

NOVEMBER 2020

BUILDING A SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN EAST BOSTON



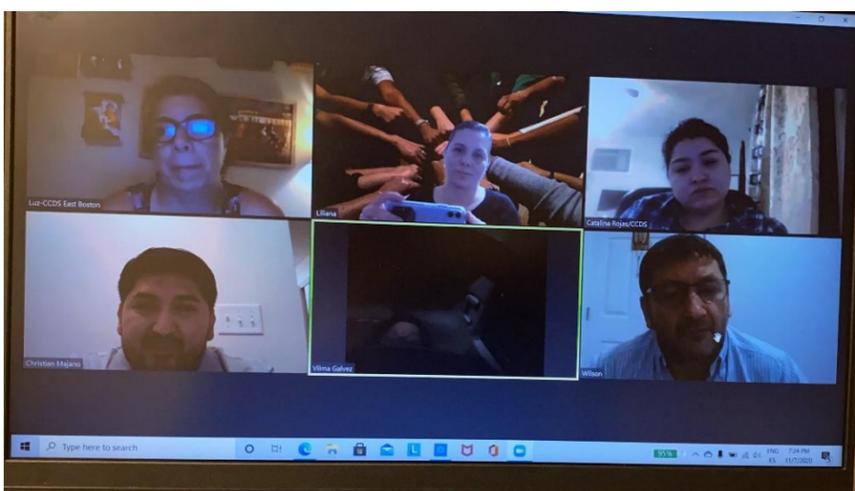
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY CCDS

COOPERATIVE FOOD PROJECT:



Six East Boston residents, four of whom are graduates of the CCDS Cooperative Institute, have joined together to create an alternative community-based food establishment in the neighborhood. The members' goal is to create a welcoming multicultural eatery in an open-air setting that will feature cuisine from different countries representing the varied backgrounds and ethnicities of East Boston's residents. CCDS is working with these members to help them receive professional training and certification in food safety and quality control.

COOPERATIVE CLEANING PROJECT



Four East Boston residents, among whom three have graduated from the CCDS Cooperative Institute, have joined together to create a cooperative cleaning project. Their goal is to create a high quality, eco-friendly residential and commercial cleaning business that will provide excellent service to its clients and dignified work for its members. The members are in the process of choosing a name, creating their logo, developing marketing strategies, and taking the necessary legal steps to incorporate their cooperative business.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION CENTER “RESPLANDOR” (RADIANCE):



Twenty-two women have come together with the goal of creating a high quality, bilingual, family-based, cooperative child care center led by professional worker-owners, instilling family values and providing a safe environment based on cooperative culture, principles, and values. Of the 22 members, 14 have graduated from the CCDS Cooperative Institute and 17 have completed, or are currently enrolled, in a degree program in Early Childhood Education and are preparing to obtain the necessary licenses to become Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and/or Child Care Providers.

IMMIGRANT WOMEN’S SEAMSTRESS COOPERATIVE “PUNTADA” (STITCH):



Puntada is a cooperative that grew out of the pandemic, and is becoming an integral part of the solidarity economy ecosystem envisioned by CCDS.

This cooperative was born out of two urgent needs that arose during the Pandemic: the urgent need to provide masks for the community, as well as a need to create income generating opportunities for those residents who had lost their jobs as a result of the shutdown. Out of a group of nine women participating in Puntada, three (two of whom graduated from the Cooperative Institute) decided to meet the challenges and went through the legal process to become a formal cooperative business. Puntada has been supplying masks to individuals, organizations, and institutions across the country and its members are now branching out into other sewing and knitting items.

COOPERATIVE CONSULTING PROJECT:



Led by two graduates of CCDS’ Cooperative Institute, the goal of this project is to bring together a group of professionals who will offer a range of services to other cooperatives in the East Boston cooperative ecosystem, as well as to the community at-large. Among the disciplines that will be offered are finance, logistics, environmental engineering, and food safety.

ELDER CARE COOPERATIVE:



This group currently consists of 8 members, four of whom have taken CCDS’s Cooperative Institute. Some of the members were nurses in their respective countries. CCDS has arranged with the organization, Spectrum, to provide a five-week training to these 8 members after which time they will be able to receive their certification enabling them to provide elder care according to government requirements.

COOPERATIVE INTERPRETER PROJECT:



CCDS considers language justice to be a critical component of our cooperative work and our efforts to build a solidarity economy. This project is currently composed of two excellent interpreters, both of whom have taken CCDS' Cooperative Institute and have provided interpretation for us in a variety of occasions and events. They are in the process of consolidating their work to become a formal cooperative and in exploring the many ways they can work with CCDS and as part of our cooperative ecosystem.

CCDS has been working with these groups both before, and now during, the Pandemic. Thanks to your donations, support, and faith in us, we have been able to support the groups with their basic needs, such as, through the payment of rent, public services, food and refreshments, etc. However, one of the most important and empowering ways in which we have been able to work with residents is by helping them to turn this crisis into an opportunity to create long-lasting social and economic change.

Of course, many challenges remain, and we anticipate addressing these with our partners in the coming year to help the businesses not just survive but thrive. The work of developing start-up cooperatives is both difficult and highly rewarding. Thanks to all—donors, community members, and our partners—for making this work possible.

Thank you!

Gracias!



