

Igniting Boston's Latin Quarter

Presentation by Ken Tangvik: Director of Organizing and Community Engagement, Hyde Square Task Force, Inc.

List of Actions Taken to Develop Boston's Latin Quarter

Local CDCs and housing activists to advocate to maintain and increase affordable housing in the community. (2004 – ongoing)

A community consensus emerges for a \$250 million transit oriented development in the Jackson Square end of the Latin Quarter. The development includes 400 new units of mixed-income housing, an ice rink/turf field recreation center, open space, a youth development center, and 67,000 square feet of retail/commercial space. (2005)

A local community development corporation with a private development partner, purchase the Blessed Sacrament Campus in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston from the Archdiocese. (2005)

Local Latino-led business association decides to build on a 60-year history of Latino immigration and a Latino business district by branding the neighborhood as “Boston's Latin Quarter.” (2006)

Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF), a creative youth development organization, purchases a former Catholic grammar school on the Blessed Sacrament Campus with plans to develop the building as a creative youth development and civic engagement center. (2007)

In a partnership with the MBTA Transit System, teens and professional artists create a series of murals at the Jackson Square T Station. (2007)

100 units of mixed-income housing are developed on the Blessed Sacrament Campus (2008)

Partnerships are established with professional art groups who are willing to work with youth such as Double-Edge Theatre, Berklee School of Music and Masacote Dance Company. (2009 – ongoing)

Boston's Mayor Menino renames Centre St. in the Latin Quarter as “Avenida de las Americas” and signs are installed. (2013)

HSTF purchases the iconic Blessed Sacrament Church which was originally built as a basilica. The Church is the last undeveloped building on the campus. (2013)

Over 200 teens and community members engage in Church visioning/planning sessions and a consensus is reached that the Church should be developed as an arts and cultural center. (2014)

HSTF receives a \$200,000 Arts Place America grant. With the grant over 45 outdoor cultural events are organized that involve over 365 local artists and two major public arts projects with Latino themes are created. Six Latino-owned businesses receive support in the development of marketing strategies. (2015)

Youth from Hyde Square Task Force are energized by the Latin Quarter brand and HSTF brings together teens, residents, artists, small business owners and other stakeholders to create a Latin Quarter vision. The vision includes the Latin Quarter becoming a “hub of Afro-Latin arts in Greater Boston.” (2015)

A strong network of Afro-Latin artists – dancers, actors, visual artists and musicians - is established. (2015 – ongoing)

A youth-led campaign leads to the neighborhood officially receiving designation as Boston’s Latin Quarter through a unanimous vote of the Boston City Council and the Mayor of Boston signs the legislation. (2016)

Pineapple Diaries, a web-based comedy series about a group of young adult Latinas living in the Latin Quarter is launched. (2016)

HSTF, in partnership with the City of Boston, develop a proposal for the Latin Quarter to become an official Massachusetts Cultural District which will open the door for state funding. (2017)

Signature annual events in the Latin Quarter are established such as Three Kings Day Parade, Tito Puente Latin Concert, Latino Heritage Month celebrations, Halloween Festival and Porch Fest. (2017)

\$2.5 million capital campaign to renovate the Youth Creative Development Center on the Blessed Sacrament Campus is completed. (2017)

Activists work to recruit and attract Latino-owned businesses to the Latin Quarter. (2017)

HSTF leads advocacy efforts for public resources to be invested in Latin Quarter. The Mayor of Boston announces \$1.25 million towards improving the streetscape of the Latin Quarter and for Latino-themed public arts installation. (2017)

An original theatrical work, *El Barrio: Boston Latin Quarter’s Musical*, is produced and includes over 50 teen emerging artists. (2017)