About Drawing Democracy:

Introduction:

An inclusive and transparent redistricting process is critical to a healthy and reflective democracy. Drawing Democracy strived to achieve fair districts that equitably represent communities of color, low-income people, and immigrants across Massachusetts through a transparent process and maximum community engagement.

Every ten years, Massachusetts’ state legislature uses Census data to draw new legislative districts at the state and federal levels. However, the 2020 Census was severely impacted by delays and politically motivated attempts to undermine the integrity of the process. As a result, philanthropic and movement leaders in Massachusetts knew that we would need to work together to ensure that our state’s redistricting process would correctly reflect the population shifts of the last decade.

Redistricting determines who can run for, and get elected to, office and shapes decisions at the federal, state, and neighborhood level for a decade. Local representation profoundly influences policies and resources for education, health care, economic development, infrastructure, the environment, immigrants, criminal justice, civic engagement and civil rights. Community involvement in redistricting gives residents a voice in determining how they will be represented. This improves the functioning of our democracy and community members’ commitment to the democratic process.

What is the Drawing Democracy Fund?

The Drawing Democracy Fund was created in 2010, and expanded in 2020 to include new funding partners and community leaders. The goal was to support grassroots leaders and organizations who would work to promote a transparent and accountable redistricting process for communities who have been historically marginalized by systems of oppression. DDF wanted to provide financial and technical support to community-based organizations involved in organizing around redistricting. DDF was also committed to supporting movements leaders who built a plan to educate communities about the redistricting process and invite them to participate in how their communities are created.

What is the Drawing Democracy Coalition?

Through conversations with movement leaders, the Drawing Democracy Coalition (DDC) was born. DDF supported DDC leadership to assure outreach to community groups. Their shared goal was spreading the word about DDF grants, and supporting the work of organizations actively working on redistricting. DDC brought together community organizations, civil rights lawyers, public policy advocates, data and mapping experts, and political scientists, with the shared goal of ensuring that historically underrepresented communities have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice who best reflect their needs and interests.

Results:

Achieved 80% of The Drawing Democracy Coalition’s Goals!

These strong outcomes resulted from DDC’s coordinated strategy that involved organizing, advocacy, rapid response media, and legal tactics to produce unity maps and overcome resistance from some House and Senate members. Expanding the coalition beyond the DDF grantees was necessary to make change in specific districts.
“In a moment of increased awareness, dialogue, and action for racial justice, we recognize that redistricting is a critical civil rights issue.

Robust community input in the redistricting process is an essential step toward reversing the ongoing disenfranchisement of voters of color, immigrants, low-income people, and traditionally marginalized communities.”

Beth Huang, Executive Director, Massachusetts Voter Table

**PRESS COVERAGE:**

(click to read)

- **Boston Globe:** “This district’s population center is Latino-majority Lawrence. But white Andover residents have long held the state Senate seat”
- **Boston Globe:** The House takes the long view on redistricting
- **WGBH:** Senate Agrees To Plan Reshaping Its 40 Districts
- **Boston Globe:** Advocates propose sweeping changes to state’s political map
- **Boston Globe:** Congressional redistricting map misses the chance to fully empower South Coast’s immigrant communities
- **Common Wealth Magazine:** Redistricting requires some flexibility this year
- **Boston Globe:** A lemon of a census could be election reform lemonade

TAC and NEU4J attend farmers’ market in Mattapan to educate people on redistricting.

UBE’s outreach team giving out information about redistricting in East Boston.
DDF Partners & Grantees

Once resources were raised, the first step was to support partner organizations that would be a part of monthly DDF Working Group meetings, help build a strategy for grant allocation, and lead the work of the grassroots organization.

DDF Grant Partners included:

**Lawyers for Civil Rights:** Legal partner who provided DDF with legal precedence and guidance related to redistricting. This included several lawsuits over the executive order from the Trump Administration re: counting undocumented people in the census count, and the accessibility of data from the Census Bureau and timeframe of the release of redistricting data by the federal government.

**Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition:** Communications and advocacy partner who tracked progress at the Legislature concerning the state’s redistricting process, provided data and mapping support for organizations, and led all of the communications and public relations for the work of the DDC.

**Massachusetts Voter Table:** Organizing partner who focused on grassroots education and organizing regarding redistricting, leading the newly created DDC.

**UMASS Boston:** Data partner who provided historical experience, national data and resources around the redistricting process.

DDF Grants Supported:

- Educating community organizations and interested citizens about the process and preparing them to participate in the public hearings;
- Organizing community and civic leaders with the goal of creating consensus maps for legislative districts in Massachusetts;
- Conducting information sessions on topics including mapping software, analyzing census data, and demystifying different principles used to guide district lines, such as equal representation and respecting boundaries;
- Utilizing mapping software and retaining mapping and demographic experts to assist with community-driven mapmaking sessions;
- Performing a legal analysis of redistricting case law, Massachusetts statutory law, and court decisions that have developed since the 2010 census that might affect the upcoming round of redistricting.
- For a full list of DDF Grantees - [Click Here].

Thank You!

to our partners for helping make this work possible.
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

OUR VOICES MATTER.

COMMUNITY NEEDS COME FIRST

SURVIVAL SHOULD NOT BE A PRIVILEGE

DEMOCRACY MEANS WE

CREATE PROMISING FUTURES

REDISTRICTING 2021
The Drawing Democracy

Timeline

Spring 2020
Movement leaders and community groups already working together from the Census began meeting to discuss how to address 2021 Redistricting. They began communicating with legislative co-chairs of the Redistricting Committee and set goals for potential district changes.

Summer 2020
DDF Working Group convened and allocated resources to key partners, continued to fundraise to increase resources for organizing work, and committed to meeting monthly throughout the process.

March 2021
DDF released Request for Proposals

April 2021
DDC hosted trainings sessions for groups across the state to learn about redistricting, also created a Tool Kit.

April - June 2021
Grants allocated to 19 community organizations, in addition to grants already awarded to the key partners.

Christina Mancebo-Torres and Pastor Ramón Mancebo, created an outreach map as part of a community engagement strategy to reach the more than fifty Hispanic churches located in New Bedford.
Community of Interest Mapathon: DDC set goal to gather over 100 Community of Interest maps to ensure local input into statewide maps

Districting drawing done with DDC members, using the COI maps as the building blocks, leading to the development of a unity map of State House and State Senate districts

Public hearings held about new districts, DDC members attended all 16 and had community members testify at ALL of them

Unity Maps for State House and State Senate released by the Drawing Democracy Coalition

DDC coordinated a strategy involving organizing, media, legal, and advocacy tactics to pressure the Redistricting Committee and the statehouse leadership to adopt changes to the legislature’s proposed districts

Governor Baker signed new State House, State Senate and Congressional maps into law

Heloisa Galvao, Executive Director of Brazilian Women’s Group testifying at a Redistricting hearing.
What Drawing Democracy accomplished

Overall:

• Strong participation from 100+ grassroots organizations, trained 124 leaders on the basics of redistricting, collected 103 Community of Interest maps, engaged about 80 people in drawing the Drawing Democracy Coalition’s Unity Map.

• Participation of DDC members in 16 hearings (one introductory hearing, 9 Congressional District hearings, 4 in-language hearings, House/Senate District hearing, Congressional District hearing) from April to November.

House:

• Increased the number of majority-minority (by total population) House Districts from 20 to 33 (out of 160), including four incumbent-free districts that will provide immediate opportunities for BIPOC voters to elect a candidate of choice in 2022 in Chelsea, Lawrence/Methuen, Brockton, and Framingham.

• Created a new majority Latinx House District in Chelsea, a district 30 years in the making. In previous cycles, Chelsea, a city that is 2/3 Latinx, has been grouped with Charlestown, a majority-white neighborhood of Boston, leading to underrepresentation of Latinxs in Chelsea.

Senate:

• Doubled the number of majority-minority districts (by total population) in the Senate from 3 to 6 out of 40.

• Separated Lawrence, an 80% Latinx city, from Andover, which is much whiter and wealthier, creating an incumbent-free Senate district that will allow Latinx voters greater opportunity to elect a candidate of choice in 2022.

• Split the wealthiest and whitest part of Worcester away from the majority-minority Senate District in Worcester, increasing the chances of BIPOC and immigrant voters to elect a candidate of choice in the second largest city in New England.

• Created a strong majority Black Senate District in Boston, which will not have an incumbent and will allow Black voters greater opportunity to elect a candidate of choice in 2022.

• Consolidated two Senate districts to create better opportunities in Springfield and Chelsea/Everett.

• Created a majority-minority Senate District in Brockton with parts of Randolph (Learn more on the next page).

Congress:

• Kept CD-7 a strong majority-minority (by total population) district but did not unite two working-class sister cities, Fall River and New Bedford, into CD-9.
Brockton Unity Map
Case Study

DDC strongly advocated for the creation of a majority-minority Senate District in Brockton, which is the city with the highest proportion of Black residents in Massachusetts. Brockton currently has the worst disparity between the demographics of the city and the make up of elected representation of any city in the state.

The legislature’s first draft of the map did not make this change, but following strong legal and communications advocacy from DDC, they changed it. As a result, Black voters of Brockton will have increased opportunities to elect representatives of their choice.

Brockton District Unity Map
The DDC’s Unity Map proposed creating a majority-minority Senate District by uniting Brockton with Randolph, Avon, and Stoughton.

Brockton District Final Map
Following strong advocacy from DDC, the redistricting committee revised their first draft and created a majority-minority Senate District for Brockton by combining it with parts of Randolph.
Key Takeaways

Drawing Democracy Fund:

- Successfully built off of the infrastructure created by census work in 2020, kept the relationships and momentum going, and added new supportive relationships for redistricting.
- Working group should include people who will bring varied expertise: organizing (funders who organize other funders/grassroots + grassstos groups who organize communities of color), national connections, previous Census + Redistricting knowledge, legal expertise, and communications. DDF working group met monthly to share strategy among partners.
- Early collaboration and fundraising is key. Started meeting in spring 2020 to ensure grant allocation as early as the fall of 2020.
- Including community partners in the DDF working group was essential.
- Important to maintain ongoing collaboration with funders to keep them updated on the work happening on the ground and show them how they could best provide support when needed.
- Critical to build out infrastructure so that if additional mapping / education needs arise, another round of funding can support both partners and groups on the ground with necessary resources.
- Keep grant applications as short as possible, offer them in Spanish as well as English, and keep the turnaround time from application to allocation to only a few weeks.
- Key to have a few committed partners both from the community and philanthropy to stay on top of all aspects of the work.
- Need a paid consultant, at least part time, to manage all aspects of the fund, coordinate meetings and work closely with both funders and movement partners
- Need to engage with C4 funders and groups in this collaboration to bring their experience and resources to the redistricting process.

Drawing Democracy Coalition:

- Timeline
  - It’s never too early to start redistricting education - integrate redistricting education into Census outreach; maintain consistent education around the importance of redistricting and how to use the census data.
  - Be sure to publish the DDC unity map before the release of the Redistricting Committee’s proposed districts so that the legislative decision-makers have to respond to our coalition’s vision for representation
- Partners
  - C4 partner organizations need to be at the Steering Committee of DDC in 2030
  - Engage elected officials whose districts we will be impacted early on – they could be allies or they could be defensive and uncertain
- Communications
  - It’s important to have a dedicated communications strategist to prepare a long term media and digital plan, identify and train spokespeople, conduct outreach to media with a focus on community oriented press, and coordinate rapid response.
- Democratizing tools is useful, but having hands-on support for mapping ensures that everyone can participate. One potential solution is to offer two types of grants, one for education/organizing and one focused on technical skills to support the work of the map creation.
- The combination of strong relationships with legislators, credible legal challenge, and savvy rapid response media led to a strong negotiating position
Roxbury residents and staff from local organizations including MPDC (DDF grantee and co-host of the event) gathered at the Dewitt Center in Roxbury to learn about and engage in the work of redistricting.
A Special Thank You

to all those who made this a success!

DDF Working Group

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DDF Donors

• Access Strategies Fund
• Barr Foundation
• The Boston Foundation
• Episcopal City Mission’s Burgess Urban Fund
• Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, Inc.
• Eastern Bank
• The Hyams Foundation
• Klarman Family Foundation
• Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation
• Nellie Mae Education Foundation
• Progressive Massachusetts Funder Collaborative

DDC Steering Committee

• ACLU of Massachusetts
• Common Cause - Massachusetts
• Drawing Democracy Fund
• Lawyers for Civil Rights*
• League of Women Voters, Massachusetts
• Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition*
• Massachusetts Voter Table*
• MassVOTE*
DDC Membership

- 1199 SEIU
- American Federation of Teachers - MA
- Asian American Resource Workshop*
- Asian Community Development Corporation*
- Belchertown Voices for Justice
- Better Future Action
- Black and Latinx Municipal Caucus
- Better Future Action
- Boston Teachers Union
- Brazilian Women’s Group*
- Brockton Interfaith Community
- Business Innovation Center
- Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores
- Chinese Progressive Political Action*
- Coalition for a Better Acre
- Coalition for Social Justice*
- Codman Square Neighborhood Dev Corp.*
- Community Action Pioneer Valley
- Environmental League of MA
- Families for Justice as Healing & The National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls
- Greater Andover Indivisible
- JCRC of Greater Boston
- JP Progressives
- La Colaborativa*
- Latino Education Institute
- Latinx Community Center for Empowerment*
- Madison Park Development Corporation*
- Mass Alliance
- Massachusetts AFL-CIO
- MassNOW
- Movimiento Cosecha, New Bedford
- Mystic Valley Progressives
- NAACP Berkshire County Branch
- National Association of Social Workers - MA
- Neighbors United for a Better East Boston*
- New England United for Justice*
- Pioneer Valley Project*
- Planned Parenthood
- Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts
- Progressive Massachusetts
- Project Right
- Prophetic Resistance Boston
- Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.*
- Reclaim Roxbury
- Revere Youth in Action*
- SEIU Local 509
- SEIU State Council
- Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
- Solidarity Lowell
- Somali Development Center
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Mass*
- The F8 Foundation
- The National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls
- TRUE ALLIANCE CENTER INC
- UAW District 9A
- UFCW Local 1445
- United Interfaith Action of Southeastern MA*
- Upper Cape Progressive Mass
- WATCH CDC
- Worcester Interfaith*

Door knocking to educate the public on redistricting

Reporting

This report was developed by Jasmine Gomez, Esq. at Access Strategies Fund, the MIRA Coalition and DDF Consultant Katie Campbell Simons.

* Indicates the organization is also a DDF Grantee.