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2020 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award



Troy R. Siebels, President & CEO of The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts has been instrumental in bringing arts and culture to downtown Worcester.

After closing its doors in 1998, the former Poli Palace Theatre fell into disrepair. In 2002, the non-profit Worcester Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. was established for the purposes of restoring the theatre to its former glory, and when Troy joined in 2004, he became a key player in the planning and process of the renovation. On March 14, 2008, the doors opened to the newly restored Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts, after a \$32 million renovation, which included historic preservation grants and federal and new market tax credits.

Since opening, the Hanover Theatre has hosted world-class concerts, national Broadway shows, popular comedians and various other performances in Central Massachusetts, serving as a catalyst of Worcester's Theatre District.

In 2020, The Theatre faced a complete shutdown and cancellation of shows and programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Troy and the Theatre were committed to finding creative ways to keep their audiences engaged even when their doors were closed. These included streamed productions, Shakespeare via Zoom, and outdoor theatre.

Troy is also committed to the community through his work with the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District, Discover Central Mass, and the Worcester Cultural Coalition.

The WBDC is pleased and honored to (finally) present the 2020 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award to Troy R. Siebels.



2021/2022 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award



Edward M. Augustus Jr. became Worcester's sixth City Manager in 2014 and has an impressive list of accomplishments spanning economic development, supporting education and youth, and ensuring city government is inclusive for all residents.

The City has maintained a focus on improving its parks, including Crompton Park and O'Connell Field to name a few. The Administration has also continued momentum on numerous development and renovation projects, including the Courthouse Lofts, Worcester Public Library, Union Station, DCU Center, and South High Community School.

Most notably, Ed led the charge in successfully bringing the triple-A Boston Red Sox affiliate to Worcester and the creation of the \$160 million Polar Park. A true partner to the WBDC, his administration also supported incentives for WuXi Biologics to bring its first US biomanufacturing facility to Worcester at The Reactory.



Ed also guided the City through the COVID-19 pandemic with poise, implementing mask mandates and securing federal and state resources. The City has administered 17,000 vaccinations via their mobile unit, totaling more than 108,000 individuals receiving at least one dose, and almost 90,000 fully vaccinated.

The WBDC is pleased and honored to present the 2021/2022 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award to Edward M. Augustus Jr. and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

2022 WBDC Board of Directors

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SBA Highlight Award - C.C. Lowell



The oldest and first art supply store in the United States, C.C. Lowell, was founded in 1852 by O.C. White who began the business by selling basic paint and art supplies. The business was later sold to an employee, Charles C. Lowell, who, in the early 1900's, relocated the store and began selling gasoline in addition to art supplies. The store remained in the Lowell family until the 1960's. During the period of 1964 through 1987, C.C. Lowell was owned by different partnerships of store employees.

The current owner, Kristen Sciascia, began working for the store in 1995 after graduating from Worcester State College. Kristen purchased the store in 2012. In 2016, the store made a crucial move in Worcester which, unlike their former location, had ample parking and a bright façade. This move created economic and financial challenges for the small business; however, they wanted to purchase the building to secure the Company's future. The Phase One environmental report results required the need for additional environmental testing - an added expense. Their CDC, the WBDC, was able to guide and assist them through this process.

The COVID-19 pandemic created even more obstacles for C.C. Lowell; however, they were able to achieve their loan funding and are continuing to adapt to the daily challenges the pandemic creates for their business.

With the combined assistance of the City of Worcester, the WBDC, New England CDC and Bay State Savings Bank, this small business continues to thrive and keep its long history alive.

Letter from the Chair & President

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic turning the world upside down in 2020, the WBDC was able to successfully continue its work remotely and move forward with all of its projects.

Even though COVID still exists, we push forward and continue our work at The Reactory biomanufacturing park and look forward to the progress on construction of WuXi Biologics' first manufacturing facility in the US, and bringing tenants to the 95,000 SF facility being built by Galaxy Life Sciences.

This past year, we announced our newest initiative, the Greendale Revitalization Plan, which will examine parcels and target infrastructure improvements and development opportunities in the Greendale area of the City.

At long last, we are honored to present Troy R. Siebels with the 2020 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award for his commitment to the Theatre District and bringing arts and culture downtown.

The well-deserved 2022 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award will be presented to City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. for his incredible commitment to the community and dedication to the success of the City of Worcester.

We are grateful for our partnerships with Congressman McGovern, the Baker/Polito Administration, and City Manager Augustus, without whom we would not be able to remain on mission. We also thank our federal, state and local governments who continue to support our work.

Our SBA 504 Loan Program continues to be a success, assisting small businesses in Worcester County with low interest, fixed rate financing. We are committed to our work with our clients at Mercantile Center and the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center, Fitchburg State University, the Draper Factory Complex in Hopedale, and Criterion Development Partners. We are excited for what's to come in 2022 and are committed to expanding the tax base and creating more jobs in Central Massachusetts.

Cheryl M. Lapriore
Board Chair

Craig L. Blais
President



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WBDC Mission Statement

The Worcester Business Development Corporation is a private, non-profit business organization with a public purpose mission to serve as an innovative and leading force in the economic development of the City of Worcester and the region, resulting in job creation and tax base expansion.



57TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 19, 2022
BRICKBOX AT THE JMAC
WORCESTER, MA

WBDC 57th Annual Business Meeting

BrickBox at the JMAC
Thursday, May 19, 2022

Registration | 4:00PM
Program | 4:30PM

Reception immediately following

Call to Order & Welcome
Cheryl M. Lapriore, Chair
Robert J. Morton, Vice Chair

Report of the Nominating Committee
Cheryl M. Lapriore, Chair,
Nominating Committee

Recognition of Outgoing Directors
Roberta L. Brien, Executive Vice President

Greetings from the City
Mayor Joseph M. Petty

Remarks from City Hall
City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr.

Remarks from the Commonwealth
Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

SBA Highlight Award
Bridget L. Carney-Jagne, Executive Director
of SBA & Finance

Bowditch Award Presentations
Craig L. Blais, President

Closing Remarks
Craig L. Blais

