





Somerville YMCA Pre-school



Bus shelter



Small business



Local Business



Highland

Historic Building



Housing



Highland Ave Bus Shelter







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The purpose of this site is to answer questions and provide information about our housing development work and campaign to keep Somerville a thriving and diverse community. Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) is committed to working with and being guided by Somerville residents. We want everyone to benefit from access to good jobs, great transportation, a thriving economy, public open space, and other city amenities. To ensure this, SCC prioritizes the value of "keeping housing within reach" of people of all incomes.

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## Neighborhood Participation

### Details

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Somerville Community Corporation has a long history of engaging neighbors in each of its development projects. As a membership organization committed to community involvement, we know that our work in all areas of the organization is infinitely stronger when community residents take part in shaping it.

To that end, whenever we have an opportunity to acquire a property to be developed, we take out a pen and a calendar, and sketch out the time line for the project, and establish key times to hold community meetings. The community meetings are not just a time for us to present to the neighborhood what we are planning to do, but to get feedback and input from neighbors to help us improve and shape our future plans. We send out invitations, leave flyers at people's doors, and often visit with neighbors ahead of the meeting to talk with them about the proposed development, and to encourage them to attend our meetings. In some cases, we have established a core group of neighbors to help vet each stage of the planning. The input we get from neighbors is tremendously valuable to us, and has significantly impacted the final outcome of the projects. Here are some examples of the kinds of things we rely on neighbors to advise us on:

- Exterior building treatment – building style, exterior skin, building shape, etc.
- How does the ground floor work façade look, and ideas for how to make it welcoming?
- Building siting – how does building sit on site and work within the community context.
- Suggestions for access/egress for cars and pedestrians, including deliveries, commercial use employees, commercial use customers, and residents
- Site layout and design – more parking versus more open space, working with the change in elevations on the site, etc
- Any public improvements that should be priorities, such as sidewalk widening, pedestrian crossings, intersection improvements
- What would the community like to see in the commercial ground floor – restaurant and particular retail use, sometimes such as

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I support SCC's efforts to develop 181 Washington.

Name

E-mail



"Many people I grew up with cannot afford to own, and can hardly afford rent in Somerville unless through family."

Mary Cassesso – Dean for Administration and Finance at CHA, life-long resident of Somerville



**Take Action!**

Make a call now to your elected city

- ✧ **Keep Your Eyes on the Prize**
- ✧ **Agree on Goal**
- ✧ **Bring the Right People to the Table**
- ✧ **Identify and Push for Key Policies**
- ✧ **Be Vocal and Visible!**
- ✧ **Use Individual Cases to Frame Story**
- ✧ **Experiment and Execute**
- ✧ **The Glimmer is in the Overlap**

