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The City of Boston and the Boston Society for Architecture introduce joint fellowship to address Boston's affordable housing crisis.

(Boston, MA November 18, 2019)— The Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) and The City of Boston's Housing Innovation Lab (iLab) welcome Wandy Pascoal for a two-year joint Housing Innovation Design Fellowship. Pascoal, working with the BSA and iLab, will lead pilot programs that test design and policy solutions intended to make Boston's housing more affordable for all. The Boston Foundation and the Kuehn Charitable Foundation have helped fund the fellowship.

Pascoal, who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree from the Massachusetts College of Art, was most recently a designer at the Boston architecture firm of Stull and Lee. As the Housing Fellow, she will focus on two projects: exploring the architectural and social typologies associated with the triple decker and exploring innovative ways for developing neighborhood contextual multi-family housing on city-owned vacant lots. These projects will go hand in hand as vacant city lots may serve as ideal locations for equitable housing opportunities.

"Having this partnership with the BSA allows us to infuse design and building solutions more intentionally into the work that we do in housing policy and financial incentives," said Dr. Taylor Cain, director, Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab, Department of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston.

"We're excited to be partnering with the City on the creation of more affordable housing models," said BSA Policy Director, Jennifer Efron. "The work of this Housing Fellow will shine a light on the powerful impact that design can have on important topics such as housing equity, urban planning, and community engagement."

The iLab and the BSA frequently work together to explore new ideas and approaches in addressing the City of Boston's housing needs. These collaborations have produced wide-ranging outcomes, including new zoning that allows homeowners to add an additional dwelling unit (ADU); encouraging new residential designs via design competitions; and showcasing a traveling 375 sf "urban housing unit" (UHU) whose aim was to change the public's view of compact living. Most recently, collaboration between the iLab and the BSA resulted in a two-year compact-unit zoning pilot based, in part, on public commentary created during the UHU's tour around six Boston neighborhoods.



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About the Boston Society for Architecture

The Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) brings leadership about the built environment to New England's design profession and to communities throughout Greater Boston. The BSA keeps its 4,500 professional members working at the top of their fields while empowering children, communities, and municipalities to use design to create safe and healthy neighborhoods. Architecture can provide equitable solutions for housing, regional planning, and climate change. The BSA uses the expertise of architects, designers and building professionals to make good design a part of life for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Boston. We help architects thrive and communities flourish through design. The BSA believes that *architecture is for everyone*. Visit architects.org.

About the iLab

Mayor Martin J Walsh established the Housing Innovation Lab in 2015 as a first of its kind effort to pilot and scale affordable housing innovations within municipal government. The iLab works with experts inside and outside of government to explore new ideas for making Boston's housing more affordable. The iLab is embedded within the City's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), which is the agency responsible for housing creation, preservation and policy and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM), which is the City's innovation team.