kbennett@vivaconsult.com



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Over 30 years leading initiatives in affordable housing preservation and development, neighborhood transformation, economic mobility, property management and resident empowerment.
- Significant public sector executive expertise, with strong strategic, fundraising and operational skills.
- Extensive experience managing community collaborations and public-private partnerships.

VIVA CONSULTING, Newton, MA

Principal, 2025 – present

Consult on housing and community development initiatives. Services include policy development, strategic planning, public housing revitalization and affordable housing development. Clients include the Chelsea Housing Authority, assisting with planning and implementation for the redevelopment of an 118 unit public housing site into an 800+ unit mixed income community.

BOSTON COLLEGE, Chestnut Hill, MA

Adjunct Faculty, Corcoran Center for Real Estate and Urban Action, 2024-present

Teach Community Development and Place Making, a course to explore equitable and sustainable urban development. Initiate programming at the College to encourage students to consider careers in affordable housing, urban planning and real estate.

BOSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY, Boston, MA

Administrator and CEO, 2019-2023

Previous Positions 1998-2019: Senior Deputy Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Director of Planning and Real Estate Development, Senior Planner.

- **Executive Leadership**: Led 800-employee public agency providing housing and voucher programs to over 27,000 low-income households in and around the City of Boston. Served on the Mayor's Cabinet; responsible for executive interface with federal, state, City, non-profit and private partners.
- Housing and Community Development: Led the operation of a 10,000-unit portfolio of low-income housing, including all aspects of property management, legal and regulatory compliance, financial stability and quality of life. Directed the redevelopment of properties within the Agency's portfolio to preserve affordable housing opportunities. Oversaw over \$2 billion in mixed-finance redevelopment including four Hope VI Revitalization grants and one Choice Neighborhoods grant. Managed staff involved in all aspects of development process, including feasibility analysis, financing, permitting, design and construction, property management, and resident services.
- **Planning and Policy:** Directed strategic re-organizations, policy and program development, and fundraising in order to streamline operations, improve quality of life and modernize housing services. Led several grant partnerships for BHA with universities, residents, City agencies, and local non-profits.

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• **Economic Mobility and Resident Empowerment**: Established the Resident Empowerment Coalition to raise the level of resident input into BHA operations and improve quality of life at the sites. Leveraged partnerships to increase financial literacy, computer skills, and create career pathways.

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Senior Planner, 1996-98

Managed public facilities and infrastructure projects for Newton's CDBG Program. Responsible for all project management, regulatory compliance, and community process.

City of Chelsea, Massachusetts

Housing Specialist, 1994-96

Administered down payment assistance and rehab loan programs with CDBG, HOME and Housing Stabilization Funds. Interfaced with residents, City officials and state and federal agencies to develop affordable housing opportunities.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Current Involvement:

Boston Planning and Development Agency Board of Directors Tenacity, Inc. Board of Directors

Past Involvement and Awards:

Community Preservation Act Board

Mass General Hospital Community Advisory Board

REBUILD America's Energy Champion Award in Affordable Housing

HUD Healthy Homes Award

Certified by the Massachusetts Chapter of NAHRO in Public Housing Administration

Numerous presentations at conferences on Affordable Housing, Healthy and Green Housing, including the Council for Large Public Housing Authorities, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Boston Society of Architects, U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, the American Public Health Association, and the Department of Energy conferences.

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (Master in City Planning 1995). Lesley College, Cambridge, MA (Bachelor of Science 1991). Coursework at University of Michigan (1978-80) and Boston Architectural Center (1982-84).