

Josh Tobias

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Kathleen McAreavey Biography

Kathleen McAreavey was born in Providence in 1965. Her family was forced to move to North Providence two years later when their home was demolished as a part of government sponsored urban renewal. McAreavey is currently the Education Coordinator at the Providence Preservation Society, a non-profit organization that advocates for historic preservation of houses and neighborhoods in Providence. Through her work at PPS McAreavey has been deeply involved in debates over gentrification, affordable housing, and new development in Providence. In the interview McAreavey discusses her opinions about the changes in the Fox Point neighborhood. She praises the rehabilitation of several historic houses in the neighborhood as well as the opening of several new business on Ives Street. She also was enthusiastic about the community involvement in crafting a vision for Fox Point once I-195 is moved. According to McAreavey, historic preservation should not just be about the saving old buildings “but it’s the building and story that the building tells and the building’s future...it’s always coming down to it really being about people and quality of life.” McAreavey argues that historic preservation must also take into account issues of gentrification and affordable housing, to ensure that people do not get priced out of their homes.