Bill Traynor BIO

Bill was born in 1957 and raised in Lawrence MA in a family of 8, he attended Lawrence High School and was the first in his family to graduate from college. Today Bill splits his time between Pelham NH and Saxapahaw NC, where he resides with his partner Frankie Blackburn, and dog Mayzie. Bill has 2 grown children, Emily and Max, and a grandson Jackson.

Bill is currently a Partner in **Trusted Space Partners**, a national training and consulting firm based in Saxapahaw NC that is dedicated to helping community institutions develop a new and effective networked approach to resident engagement for 21st Century neighborhood life. In his current role, Bill provides technical assistance in resident engagement and community building to community-based organizations and foundations across the United States. In addition, Bill is:

**The former Executive Director of Lawrence CommunityWorks (LCW). LCW is an initiative working to rebuild the struggling city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, his hometown.** During his tenure with LCW, he innovated an approach to community engagement – called Network Organizing- and led the organization’s transformation from a staff of two and a financial deficit to a staff of 45, an operating budget of over $2.3 million, a membership of over 5000 residents and over $80 million in new redevelopment and community building efforts in the city.

Bill is an experienced change agent with over 40 years of experience in community development and community organizing, working in urban areas throughout the United States. He began his professional life as a **Community Organizer for Mass Fair Share in 1979,** working in Lowell, MA. He then served as the **Executive Director of the Coalition for A Better Ace (CBA Inc.) a CDC, in Lowell,** where he led a $20 million redevelopment effort and various community organizing efforts throughout the 1980’s.

In 1991 and until 1999, Bill founded and served as the President **of Neighborhood Partners** and the **Neighborhood Partners Fund**, which assisted more than 200 community development efforts nationwide with technical assistance and leadership development grants. Bill is the author of numerous articles and handbooks on community development, community organizing and leadership, and also coaches’ young leaders in the field.

In 1998, Bill was awarded **a Loeb Fellowship from Harvard University at the Graduate School of Design (GSD)** and during that time developed the strategy, initial resources and the team to launch Lawrence CommunityWorks Inc. Bill has an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the **University of Massachusetts- Lowell, and later was adjunct faculty in the Sociology Department.**  In 1983 Bill received a Master’s Degree in Management (MMHS) from Heller School at **Brandeis University.**

Bill has also served as a **Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)** in Washington, DC. and is a member of the **Board of Directors of NetCentric Campaigns** also based in Washington DC. In his community in North Carolina, Bill is a member of the Alamance County NAACP and Down Home NC. And is the Democratic precinct chair in Alamance County.

When he is not working or caring for his grandson, Bill is a singer-songwriter under the name ‘Billy Traynor’ and in July 2020 he released his debut album of 14 original songs called **Beauty Inside Us** available on all streaming services. In 2010 Billy and some of his friends from Lawrence started a band **“The Wobblies”** (named after the union that organized the famous 1912 Bread and Roses Strike in Lawrence) to play benefits for local organizations.

Trusted Space Partners Partial List of Clients 2012-2022

**Community Change Organizations**  
Union Capital Boston, Boston, MA.  
Ed Foundation- Birmingham, Ala.  
Enterprising Latinas - Wimaumau, Fla.

Neighborhood Connections, Cleveland OH  
Impact Silver Spring - Montgomery County, MD  
Lawrence Community Works - Lawrence, MA

St. Johnsbury HUB – St. Johnsbury, VT

The Young People’s Project – Jackson, MI   
  
**Community Development Corporations**  
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation - Jamaica Plain, MA  
Olde Holyoke Development Corporation, Holyoke, MA  
New Vue Communities - Fitchburg, MA

**Housing Providers**  
Washington Housing Conservancy, Washington DC

Reach CDC, Portland, Oregon  
Community Preservation and Development Corporation - Silver Spring, MD  
Housing Management Resources, Quincy, MA  
Preservation of Affordable Housing(POAH) - Boston, MA  
The Community Builders (TCB) - Boston, Ma.; Akron, Oh., Chicago, Il.;    
Telesis Corporation - Washington, D.C.  
Trek Development - Pittsburgh  
  
**Social Service Providers**  
Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago, Illinois  
Hispanic Services Council - Tampa, Fla.  
Manna Food - Montgomery County, MD  
  
**Foundations/Universities**  
EOS Foundation/Boston Rising - Grove Hall and Boston, MA  
The Cleveland Foundation - Cleveland, Ohio  
National Initiative on Mixed Income Communities, Case Western Univ., - Cleveland, Ohio  
Knight Foundation/Community Builders Convening - Miami, Fla.

Annie Casey Foundation, Baltimore MD  
  
**Government**  
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston/Working Cities Initiative - Boston. MA  
New Communities Initiative/Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development - Washington D.C.  
Jobs Plus Initiative, Department of Housing and Urban Development - Washington D.C.  
Charlotte Housing Authority, Charlotte, NC  
Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago, Illinois  
Housing Opportunities Commission, Montgomery County, MD  
Housing Authority of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
  
**National Organizations**  
NeighborWorks America - Washington D.C.  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation(LISC) - Boston and Washington D.C.

References:

Liz Guttierez, Executive Director [Enterprising Latinas - Home](http://www.enterprisinglatinas.org/) [liz.gutierrez@enterprisinglatinas.org](mailto:liz.gutierrez@enterprisinglatinas.org)

*Working with executive leadership to design and help execute and organization-wide strategic and cultural pivot*

Tamar Kotelchuk, Director; Working Cities Initiative, [Working Cities Challenge - Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (bostonfed.org)](https://www.bostonfed.org/community-development/supporting-growth-in-smaller-industrial-cities/working-cities-challenge.aspx) [Tamar.Kotelchuck@bos.frb.org](mailto:Tamar.Kotelchuck@bos.frb.org)

*Providing technical support to Working Cities leadership teams around New England on strategy and community engagement*

Mark Joseph, Director, [National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities | Case Western Reserve University](https://case.edu/socialwork/nimc/) [mlj21@case.edu](mailto:mlj21@case.edu)

Long time colleague working collaboratively on community change and community engagement efforts in mixed income and affordable housing across the US