

# Connecting Families to Nurture



## NURTURY LEARNING LAB

*Nurtury, Boston*

“Turning our vision of Nurtury Learning Lab into a reality would not have been possible without the technical assistance and financial support of Children’s Investment Fund.”

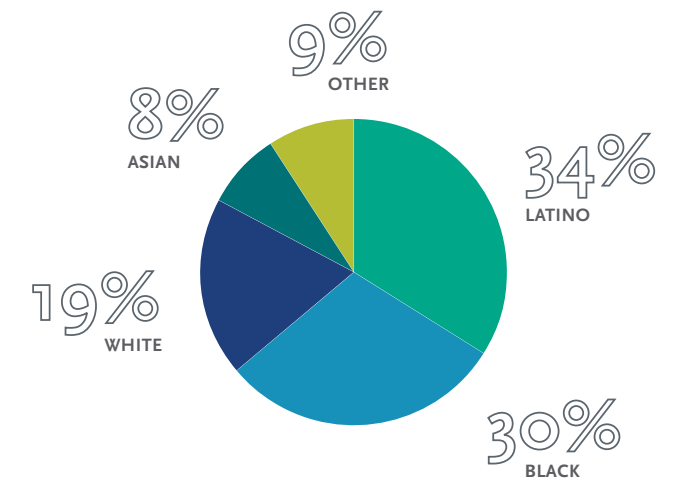
Wayne Ysaguirre, President and CEO

## IN 2014 THE FUND SERVED:

4,240 children

### AT LEAST:

- 1,481 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
- 485 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
- 279 HOMELESS CHILDREN
- 55 CHILDREN OF TEEN PARENTS



Nurtury Learning Lab, formerly Associated Early Care and Education, is the oldest and largest non-profit early education provider in Massachusetts, managing six centers and 140 family child care homes. Nurtury had operated an early education program in the basement of a residential building at Bromley Heath Public Housing Development since 1956. The space, designed as storage space rather than as educational space, was far from ideal and after years of coping with dark classrooms, failing mechanical systems and other problems with the site, Nurtury decided to develop a new, state-of-the-art space to move and expand the program.

Children’s Investment Fund was the first funder of the project, providing predevelopment financing and technical assistance beginning in 2008. The Fund’s early stage financial support and technical assistance was critical, since it allowed Nurtury’s Board and development team to plan a project that helped envision both exceptional space and an expansive vision of serving families and residents of public housing. Nurtury raised \$3.6 million in its capital campaign and secured additional local, state, and federal financing as well as private investment from the New Markets Tax Credits that were awarded to the project. Nurtury eventually raised \$17.2 million to build the Learning Lab, but it was that initial loan that was instrumental

in leveraging additional financing for the ambitious project. Nurtury broke ground on the new facility in 2012 and after 18 months of construction, the new center opened a year ago.

The 22,000 square foot Nurtury Learning Lab serves 175 children from birth to five in an early childhood program, and an after-school program for children up to third grade. The Learning Lab was designed as an educational environment, but also as a community resource. The new facility includes early education classrooms, an art workshop, a greenhouse and a STEM lab. It also offers three natural playgrounds designed for different age groups, a multi-purpose room for community events and training, a “teaching kitchen” for cooking classes, administrative offices, and plenty of storage. The entire facility is accessible, energy efficient, and LEED Gold certified.



**Children’s  
Investment Fund**

AN AFFILIATE OF CEDAC

