatly appreciate this support from the Cummings Foundation. This grant supports our mission to increase tree cover in low-canopy Boston neighborhoods, grow tree equity, and build awareness about the importance of urban trees," said David Meshoulam, Executive Director. Grant funding will support tree planting and community engagement through the organization’s NeighborWoods program.

This year, the Woburn-based Cummings Foundation increased its annual grant program from \$30 million to \$35 million and shifted to fully unrestricted funding, allowing recipients to direct grant dollars where they are needed most.

Foundation executive director and trustee Joyce Vyriotes noted that the changes reflect growing concerns among Greater Boston nonprofits about rising costs, increased demand for services, and sustained uncertainty around public funding.

"Nonprofit professionals are closest to the challenges facing their communities, making them best positioned to determine where and how new funds will drive the greatest impact," said Vyriotes. "By providing increased, flexible funding, we hope to strengthen organizations’ long-term stability and help them respond to evolving community needs."

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide range of causes, including housing and food insecurity, education, workforce development, healthcare, mental health services, social justice, immigrant support, and youth programming.

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The annual grant program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties, as well as Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation reinvests in the areas where it owns commercial real estate. Its buildings are all managed at no cost to the Foundation by its affiliate, Cummings Properties, a Woburn-based commercial developer that leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space. All rental profits support the Foundation.

Since its founding, Cummings Foundation has awarded more than \$650 million to Greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year's grant recipients, along with additional information about the Foundation and its grant programs, is available at [CummingsFoundation.org](http://CummingsFoundation.org).

### **About Tree Boston**

Founded in 2018, Tree Boston works to improve canopy coverage in areas of Boston that need it most, a goal known as "Tree Equity." Trees act as a city's lungs, purifying air, managing stormwater, and creating safer communities. Because Boston's tree canopy is currently uneven—often correlating with demographic factors like race, income, and language isolation—vulnerable populations frequently receive fewer environmental benefits. Tree Boston believes that every resident deserves to experience the health and social benefits of trees in the spaces where they live, work, and play. Learn more at [treeboston.org](http://treeboston.org).

### **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, Mass., and has grown to become one of the largest private foundations in New England. In addition to its annual grant program, the Foundation directly operates two not-for-profit retirement communities: New Horizons at Marlborough and New Horizons at Choate, in Woburn. Additional information is available at [CummingsFoundation.org](http://CummingsFoundation.org).

Photos below - please contact Lisa Crist, [lcrist@treeboston.org](mailto:lcrist@treeboston.org) for photo files.



Tree Boston team with the Cummings Grant poster.



Tree Boston staff member (left) and resident (right) discussing tree selection at a tree giveaway.



Members of the Tree Boston Teen Urban Tree Corps planting trees last Fall in Charlestown.

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