

PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

## S.R.O. CROWD TURNS OUT FOR D8 FORUM



**Candidates (from left to right) Kenzie Bok, Montez Haywood, Kristen Mobilia, Jennifer Nassour, and Helene Vincent listen while candidate Landon Lemoine responds to a question from moderator Margaret McKenna.**

years, if they favor supervised injection facilities (only Nassour said no), police overtime, lack of diversity in the

fire department, and whether a \$25 fee should be charged to car owners for resident parking.

When asked how to improve the environment, Vincent said “increase the urban tree canopy,” Nassour wanted “more electric car stations,” and Lemoine added, “reinforce the sea wall.”

When McKenna asked candidates for their top priority, Vincent said bike lanes, Nassour said a traffic study and the missing bricks on sidewalks, Mobilia said a hearing on civic engagement, Bok said how to use public land, Haywood said the opioid crisis, and Lemoine said revising the formula for affordable housing.

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

In a standing-room-only meeting at Berkeley College on May 21, six contenders for the District 8 city council seat presented their views and answered a barrage of questions. All candidates are vying to replace Josh Zakim, who has announced that he is not running for re-election. The preliminary election is Sept. 24. Margaret McKenna, president emerita of Lesley University, moderated and asked questions to the panel.

Each candidate gave a one and a half minute-long presentation of their views and was then bombarded by questions from McKenna.

Kenzie Bok, a senior advisor for policy and planning at the Boston Housing Authority, said that we need more schools in the district to keep families in our neighborhood. She also stated, “We need housing that all people can afford.”

Kristen Mobilia, a Fenway resident and long-time community advocate, said she had 20 years of executive experience and combines a business background with solid community roots. Mobilia said that she is out in the neighborhoods every day and emphasized public education, affordable housing, transportation, and dealing with climate change.

Jennifer Nassour, former chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party and a Back Bay resident, noted that most of the audience had no experience with a real Republican (she said, “I don’t have horns!”). Nassour, who is a parent, spoke about her concerns for safe streets and excellent schools.

Landon Lemoine, a member of the

Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, advocated decreasing the gap in affordable housing and said he believes in talking to people who experience problems every day. He also said that teachers need to be paid a living wage.

Montez Haywood, an assistant district attorney for Suffolk County and a West End resident, said, “I love this city,” and expressed interest in improving neighborhood schools.

Helene Vincent, a Kenmore Square resident and activist for social and environmental justice, said that she was a product of the public schools and the daughter of first-generation immigrants. Vincent said we need local schools and that she wants to “bring power back to our neighborhoods.”

When asked how they would improve the public schools, all of the candidates recommended pre-Kindergarten classes. Lemoine added, “free lunches,” Haywood said, “top all class sizes at 20,” and Bok mentioned educating our students to become teachers. Vincent added that millennials want to stay in the city but need schools.

All candidates agreed that more city contracts should go to women and minorities. All candidates wanted affordable housing. Vincent said that the universities should build more onsite housing. Mobilia favored holding developers accountable for affordable housing quotas while Lemoine said that the way average median income is calculated works against affordable housing.

Candidates were asked about city contracts, improving Boston schools, bike lanes, dealing with Uber and Lyft, whether city council terms should be two or four

## CIVIC AGENDA

### Mon, 6/3: Simmons Master Plan Meeting

6:30-7:30pm, 300 the Fenway, Main Campus Bldg., 1st floor, Room C-101

### Tue, 6/4: B.U. Data Science Center Meeting

6:00-8:00pm, 595 Comm. Ave., Questrom School of Business, Room 312

### Mon, 6/10: Simmons IMP comment period ends

Submit your comments to Edward. Carmody@boston.gov

### Sat, 6/15: Fenway Porchfest

12-4:30pm, locations throughout the Fenway; check [www.FenwayPorchfest](http://www.FenwayPorchfest)

### Sat, 6/29: B.U. Data Scienes Center comment period ends

Submit your comments to Tim. Czerwinski@boston.gov

The candidates needed 130 signatures on a petition and May 21, the day of the forum, was the last day to file nomination papers. The deadline for the city’s election department to certify signatures is June 25, so we may see some changes in candidates.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens

## Could Natural Method Provide Way to Control Algal Blooms in the Charles?

BY JIANCHENG MO

Floating wetlands are small islands of vegetations that rest on a body of freshwater, usually a lake or a river. At first glance, these islands may appear as tourist attractions that house a diverse species of plants and flowers and draw wildlife. Yet, behind these floating wetlands are environmental scientists who work to improve the freshwater quality and resolve ecological challenges.

Late last year, the Charles River Conservancy (CRC) partnered with Max Rome, a PhD candidate in environmental engineering at Northeastern University, to work on improving water quality in the river by designing and implementing floating wetlands. This project is supported by funding from the Sasaki Foundation.

“My background is in environmental engineering, which, when it comes to surface water quality, tends to focus more on nutrient reduction,” said Rome. “This project is a great way to get at the question of ‘what role can ecological restoration play in improving water quality?’”

The Charles faces serious pollution challenges. On rainy days, runoff from city streets transports excessive nutrients to the river, facilitating toxic cyanobacterial (green algal) growth. Zooplankton can control harmful algal growth, but zooplankton populations have fallen due to predation by plant-eating fish.

“Floating wetland roots reintroduce plant habitat, providing zooplankton refuge from predation,” according to the Floating Wetland Project storyboard provided by the Conservancy. “This process can locally increase zooplankton populations to aid in the control of algal blooms and help restore ecological balance.”

Rome said that major, long-lasting algal blooms in recent years have exceeded the advisory limit that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has set. The blooms led to more turbid water and have degraded water quality in the river. Algae can also produce toxins that are hazardous to humans and animals. “The floating wetland project will help us understand to what extent algal growth can be ameliorated by improved habitat [for zooplanktons]. Our hope is that the root system from the floating wetlands will support the growth of large-bodied zooplankton.”

In collaboration with the CRC, Rome previously sampled and analyzed E. coli and cyanobacteria in the river at North Point Park in Cambridge during the summers of 2017 and 2018. He is now working on defining ways to best characterize and measure algal blooms. His work has been published and presented at conferences such as the 2019 Annual Workshop of the Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations.

“Right now, we are eager to get permission from the city and the state to install the wetlands. Once it is in the river, we plan to collect data for three summers. This data will be used to model the effect that increased herbivory can have on decreasing the duration and intensity of summer algal blooms,” said Rome. “This summer we will be using a combination of genetics and light microscopy to understand how the species composition of phytoplankton changes over course of the summer.”

Passionate about his research, Rome said that, since he grew up in Cambridge, he has spent a lot of time imagining what a more vibrant and restored Charles River might look like.

Jiancheng Mo is candidate for a doctor of pharmacy degree at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science.

## Safer Biking Comes to Brookline Ave.



The death of Dr. Anita Kurman – an LMA researcher hit by a truck in the Back Bay on her way to work in August 2015 – provoked a strong response among people who bike to work in the Longwood area. Protected bike lanes have been added along Brookline Avenue, one of many suggestions made at meetings held in the LMA in the wake of Kurman’s death.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIVABLE STREETS ALLIANCE

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...

**The Boston Planning and Development Authority announced \$100,000 in neighborhood-beautification grants to eight Fenway-area applicants.**



The money comes from a deal that gives the Red Sox exclusive use of Jersey and Lansdowne streets during ballgames. Recipients included the Art Resource Collaborative for Kids (\$10,000 for Miles of Murals 2020); Bay State Road Neighborhood Assoc. (\$6,000); the Esplanade Association (\$5,000); FENSFund (\$5,500); Emerald Necklace Conservancy (\$11,750 for the Shattuck Visitor Center); Fenway Civic (\$25,000 for relocation of the Robert Burns statue); Kenmore Association (\$12,000 for benches on the Comm. Ave. Mall); and Project Place (\$24,750). Dana-Farber Cancer Institute won a federal patent lawsuit that will add the names of two researchers, including one from DFCl, to patents granted a Japanese researcher for a cancer treatment. WBUR reports that drugs based on the patents have brought in billions of dollars of revenue for a Japanese pharma company. **The 2019 James Beard Award chose Tony Messina—chef at Uni, in the Eliot Hotel—as Best Chef: Northeast. The finalists also included Tiffani Faison of Tiger Mama and Sweet Cheeks**

**in the West Fens.** The runup to graduation saw personnel changes at local colleges. First, New England Conservatory welcomed a new president, Andrea Kalyn, with festivities that included an inaugural gala that raised more than \$1.1 million for scholarships. Meanwhile, Wentworth Institute President Zorica Pantić presided over her final graduation after 14 years leading the school. Wentworth announced in March that Mark Thompson of Quinnipiac University will succeed Pantić this summer. Simmons University announced that President Helen Drinan will leave the school after ten years next summer. **The Four Seasons Hotel at One Dalton Street officially opened, as did Zuma, the Japanese-themed gastropub at its base.**

## SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF BIRDS IN THE FENS

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

**O**n a cold, rainy May morning, two dozen hardy souls showed up for the Fenway Civic Association's annual bird walk, led by Emerald Necklace naturalist Stephen Baird of Friends of Jamaica Pond. In a morning walk through the Back Bay Fens, along the Muddy River, Agassiz Bridge, and



Victory Gardens, avian enthusiasts viewed red-winged blackbirds, tufted titmice, yellow belly sapsuckers, northern flickers, and our resident great blue heron.

One of the first birds spotted was a Baltimore oriole with its bright orange breast. Baird said, "When I was a little kid, Baltimore Orioles were never seen in New England. You had to go to Baltimore to see one." He explained that due to climate change, many southern birds have migrated north.

As the shrill sound of white-throated sparrows was heard overhead, Baird explained that the best way to identify birds was by their songs or their habitats. He said, "You don't need to get 'warbler's neck' from looking up. Just look for secret places like running water." In the Fenway, the shallows of the Muddy River close to Park Drive and Queensberry street is a favorite bathing spot for many birds. And the Victory Gardens provide nesting sites for yellow warblers. For swallows and herons, peer off the Agassiz bridge.

Woodpeckers abound in the Fenway and can be heard drumming to mark their territory. A highlight of the bird walk was the sight of two downy woodpeckers mating in a birch tree. Baird said that redheaded and red-bellied woodpeckers are moving up from the south.

As the group was disbanding, suddenly, a red-tailed hawk appeared on a branch high above.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. For more information and birdsong sound clips, check out [www.FriendsofJamaicaPond.org](http://www.FriendsofJamaicaPond.org).

## S O X B O X

Fri, June 7	7:10pm	Tue, June 13	7:10pm
Sat, June 8	1:05pm	Fri, June 21	7:10pm
Sat, June 8	6:10pm	Sat, June 22	4:05pm
Sun, June 9	1:05pm	Sun, June 23	1:05pm
Mon, June 10	7:10pm	Mon, June 24	7:10pm
Tue, June 11	7:10pm	Tue, June 25	7:10pm
Wed, June 12	7:10pm	Wed, June 26	1:05pm



## Public Meeting

# Simmons University 2019 IMP Projects

Monday, June 3  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

300 Fenway  
Main College Building,  
Floor 1, Room C-101  
Boston, MA 02115

**Project Proponent:**  
Simmons University

**Project Description:**

In the past year, Simmons has transitioned to a University and reorganized its academic programming into four distinct colleges. The Proponent's updated Institutional Master Plan will enhance its academic facilities consistent with this new structure and create a consolidated academic and residential campus. The Proposed Projects include renovations to Lefavour Hall and the Main College Building to accommodate the University's Library as well as College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences (CNBHS), and the proposal calls for demolition of the existing Park Science Center for the construction of a new, 21-story Living and Learning Center, which will provide athletics space, a dining hall, and approximately 1,100 dormitory beds.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617-918-4422  
email: [edward.carmody@boston.gov](mailto:edward.carmody@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
6/10/2019

[BostonPlans.org](http://BostonPlans.org) | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)  
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



## RENTING OUT YOUR HOME FOR THE WEEKEND?

*That's a short-term rental. You need to register it!*

### WHY DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

On January 1, 2019, a citywide ordinance established new guidelines and regulations for short-term rentals in Boston.

Registering your unit will allow us to preserve housing while allowing Bostonians to benefit from this new industry.

### WHAT IS A SHORT-TERM RENTAL?

If you're renting out your home for 28 days or less, you need to register your property as a short term rental. This includes apartments, individual rooms, and entire homes.

For more information call (617) 635-1010 or email us at [shorttermrentals@boston.gov](mailto:shorttermrentals@boston.gov)

# LOCAL OWNERSHIP HELPS NEW MISSION HILL BUSINESSES THRIVE

BY JIANCHENG MO

While new businesses in the West Fenway are mostly chains, newly opened businesses in Mission Hill are primarily locally owned. These new businesses are frequently patronized by students and healthcare professionals.

“Most of our business comes from the schools and hospitals in the area,” said Dome Naka, the owner of the Laughing Monk Café. Naka is a relatively new business owner in Mission Hill who opened the café about two years ago, offering inventive Thai dishes and sushi options. “The Laughing Monk Café is actually a family business, with 15 other

“Additionally, we gain businesses by catering and delivering. Surrounding hospitals like the Brigham and Women’s, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and others order catering services for major events,” said Irziqat. “We also receive late delivery orders from the students as well.”

“Starting early September, everyone gets busy — the people and the businesses, until late May,” said Irziqat. Indeed, both Naka and Irziqat agree that businesses tend to dwindle slightly as the students depart for the summer months, leaving only the full-time neighborhood residents. “However, [the loss] is partly compensated by a growing tourism in Boston and an increasing medical tourism in



PHOTO: JIANCHENG MO

locations in Houston. I came to Boston for college and saw an opportunity in the Mission Hill, so I decided to diverge from my family business and start my own.”

The Longwood Medical Area, located right beside Mission Hill, is home to several academic institutions and world-renowned medical institutions, attracting a huge influx of students and health care professionals. About half of Mission Hill residents are between 20 and 34 years old, according to data released by the Boston Planning and Development Agency earlier this year.

Naka said that the growing population in Mission Hill and Boston has resulted in additional customers. “Although we see that lunch is at the majority served to people from the surrounding universities and hospitals, around dinner time, we actually serve people from everywhere, like across the Charles River from Cambridge.”

Across the street, Karim Irziqat confirms this with his two years of experience as the general manager of the Il Mondo Pizzeria.

the Longwood Medical Area.”

The vibrance in Mission Hill is not only brought about by the students, the medical residents and fellows, and the health care professionals, but also the businesses. Together, they create a unique yet ever-changing community. Both Naka and Irziqat enthusiastically express that they enjoyed working the people in this small community and getting to know their patrons well overtime.

“There is definitely a strong sense of community here at Mission Hill,” said Laura Perrault, a young research scientist at Boston Children’s Hospital. Originally from New Hampshire, Perrault said the culturally diverse cuisine options at Mission Hill, colleagues of her age, and the learning and career opportunities in the area have collectively offered her an incredible experience coming to the city of Boston.

*Jiancheng Mo is a Pharmacy student at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science.*



PHOTO: BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Olmsted Fought Hard to Get Boylston Bridge Looking Right

EDITORS NOTE: This is the second in an occasional series on the Olmsted bridges in the Back Bay Fens. The first provided background on the three bridges, and this piece delves into the Boylston Street Bridge. Future pieces will discuss The Agassiz Road Bridge and The Fens/Higginson Circle Bridge.

BY GRAEME MILLS

H. H. Richardson did impact the design and structure of the Boylston Street Bridge, by any standard the largest and most historically significant of the Fens bridges. Beginning with the submissions of loose sketches depicting a single arched structure, the Olmsteds went to battle against City Engineer Joseph Davis and his “habitual drift” toward uninspiring engineering solutions” that contradicted the wilderness scheme.

With Richardson in full consent, Olmsted described his architectural requirements for this “most conspicuous object,” the Boylston Street Bridge; it must “have a rustic quality and be picturesque in material as well as in outlines and shadows.... The more the real structure is evident, the better.” Olmsted made the case for a central arch made of (or faced with) boulders “or of rough field stones with voussoirs of cut stone or brick...” but not iron. In fact, he wrote to Davis, “Let us have iron anywhere else if economy requires than on Boylston Street.” Eventually, the city Parks Commissioner and incoming city engineer prevailed, insisting on a compromise material; instead of boulders, they chose seam-face Worcester pink granite, a Richardson signature. Olmsted approved of its texture and color but added that it would have “suited the circumstances better if it had not been so nice.”

The Olmsteds wholeheartedly endorsed the eventual configuration of the Boylston Street Bridge, with John C. Olmsted acknowledging Richardson’s major contribution of the twin tourelles, or projected lookout bays, that add an undulating shape to the Bridge as it rises and dips above the Muddy River flowing directly below. In fact, the bridge has exceeded its original “not so nice” intention primarily as it pertains to the dappled granite surfaces and its contrasting, rounded header. This is a non-machine-made, tactile structure that invites physical and visual engagement. The sidewalk widens to allow simultaneous pedestrian passage and appreciation of the meandering waterway that is framed in the vista below the presiding central arch.

It should be noted that current environmental revitalization projects in and around the Muddy River have been fostered in part by this vista, its beauty, as well as its evident ecosystem challenges. Adjacent to the bridge is a long stairway that invites visitors into the central wooded parklands below, in direct opposition to the more prescribed and passive walkways of the original design. That the staircase leads directly to the Mothers’ Rest Playground would likewise have been met with Olmsted’s disapproval, as the Fens meadows were intended as uninterrupted landscape. In addition, as the Boylston Street Bridge carries one of the city’s most significant thoroughfares, it provides a social, economic, and geographic link from the city center through Back Bay westward to suburban Brookline. It mediates the urban-rural, machine-nature juxtapositions of its era, while extending the impact that Olmsted’s designs achieved throughout the connected parklands.

*Graeme Mills is an urban studies and economics student at Vassar College.*

**AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM** : **TUE. 6/18** : 6:30–9:30pm. Franklin Institute, 41 Berkeley St. Registration required. Go to [bit.ly/BostonALForum](http://bit.ly/BostonALForum).

## Mayor Cuts Ribbon as Revamped 401 Park Drive Nears Opening



PHOTO: ARAM BOGHOSIAN

401 Park Drive — formerly the Landmark Center — opened with a flourish on May 17, with a lush landscaped lawn and refurbished inside on display. Developer Steve Samuels of Samuels & Associates told the packed audience, “We hope this becomes the new center of gravity in the Fenway.” Mayor Marty Walsh lauded the public open space — with more than 100 new trees and 4,000 plants — for its environmental benefits. In the new development, REI and Bed Bath & Beyond remain, but Panera is gone and Blick will move around the corner to Park Drive. The new Time Out food court is scheduled to open by early June. Pictured at the May 17 event, left to right: Erik Grabowski (J.P. Morgan); Tom Bloch (Samuels & Associates); Leslie Cohen (Samuels & Associates); Peter Sougarides (Samuels & Associates); Steve Samuels; Mayor Walsh; City Councilor Josh Zakim; Rep. Chynah Tyler; Abe Menzin (Samuels & Associates); Josh Hubbard (Time Out Market Boston); and Joel Sklar (Samuels & Associates).

# FENSVIEWS

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Porchfest Lives up to Its Motto: 'Music Everywhere, Porches Optional'

#### TO THE EDITOR:

The Fenway Porchfest organizing committee invites all to attend a day of free music at Fenway Porchfest, Sat., June 15, from noon to 4:30pm. (Rain date: June 16.)

Performances will take place at nearly 40 sites, with over 80 musical acts across the East and West Fens. Locations range from the Verb Hotel and Ramler Park in the West Fens to Symphony Hall and the Symphony Road Community Gardens in the East Fens. A map,

schedule, and full list of performers will be posted at [www.fenwayporchfest.org](http://www.fenwayporchfest.org) in early June.

Fenway Porchfest was conceived to promote Fenway artists and the neighborhood through a community-wide, community-driven festival. Our goal is to increase connectivity between residents and the arts, highlight local talent, and build on existing cultural programming through a free, grassroots music festival.

Fenway performers will include John David Black, The Dave Ehle Trio, The Fensgate Chamber Players, The Sprained Ankles, The Neighbors, Jillian Ann, The

George Rhoads Jazz Group, and many more!

Fenway Porchfest is coordinated by the Fenway Alliance, the Fenway Community Development Corporation, and Fenway Civic Association, with generous support from the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust and The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation. We thank the numerous "porch" owners, the City of Boston, volunteers, and the incredibly talented performers who make this event possible.

For more information, write to [info@fenwayporchfest.org](mailto:info@fenwayporchfest.org).

**SINCERELY,  
PORCHFEST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### 'Tree Massacre' Angers and Saddens Neighbors

#### TO THE EDITOR:

On April 11, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department cut down several 100-year-old trees behind the Fensgate Cooperative at 73 Hemenway St.

Residents were not properly notified by the City prior to the trees' removal and had previously expressed their opposition to cutting down the trees at three public meetings.

According to a letter submitted by us and other concerned residents, at least 50 residents from the neighborhood and at least 20 residents from Fensgate attended the three

meetings held in spring 2017. We were very explicit in our opposition to the potential loss of the trees.

At the third meeting, residents were told that because there was no money available, the tree-removal plan would likely not be implemented. We were assured that they would be notified if the situation changed. However, we received no notification during the past two years.

The trees acted as shade during hot summers, as a barrier to winter winds, and as a buffer to noise and bright lights from Fenway Park events.

The concerned residents of Fensgate are urging Mayor Marty Walsh to investigate the

process and the multiple missteps they believe occurred. We submitted a letter to the Mayor, the Parks Department Commissioner, and several City Council members on May 13.

Several Fensgate residents attended the mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour on May 14. While we did not have an opportunity to speak directly with the mayor, the project manager for the Westland Avenue Back Bay Fens Gateway improvement project told one resident that there was no reason to meet with residents, as nothing had changed since the third community meeting in June 2017.

**SINCERELY  
MATT THALL, MARY ANN BROGAN  
EAST FENS**

## Karilyn Krockett Keynotes Our Annual Meeting on July 11

The Fenway News Association will hold its 2019 annual meeting on Thursday, July 11, at the Fenway Community Center at 1282

Boylston St. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm. In addition to light refreshments and a keynote speech from Karilyn Krockett—a lecturer in Public Policy and Urban Planning at MIT and author of *Highways Before People*—we'll present a year-end summary and hold elections for new and continuing members of the board of directors.

Membership in the Fenway News Association is open to anyone in the Fenway and other communities we serve. According to our by-laws, one must join at least 14 days before the annual meeting in order to cast a vote. A list of current members appears here; please notify us by June 27 if you wish to join or be taken off our rolls. Send your notification to [fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com). And we hope to see you on the 11th!

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 1, 2019:** Delia Alvarez, Shannon Al-Wakeel, Arlene Ash, Nicole Auberg, Jonathan Ball, Alison Barnet, Mary Ann Brogan, Will Brownsberger, Kelsey Bruun, Tony Capobianco, Bob Case, Steve Chase, Conrad Cizek, Brian Clague, Suzanne Comtois, Tracy Conta, Jerry Cooper, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, Alex Danesco, Bennie diNardo, Kerry Do, Richard Dunshee, Margot Edwards, Johnette Ellis, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Barbara Fay, Lisa Fay, Mary Finn, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Nikki Flionis, Michael Foley, Lori Frankian, Marie Fukuda, Raul Garcia, Slim Gelzer, Galen Gilbert, Elizabeth Gillis, Kathy Greenough, Renee Harmon, Sam Harnish, Steven Harnish, Mary Ellen Hendrickson, Tim Horn, Tracey Hunt, Cathy Jacobowitz, Akshata Kadagathur, Rosie Kamal, Sajed Kamal, John Kelly, Joseph Kenyon, Ruth Khowais, Robert Kordenbrock, Shirley Kressel, Nasreen Latif, Kristen Lauerman, Nate Lescovic, Brenda Lew, Gil Loo, Adanya Lustig, Aqilla Manna, Joanne McKenna, Maureen McLaughlin, Kristen Mobilia, Pat Murphy, Joan Murphy, Letta Neely, Timothy Ney, Patrick O'Connor, Catherine Pedemonti, Eesha Pendaharkar, Richard Pendleton, Jana Peretz, Camille Platt, Gloria Platt, Lauren Dewey Platt, Ryan Polhemus, Susan Povak, Michael Prentky, Cara Presley, Alison Pultinas, Michelle Reinstein, Karla Rideout, Michael Rogan, Mallory Rohrig, Mike Ross, Rosaria Salerno, Valarie Seabrook, Helaine Simmonds, Matti Kniva Spencer, Ginny Such, Will Tentindo, Mat Thall, Bonnie Thryselius, Eric Tingdahl, Theresa Tobin, Fredericka Veikley, Chris Viveiros, Derrick Warren, Jim Wice, Hugh Wilburn, Margaret Witham, Steve Wolf, Erica Yee

## COMMUNITY meetings

**MON, JUNE 3** Meeting of the Longwood Medical Area Forum to hear from Simmons University about its 2019 Institutional Master Plan projects. Main College Building, Room C-101, 300 Fenway. 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

**TUE, JUNE 4** Public meeting on B.U. Data Science Center. Boston University proposes to build the 19-story building at 665 Comm. Ave. Questrom School of Business, Room 312, 595 Commonwealth Ave. 6pm to 8pm.

**THU, JUNE 6** The Parks Department hosts a public hearing for Boston University's applications to remove four street trees near 285 Babcock St. and 11 near 665 Commonwealth Ave. The first hearing starts at 10am, the second is at 11:30am. 1010 Mass. Ave.

**MON, JUNE 10** Community Dinner, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. Contact Helen Murphy at [hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org)

or (617) 267-4637 x21 with any questions. 6pm to 7pm.

**MON, JUNE 10** City Council hearing on inclusionary development, housing-related policy. Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square. Contact Colleen Fitzpatrick at [cfitzpatrick@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:cfitzpatrick@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637 x16. 5-7pm.

**WED, JUNE 12** Join Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at a community meeting to talk about health and wellness in the Fenway and Kenmore. Beth Israel representative will discuss the results from the City's health needs survey and health and wellness priorities in the Fenway and Kenmore. Food and children's activities provided. Morville House 100 Norway St. 6pm to 8pm. Email [NIBCHI@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:NIBCHI@bidmc.harvard.edu) to RSVP.

**WED, JUNE 12 AND JUNE 26** Fenway Fair Foods, 3-5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral,

165 Park Drive. Get a bag of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables for \$2. Everyone welcome! To learn more, contact Helen Murphy, [hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org), 617-267-4637 x21.

**THU, JUNE 13** Fenway CDC's Organizing Committee tackles housing-related issues to prevent resident displacement. Fenway CDC, 70 Burbank Street, 6-8pm. Contact Colleen Fitzpatrick at [cfitzpatrick@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:cfitzpatrick@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637 x16 with questions.

**SAT, JUNE 22 & SUN, JUNE 23** Homebuying 101, Homeownership education workshop. 9am-3pm (Saturday) and 9am-12pm (Sunday) at the Huntington YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave. Sign up at <https://asiancdc.org/hb101>. Registration and payment required before class. Contact Emily Kribbs at [ekribbs@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:ekribbs@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637 x13 with questions.

## Fenway News

Serving the Fenway, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle, upper Back Bay, lower Roxbury, Prudential, Mission Hill, and Longwood since 1974

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**"Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable."**

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today's Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

#### > FREQUENCY <

The Fenway News reaches distribution sites on the Friday closest to the first of each month. Our next issue will appear

**Friday, June 28.**

#### > DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is

**Friday, June 21.**

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## Neighborhood Newsline

### ***B.U. Opens Community Noise Lab***

The Boston University School of Public Health has launched the Community Noise Lab, whose first round of research studies has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The lab's research is rooted in working with communities on their specific sound- and noise-related issues. In the Fenway, Community Noise lab will conduct an independent study of the environmental impacts of Live Nation's summer concert series on the Fenway's soundscape. The lab will undertake real-time measurements through a network of sound-monitoring stations. The research also involves gauging community noise perceptions using the NoiseScore app and a series of visual and aural case studies from the vantage point of actual residents. A website designed by Yonatan Girma of Adulis, Inc., will document the work. Each community the lab works with will be the focus of its own page on the site, and a "Community Library" will serve as a portal where anyone can view and download fact sheets, reports, and data.

### ***New Neighborhood Liaison for the Fenway and Mission Hill***

Shanice Pimentel has been appointed neighborhood liaison for the Fenway, Mission Hill, the Back Bay, and Beacon Hill. As the neighborhoods' liaison, Pimentel will serve as the primary contact for constituents and businesses looking to connect with the Mayor's Office, and will facilitate the delivery of services in collaboration with City departments. Born and raised in Boston, Pimentel attended Roxbury Prep Charter School and Phillips Academy in Andover. She will receive a bachelor's degree in interdepartmental science with a concentration in biology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

### ***N.U.'s Public Health Advocacy Institute Takes Juul to Court***

The Public Health Advocacy Institute, a legal research center focusing on public health law at Northeastern University, has filed a class-action lawsuit against Juul Labs, the e-cigarette company. Advocates from the institute believe the company actively markets its products to minors, and want Juul to fund programs related to youth nicotine addiction-prevention and treatment.

### ***Despite Concerns, Burney Street Development Advances***

In May, the Boston Planning & Development Agency board of directors approved the 9-11 Burney Street development in Mission Hill. The project will bring 24 units, three of them income-restricted, to the neighborhood, replacing a parking lot and a three-family house formerly occupied Maurice Tobin, a former mayor and governor. Nearby residents remain wary of the scale, height, and density of the development, along with other issues. Since this a rental building, not condominiums, neighbors are worried about the creation of more transient housing to the area. The four-story building was designed under the City's recently adopted Compact Living Policy Pilot. The project creates a laneway behind the existing block of buildings on Tremont Street, providing open space and potential seating for nearby restaurants. Some residents of Delle Avenue, however, will lose skyline views because of the building's roof deck and height.

### ***Man Drowns In Muddy River***

A 33-year-old man was found in the Muddy River on May 22. EMS took him to Beth Israel, where he was pronounced dead. State Police spokesperson David Precopio told the *Globe* that the death appeared to be accidental and there was no evidence of assault or foul play.

# THE FENWAY BALL



**THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019**  
**6PM-9PM**  
**PRUDENTIAL SKYWALK**  
**800 BOYLSTON ST, 50TH FLOOR**

Join us to celebrate Fenway CDC's accomplishments with an evening of dining, music, and a panoramic view of Boston. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org). For inquiries, please contact Iris Tan at [itan@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:itan@fenwaycdc.org) or (857) 234-6509.

This fundraiser supports Fenway CDC's programs. We help residents access affordable housing, social services, education, skills training, employment, fresh healthy food, financial education, and health improvement programs. Our civic engagement collaborations help residents, institutions, and businesses to thrive together.



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# Farmers Markets

<b>Look for leafy greens like arugula, bok choy, spinach, and mustard greens, as well as radish, zucchini, summer squash, and beets.</b>	<b>ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)</b>	
	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
	<b>COPLEY SQUARE</b>	
	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
	<b>B.U.: 775 COMM. AVE. AT MUGAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY</b>	
Thursday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	
<b>MISSION HILL: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (HUNTINGTON/FRANCIS)</b>		
Thursday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	
<b>SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)</b>		
Sunday	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	

# DASHBOARD

## → STREET CLEANING

The City cleans Fenway streets between 12 and 4pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (odd-numbered side) and the second and fourth Wednesdays (even-numbered side). More info at 617-635-4900 or [www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping](http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping). The state cleans streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**  
The Riverway, 12:00-3:00pm
- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
The Fenway (includes inside lane), Charlesgate Extension and Forsyth Way, 8:00am-12:00pm
- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) and Charlesgate Extension, 12:00-3:00pm
- **THIRD TUESDAY**
  - > Park Drive (includes inside lane), upper Boylston Street, 8:00am-12:00pm
  - > Park Drive, from Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral to Kilmarnock Street and from the Riverside Line overpass to Beacon Street, 12:00-3:00pm

Visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm) for a complete schedule and maps.  
**Street cleaning ends for the season on December 1.**

## → TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY:** Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- **FENWAY:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday
- **MISSION HILL:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

SAY GOODBYE TO SPRING AND CELEBRATE THE START OF SUMMER

# BLOCK PARTY

**RUGGLES PLAZA** June 18 • 4-7pm  
 1155 Tremont Street, Roxbury (rain date: June 19)



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## Form Letters from Afar Back It, But Nearby Neighbors Express Skepticism Over Scape Plan

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The off-campus high-rise dorm proposal for 1252-1270 Boylston St. in the West Fens is getting an earful from the local residents and outer neighborhoods.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has received hundreds of form letters supporting the project from Boston residents in Hyde Park, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Roslindale as well as from construction union representatives.

Perhaps not surprising is Scape, the European investor company promoting the dorm,

has some of the same consultants and supporters recently involved with other large projects in the Fenway area. The Related Beal Company's office development for Kenmore Square saw similar tactics—dozens of duplicate letters to the BPDA for a project that was nowhere near the signer's home address.

In contrast, comment letters from Fenway area residents on the Scape proposal tended to be multi-page and detailed, some offering alternatives for the site, like Matthew Brooks's suggestion of micro-apartments, or ideas for transportation-related improvements.

Many locally drafted letters echo the

zoning-violation concerns heard at the public meetings and express doubt that apartments will turn over to working-class families when college students move to privately managed dorms. In an unusual twist, major local developers Steve Samuels (Samuels & Associates), Norman Levenson (the Copley Group), and David Epstein (the Abbey Group) signed letters opposing the project.

On the other hand, Professor Emeritus Barry Bluestone of Northeastern submitted an enthusiastic response, advocating for additional purpose—housing for young adults to counter what he labels “millennialization”—the

displacement of working families by this younger cohort in the Boston neighborhoods close to the schools and hospitals.

Scape Boston's web page states “we're looking to launch over 20,000 beds in the USA over the next five years starting with Boston.” Nigel Taege, Scape's CEO, was quoted last year in *The Boston Globe* saying the firm ultimately plans at least five buildings in the region and was in negotiations to purchase two additional sites in the Fenway.

Scape's purchase of the Trans National building sale is confirmed, but its purchase of 819 Beacon St. from Boston Children's Hospital (BCH 819 Beacon Street LLC), has not been finalized.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill*

## WHAT DO WE GAIN—AND LOSE—WITH PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES?

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Boston's gusty winds, seven to eight months of cold, and prevalent shadows haven't inhibited developers from pursuing public plazas as the go-to amenity for their new projects.

Two proposals currently in the review process—the Kenmore Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue and the Samuels & Associates proposal for air rights Parcel 12 over the Mass. Turnpike at Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street—have promoted their public space benefits.

New places for al fresco dining and taking selfies, these are not “go outside and enjoy nature” parks, they are public space, but in a controlled environment. What will the rules be for the homeless, political demonstrations, and nighttime activities?

What is promised at the Kenmore Hotel development is a nearly half-acre plaza. According to the Draft Project Impact Report, Mark Development, the proponent, will design, build, and maintain the plaza for dining and lingering, active programming, and accommodating the large crowds that frequently pass through Kenmore Square.

A list of activities from Emily Isenberg, a consultant working for Damien Chaviano and Robert Korff of Mark Development, includes beer gardens, sculptural art, “urban play,” pop-up kiosks, retail carts, putting greens, and possibly a stage. Her firm, Isenberg Projects, distributed a survey at the May 8 public meeting asking participants to fill in the blank, “Kenmore Square needs more—.” Participants then wrote what sort of

installations they would like to see in the square.

Damien Chaviano of Mark Development said the developers “will look for other stakeholders for plaza activation,” implying roles for Boston University and the Red Sox. How many food trucks, fire pits, and corn hole games will it take to keep the Fenway Park visitors entertained?

There is a banality to programming formulas that can get tiresome, but creative elements like the swings at Lawn on D can make these spaces destinations during a night

out. John King's essay in the spring 2019 issue of *The American Scholar*, “At Play in the Fields of the Bored,” describes a successful Houston park built above a freeway, although much larger than the plaza proposed for Mass. Ave. He quotes landscape architect Laurie Olin, “[T]he hardest thing to produce in our society is calm.”

H.Parker James, a member of the IAG for the Kenmore Hotel project, asked at the IAG meeting, Why not more green space? Could the plaza be more intimate and less sterile? And could connections be made between the revived Charlesgate Park and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall?

At the May 6 meeting, a resident of 566 Commonwealth Ave. spoke of hoping for a quiet place to sit outside and read. Yes, public spaces are supposed

to be one of the great joys of urban living, but excessive stimulation can be stressful, especially with background traffic whizzing by.

On Mass. Ave., the Samuels project promises an overlook platform above the turnpike, ideal for watching the sunset.

The two tall buildings bordering the plaza will have several levels of outdoor restaurants framing the space. Soil will be trucked in to create large planting beds for trees.

These two proposed public-amenity plazas will be privately managed; strapped government already frequently cede urban park maintenance to private partners.

Boston Planning and Development Agency Director Brian Golden was quoted in *The Boston Globe* promising a new interactive map and website listing the location, hours, and amenities of every privately-owned public space in Boston—at least 120 different sites.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIGNATURE BOSTON



The swings at the Lawn on D in South Boston.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ROXBURY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

06.19.2019 - 06.29.2019

June 19 – Junteenth@MFA - *Spider Man: Into the Spider Verse*

June 20 – Opening Night Films: *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* and *Una Great Movie*

June 29 - Closing Night - *Don't Be Nice*

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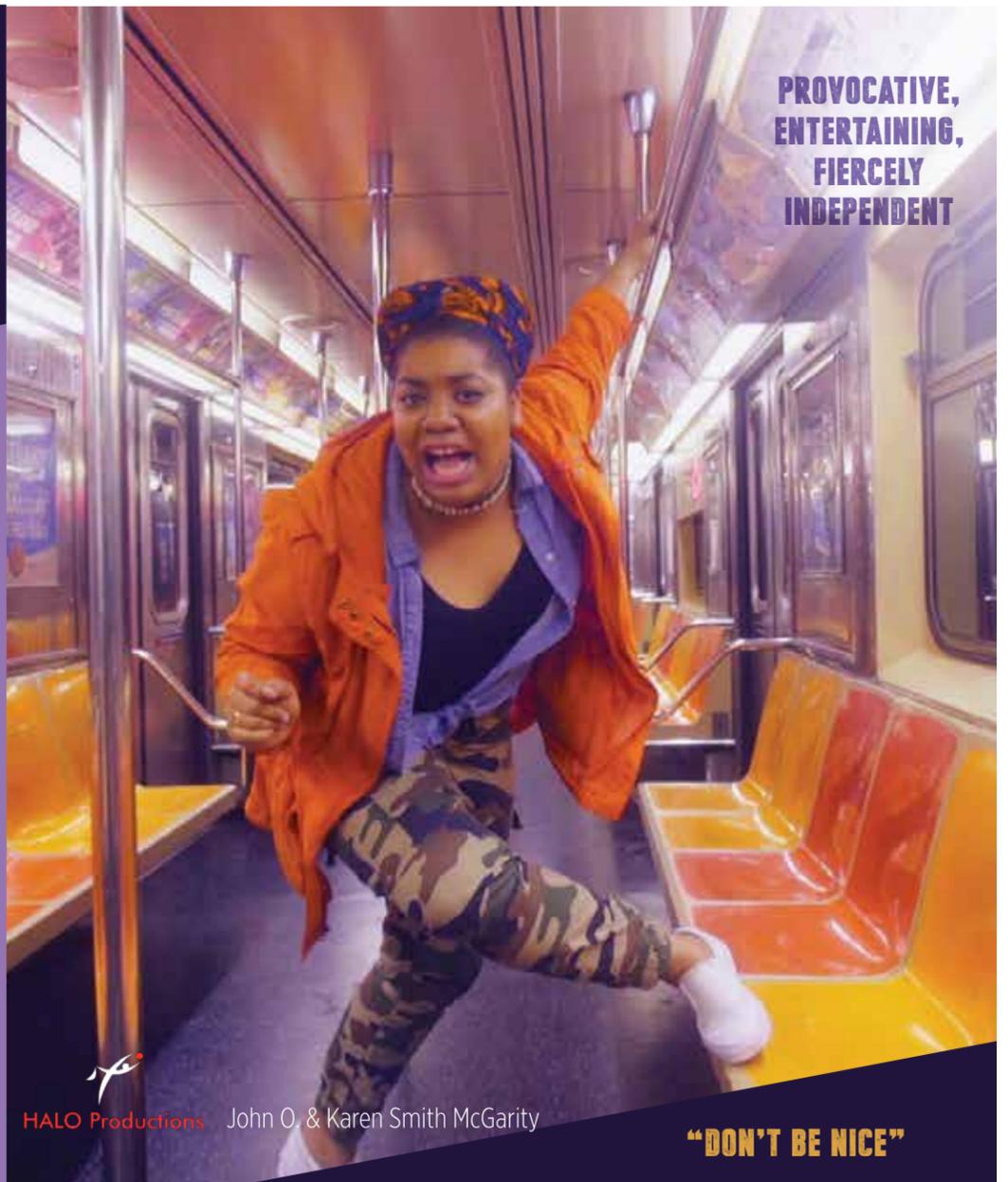
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## BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE REEDS?



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

The Parks Department finally secured state permission to clear the phragmites that have long lined the Muddy River in the Fens (the holdup traced to state rules regulating disturbance of wetlands). The work began last month. The department plans to cut the reeds mechanically, multiple times, then reseed the area with native wetland species that can keep the reeds from re-establishing themselves.

## SIMMONS PLAN COULD OPEN SIX ACRES OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Simmons University will submit a new master plan later this year. However, the first step, a project notification form, was filed May 9 with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). The form contained major news: the nearly six-acre residential campus between Pilgrim Road and Brookline Avenue will become “leveraged real estate,” with a 99-year lease for another institution or private developer. All dormitories and athletic facilities will move to the main campus, creating the potential for the biggest development in the Longwood area in decades. The caveat is that, according to the filings, it “will only be pursued if certain fiscal and logistical criteria are met.” The school is compressing its footprint, and future student housing would be in one tower instead of a dozen separate halls.

The first changes under the plan will be on the main academic campus in the Lafavour Building facing Avenue Louis Pasteur. Simmons will terminate its lease with Boston Children’s Hospital, moving the library and converting office space and classrooms to science labs. The 1972 Park Science Center will be demolished once funding is secured for the dorm tower. Comments on the plan are due to Edward Carmody at the BPDA just seven days after the required public meeting, which takes place June 3 (see “Civic Agenda” on page 1).

At a sparsely attended May 22 meeting, members of the Simmons Community Task Force asked about graduate student numbers, suggested designating smoking areas on campus, and requested help from library science students for organizing the Fenway Civic Association’s archives.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

## Proponent and Opponent of Supervised Injection Sites Square Off Over Whether Boston Should Open One

BY KATARINA TORRES RADISIC

Jonathan Cohen (not his real name) describes his 13-year-old self as a “very good kid.” He took classes with the “smart kids,” though he hung out with the “cool kids.” In eighth grade, Cohen, who prefers to remain anonymous for professional reasons, tried alcohol and marijuana for the first time. During the next four years, Cohen was elected class president four times, served as student council president, and was chosen as prom king.

But Cohen was living a double life; as long as his existence seemed respectable on the outside, he could rationalize his addiction to alcohol and dependence on marijuana. He continued to experiment with drugs. By the age of 17, Cohen’s body and mind were obsessed with alcohol. Still, the accolades kept people off his back and helped him get accepted to the University of Michigan.

Three months after college started, Cohen’s addiction expanded to include Adderall and cocaine. By 19, Cohen was addicted to Xanax and opiates. He tried to give up the Xanax cold, but wound up having a seizure in the middle of a crosswalk and spending two days in a university detox center. The next few years were a dizzying carousel ride of arrests, rehabs, and relapses that took him from Michigan to New Jersey to Massachusetts to Florida. Cohen tried everything, and nothing seemed to help.

Cohen’s parents were told by the owner of a rehab center in Florida that he was innately incapable of getting sober. Somehow, Cohen managed to graduate from college; afterwards he moved to New York City, where he developed a heroin and crack habit that left him shaking and sweating every morning. To support his habit, Cohen started stealing laptops and jewelry and selling them at pawn shops. When he was 23, Cohen was arrested for the fifth time. The police found him shooting heroin in a bathroom stall at New York’s Penn Station. Cohen remembers this is the point where he realized he needed to get into a 12-step program.

Throughout his addiction, there were instances when Cohen came

close to dying, whether on the street or in a public bathroom. There is a safer and more sterile way to use, but the government and even some users are fighting it. State governments, including Massachusetts, are debating opening supervised injection sites—safe environments where people can use pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of professionals who can provide clean injection supplies and resuscitation in case of an overdose. Data proves these sites save lives.

About 40 years before Cohen’s arrest, a doctor at Boston University School of Medicine named Hershel Jick speculated about how often patients in a hospital, given opioids, became addicted to them. Jick asked a graduate student, Jane Porter, to research the numbers of hospitalized patients in a Boston database compiled before 1979 who had developed addictions after being given opioids. The data showed that out of almost 12,000 patients treated with opiates, only four had become addicted. The paragraph of findings — stripped of context or additional information — was sent to be published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* with the title “Addiction Rare in Patients Treated with Narcotics.”

As a result, healthcare professionals began prescribing opioids at increased rates. In 1984, the manufacturer Purdue Pharma announced MS Contin, a morphine painkiller targeting patients with cancer. In 1996, Purdue launched OxyContin, targeting patients with chronic pain. At this time, the president of the American Pain Society was insisting that doctors treat pain as a vital sign, an indicator of the condition of the body’s key functions.

Three years later, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and The Joint Commission — a nonprofit healthcare certification group —

accepted the notion of pain as the fifth vital sign. Soon after, injured workers in Washington began dying from opioid-related overdoses. Just seven years later, and just around the time Cohen tried alcohol for the first time, drug overdoses topped auto casualties as the leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The National Safety Council reported that overdose deaths still rank first on the list in 2019. On Oct. 16, 2017, the U.S.

Within a year of opening a supervised injection site, Vancouver experienced a 35% decline in overdose-related deaths [and] a 26% drop in hospital admittance of people who used intravenous drugs...

Government declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency. According to the CDC, more than 130 people die every day from opioid-related overdoses. Even after improving access to treatment and recovery services, promoting the use of

drugs like Naloxone that reverse opioid overdoses, and funding studies on pain and addiction, the epidemic claimed more than 70,200 lives in 2017, a two-fold rise in a decade.

“It is chance when you take a drug, you just don’t know how it is going to affect you,” says Peter Grinspoon, MD, and author of *Free Refills*, a book confronting his addiction to Vicodin.

In 2005, Grinspoon’s usual day of lecturing and treating patients in his office was interrupted by two officers informing him that he was being accused of three felony counts of fraudulently acquiring a controlled substance. The Harvard-trained doctor described himself as “a Vicodin-seeking zombie” who ultimately lost his medical license after falsely prescribing, picking up, and using a controlled substance for a 19-year-old nanny from New Zealand who had left the country.

“In my addicted mind, that made a lot of sense.”

According to the American Medical Association, supervised injection sites have been used as an approach to treat substance abuse in 12 countries. They have increased participation in drug-addiction treatment, decreased the use of drugs, and reduced the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C. In addition, they have managed on-site overdoses and decreased death rates related to drug overdoses. There has not been one overdose death in any supervised injection site in the world.

Within a year after opening a supervised injection site, the city of Vancouver experienced a 35 percent decline in overdose-related deaths, a 26 percent drop in hospital admittance of people who engage in intravenous drug use, and a 67 percent decrease in overdose-related ambulance calls. In addition, this method of harm reduction helped substance users find treatment methods, with 33 percent more users attending detoxification programs in Vancouver. However, the U.S. federal government and some health-care professionals believe these sites promote drug use and misconduct.

Grinspoon is an advocate for supervised injection sites. “It seems so inhumane to let people die in the streets,” he says, “when we could be providing them safe treatment.” Grinspoon blames ignorance and superstition for preventing the implementation of supervised injection sites. He voices the belief that supervised injection sites should be complemented by education and other treatment interventions that will lead to a pathway of recovery. “A safe injection site would be life-saving to hundreds of people right down the road on Methadone Mile.”

Methadone Mile, a one-mile portion of Mass. Ave. dotted with overt drug use, sits at the center of the opioid crisis in Boston. The area offers a collection of services for homeless people and drug users, including methadone and suboxone clinics. Two emergency shelters, Wood-Mullen and Southampton Street, provide visitors with shelter and linkage to secure

INJECTION on next page >

## Contentious Rebuild of Park at Johnson Gates Gets Under Way

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



Work has begun on the long-discussed reconstruction of the Westland Avenue Gateway to the Fens, which will bring new landscaping, lighting, reorientation of pathways, accessibility upgrades, and conservation of the Johnson Gates. Construction equipment moved into the area last month. The project triggered an uproar among some East Fens residents after the City cut down several mature shade trees on both sides of park to prepare for the work. The Parks Department said it had announced the tree removals, but residents insisted the department had assured them the trees would not be taken at public meetings held in 2017. See letter on page 4.

> **INJECTION** from page 7 housing. Boston Health Care for the Homeless fosters 11,000 individuals a year, offering inclusive health care to neighbors at high risk. Nearby Boston Medical Center, at Albany Street and Mass. Ave., is New England's busiest trauma center, encountering the deep damage of the epidemic face to face.

But some, including Cohen, question the use of supervised injection sites as a treatment for addiction. Cohen states that statistics, such as those provided by the American Medical Association, can perpetuate any narrative, and for this topic, anecdotal evidence is unquestionably important. "If you are using at these sites, you are still using," says Cohen, who says supervised injection sites would serve as a form of enabling, enticing those who are thinking about getting clean. Cohen believes the prerequisite of recovery is abstinence and that "the mindset of addiction is not compatible with taking precautions."

Carl Sciortino, vice president of government & community relations at Fenway Health and AIDS Action, and former executive director of AIDS Action, is fully supportive of legalizing supervised injection sites. After clients engage in their harm-reduction model, Sciortino says they still have "clients being forced back on to the streets, in alleys and public bathrooms, and using in isolation where they are overdosing and dying at record numbers."

Fenway Health operates a drug user health program called ACCESS. Starting as a needle exchange, the program has now expanded its scope of work to include the opioid crisis. It provides wide-ranging services including wound care and HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing. In addition, it offers treatment linkage, Narcan distribution, overdose prevention training, and community outreach.

In Massachusetts, overdoses still occur at record high rates, with around six fatal overdoses a day and 2,000 fatal overdoses a year. Sciortino says this is graver than when the

AIDS epidemic was at its worse, killing hundreds of people in the state every year. Even though there is fear of the unknown with implementations like supervised injection sites, Sciortino does not feel wary as he compares it to the resistance to needle exchanges in the 1990s.

Sciortino strongly believes supervised injection sites will serve as a critical component of the range of services offered to keep injection drug users alive. These involve linking people to treatment services and recovery programs. In addition, the sites could address infectious disease elements in response to the Department of Public Health's 2017 report describing a significant increase in new HIV infections within the population of injection drug users.

"It might provide some sort of justification to continue using," says Cohen. "It could be depriving someone of the opportunity to hit their bottom, and that is a good thing—to hit your bottom." Cohen says if anything,

supervised injection sites will nudge users in the direction of using longer. He states that these sites will make it easier to continue on a run of using without something bad happening. However, Cohen hesitates to say this because

"consequences aren't enough to get someone sober."

Sciortino does not ascribe to the concept of hitting rock bottom, and believes everyone has a different impression of what would lead them down a path of attaining treatment. "With the opioid crisis, the unfortunate reality is that 'bottom' for around 2,000 people a year is death. There's no hope for recovery once you're dead."

"It is irrespective of consequences," says Cohen, who does not believe there would be much of an impact on preparing for recovery because recovery requires an internal surrender. "You're not going to get clean until you're ready, it's a very powerful gut ready shift...a feeling that you are totally powerless instead of just knowing it mentally and intellectually."

Describing the streets of Boston

## @ THE CENTER

These highlights from the Fenway Community Center's calendar are free unless noted otherwise. Visit the Center at 1282 Boylston or check out the full calendar at [www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar](http://www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar)

- **STANLEY CUP FINALS WATCH PARTY AND POTLUCK**, Sat, June 1 at 7pm. Whether you're a diehard Bruins fan or have never seen a game, come cheer on the team. FCC will provide refreshments, and attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. FREE
- **YOGA: FORM, FUNCTION, & FLOW**. Tuesdays at 6:15pm. The FCC offers a weekly Vinyasa-style yoga class that integrates alignment with breath

and fluid movement. Join instructor Carol for this hour-long class, which starts with a warm-up and standing pose, and builds to a peak before cooling down. Drop-ins and all levels welcome. \$10 for FCC members, \$15 for non-members.

- **WOMEN'S WORLD CUP WATCH PARTY AND POTLUCK**, Sat, June 16 at 12pm. Cheer Team USA as they face Chile in the group stage of the FIFA Women's World Cup in France. Casual soccer fans and football aficionados alike can expect an exciting match. FCC will provide refreshments, attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. FREE

as riddled with public injections and overdoses, Sciortino believes giving people a safer place to go and keeping them alive while engaging them in care and treatment options is a greater strategy than leaving them on the streets. "For many people there is a really high rate of relapse. Part of the challenge is to make sure that we support people wherever they are in their path to recovery. If and when that includes relapses, that they also have places they can go to stay alive and healthy as possible while giving them options for treatment going forward as well."

Even though he believes supervised injection sites would certainly serve as harm reduction, Cohen says that he would not have used supervised injection sites in his past. "When you're using heroin, all you want to do is be in a room by yourself sedated, it's a very lonely addiction. I'd rather be in my room than in a facility. You have such little regard for your health at that point. Every time you go to cop drugs, you're taking a big risk of getting arrested or shot, every time you shoot dope, you're playing Russian roulette. I think there are very few people that would say 'I'd rather be safe and drive to the facility.'"

Sciortino attributes the stigma around injection drug use as a cause for people to hide their drug use from the public. "People have been trained that they have to use in isolation because it is illegal and there is nowhere they can use safely." He says program design plays a meaningful role in attracting people to use these sites. "You don't need to have a space that

is glaring lights for those sitting in the middle of a room with people watching them." The physical setup can be more discrete, including privacy booths, which are both more appropriate and appealing, says Sciortino. The space design depends on the needs of the community and would need to incorporate concerns about how the community would be comfortable using the space.

The Massachusetts Harm Reduction Commission, founded in 2008 to evaluate harm-reduction methods and propose ways to tackle drug-use disorder, produced a report clearly recommending the legalization of supervised injection sites.

Speaking for himself, after years of arrests and rehabs, Cohen sent himself to his seventh and final rehab. On Dec. 24, 2013, Cohen finished his last bit of heroin and entered a one-week detox and one-month rehab. He went through a spiritual process of changing how he viewed the world. Now at the age of 30, Cohen shows up for his family and the six men he is actively sponsoring. Cohen can enjoy all the normal things he used to do, such as going on dates or out with friends, minus the drugs and alcohol.

"Anyone can go down this road; this is a disease that doesn't discriminate. From Park Avenue to park bench. The addict has lost the power of choice, and self-knowledge; will power and consequences won't get them sober. I've seen miracles, and I stand here as a testament to that."

Katarina Torres Radisic is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

## MEMORIAL RISES IN FENS FOR MAN INJURED IN MARCH FIRE

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



On March 28, a fire broke out in the Back Bay Fens and burned the entire west bank of the Muddy River from Boylston Street to Agassiz Road. While there were no casualties, one man, Angel Cruz, did suffer burns that sent him to Brigham and Women's Hospital for treatment. A tribute to him was erected in the Fens, and the fire investigation has been turned over to the State Police.

OUR FENWAY: PEOPLE AND PLACES

# Abria Smith



postponed to May. It worked out great and we met on a beautiful weekday afternoon and walked over to her favorite Fenway place — Ramler Park. Abria had hinted that the silver lining of our delay would be that the park would be in full bloom in May, and she was right. The park is an unexpected oasis full of trees and plants and winding short trails. It was lunchtime and there were quite a few people enjoying the sunshine. It was a perfect backdrop for our interview.

Abria doesn't live in the Fenway but has a deep connection to the neighborhood through her work. She first really discovered the neighborhood when she was a student at Berklee from 1993 to 1997, where she studied voice and music business. She's been working at the school for the past 17 years and has come to know the neighborhood and its residents quite well. She can be seen at many neighborhood meetings and plays a large role in the community as a voice between the neighborhood and the school. She started with the City Music program, which eventually led her to the Office of Community and Government Relations. She also has continued singing and is currently doing some recording.

She raises two daughters in Chinatown and likes the contrast of the two unique neighborhoods. Chinatown is much more compact, with the Fenway being more sprawled out and green with the Fens in the middle. She loves the diversity and energy that the students bring to the neighborhood, "I feel like I could eat at a different type of restaurant every day," she says. She mentions the challenges of working for a school that is in the middle of a neighborhood without a true campus. But she feels that enriches the school and the neighborhood.

She first discovered Ramler Park when Berklee moved the Swingin' in the Fens Concert series there from Mother's Rest.

"Mother's Rest had some challenges as a music venue, but Ramler Park really works well for our concerts," she says, "I love how lush it is and all the little hidden corners. It's a great place for concerts; you can sit right on the grass or be off enjoying the music in some hidden corner."

I have to confess to her that I didn't even know the park was there until about three years ago. I had heard of Ramler Park but was never sure exactly where it was. We talk about how that's part of its charm. Even on this gorgeous day it isn't jam-packed, and you definitely feel as if the noise and traffic of Boylston and the buzz of Restaurant Row are far away.

The Swingin' in the Fens Concert this summer is July 24 at 6:30pm in Ramler Park with vocalist Marianne Solivan. The rain date is August 14.

*Steve Harnish lives in the East Fens.*

TEXT AND PHOTOS  
BY STEVE HARNISH

Sometimes things happen for a reason. Abria Smith, Assistant Director of Community Engagement for Berklee College of Music, and I were supposed to meet last month for our interview but had a hard time getting our schedules to mesh. We finally picked a day in April and it was cold and rainy (as so many days were this spring), so we

## Everything You Think You Know About Haiku is Probably Wrong

In 2017 we ran a letter from Kate Finnegan, executive director of Kaji Aso Studio in the East Fens, in which she answered some common questions about the haiku form. As a companion to the 2019 winners, we've reprinted some key information from Kate's letter.

BY KATE FINNEGAN

It is true that haiku is often described as a short three-line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable count. However, this can lead to some confusion,

because in Japanese it's actually the *sounds* being counted. The word *haiku* in Japanese counts as three—HA-I-KU—whereas in English we count the word *haiku* as two.

This difference in counting can result in English-language haikus becoming too long and wordy, and though it is possible to write a successful 5-7-5 haiku in English, that should not be the main goal.

Many haiku groups throughout the world emphasize the goal of haiku to be a short poem consisting of different elements that come together

to focus on a moment. Haiku are seasonal, and the *Senryu* form is more human-nature-oriented and often humorous. In the old days in Japan, haiku were written on one line, but then it became popular to write them on three lines. The Kaji Aso Studio haiku contest accepts both forms as entries.

We hope this clarifies some basic questions about the haiku. If you're interested in learning more, please contact administrator@kajiasostudio.com to receive information on haiku classes and the Boston Haiku Society meetings held at Kaji Aso Studio.

# Kaji Aso Studio 31st Annual Haiku Contest

SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN BOSTON AND A GRANT FROM THE BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE

FIRST PLACE

**sunlight  
the crack  
in a tiny blue egg**  
ANN MAGYAR  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SECOND PLACE

**lilac the scent almost ready**  
JOHN SOULES, WINGHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA

THIRD PLACE

**polar vortex...  
our footprints not  
where we left them**  
DEBBIE STRANGE  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

SENRYU PRIZE

**Times Square chestnut vendor  
dad's accent  
returns with the change**  
MARITA GARGIULO  
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

HONORABLE MENTIONS

**cabin fever—  
fetching the kettle  
before it screams**  
BRAD BENNETT  
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**latchkey kid  
playing all the parts  
in the sitcom**  
PETER NEWTON  
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

**costumed tour guide  
Colonial dress  
almost covering her tattoos**  
LAWRENCE RUNGREN  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

haiku

HONORABLE MENTION

**where the foxes make their dens trails in spring dew**  
JOHN BARLOW, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

**calmed by weeding  
the indisputable fact  
of dirt**  
ELIZABETH HART  
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

**a tuft of moss  
brightening  
the shortest day**  
PETER NEWTON  
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

**it's not a sickbed  
and I'm not sick—  
deep winter**  
TOM SACRAMONA  
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

**Maine tidal pool  
hermit crabs outnumber  
my toes**  
FRANK HOOVEN  
MORRISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

**dusty spade  
that one you gave me...  
scent of rain**  
DOUGLAS OBENHAUS  
SABATTUS, MAINE

**the galvanized tin  
tin  
of the sugaring buckets**  
TOM SACRAMONA  
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

**hometown visit—  
farm stand blueberries  
stems still attached**  
SCOTT MASON  
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK

**harvest home  
the organ grinder's  
uneven hand**  
ROLAND PACKER  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

**caught without an umbrella—  
notenoughspace  
betweenthe raindrops**  
LAWRENCE RUNGREN  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

senryu

# The Arts

## THE HAUNTING OF HORTICULTURE HALL

PHOTO: PAUL MCALPINE



Bemused onlookers watch artist Myriam Louise Taleb dancing an invitation to view performance art taking place on the second floor of Horticulture Hall on Mass. Ave. The popup event, “Running Late 1.5 Stuck @ Symphony,” took over the William Morris Hunt Memorial Library of the MFA after closing hours on May 23, with artists from the Performance Art Department at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

## Under Sun or Stars, Summer Brings Fresh New Diversions

BY KELSEY BRUUN

In the summer, the array of activities can be overwhelming. From al fresco movies and concerts to fitness programs in parks throughout the city, here’s a snippet of seasonal activities taking place this summer.

- **Highland Street Foundation’s Free Fun Fridays** program offers visitors no-cost admission to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. Every Friday, from the end of June through the end of August, multiple sites are open for free. The Museum of Fine Arts is participating on July 12 and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is included on July 26.
- **Gardner’s Neighborhood Nights** are free interactive evenings in the museum’s galleries and gardens. Enjoy performances, hands-on art-making, food trucks, a cash bar, and gallery games. The first one takes place July 11, from 5-9pm. Free admission at the museum entrance on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The **Boston Landmarks Orchestra** comprises many of the area’s finest professional musicians. In 2007 the orchestra established a regular concert series at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade to which it invites guest artists, including the Longwood Symphony and the One City Choir. Music will range from African American spirituals to flamenco to

- Richard Strauss. First concert July 17 at 7pm, but an interactive “tune-up” part takes place July 10. Folding chairs are available to rent at the Information Tent for \$5 each. Visit [www.landmarkorchestra.org](http://www.landmarkorchestra.org).
- The **Berklee Summer in the City Concert Series** presents more than 400 free performances throughout Greater Boston through October. Local venues include the Prudential Center, Symphony Park, and the Harvard Longwood Campus. For dates, times, and info on the performers—Berklee students, of course—visit <https://www.berklee.edu/events/summer-city-venues>
  - For more than 30 years, WBZ Radio has sponsored **free Friday movies at the Hatch Shell** during the summer. The series begins on June 21 with *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. Other highlights include *The Lego Movie 2* and *Captain Marvel*. All movies begin at dusk.
  - With the return of summer comes the next wave of the **MFA’s Sunset Cinema**. The free outdoor film series features a diverse lineup of recent hits, perfect for viewing under the stars. On June 19, kick off the 21st annual Roxbury International Film Festival with a screening of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. On July 11, usher in the Boston French Film Festival with the madcap comedy *The Trouble with You*, nominated for nine César awards. August and September

## LAST CALL

Don’t just sit there—catch these shows in the Fenway before they pack up this month:

**STUDIO WITHOUT WALLS’ REVERBERATIONS** (ends Sunday, 6/2)  
See 20 works of public art along the Riverway. Start across from the Longwood stop on the T’s Riverside Line. Details at [www.studiowithoutwalls.org](http://www.studiowithoutwalls.org).

**FRIDA KAHLO AND ARTE POPULAR** (MFA, ends

Sunday, 6/16)  
The MFA’s first exhibition on Kahlo focuses on her collection of and relationship to folk art—arte popular.

**RADICAL GEOMETRIES: BAUTHAUS PRINTS, 1919-1933** (MFA, ends Sunday, 6/23)  
Part of the area-wide celebration of the centenary of the iconic German design school, the exhibit features works on paper, some designed for the first Bauhaus exhibit, in 1923.

## MassArt Students’ Exhibit Puts the Focus on Fashion

PHOTO: ALISON PULITINAS



A fashion exhibit at Massachusetts College of Art and Design showcased the work of sophomore and junior design students. The annual fashion design senior show was held in the Design and Media Center on May 18.

- selections to be announced. Beer, wine, and snacks available for purchase.
- **Summer on the Emerald Necklace** returns in 2019 with an expanded lineup of concerts, fitness activities and movies. On July 19 in the Victory Gardens, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will host a movie night at 7:30pm. The specific film is TBD. On six Sunday evening concerts, ranging from folk to jazz to classical music, will take place at Allerton Overlook, Pinebank Promontory and Franklin Park this July and August. Specifics are available at [www.emeraldnecklace.org/events/summer-on-the-emerald-necklace](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/events/summer-on-the-emerald-necklace). And finally, Sunday morning yoga will take place in the Arnold Arboretum in July and early August at 10am.

- On Tuesdays and Thursdays, try a **free fitness class in Symphony Park**, part a series sponsored by Boston Parks, Boston Public Health Commission, and the Friends of Symphony Park, with support from the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust. Chair yoga will be held on Tuesdays, and tai-chi on Thursdays; in case of rain, classes move inside Morville House, 100 Norway Street. Tai Chi ends July 25, yoga ends Sept. 28.
  - On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, **Kevin Fitzgerald Park hosts a free fitness program**. Tai chi classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7pm. Yoga classes take place Wednesdays 7-8am. The series runs through Sept. 5.
- Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

## Festival Brings Art (and Fun) to David Ortiz Drive

PHOTOS: MALLORY ROHRIG



On May 4, the Art Resource Collaborative for Kids, a community art festival and public art project, presented “Miles of Muals” on David Ortiz Drive near the ballpark. The family fun festival featured food trucks, ice cream, arts and crafts, yoga, a raffle, and a DJ. Here, kids work on chalk art and spraypaint projects.

## June

## CALENDAR

⊕ THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.

## arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Now → Sun, 8/4

**ARTIST HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC** made his name as one of the leading poster artists of Paris at the end of the 19th century. Riding an advertising explosion made possible by new printing techniques and the city's growing middle class, the artist helped boost the careers of singers, dancers, and other not-quite-respectable performers. This exhibit explores both the world he chronicled and the formal inventiveness he brought to the emerging poster genre. Museum of Fine Arts. Entrance is \$23 to \$25; free for MFA members. Details at [www.mfa.org/exhibitions](http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions).

Sat, 6/1

Head over to Central Square for the arts-heavy **CAMBRIDGE ARTS RIVER FESTIVAL**, with musicians, magicians, theater, poetry, street performers, and plenty of food. Plus ⊕ a Mermaid Parade down Mass. Ave.! 11am to 6pm, Central Square. FREE

Sat, 6/1 &amp; Sun, 6/2

Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents **GOD SAVE THE QUEENS**, a celebration of British pop music that ranges from the Beatles to Bowie to Adele (with a post-*Bohemian Rhapsody* stop at Queen). At Jordan Hall Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Tickets are \$20 to \$125 at the Jordan Hall box office, 617-542-SING, or at [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org).

Sat, 6/1 → Sun, 6/30

If you've got a Boston Public Library card, you've got free entry to the **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS** all month in a deal to celebrate the new Toulouse-Lautrec exhibit, which includes several works from the BPL. Up to ⊕ two adults and six children may enter on a single card. FREE

Mon, 6/3

Join Red Sox Historian Gordon Eddes for a **PRIVATE TOUR OF FENWAY PARK** with an opportunity to take photos on the field and to see team artifacts. The tour group will meet at Gate D at 12pm. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for MHS fellows and members or EBT cardholders. Go to [mashist.org](http://mashist.org) to register.

Tue, 6/4

Singer-songwriter **INDIA.ARIE** has won four Grammys, toured with Stevie Wonder, and influenced Janelle Monáe and Ariana Grande (among others). Her tour in support of her first studio album in five years comes to Berklee Performance Center. Tickets are \$64 to \$179, the \$179 tickets include a meet-and-greet with the artist. 7:30pm. Purchase tickets at the Mass. Ave. box office or at [www.berklee.edu/BPC](http://www.berklee.edu/BPC).

Tue, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

- **CHAIR YOGA CLASSES AT SYMPHONY COMMUNITY PARK.** Join in free, age-strong programs at Symphony Community Park! ⊕ 10am to 11am. Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Road. FREE
- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK.** All ages and skill levels are welcome. Classes cancelled if it rains. 145 Saint Alphonse St. 6pm to 7pm. ⊕ FREE

Wed, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, &amp; 6/26

**YOGA CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK.** All ages and skill levels are welcome. Classes ⊕ are cancelled if it's raining. 145 Saint Alphonse St. 7am to 8am. FREE

Wed, 6/5

**MISSION HILL-FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST** announces awards to Fenway and Mission Hill arts and community groups. 6pm at ⊕ MassArt's Kennedy Building, 621 Huntington Ave. second floor. FREE

Thu, 6/6

Hopscotch down Newbury Street for the **BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL'S "LIT CRAWL,"** a series of readings, poetry slams, comedy, and "other oddities" in stores, cafes, and bars. 6pm to 10pm. Find details and program notes at [www.bostonbookfest.org/](http://www.bostonbookfest.org/) under the "Year-Round Events" tab.

Thu, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, &amp; 6/27

- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT SYMPHONY COMMUNITY PARK.** Join in free, age-strong programs at Symphony Community Park! 10am to ⊕ 11am. Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Road. FREE
- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK.** All ages and skill levels are welcome. Classes are cancelled if it's ⊕ raining. 145 Saint Alphonse St. 6pm to 7pm. FREE

Thu, 6/6 → Fri, 9/13

**WILLIAM MORRIS HUNT MEMORIAL LIBRARY SUMMER EXHIBITION 2019,** Anabel Vázquez Rodríguez Trópico Amargo solo photography exhibit. Vázquez Rodríguez is a visual artist, curator, and organizer based in Boston, Providence, and San Juan. Reception Thu, 6/13, 5-8pm. The exhibit, on the second floor of Horticultural Hall, ⊕ 300 Mass. Ave., is open to the public Mon-Fri, 1-5pm. FREE

Thu, 6/6 → Wed, 7/31

**REFLECTIONS: AN ART EXHIBIT BY THE MISSION HILL ARTISTS COLLECTIVE.** At the Parker Hill Branch Library, 1407 Tremont St. On opening night, June 6, there will be a book ⊕ sale from 4pm to 7pm and a reception from 6-7:30pm. FREE.

Sun, 6/9 → Sun, 6/16

The world-renowned **BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL** returns for eight days of Baroque operas, concerts, lectures, workshops, and a trade show. Jordan Hall hosts 10 concerts (including five that start at 11pm for night owls); most other performance take place at venues in the Back Bay. Tickets are \$30 to \$64 (except for the featured operas). Sample up-and-coming artists in more than 50 "fringe" concerts, ranging in cost from free to \$20. Visit [www.bemf.org/](http://www.bemf.org/) for details and to buy tickets.

Tue, 6/11

- Boston Pride hosts the **7TH ANNUAL PRIDE NIGHT @ FENWAY** as part of 2019 Boston Pride Week. This year's Pride Night @ Fenway Park will feature the Red Sox vs. Texas Rangers. Tickets include a pre-game Pride party on the Right Field Roof Deck, with a DJ spinning tunes at 5:30pm; game starts at 7:10 pm. Buy tickets at [www.bostonpride.org/fenway/](http://www.bostonpride.org/fenway/).
- **FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION ROSE GARDEN PICNIC.** Free community picnic. Come enjoy the roses in bloom, great music, and a chance to picnic with your neighbors. Bring your own picnic dinner and blanket or chairs—limited number of chairs provided. 6-8pm, Outside the Kelleher ⊕ Rose Garden, Back Bay Fens (across from 85 Park Drive). FREE

Thu, 6/13

Classical violinist **LILLIT HARTUNIAN** performs the works of four contemporary Boston composers in the Edwin Linde Gallery, then joins three of the composers for a Q&A session. 6-8pm. Free with MFA admission. Details at [www.mfa.org/programs/music](http://www.mfa.org/programs/music).

Thu, 6/13 → Sun, 6/30

Nora Theatre Company presents **CLOUD 9**, Caryl Churchill's gender-bending, spouse-swapping comedy of sexual politics. At Central Square Theater, Wed & Thu, 7:30pm; Fri, 8pm; Sat, 3pm & 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Tickets \$16 to \$66. Visit [www.centernalsquare-theater.org](http://www.centernalsquare-theater.org) for details and to purchase tickets.

## Porchfest Rides Again on June 15



The success of the first Fenway Porchfest persuaded joint sponsors Fenway Alliance, Fenway Civic, and the Fenway CDC to bring the grassroots music festival back for a second iteration on Saturday, June 15. With an extra half hour (12pm to 4:30pm), expect more groups at venues like the Duck House, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Cafe Nero on Westland Ave. and Mass. Historical. Find locations and the schedule at [www.fenwayporchfest.org](http://www.fenwayporchfest.org). Rain date is Sunday, June 16.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Sat, 6/15

- Last year's debut **FENWAY PORCHFEST** means the Fenway Alliance, Fenway Civic Association, and Fenway Community Development Corporation can invite you to a bigger, longer, and even better outdoor festival this year. 12-4:30pm.

⊕ Visit [www.fenwayporchfest.org](http://www.fenwayporchfest.org) for the evolving schedule and a list of venues.

- **RED SOX OUT OF THE PARK.** "Out of the Park" is a family-oriented event that brings the Fenway Park experience out to the community. In addition to screening the day's Red Sox game, the event will feature a batting cage, virtual reality station, pitching accuracy, caricaturists, balloon artists, and face painters. Corner ⊕ of Beacon and Charles Street. Event starts at 2:30pm, game starts at 4:05pm. FREE

- Wentworth Institute of Technology's Society of Automotive Engineers sponsors a **CAR SHOW.** 550 Huntington Avenue, West Lot. 10am to 3pm. ⊕ FREE

Sun, 6/16 → Sat, 6/22

New England Conservatory's annual **SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PRACTICE** returns with eight nights of free concerts by accomplished faculty and participants. SICPP focuses on music written in the 20th and 21st centuries. Concerts at 8pm in NEC's Jordan ⊕ Hall. Visit <https://necmusic.edu/sicpp> for details. FREE

Wed, 6/19

- **THE MFA CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH,** marking the final freeing of slaves in the US after the Civil War. A full program of performances, talks, and art-making (including activities for kids) begins at ⊕ 5pm. Admission is free from 4 to 10pm. FREE
- With **SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE**, the MFA offers a three-fer: The film kicks off the summertime Sunset Cinema series on the Huntington Ave. lawn; marks the starts of the Roxbury International Film Festival; and adds an extra dimension to the night's Juneteenth party. Film begins at 7pm, but art-making ⊕ and lawn games start at 5:30pm. FREE

Wed, 6/19 → Sat, 6/29

The ten-day **ROXBURY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** enters its 21st year bigger than ever. Screenings take place primarily at the MFA, but also at Hibernian Hall and Berklee, and "post-film hangouts" take the festival to cafes and breweries in and around Dudley Square. [www.roxburyinternationalfilmfestival.com/](http://www.roxburyinternationalfilmfestival.com/)

Wed, 6/1 → Sun, 6/30

Cirque de Soleil brings its show **CORTEO** to BU's Agganis Arena. Wed to Fri, 7:30pm; Sat, 3:30pm & 7:30pm; Sun, 1pm & 5pm. Tickets \$38 to \$145. Visit [www.agganisarena.com/events-tickets/](http://www.agganisarena.com/events-tickets/) for details and tickets. To avoid Ticketmaster surcharges, visit the Agganis ticket office at 925 Comm. Ave.

Thu, 6/20

**FENWAY BALL**, a fundraiser to support the work of the Fenway CDC. Prudential Skywalk, 800 Boylston Street, Boston. Purchase tickets at [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org) or by contacting Iris Tan at [itan@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:itan@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-4637x25. 6-9pm.

Fri, 6/21

**SPENCER KRUG OF WOLF PARADE** ventures into solo territory with a focus on piano as he melds "pseudo-classical balladeering [and] poetic lyricism laced with twisted pop sensibility and jazz mimicry." Red Room at Café 939, 8pm. Tickets \$15 advance and \$17 day of (standing only). 939 Boylston Street. Details and tickets at [www.berklee.edu/cafe939](http://www.berklee.edu/cafe939).

Sat, 6/22

**FENWAY STUDIOS HISTORY AND ART STUDIO TOUR WITH DAVID LOWREY.** Fenway Studios is the oldest continuously functioning building in the country designed and built for and dedicated solely to artists' space. Inspired by 19th-century atelier studios in Paris, every one of the 46 studios has a north-facing window and 14-foot high ceilings. 30 Ipswich St # 1. Tickets are \$22 and available at [brooklineadulterd.org](http://brooklineadulterd.org) or by calling 617-730-2700.

Sat, 6/22 → Sun, 7/14

**FAYE DUNAWAY STARS AS KATHARINE HEPBURN** reflecting on her life and career in a pre-Broadway run of the one-woman show, *Tea at Five*, at the Huntington Avenue Theatre. Tue to Thu, 7:30pm; Fri & Sat, 8pm; Sat & Sun, 2pm; Sun, 7pm; Wes, 2pm. Tickets \$49 to \$119. Visit [www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/tea-at-five/](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/tea-at-five/) for details and tickets.

Sun, 6/23

The Actors' Shakespeare Project will present an adaptation of Jane Austen's **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** in Medford's Balch Arena Theater, June 5 to June 29. But we're more interested in the one-time-only outdoor production of the play, that comes to Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain at 5pm (raindate Mon, 6/24). Details at [www.actorsshakespeareproject.org/](http://www.actorsshakespeareproject.org/).

## SENIOR EVENTS

Events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center or Fenway Community Center. Find the Senior Center entrance by walking into the alley between 100 and 108 Jersey St. and looking left. For more information, call 617-536-7154.

- **Thu, 6/6 at 12pm: Visit with Representative Chynah Tyler (7th Suffolk District).**
- **Thursday, 6/20 at 1pm: Visit with Shanice Pimentel, the new City of Boston Neighborhood Liaison.**
- **Thursday, 6/27 at 11:30am: Presentation of "GoGo Grandparent," a transportation option for senior citizens.**

**FENWAY**

**PORCHFEST**

**Music everywhere, porches optional**

FENWAY

**SAT. JUNE 15  
12–4:30PM**

**A partnership of  
Fenway Civic, Fenway Alliance and Fenway CDC  
Visit [fenwayporchfest.org/signup](http://fenwayporchfest.org/signup)**