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The BSA Foundation Awarded Cummings Grant

Boston nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation grant

(Boston, May 29, 2020)—The BSA Foundation (BSA) is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation's **\$20 Million Grant Program**. The Boston-based organization was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process.

The BSA is a charitable, nonprofit organization that assists children, communities, and cities, by using architecture and design to improve our region.

This grant enables the BSA to hire one additional educator this summer to expand their current collaboration on design education curricula for K-8 programming. The additional educator will aid in scaling service from one to four Boston Public Schools (BPS) starting in the 2020-2021 school year, extending the BSA's impact from approximately 300 to nearly 1,000 students. The BSA educator will work with BSA and BPS leaders to develop curricula over the 8-year learning arc. In addition, this person will coordinate between classrooms and students, and expert volunteer mentors from BSA's membership.

"Thank you to the Cummings Foundation for your leadership, and generous grant that will help us provide design education to middle schools throughout Boston. We will become a better City when we partner together to help bridge the education gap in our underserved communities. Thank you!!"

-Theodore Touloukian AIA, BSA Foundation Board of Trustees, Chair

The **Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program** supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We have been impressed, but not surprised, by the myriad ways in which these 130 grant winners are serving their communities, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director. "Their ability to adapt and work with their constituents in new and meaningful ways has an enormous impact in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work."

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$280 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

Social distancing requirements will prevent Foundation and grant winner representatives from convening for a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn, as planned, to celebrate the \$20 million infusion into greater Boston's nonprofit sector. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid-June.

The **Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program** resulted from a merger of the Foundation's two flagship grant programs, **\$100K for 100** and **Sustaining Grants**.

The Foundation and its volunteers first identified 130 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners are first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. A limited number of this latter group of repeat recipients will be invited to make in-person presentations in the fall, when public health related circumstances allow, proposing that their grants be elevated to long-term awards. Thirty such requests will be granted in the form of 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years.

The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

A great deal more information about Cummings Foundation is detailed in Bill Cummings' self-written business book, "Starting Small and Making It Big: Hands-On Lessons in Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy." The brand-new, and significantly updated, 6th edition is available on Amazon or cummings.com/book.

About the BSA Foundation

The mission of the BSA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, is to build a better Boston by engaging communities, inspiring vision, and provoking positive change. The Foundation's vision is that by 2030 Boston is a model of a resilient, equitable, and architecturally vibrant city and region. Foundation activities seek to enhance public understanding of the built environment and the processes that shape it, and empower citizens to be active advocates for change in their built environments. The BSA Foundation was established by Boston Society of Architects/AIA (BSA/AIA) in 1971 as the public service sister organization to the BSA/AIA. Since 2015 the BSA Foundation has served over 125,000 people. For more information, visit architects.org.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.