

**Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Board of Directors  
2023-24**

**Officers and Executive Committee:**

Chair: Julie Arnheiter, Appleton Street  
President: Beth Harris, Columbus Avenue  
Treasurer: Chris Corey, Warren Avenue  
Clerk: Cathy Phillips, Clarendon Street  
Vice President: Meghan Diciara, Chandler Street  
Vice President: Manish Shah, Appleton Street

**New Board Members:**

**Hope Blanchette**, MASS Design Group, Chandler Street

**Katherine Donahue**, Warren Avenue, is a top-producing REALTOR® and Team Principal of Donahue + Greene at Compass, where she leverages her lifelong knowledge of Boston and the MetroWest suburbs to act as both advisor and advocate for her clients. In addition to her professional experience, Katherine has a deep passion for giving back to her community. She has volunteered with several nonprofits over the years, including her current role serving as Social Events Committee Chair with The Junior League of Boston. She is passionate about the Ellis's mission to build relationships among neighbors and is excited to grow awareness about the association among the next generation of residents and local businesses.

**Susan Cervenak**, Appleton Street, moved to the South End in Fall of 2019 from Westborough, MA where she and her husband raised their son. Susan is the Director of North American Business Development for an Ireland based technology company that specializes in the design on power conversion products. She enjoys cooking, reading, travel and long walks.

**Jayne McLaughlin**, Tremont Street, graduated from Boston University in 1985. After graduation, she followed her passion, focusing on wildlife conservation and public policy. She received her M.A.L.S. from Dartmouth College in 2000, studying the impact of toxins in polar bears in relation to the multilateral international conservation treaty. She remained in Hanover, NH to raise her family. During that time she served on a number of non-profit boards, often catering fundraising events for up to 160 people. After 27 years in Hanover, she has recently returned to Boston and moved to the South End.

**Kevin Mulcahy**, St. Charles Street, is a published author on trends in the workplace and an educator. His board experience ranges from small business advisory to supporting the arts (Boston Irish Film Festival) and promoting opportunity and protection for immigrants (Rian Immigrant Center of Boston). He and his wife, Diane relocated from Ireland to the South End in 2006. "Always room for one more at the table" is his guiding philosophy for broadening the membership of 'the Ellis'.

**Trea LaRaia**, Appleton Street, has been a Boston resident for over 20 years, lived in several of its neighborhoods, and moved with her family to the South End last year. A mother to two school-aged children, she volunteers and supports schools, community centers, and youth sports in the South End, Beacon Hill, and Charlestown neighborhoods. Trea is co-founder and Principal of Joy Street Design, an architectural and interior design firm. Professionally, she works with and supports many local non-profits, and participates in neighborhood civic associations' processes that serve to educate, engage, and organize neighborhood residents. Trea loves city life, being outdoors, live music, running, and travel.

## Arthur Howe Award Winners

### **Lauren Cook**

Lauren Cook is the CEO of Ellis Early Learning, a nationally-accredited, socio-economically and racially diverse early education and childcare center serving 250 children ages 4 weeks to 5 years including many of whom are in foster care. Ellis has locations in the South End and in Jamaica Plain. Lauren leads a team of nearly 100 staff including 80 educators, two social workers and a family navigator. Prior to Ellis, she was the Senior Executive Director of Programs and Partnerships at Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) with responsibility for program development and evaluation across all BGCB's 11 sites and its partnerships throughout the City of Boston. A fluent Spanish speaker, she served as a member of the Peace Corps in Guatemala.

### **Lecolion Washington**

Lecolion Washington has been the executive director of the Community Music Center of Boston since 2017, an arts education nonprofit founded in 1910 with a mission to transform lives by providing equitable access to excellent music education and arts experiences. Prior to moving to Boston, Washington served over 15 years in academia as the bassoon professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Memphis. As a bassoonist, Washington has performed solo recitals and master classes at colleges and universities and has been a featured solo performer worldwide. He was the Co-Founder/Executive Director of the PRIZM Ensemble in Memphis and founded the PRIZM International Chamber Music Festival. He was the inaugural Director of In-Schools Programs for the Memphis Music Initiative and was named one of the Memphis Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40. In 2019, he was selected as one of Musical America's Top Professionals of the Year honoring Innovators, Independent Thinkers and Entrepreneurs, and he was celebrated as a 2020 Boston HUBWeek "Change Maker."