



Power moves fast in this town—unstoppable and undeniable. In making this list of the 150 most influential Bostonians [each year](#), we always face a tricky question: How do you measure something as slippery as influence? It shows up in boardrooms and Instagram Reels, in quiet policy decisions and thunderous cultural moments. But in today's climate, influence takes on even deeper dimensions—we see it in how our local leaders navigate complex federal funding challenges, in how our hospital chiefs preserve cutting-edge research despite headwinds from Washington, and in how our university presidents balance institutional independence with financial pragmatism. Some wielders of influence can command attention with a single phone call, while others shape our world through the slow accumulation of trust and respect. But make no mistake: This isn't just a list based on follower numbers or net worth—we've done our homework seeking people who really shape how we think, live, work, and dream. Through countless conversations and a year's worth of observation, we've found leaders who don't just ride the wave of the zeitgeist—they create it, often while deftly maneuvering through political crosscurrents to protect Boston's interests. Some of these names will be familiar; others may be new to you. All of them, in their own way, move the needle of our collective future.

Let the arguments begin—influence, after all, is in the eye of the beholder. —*David Bernstein*

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Boston

MAGAZINE



148. Ricardo Rodriguez

REALTOR, RICARDO RODRIGUEZ & ASSOCIATES

- \$4 billion+ in career sales
- #1 Coldwell Banker Large Team in New England

The local economy depends, in large part, on keeping the beautiful homes in Boston and the surrounding suburbs filled with residents. Rodriguez plays a crucial role in ensuring this happens; his office is one of the top luxury property-selling teams in the entire Boston area. Beyond his professional success in real estate, this powerhouse agent maintains an active presence in the city's vibrant social scene, demonstrating his community involvement through activities such as cochairing the prestigious Shakespeare Under the Stars gala last year.