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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Director of Allston Brighton CDC to step down this month

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 4, 2013 01:36 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The executive director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation will step down this month to take a job at another local nonprofit, the organization said.

Mary-Helen "M.H." Nsangou has served at the organization's director for the past five years. Her last day will be Jan. 17, officials said.

Her tenure with the organization spans 19 years. Nsangou served as a community organizer, founded the CDC's homeownership program and took on leadership roles as an associate director and executive director.

"Providing strong leadership at a critical time in our community, MH has led the organization through transition, leaving it with a new strategic plan that focuses on building neighborhood stability, strong community partnerships and external strategic alliances, a healthy affordable housing portfolio, a talented and committed staff, and a stable financial position," the nonprofit's president, Rhianna Trefry, wrote in a letter this week.

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Nsangou has accepted a job as a human resources director for Root Capital, a Cambridge-based nonprofit that lends capital and provides financial training and other resources to small, growing businesses in rural Africa and Latin America.

Valerie Frias, director of strategic partnerships at the Allston Brighton CDC, will fill in as interim director when Nsangou leaves, the organization said.

“Val brings strong experience in managing organizations and collaboratives to advance healthy, stable, engaged and equitable communities,” Trefry wrote in the letter. “She brings the substantive knowledge, vision, passion and skills to lead the Allston Brighton CDC into its next phase of growth.”

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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