



**DARRYL SETTLES**  
ENTREPRENEUR · CIVIL ADVOCATE

**SYNOPSIS**

**OBJECTIVE:** I am continually searching for opportunities, in any form, where I can incorporate my entrepreneurial and executive management experience and my for profit and nonprofit board experience to advance the economic well-being of communities of color and promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Catalyst Ventures Development (CVD)** 2014 to present.

Founded in 2014, Catalyst Ventures Development (CVD) focuses on real estate, specifically the development of and investments in multifamily and commercial properties in Boston and surrounding communities. By fostering partnerships and relationships that empower minority communities and providing the resources that encourage financial growth, CVD aims to have a positive social impact on the real estate landscape. Included are longstanding ventures with corporate entities that include Redgate and the WinnCompanies.

Recent projects include:

- Co-developed a \$6M 14 unit condo project in Roxbury, MA. (2023)
- Investor and minority partner with Redgate Residential (Boston) in many large multi-family and commercial development projects: Advanced Manufacturing Campus (405,000 sq. ft., 2023); Ryder (200 units, 2021); Ocean Beachmont (195 units, 2020); and 500 Ocean Ave (305 units, 2019)
- Secured a 33 unit affordable housing portfolio in Roxbury, MA. (2021)
- Developed a \$3.4M luxury 5 unit condo project in Newton, MA. (2020)
- Investor in Chateau Marcel, Inc., a hospitality and spirits company that caters to sophisticated minority markets. (2020)
- Investor in Paerpay, LLC, a technology company that facilitates mobile and touchless payments. (2019)
- Investor / minority partner with development of a 135 room Residence Inn Marriott Hotel and 50 unit residential building in Roxbury, MA with XSS Hotels LLC and Urbanica, Inc. respectively. (2018)
- Investor in two hospitality venues at the Encore Boston Harbor Casino in Everett, MA with Big Night Entertainment Group (BNEG). (2018)

**Catalyst RCP** 2021 to present.

In 2021, Redgate and Catalyst Ventures Development formed Catalyst RCP, a partnership created to expand wealth and opportunity for people of color through real estate development and investments. Catalyst RCP is a 51%/49% minority owned entity.

**NEW ENDEAVOR:** Co-founder and partner of BREIF (Boston Real Estate Inclusion Fund), a specialized real estate investment vehicle that aims to provide POC with unprecedented access to invest in transformative projects in mature markets from which they have been historically excluded.

**PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** (Hospitality Entrepreneur)

Darryl's Corner Bar and Kitchen owner and operator for 28 years, sold in 2018.

Slade's Bar and Grill co-owner and managing partner for 3 years sold in 2019.

The Beehive founder and co-owner 2007 to 2010.

**EARLY EXPERIENCE:** Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) engineering and sales positions.

**SIGNIFICANT NONPROFIT AND CIVIC EXPERIENCE:**

Mass Housing Investment Corporation, Loan Committee; Greater Boston Chamber Of Commerce, Board; Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, Board; Builders of Color Coalition Cofounder/Board; Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Board Vice-Chair

**PREVIOUS BOARDS** (Trustee or Advisory):

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Cofounder/Board Emeritus; Museum of Fine Arts; Wang Center; Huntington Theatre; Massachusetts Convention Center Authority; Metropolitan District Commission – Commissioner

**CORPORATE BOARDS:**

Village Bank, Commodore Builders

**EDUCATION:** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; BS Engineering, 1984

**PERSONAL:** Married, two children, longtime resident of Newton, Massachusetts



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**BIOGRAPHY**

Darryl Settles currently serves as president of Catalyst Ventures Development, a Boston-based entity that focuses on the development of and investments in multifamily and commercial properties in Boston and surrounding communities by fostering partnerships and relationships that empower minority communities by providing the resources that encourage financial growth. In addition, he has nurtured longstanding ventures with prominent corporate entities that include Redgate and the WinnCompanies. As a result of these entrepreneurial ventures, he has developed and deployed successful tactics for strategic execution, business development, contract negotiation and governance capabilities.

Additionally, in 2021, Redgate and Catalyst Ventures Development formed Catalyst RCP, a partnership created to expand wealth and opportunity for people of color through real estate development and investments. Catalyst RCP is a 51%/49% minority owned entity.

Settles professional success in the local hospitality and real estate industry has given him the platform to become a vocal advocate for the minority community in Boston. He reinvented iconic landmark "Bob The Chef" into Darryl's Corner Bar and Kitchen (DCBK), and brought new life to the longtime, traditionally Black-owned institution. Additionally, he served as part owner and managing partner at Slade's Bar & Grill (SBG), the oldest Black-owned operating business in Boston, where he continued his efforts to elevate daily life in an underserved community. He sold DCBK in 2018 and SBG in 2019. Settles also co-founded The Beehive in Boston's historic South End in 2007 and sold his interests in 2010.

He has a lifelong commitment to improving society through economic and cultural equality, which he views as vehicles to implement necessary social change. He has evidenced this commitment in professional, personal, cultural and nonprofit arenas with innovative and enduring initiatives, including: founding of the Beantown Jazz Fest, creating a crossover community event; creating and implementing community forums, events and other enduring initiatives exploring the issues and triumphs of the minority community while contributing to civic education and pride (DCBK Black History Month Community Forums, Boston Means Business, Community Game Changers, Critical Mass, A Tribute to James Brown Saves Boston); serving as a board member for multiple entities (including appointments by Governors Weld, Patrick and Baker) that cross political party lines and advance national causes; founding member of both the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts and the Builders of Color Coalition, organizations with missions to advance the economic well-being of Black businesses and entrepreneurs.

By viewing every endeavor with an entrepreneurial spirit, Settles seeks to use his accumulated experience and networks to be the catalyst that helps position Boston as a leader in the fight against income inequality.



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## CURRENTLY SEEKING:

Appointments where I can leverage my experience, network and passion to enact positive change towards economic equity and social justice.

## PERSONAL

Married, two children, long-time Newton resident

## EDUCATION

Harvard Business School  
Growing Minority Businesses  
Executive Education Program

Eastern Bank  
Business Equity Initiative Program

Dartmouth College  
Executive Education Program -  
Tuck School of Business

Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University;  
Bachelor of Science (Engineering)

Digital Equipment Corporation  
Sales Development Program

Carnegie-Mellon University  
Summer Engineering Program



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## CURRENT POSITION

### Founder & President: Catalyst Ventures Development

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### Managing Partner: Catalyst RCP

In 2021, Redgate and Catalyst Ventures Development formed Catalyst RCP, a partnership created to expand wealth and opportunity for people of color through real estate development and investments. Catalyst RCP is a 51%/49% minority owned entity.

## CIVIL ADVOCACY

2024: With The City of Boston, co-produced and spearheaded marketing and fundraising for a tribute to the "James Brown Saves Boston" concert featuring Tony Wilson. The original concert occurred just 24 hours after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Brown's performance called for dignity and unity has endured as a symbol of the unifying power of music during times of societal upheaval.

2024: In partnership with BECMA, developed and executed the "Legacy Pioneer Awards: Champions of Equity" event which recognized the achievements of influential Black business and economic development leaders.

2020: Published "Critical Mass," illustrating the extent to which the racial and pandemic crises are disproportionately effecting minority communities

2017: Co-founded Builders of Color Coalition, designed to collectively create greater opportunities for education, employment, partnership, and financing

2017: Created "Community Game Changers," a series of wall murals at Slade's Bar & Grill that pay tribute to the iconic minds and personalities that have shaped and advanced the Greater Boston Black community

2017: Co-founded and became board member of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Inc. (BECMA) with a mission to advance the economic well-being of Black businesses, in coordination with organizations that serve the Black community of Massachusetts

2014, 2015: Conceived and developed "Boston Means Business," a forum that examined the "Economic Landscape of Boston" relative to the Black business community – initiating the first, public Boston dialog addressing economic inequality in Boston and the surrounding communities

## CORPORATE BOARDS

Village Bank: Current Board Member

Commodore Builders: Current Board Member



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## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Massachusetts State House  
City of Boston  
City of Newton  
Harvard Business School  
Boston College  
Urban Land Institute  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Noble & Greenough School  
Roxbury Community College  
Boston Globe Forum  
Babson College  
Lasell College  
Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
St. Sebastian's School  
Madison Park High School  
Mass Bay College  
ABCD  
Year-Up  
Northeastern University  
MassHousing  
BUILD  
New England Culinary Arts  
& Technology  
Ethnic Online Annual Symposium  
ULI Lunch Series  
Boston's Mens Dinner Club  
Needham-Newton Chamber  
of Commerce  
Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Boston Business Journal Forums  
Get Connected! Business Forums



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## NONPROFIT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

(current)

Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC): Board  
Mass Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC): Loan Committee  
Builders of Color Coalition (BCC): Board  
MeetBoston: Board, Executive Committee  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce (GBCC): Board

(past)

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA): Board/Cofounder  
Metro Boston Housing (MBH): Board  
Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce (NNCC): Board  
Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA): Board  
Berklee College of Music Advisory: Board  
The Huntington Theater: Board  
The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA): Board  
Wang Center (Citi Performing Arts Center): Board  
Metropolitan District Commission (MDC): Associate Commissioner  
Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce (NNCC): Diversity & Inclusion Committee

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

BECMA: Legacy Pioneers: Champions of Equity Icon (2024)  
Charles River Regional Chamber & Get Connected!  
50 Most Influential Business Leaders of Color: (2023)  
Boston Magazine: 150 Most Influential Bostonians (2023)  
Get Connected! Boston's Most Influential Men of Color (2023)  
The Dinner Group: Trailblazer Award (2023)  
Builders of Color Coalition: Game Changer (2022)  
Multicultural Symposium Series: Distinguished Breakfast Honoree (2021)  
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA): Director Emeritus, (2020)  
Newton-Needham Metro West: 50 Most Influential Business People of Color (2020)  
Eastern Bank's Business Equity Initiative: Cohort 1 Recognition Award (2019)  
Slade's Bar & Grill: Community Game Changer Award (2018)  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation: Culinary Community Champion Award  
for Lifetime Achievement (2018)  
GK 100: Boston's 100 Most Influential People of Color (2016)  
Boston Business Journal: Leaders in Diversity Award (2014)  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action: The Community Leadership Award (2014)  
United South End Settlements: Harriet Tubman Community Achievement Award (2014)  
Boston Magazine's Best of Boston: Sunday Brunch (2014)  
Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation: Business Leadership Award (2013)  
Color Magazine: Change Agent (2013)