



Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Office of New Bostonians



“It is refreshing to see different sectors coming together to address the key issues facing Boston's immigrants and refugees. I was especially impressed with the incorporation of New Bostonians' views into the development of the New Bostonians Agenda and your efforts to reach across sectors and divides to move the Agenda forward.”

- Summit Attendee

New Bostonians Summit Summary

Lavine Civic Forum at City Year • Wednesday, March 31, 2010

“Congratulations on the Summit that you hosted yesterday. You sent an important message to the immigrant community that their transition to the Boston area is first and foremost on your agenda. I salute you and your staff for all of the hard work you continue to do for the immigrant community.”

- Summit Attendee

Vision

Immigrant families are welcomed with opportunities that channel their vision, drive, hopes and talents towards personal and communal success. New Bostonians' diverse cultures and languages are celebrated and harnessed as assets. New Bostonian children have the wrap-around support of the whole community, as well as effective and culturally appropriate programs in and out of school time to achieve personal and educational excellence. New Bostonian adults will have access to a continuum of quality programs that effectively support their educational and economic success.

Overview

During a multi-year planning process, the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians (MONB) successfully mobilized an unprecedented collaboration among key stakeholders from seven sectors (immigrant communities, mainstream advocates, businesses, philanthropies, labor, higher education, and government) to develop a widely agreed upon New Bostonians Agenda. Presented at the New Bostonians Summit Event, the New Bostonians Agenda effectively addresses the three challenges facing Boston's immigrants: ESOL, Jobs and K-12 Education. The Summit Event and the New Bostonians Agenda, made up of the ESOL, Jobs and K-12 agendas, emphasized the urgency and direction in bringing attention and resources to better equip immigrant families with the tools they need to become full participants in the City.

The event attracted over 200 guests, representing the seven sectors from our diverse communities. After a brief welcome and overview by MONB's Director, Reverend Cheng Imm Tan, the event took off with a presentation from Alvaro Lima, the Director of Research at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), focusing on the importance of addressing ESOL, jobs and education

within our immigrant communities, as well as the importance of New Bostonians to our economy. After a personal testimonial from Chinese immigrant Anna Chen, Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) highlighted the ESOL, Jobs and K-12 agendas, as well as emphasized the important role that these three issues play towards our economic recovery.

Moderated by Dania Vazquez of the Center for Collaborative Education, six panelists presented what was exciting about each of the agendas, what had already been accomplished by our community partners, highlighted opportunities for collaboration to move the agendas forward and discussed resources and supports needed to realize the agendas.

After a message from Superintendent Carol Johnson of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) who wrapped up the panel, Mayor Menino shared his vision for New Bostonians and rallied summit participants to join him in helping to implement the New Bostonians Agenda.

Participants then selected to attend one of the three issue-specific breakout groups (ESOL, Jobs, K-12 Education) that offered more in-depth discussion with the following goals:

- To confirm agreement on the New Bostonians Agenda
- To discuss phasing in of Agenda items post-Summit
- To provide an opportunity to sign up for Agenda items on which they are interested in working post-Summit

The overall response to the Summit was beyond our original expectation and target, and the morning was abuzz with much palpable energy, excitement and enthusiasm in moving the New Bostonians Agenda forward. Stay tuned for more!