

Boston Neighborhood Community Land Trust

Membership Information



Who is Boston Neighborhood Community Land Trust (BNCLT)?

Boston Neighborhood Community Land Trust works to combat displacement and racial injustice by creating permanently affordable, community-controlled housing in the Boston area, with a specific geographic focus on Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

BNCLT builds neighborhood stability, housing equity, and community strength among low- and moderate-income residents most at risk of displacement; and through the collective strength of partners working toward a shared, equitable, and just future.

Why is BNCLT a Membership Organization?

The membership structure of BNCLT is designed to shore up organizational sustainability and the ability to provide stewardship to the organization and our shared community in perpetuity. Because members have legal standing to correct course if the organization goes astray, they serve as guardians for the community and make sure everyone benefits from our collective efforts generations from now.

BNCLT's work empowers those that are of and from communities experiencing continuing injustice — including people of color, immigrants, and people with lower incomes. They face a legacy of systemic, largely racialized, inequity that influences their living and working places, their economic opportunities, and disruption in their cultural heritage and traditions.

BNCLT Values & Beliefs:

- Residents of Boston, Specifically Those Living in our Focus Neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, have a Right to Stay and Thrive: Residents and stakeholders of our neighborhoods are our greatest strength and have the right to remain and benefit from development in their communities.
- Community Control: Power and decision-making belong in the hands of members of the community.
- Nonstop Affordability for Housing: Quality housing should always be accessible to everyone at a level that is affordable to their household and doesn't take up the majority of their income.
- Household Asset Building: Building financial assets for families and individuals is critical to their ability to participate in the existing market and have access to mobility.
- Operational Excellence: Transparent and effective operations that are financially sound ensure BNCLT will be in place to steward the programs and public resources, manage assets, and forge intentional partnerships in perpetuity, as decided by the community.

Benefits of Being a Member

- Members vote and/or run for the Board of Directors.
- Members take active volunteer roles.
- Members take active roles in our campaigns.
- Members are part of an active community group with similar values.
- Members have the opportunity to participate in organizing, training, and leadership development opportunities.

Why Your Membership Matters

- Real people have real power.
- We know what we want where we live.
- We deserve a seat at the table.
- When turning our neighborhoods around, we are all in this together.
- When we show up in big numbers, people listen.

Membership Types: General Members and Voting Members

GENERAL MEMBERS

Any person who meets the following requirements can be a “General Member” with BNCLT:

- has paid any membership dues established for the current calendar year;
- submitted a signed “Statement of Support” for the purposes of the organization;
- does not wish to become a Voting Member or has not met all of the requirements of a Voting Member.

General Members do not have voting rights but shall have the right to nominate Board members, to serve on the Board or on committees if chosen, and to participate (but not vote) in the Annual Member Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS

Any person who meets the following requirements can be a “Voting Member” with BNCLT:

- “Resident Members”: all persons who live in BNCLT housing;
- “Community Members”: all persons other than Resident Members, sixteen years of age or older, who have:
 - submitted a signed “Statement of Support” for the purposes of the organization;
 - paid any membership dues established for the current calendar year (current dues are based on a “pay what you can” model, on a scale between \$0 - \$25);
 - participated in at least three activities hosted by BNCLT during the immediate preceding 12 consecutive month period.

Additionally, to ensure representation of BNCLT’s core community, the majority of voting membership slots (51%) are reserved for residents who (as self-reported):

- *Reside within the exterior boundaries of the Dorchester, Roxbury, or Mattapan neighborhoods of the City of Boston, or were displaced from the City of Boston within the last 5 years; or*
- *Are BIPOC or low-income (i.e. below 80% of Area Median Income).*