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## **We will continue to get through this time together - by Melissa Fish-Crane**

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Melissa Fish-Crane

As summer wanes, we find ourselves being aware of the familiar seasonal shifts we've come to expect –shorter days, more structure, and a renewed focus on the task at hand.

Many of us, however, may not have expected this latest bout of uncertainty as a result of the ongoing pandemic, and exacerbated by other outside issues. Although it's disheartening to have felt such progress made, only to then feel like we're taking steps back, our industry is no stranger to adversity. In fact, we are closely entwined with some of the major challenges facing our country today – eviction moratoriums and rental assistance, racial justice and equity and inclusion, climate change and infrastructure support – and we have seen that we can affect the most change by staying active and involved in the conversations – and the solutions.

That's what we're doing at IREM Boston, and we encourage all of our members to do the same. Amazingly, our members have accomplished such important things, and so many, over this incredibly challenging timeframe. Now is not the time to step back. We need to stay steady and unwavering – for our organizations, for our residents, and for ourselves.

One way to achieve this is to stay positive by finding things to celebrate. For our chapter, that includes learning that member Kimberly Parker, CPM, ARM has been selected as a 2021 IREM REME Awards finalist for the IREM Excellence Award - Individual! She's done so much to raise awareness for and advance diversity, equity and inclusion within our chapter and our industry. We are thrilled to see her earn this recognition, and will be pulling for her when the award winners are announced in October – stay tuned!

There are smaller ways to stay positive and celebrate too. Perhaps your communities have been able to once again host their end-of-summer barbecue, or a creative solution brought about by last year's restrictions has now become a new welcome tradition. The example you set by what you choose to focus on and draw attention to will be reflected by others; the steadiness you show in your own personal leadership will provide needed stability for others, especially those who may find it

harder to focus on the positive during this time.

As you maintain your steady leadership, know that our organization is here to support you, and help buoy you when you need it most, whether by way of our educational opportunities, resources, or network of professionals that can serve as examples and sounding boards. We have the tools to continue to navigate this difficult time. Trust in your abilities, rely on your advisors, and know that we will continue to get through this time together.

Melissa Fish-Crane is the 2021 president of IREM Boston and principal & COO at the Peabody Properties.

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