

Michael Nichols Named President of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – BOSTON, MA – The Board of Directors for the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (Downtown Boston BID, downtownboston.org) today announced the unanimous selection of **Michael J. Nichols** as the organization’s President. Nichols, an experienced non-profit executive, creative place manager, attorney, and public servant, will join the organization October 5. He will be the Boston BID’s second President, succeeding the late Rosemarie Sansone, who retired from the position in January.

Nichols joins the Downtown Boston BID after five years as Executive Director of the Esplanade Association and eight years managing dynamic public spaces in Boston. At the Esplanade, Nichols was responsible for setting a new strategic direction for the organization that included the recent legislative authorization of a \$20 million Charlesbank Landing redevelopment project to support a new visitors center and other riverfront amenities. Nichols’ tenure included a significant increase in programs and events, diversifying the organization’s leadership and external partnerships, developing a public art program, launching the Esplanade’s first climate action planning process, remaking the organization’s marketing and communications efforts to broaden the park’s audience, and completing numerous capital improvement projects to support enhanced visitation and ambassadorial services.

“Michael has proven experience in enlivening our city to create an innovative, fun, and thoughtfully-managed environment,” said **Pam Messenger**, Chair of the Downtown Boston BID Board of Directors and President of Friends of Post Office Square. “We were impressed with the passion he has for Downtown Boston and his vision for promoting an inclusive and welcoming business climate throughout the 34-block BID area. He will help fulfill our goal of bouncing back from the pandemic even stronger, further engaging our members, and continuing to make Downtown Boston a clean, safe, and welcoming place to be.”

“Michael distinguished himself through the process,” offered **John Rattigan**, Chair of the BID’s Search Committee and a Partner at DLA Piper. “He understands the challenges facing Downtown Boston and has terrific ideas on how we move forward. Our Board is excited to partner with him as he directs the BID’s work to improve Downtown Boston for everyone.”

The Downtown Boston BID is a private not-for-profit membership corporation that provides vital services in Downtown Boston. Designed to benefit property owners, businesses, visitors, students, and residents, the BID is committed to achieving downtown’s full potential as a premier economic center and vibrant mixed-use neighborhood. Since being launched in 2011, the organization has committed more than \$60 million to beautify and improve Downtown Boston, and make the district a safer and more vibrant place to live, work, shop, and visit. In addition to enhanced cleanliness and beautification services, the work includes an ambassadorship program that welcomes visitors, advocacy for responsible redevelopment throughout the area, support for property owners and tenants, and hosting hundreds of well-attended public events such as seasonal markets, holiday activities, community gatherings and much more.



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“Downtown Boston is the heart of our city – the economic epicenter, the hub of our public transportation network, and the gathering place for locals and tourists alike. I couldn’t be more excited to become President of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District to deepen and expand the organization’s transformative impact,” said **Michael J. Nichols**. “The BID has a successful mix of services and activities to support and enliven the district. Now, we will look to address how our downtown will look and feel after the pandemic and we will together build an environment that welcomes all, provides equitable opportunities for economic success, and supports all the ways Downtown Boston can positively impact the lives of residents, workers, business owners, and tourists. I look forward to working with the organization’s Board and membership, the dedicated BID staff, Mayor Wu and our partners at the City of Boston, as well as the District’s many stakeholders.”

“The Downtown Boston BID plays a key role in ensuring Boston’s downtown is safe, vibrant, and welcoming to all,” offered **Mayor Michelle Wu**. “I look forward to working with Michael Nichols to bring business and vibrancy back to Downtown Boston and to ensure the continued strength of this important public/private partnership.”

Prior to the Esplanade Association, Nichols served as Chief of Staff at the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and was responsible for the organization’s community and government affairs, external communications, and the advancement of strategic priorities. Under his leadership, the Conservancy negotiated a landmark public-private funding agreement that led to establishment of the second of Boston’s three business improvement districts. Nichols also initiated numerous new innovative programs, including opening Boston’s first fully open-air beer garden, and he developed new partnerships with a host of leading Boston institutions for in-park events.

Nichols received his bachelor’s and law degrees from the University of Connecticut. He began his career in public service as Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to two state representatives in the Massachusetts Legislature, specializing in public finance and community development. He later served as Research & Policy Director to the full 13-member Boston City Council. He has served Mayors Martin J. Walsh, Kim Janey, and Michelle Wu as a member of the Boston Zoning Commission and is the immediate past president of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association in the Fenway.

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