

Worcester Homecoming Holds Inaugural Event



Photo credit: Grant Welker of the Worcester Business Journal

Inspired by similar initiatives in Detroit and other cities, [Worcester Homecoming](#) is a collaborative effort led by local business, civic, and community leaders aimed to bring together prominent professionals and notable alumni – people who grew up in Worcester or spent time in the city for school or work, but have since moved elsewhere – and reconnect them to the region by hosting events showcasing Worcester’s emerging businesses, people, and culture in order to stimulate interest in investments in the region.

As described in this [Worcester Business Journal article](#), the inaugural Worcester Homecoming event was held June 8-10, immediately prior to the City of Worcester’s Tercentennial celebration. The event featured a carefully curated series of activities including panel discussions, behind-the-scenes field trips to Polar Park and the Hanover Theater, neighborhood tours, and local entertainment. Special keynote speakers included Dr. Craig Mello, Nobel Prize recipient and Distinguished Professor, Blais University Chair in Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. Dr. Amie Shei, Foundation President and CEO, introduced the “Worcester Wins Together” panel of speakers discussing efforts to promote

equitable economic opportunities in the city.

The Foundation was the first to provide financial support to the Worcester Homecoming initiative, awarding a \$50,000 grant in December 2019, and The Health Foundation Fund, Inc., the Foundation's 501(c)(3) affiliate, has provided in-kind fiscal sponsorship for the initiative. The Foundation's founding President and CEO, Dr. Jan Yost, now retired, served on the Executive Committee planning the event alongside Worcester Homecoming Co-Chairs Kola Akindede of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Dr. Abraham Haddad, and Sherri Pitcher of Fontaine Bros., Inc. The inaugural event was originally planned for 2021 but was postponed due to the pandemic. The next event is being planned for September 2023.

[Visit our website](#)

