

BRICK & BEAM SOCIETY

We are a group of current and future philanthropic leaders from a variety of backgrounds coming together to make Greater Portland even greater. Brick & Beam members take an active role in volunteering, philanthropy, and connecting with others across the community they call home.

WHY NOW?

Greater Portland's leadership will change dramatically over the next 10 years, and the need for connected problem-solvers and visionary leadership will be as great as ever.

The Brick & Beam Society was created to carry the torch and invigorate the next generation of philanthropic and community leaders. We are inheriting a well-loved community and feel a responsibility for making it even stronger.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT?

We're doers. The Brick & Beam Society offers a meaningful way to forge strong relationships, take action, leave a mark, and make a local difference.

Members take a broad view of the community, bring leaders together, and build momentum for action. The Brick & Beam Society thoughtfully selects and explores an area of focus, and then tackles it holistically. We also leverage United Way of Greater Portland's rich history, resources, knowledge, and relationships to get results.

Brick & Beam members invest their time, skills, and finances to make a measurable difference.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Throughout the year, the Brick & Beam Society will offer:

- Thoughtful philanthropic events with local and national leaders that help members shape their personal giving philosophy.
- Hands on education and volunteering opportunities to truly understand the issues.
- Purposeful, topical conversations and workshops with executives and thought leaders.
- Impact investing where Brick & Beam Society ultimately determines how its dollars are used to make the biggest difference.

PHILANTHROPIC FOCUS

We support early childhood education with a focus on reducing the impact of childhood poverty in Cumberland County.

STEP UP WITH US

The Brick & Beam Society is cultivating a community of purposeful philanthropic leaders that is impactful, personally meaningful, and inclusive. Annual membership contribution is \$1,000. A three-year, step-up option is available that starts with an initial contribution of \$500.



STEERING COMMITTEE

Emily Hopkins, Chair
Unum

Tim Griffin, Vice-Chair
H. M. Payson

Annie Drew
WEX Inc.

Sam Elsner
PTC Kepware

Desmond Gillard
WEX Inc.

Lisa Jaques
WEX Inc.

Sarah Oliver
Unum

Sydney Pate
Unum

Oliver Smith
Forge 360

Mike Young
Unum

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROCESS

Members of the Brick & Beam Society invest their time, skills, and finances to make a measurable difference in their community. Brick & Beam invests in projects that:

1. Benefit early childhood education and childhood poverty; and
2. Are high-impact, sustainable, replicable, innovative, holistic, and collaborative.

The Brick and Beam Society makes community investments in two phases.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT SUMMER INVESTMENTS (\$17,370)

On April 19, 2017, the Brick & Beam Society Impact Investing Committee (IIC) unanimously voted to support the following programs:

- **Walker Memorial Library:** Purchase of 120 books in French and Arabic, Westbrook's two most spoken foreign languages. (\$1,600).
- **Portland Public Schools Summer Reading Program:** Summer book packs and staffing for 40 students at Reiche School and 40 students at Presumpscott School in Portland (\$4,770).
- **Mayo Street Arts:** Support for summer programming including free summer tutoring by East End School staff, free RAD literacy based arts education programming (Reading, Arts, Dance), and free lunch. (\$11,000).

In Summer 2016, the Brick & Beam invested a combined \$10,000 in four programs that addressed the summer learning gap.

COMMUNITY NIGHT (\$50,000)

On October 27, 2016, the IIC unanimously decided to award \$50,000 to the Congolese Community of Maine (CoCo Maine) for their Dual Generation Program for Early Childhood Education, which will offer English language classes, family literacy initiatives, parenting activities, and outreach to parents and children ages 2-5. Their goal is to prepare children and their families for a better transition to kindergarten by providing early opportunities for learning English.



This grant was awarded following a process that received applications from thirteen organizations and presentations from finalists to Brick & Beam members during an event at the Portland House of Music. In addition to the \$50,000, the Brick & Beam Society has committed to providing member volunteer hours to assist in the success of CoCo Maine's Dual Generation program.

SPONSORS

Thanks to our generous sponsors! Unum for its launch support, the John T. Gorman Foundation for matching funds, Maine Magazine, and 2016 event sponsors Keware/PTC, TD Bank, Vet's First Choice, and WEX Inc.

GET INVOLVED

For ways to get involved, visit www.brickandbeam.org or contact Belle Bocal at brickandbeam@unitedwaygp.org or 207.374.2307.



SAMPLE OF 2016-17 EVENTS

Joint Networking Events with United Way's Tocqueville Society

- Guest speaker, Bert Jacobs, Founder and President of Life is Good (October 2015)
- Guest speaker, Elaine Rosen, Board Chair of The Kresge Foundation (May 2017)

Mitten Mob: Collecting Mittens and Hats in Monument Square for Local Elementary Schools

- 250 pairs (December 2015)
- 700 pairs (December 2016)

See-Suite: Exclusive Small Group Discussions with Executives and Innovators

- Featured Guest: Mike Simonds, CEO of Unum US (June 2017)

Volunteer Reading to Children

- Read Across the World & America Day (March 2016)
- Reading Weekly at Summer Meal Sites (Summers 2016 & 2017)

BYOB (Books) at Rising Tide: Collecting Books for Local Elementary Schools

- 150 books for Westbrook Schools (March 2016)
- 225 books for Portland Schools (March 2017)

Social Events

- Launch Event (October 2015)
- Rooftop of 27 Pearl Street (August 2016)

Investment Process

- Philanthropic/educational discussions with Nicole Witherbee of The John T. Gorman Foundation and Peter Lancia, Westbrook School System (Spring 2016)
- Community Investment Night (October 2016)
- CoCo Maine Celebration (June 2017)