



Philanthropy MA is pleased to announce that effective immediately, **Jessica Berns** is being promoted into a new role at the organization as **Vice President, Network Vibrancy**. The role recognizes Jessica's leadership to date in growing our funder Networks and serving as a bridge between Networks and Philanthropy MA programming. As Vice President, Network Vibrancy, Jessica will continue to report to the CEO as she works to strengthen coordination, collaboration, and learning within the philanthropic sector. She will also remain involved with cross-organization initiatives.

Jessica joined Philanthropy MA in January 2019 as Network Vibrancy Director, a new role at that time. Since then, Jessica's leadership has contributed to strengthening, creating, and convening over 10 funder Networks, including place based, portfolio based, and role based. The Networks engage funders across the entire state who seek to build relationships, learn together, and identify potential collaboration. Under Jessica's leadership, Philanthropy MA's networked approach has contributed to membership growth for the organization and caught the attention of philanthropy serving organizations in other states.

"Jessica has been instrumental in strengthening the philanthropic sector here in Massachusetts through her thoughtful and effective leadership of our networks," noted Jeff Poulos, CEO of Philanthropy MA. "She is that rare individual who can balance listening and leading, while doing so with compassion, confidence, and a sense of humor. Particularly during the past 3 years while we worked through the pandemic and relied on finding new ways to be together, Jessica became an essential and trusted partner for so many of us. I am glad we can recognize her in this way and appreciate that she will continue to serve in this important role for Philanthropy MA and our community."

Jessica shared her sentiments, "I have loved my role at Philanthropy MA since day one and am excited for all the ways our community of Networks can continue to grow. Network leadership and participants set Network agendas and priorities; my job is to support and accompany them." Reflecting on the potential of the Networks, Jessica says, "It's rewarding to observe that the learning and connecting within Networks has an impact beyond the Networks."