



WE BELIEVE

**People are Longing
to Connect but Often
Don't Know How**

YEAR END REPORT 2024



**Heathmere
Center**

FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



Dear Friends,

In a time of increasing polarization and social isolation, our mission—to strengthen communities through dialogue, education and the arts—has never felt more urgent.

We have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of dialogue in helping people engage across differences. Our programs have created spaces where individuals can connect with curiosity and compassion, fostering trust and understanding in a time when these qualities are often in short supply.

In particular, our work with youth has given us immense hope for the future. Our Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps (BDYC), launched this year with the generous support of the Cummings Foundation, is providing young people with the tools they need to be leaders in creating positive social change.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our reach, deepening our impact and developing new ways to engage communities across the North Shore. Thank you for your ongoing support of our work, and for believing in the power of dialogue to heal, connect and transform.

With gratitude,



Lauren Barthold, PhD

Founding Executive Director

Our Mission

We strengthen communities through dialogue, education and the arts by helping people learn how to engage with others across differences. We focus on empowering youth and individuals from historically marginalized backgrounds, using creative and collaborative dialogue programs to build trust, empowerment and a sense of belonging for all community members.

Kind Words for Our Programs

"THIS DIALOGUE WAS IMPORTANT AND SAFE. WE NEED TO HAVE MORE OF THESE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS."

— **BDYC participant**

"WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENT! GREAT JOB. IT WAS AWESOME TO MEET GREAT PEOPLE AND PARTAKE IN MEANINGFUL AND IMPORTANT DISCOURSE. I REALLY APPRECIATE THE WORK YOU DO, AND WAS THRILLED TO BE PART OF IT."

— **Race Amity Participant**

"I WAS SO THRILLED TO MEET PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING COMMUNITY AMIDST DIFFERENCE!"

— **Living Room Conversations Participant**

"I THINK HEATHMERE DOES GREAT WORK AND UNDERSTANDS HOW TO COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY. THEY ARE BOLD AND EXPERIMENTAL."

— **Community Partner**

"THIS LIVING ROOM CONVERSATION HELPED ME SEE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LISTEN. THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL PROGRAM."

— **Living Room Conversations Participant**

"I HAVE SO MUCH RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THESE STUDENTS WHO FACILITATED SUCH A TRICKY AND DIFFICULT CONVERSATION."

— **BDYC participant**

"DIALOGUE IS ESSENTIAL —EVEN IF WE'RE NERVOUS."

— **Youth Community Member**

"IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ISSUES LIKE THIS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING SUCH A GREAT DIALOGUE ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT"

— **Beverly Public School Teacher**

Notable Accomplishments

Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps (BDYC)

In the fall of 2023, thanks to a Cummings Foundation grant, we launched the **Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps** (BDYC). This program trains 12 youth (8th-12th graders from historically marginalized backgrounds) in dialogue design and facilitation. Through monthly workshops, participants explore how social identities influence conversations and are equipped with skills to create spaces for listening and understanding opposing views.

In May, youth participants then co-facilitate community dialogues on topics of their own choosing, bringing diverse voices into conversation. A stipend supports their participation, and in 2024, youth from the first cohort will serve as co-trainers and mentors for the next group.



Race Amity North Shore Festival

Since 2019, we have proudly led the organization of the annual **Race Amity North Shore Festival**. This event promotes awareness of historical and contemporary cross-racial friendships, advancing racial justice and healing. In collaboration with the Beverly Cultural Council, Danvers Cultural Council, Mass Cultural Council, local organizations, and municipalities, we host a celebration featuring multi-racial performers, youth artists and dialogue opportunities. Over 300 adults and youth have participated in Race Amity events since 2019, leaving inspired and connected.

"I LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF
DIALOGUE AND HOW IT CAN CHANGE THE
FEEL OF A DIFFICULT CONVERSATION"

— Living Room Conversations Participant

"I HAD AN AMAZING TIME LEARNING
ABOUT HOW TO FACILITATE DIALOGUES
AND LEARNING ABOUT WHAT DIALOGUE
CAN TRULY ACCOMPLISH!"

— BDYC Participant

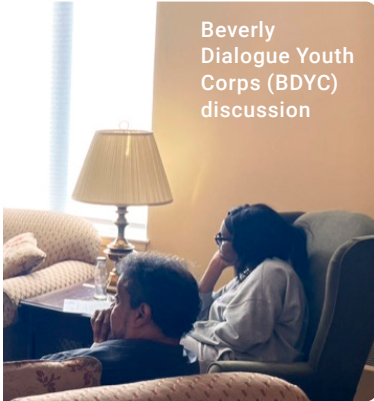
Living Room Conversations

Beginning in 2020, our **"Living Room Conversations,"** co-facilitated by Executive Director Lauren Barthold and Board Member Godwin Nnanna, have brought over 350 residents together for dialogues on difficult topics like affordable housing, political polarization, racism, and more. In partnership with local public libraries, these monthly dialogues model cross-racial facilitation, encouraging participants to engage with one another thoughtfully and respectfully. The goal is not to reach agreement, but to foster mutual understanding and trust. Participants consistently report leaving these conversations feeling hopeful and deeply connected to others and the topics at hand.



Thank you to Our Donors, Partners & Funders

Beverly
Dialogue Youth
Corps (BDYC)
discussion



BDYC participants



Living Room
Conversations
Session

Our Community Partners



Our Funders



Race Amity /
North Shore Festival
Drum & Dance

Meet Our Board



Ann D. Ferguson

FOUNDING DONOR,
BOARD PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dr. Ann Ferguson (PhD, LLD) is a former Professor of English Literature at Gordon College. She spent 55 years sharing her love for literature, writing, theater, and art with 2,000 students in nearly 500 classes. Ann retired in 2010 and was awarded Emeritus in 2013.



Bob Stains

BOARD MEMBER, 2024

Bob Stains is the Founder of Bob Stains and Associates, Conflict Transformation and the Transforming Dialogue training, mentoring and group coaching program. He is also a Senior Associate at Essential Partners. Previously, he spent 15 years consulting for the Harvard Negotiation Project and was a Visiting Researcher at the Tom Porter Program on Religion and Conflict Transformation of the Boston University School of Theology.



Peter Rudd

BOARD SECRETARY, 2018

Peter has worked and started businesses in experiential adventure education, historic building preservation, alternative energy, and theatrical set design. He has a love for old wood, outdoor adventures, solving problems, and seeing people learn and grow. As founder and owner of Elemental Design, Inc., he is dedicated to bringing both his entrepreneurial expertise and passion for education to Heathmere's Board.



Hadley Stena Camilus

BOARD MEMBER, 2024

A son of Haitian immigrants, Hadley was born and raised in New England, primarily in inner-city neighborhoods of Massachusetts. He was the first in his family to have earned a bachelor's and master's degree. Currently, Hadley serves as Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs at Phillips Exeter Academy, where he devises, facilitates and coordinates programming that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.



Godwin Nnanna

BOARD MEMBER, 2019

Godwin is a journalist and the president of NAMSA Inc, a Boston-based organization that helps new Nigerian/African immigrants integrate better into the larger American society. A 2006 Dag Hammarskjold Journalism Fellow at the United Nations in New York, Godwin has reported on humanitarian/development issues from over 25 countries in Africa. He currently works at Salem Hospital as an adult in-take coordinator and holds master's degrees in Social Work and Theology from Boston University.



Sahar Ullah

BOARD MEMBER, 2024

Sahar Ishtiaque Ullah is an award-winning scholar, artist and educator whose work bridges the gap between ivory towers and communities. She earned her PhD in Arabic and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Her play *Hijabi Monologues* has been staged across the United States and internationally, from Bellingham to Dublin to Jakarta to London. She is currently an Instructor in English at Phillips Exeter Academy.



Marc Hazel

BOARD MEMBER, 2024

Marc Hazel is a seasoned entrepreneur and the former CEO of Jacqueline's Gourmet Cookies. Marc played a pivotal role in transforming his family's business from a small retail shop into a national frozen cookie company, shipping bakery products all over the United States and internationally. Today, Marc leverages his industry insights and entrepreneurial spirit to provide valuable consulting services to food companies.



Pilar Perez Serrano

BOARD PRESIDENT, 2018

Pilar Pérez Serrano is originally from Córdoba, Spain. She holds a PhD in Hispanic Studies from Boston College and an MA in Literary Studies from Brandeis University. She has authored, translated and edited books and articles on contemporary Spanish theater. Pilar was a college professor for many years and since 2019 has taught English and Spanish language and literature at Phillips Exeter Academy.



Lauren Swayne Barthold

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lauren (PhD) co-founded Heathmere in 2018 and currently serves as Executive Director. A philosophy professor for 25 years, she most recently taught at Emerson College, in the Emerson Prison Initiative and served as Emerson's inaugural Intergroup Dialogue Instructor for the Deans' Fellows for Racial Equity program. She is the author of numerous articles and three books, including, *Overcoming Polarization in the Public Square: Civic Dialogue* (Palgrave 2020).

So far this year we are thrilled to have been able to add **FOUR** impressive folks to our Board!
We are continuing to grow and are looking for a couple additional board members.
If you'd like to learn more, please reach out!

Financial Overview & What's Next

Over the past two years, we saw steady financial growth, thanks to the support of grants from the **Cummings Foundation, Mass Humanities, Mass Cultural Council, Essex County Community Foundation (Creative County Initiative)**, local cultural councils, and generous individual donors, including our first legacy donation.

Our revenue growth allowed us to expand programming, particularly through the launch of the **Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps**. We are committed to maintaining financial transparency and sustainability as we grow and have recently updated to **Candid's Platinum Seal**.

We have benefited greatly by partnering with a professional advisor who did an organizational report and helped us increase individual donors.

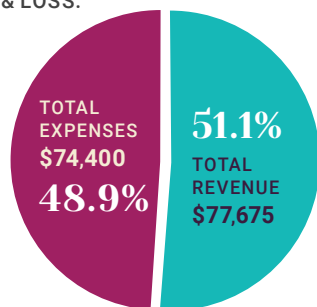
Platinum
Transparency
2024
Candid.

Looking Forward

In the next two years we plan to:

- **Expand the Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps** to include a second cohort of youth, with alumni returning as mentors.
- **Continue growing the Race Amity North Shore Festival** and reach even more community members with our screenings and dialogues on racial justice.
- **Deepen our partnership with more local libraries** to offer Living Room Conversations in different communities on pressing social issues.
- **Secure additional funding from individual donors and Foundations** to support new programs focused on engaging youth and marginalized communities in meaningful, transformative dialogues.
- **Grow our board** in number, expertise and outreach capacity
- **Increase the number of our volunteers** in 2024 we added three new volunteers who are generously sharing their time and expertise in facilitation, social media and marketing, and program development.

PROFIT & LOSS:



Financial Highlights 2024:

(January–October)

TOTAL REVENUE: \$77,675

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$74,400

MAJOR GRANTS: \$14,250

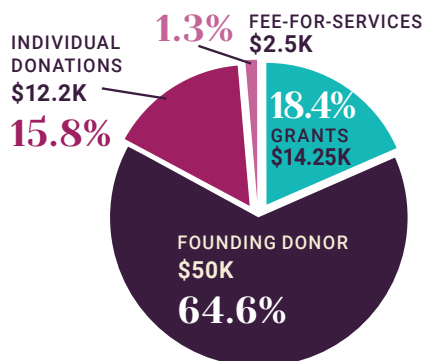
(Cummings Foundation, Mass Humanities, Mass Cultural Council, Essex County Community Foundation, Danvers Cultural Council.)

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS: \$12,200

FOUNDING DONOR: \$50,000

FEE-FOR-SERVICES: \$1,000

DONATION & SERVICES INCOME



The Power of Your Donation

\$25

Pays 1 youth for participating in the Race Amity Festival

\$250

Pays for 1 ASL interpreter to make an event accessible

\$1,000

Brings 1 Living Room Conversation to a community

\$10,000

Will help us expand our multicultural and multifaith youth programming

Invest in Courageous Conversations

Be part of a growing movement that believes in the power of dialogue to heal and connect. Your contribution is vital in creating inclusive spaces for all community members to enact change and build trust for a stronger tomorrow.

Thank you for supporting Heathmere today!

To make a donation, scan the QR code or visit:

heathmere.org/give

You may also fill out and return the enclosed envelope.



Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Cummings Foundation, Beverly Cultural Council, Danvers Cultural Council, Mass Cultural Council, Mass Humanities, and our many community partners for their ongoing support. A special thanks to the dedicated youth participants of the Beverly Dialogue Youth Corps, and to the many individuals who have attended our dialogues and shared their stories with courage and openness.

Finally, we thank our board members, volunteers and community partners, who make this work possible. Together, we are building stronger, more inclusive communities through the power of dialogue.



Heathmere Center

FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

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