

## On The Front Lines of Boston's Opioid Epidemic

BY ALEXANDRA DIAMOND

The dead man's face had been pressed against the bathroom tiles for two hours before anyone noticed. He had keeled forward off of the toilet and landed head-first on the floor, his arms and legs crumpled awkwardly behind him. Over those two hours, gravity had dragged blood out of his limbs and into his head, which stained his face a dark, purple-ish blue. When Megan Quay and her partner discovered him in that second-floor stall, he had already been seized by rigor mortis. His body was completely stiff. Quay had to pry the hypodermic needle out of his stony fingers.

During her year as a Boston public safety officer, Quay herself dealt with dozens of overdoses in the bathrooms at the Boston Medical Center. Her unit as a whole, between January of 2018 and January of 2019, dealt with hundreds.

America's opioid epidemic can no longer be dismissed as a private issue. It's exposed and it's exigent. It's trickling into the everyday lives of those who have never had to personally address it before, in the form of blood spattered on stalls. Of used, sometimes contaminated needles on toilet seats. Of tourniquets tucked in cracks in the tile. Of unconscious bodies slumped on bathroom floors. This issue is especially evident in Massachusetts, where the rate of overdose deaths is nearly twice the national average. In its capital, business owners, employees and civilians are struggling to handle the issue, and thus far they've had to do so without much government intervention.

Quay's unit was stationed around the Boston Medical Center and the Boston University School of

Medicine, located on a mile-long stretch of Massachusetts Avenue dotted with methadone clinics, homeless shelters and heroin-injection hot spots. On "Methadone Mile," as the strip is called, drug users looking to score mingle in a lethargic parade with drug users looking to quit.

The haggard effects of the opioid epidemic are striking in this section of the city. Driving along Massachusetts Avenue, it's not uncommon to see people doing drugs in broad daylight. Panhandlers shake empty coffee cups at passing cars and peddlers sell bouquets of flowers in the middle of the street. The homeless sleep on the sidewalk and against fences, cocooned in ragged blankets. From a distance, it's hard to tell if they're still alive. "That area by the BMC has such a high flow of traffic of drugs, and also the homeless, mental illness," Quay said. "It all just overlaps."

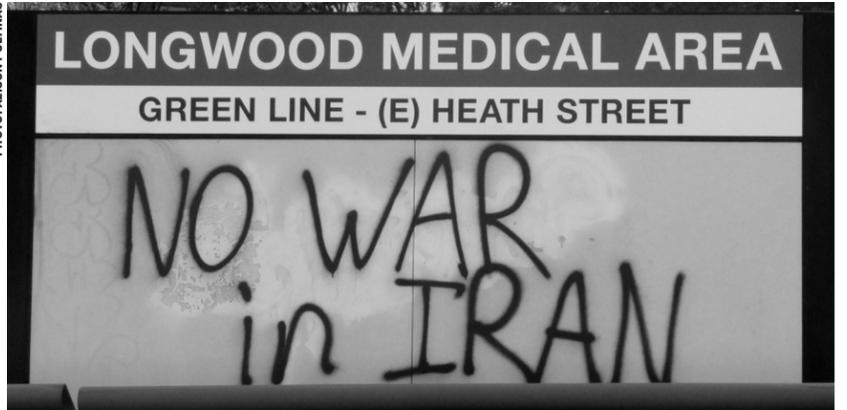
Frequented by police officers, the sidewalks of Methadone Mile aren't the ideal place to shoot up. It's too obvious. The bathrooms of the BMC, indoors and equipped with stalls, offer drug users some safety and privacy. BMC public safety officers like Quay deal with "at least one overdose a day, usually in our bathrooms," she said. Though the bathrooms are technically only accessible to patients of the BMC, Quay said that some heroin users check in as patients "in treatment" so that they can use them. Many users simply walk right in. The man whose overdose death Quay witnessed was one such case.

"He wasn't a patient," she said. "He just came in to use the bathroom to shoot up."

The stalls are known sanctuaries for shooting up in the area. Traffic of drug users in and out of those bathrooms daily is heavy.

## Global Issue Draws Local Protest

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



The MBTA quickly painted over this protest message, but not quickly enough to beat our Alison Pultinas, who captured the graffiti on a sign on the Green Line's E Branch. The protest appeared just after U.S. forces, acting on orders from President Trump, carried out the assassination of Iranian General Qassem Suleimani in the Baghdad airport. Many Americans predicted that the killing would lead to military action between the countries.

Drug dealers in the area tell their customers to go to those bathrooms to shoot up, Quay said, because they know there are trained professionals there who could save them in the event that they overdose, which many do. The BMC bathrooms are so popular as injection sites that the public safety officers on duty there have come to know some of the regulars.

"A lot of these guys are frequent fliers," Quay said. "We have to document everything. You search [someone's] name and he has, like, fifteen reports from the last two years."

Because of its location on Methadone Mile, heavy traffic of drug users in and out of the Boston Medical Center's bathrooms could be attributed to geography.

The employees and safety officers at the BMC are aware of their bathrooms' popularity

among drug users and have thus taken some measures to keep harm to a minimum. Thirty officers patrol the area during each shift. The outer doors to the bathrooms are kept propped open so that passing staff can see which stalls are occupied. Security cameras are trained on the hallways so that employees can keep track of when people enter and leave the bathrooms. If someone has been inside too long, a public safety officer is sent in after them.

The Boston Medical Center employs a staff of qualified healthcare professionals capable of handling medical emergencies like overdoses. In training to become a public safety officer, Quay learned how to resuscitate overdose victims. She learned CPR, ventilation and rescue breathing. She learned how to administer Narcan, the anti-

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## Crowds Fill RCC Memorial for Late Chuck Turner

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Hundreds turned up to honor activist and former City Councilor Chuck Turner at a memorial service on Jan. 9 at Roxbury Community College (RCC).

Turner died on Dec. 25 at the age of 79, following a battle with cancer.

By 10am, when the service was scheduled to begin, the RCC Media Arts Center was full to capacity, and an overflow crowd of hundreds was directed across the street to the Reggie Lewis Center, where a video screen was set up.

For three hours, attendees memorialized Turner in songs and poems and recounted stories of their time with him. They remembered him as a social activist who never gave up and who was instrumental in creating economic and social changes.

After graduating from Harvard in 1963, Turner focused his life on civil and economic justice in marginalized communities. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Turner worked with Madison Park Development Corporation and helped fight urban renewal plans.

In 1969 Turner became the founding director of Northeastern University Afro Institute (now the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute). He secured funding for and coordinated the development of the \$300,000 three-story Afro Center on the NU campus.

In 1969, Turner founded Operation Stop, a community coalition organized to stop the threat of the I-95 corridor. In the



Photo of Chuck Turner from the memorial service program.

1970s, among other achievements, Turner founded and co-chaired the Boston Jobs Coalition, a citywide, economically and racially diverse coalition.

Charles Yancey, former city councilor, recalled how Turner organized Tufts students to protest a construction project during a time when most construction jobs were going to white men living outside of Boston. Turner was instrumental in advocating for a policy that mandated that 50 percent of construction jobs go to Boston residents, 25 percent to people of color, and 10 percent to women. Mayor Raymond Flynn signed that policy into law in 1983.

In 1999, Turner won the District 7 seat on the Boston City Council, where he represented Roxbury and parts of the Fenway, Dorchester, and the South End, for five terms. He remained on the Council until he was convicted of bribery for allegedly accepting \$1,000 from a police informant. He served 28 months in federal prison. Turner was later vindicated when a judge ruled that the council had overstepped its authority and awarded him \$106,000.

Speaker after speaker recalled Turner's commitment to expanding economic opportunity to people of color and women. A group that he helped found—Greater Roxbury Neighborhood Authority—gave residents a voice in

development in their neighborhood.

Steve Kirsch, president of the School Bus Drivers Union, said, "There is not a better leader than Chuck. We'll never forget what he has done for us."

Turner was also remembered for his support for Boston immigrants of all nationalities. Suzanne Lee, co-founder of the Chinese Progressive Association, said, "Chuck is a hero in our community so we need to continue and not let his legacy and his work go to waste."

Tito Jackson, who succeeded Turner in the District 7 seat, echoed the sentiment of many in the room that Turner had been set up and that his conviction for taking a bribe was unjust. "Chuck Turner was not a crook," Jackson said. "He did not take anything. His social justice work was rooted in the economic and financial uplift of our people."

Sherry Smith, a longtime friend, described Turner as "a humble man, one of the greatest I've ever known. He made me feel like I wanted to go out and do some good."

In a letter to her constituents, current District 7 Councilor Kim Janey said, "We lost a giant. Chuck committed the last 50 years of his life to organizing for economic justice, community empowerment, and the liberation of oppressed peoples. Chuck taught us that we are much stronger when we organize and work together."

As many noted, Chuck Turner, even as he was fighting cancer, continued to work with community organizations.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

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 overdose nasal spray. On the job, she carried a belt equipped with Narcan, pepper spray and a police baton. She had to take two full weeks of self-defense classes.

Employees of businesses with public bathrooms and civilians who use public bathrooms don't have that training built into their daily routines. Narcan isn't always immediately accessible when overdose victims are discovered in public spaces.

Quay said that employees of businesses located on or around Methadone Mile recognize that their bathrooms attract drug users. She said the baristas at the Dunkin' Donuts on Melnea Cass Boulevard, which runs into Mass. Ave., have even asked the officers at the BMC for Narcan because they had so many overdoses in their bathrooms.

"It's really not fair that they should have to do that," Quay said. "It's not their job."

Further, sanitation workers and night crews must routinely deal with discarded drug paraphernalia. Abernathy noted that drops and flecks of blood, which he assumes comes from drug users shooting up, can often be found on the bathroom floors and walls. Improperly discarded needles can sometimes be found on the floors or in the trash cans.

The discarded-needle issue got so bad in all bathrooms on all nine floors of the BMC that the employees had to install "sharps boxes" to keep people from throwing needles in the trash. Unsafely discarded needles had previously been found in those bathrooms "absolutely every single day."

Quay said that tourniquets and other drug paraphernalia, sometimes including the drugs themselves, can also be found tucked behind loose tiles or eroded grout.

Where public safety officers are trained in handling the physicality of overdoses, even they are left unprepared to deal with the emotional impact of finding unconscious overdose victims in varying stages of death.

"[In training,] we spent a lot of time in the morgue and with a lot of really sick patients, so we saw it, but in a bathroom, you really don't think you'll see that," Quay said. "It's intense."

• • •

'Anywhere where there's privacy and light, people use injection drugs,' said Helen McDermott, Director of Community Prevention at the Boston Public Health Commission.

Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts coffee shops, larger grocery stores such as Whole Foods and public buildings such as the Boston Public Library, all of whose bathrooms have historically been free for use by the public, have experienced issues with drug use in their facilities. Some businesses have taken it upon themselves to prevent drug users from wandering in. Though Starbucks removed its national policy that only paying customers can use their bathrooms, bathrooms in its Boston branches remain inaccessible without a code. A security guard watches the bathroom doors at Whole Foods, which, like those at Starbucks, are only accessible with a code.

Public health initiatives have been enacted in the past in order to reduce harm to non-drug users who share space with drug users. For instance, in July 2012, a law went into effect that banned disposal of medical sharps, including hypodermic needles, in household trash cans to protect

waste handlers. Supported by the BPHC, health centers across the city serve as drop-off locations for found medical sharps. The AHOPE Needle Exchange Program allows enrolled drug users to anonymously trade in their used, potentially contaminated needles for sterile ones.

At government facilities like the Boston Public Library, McDermott said, the Boston Public Health Commission has taken action to minimize harm caused by drug use in the public bathrooms. All of the bathrooms at the library have had sharps boxes installed so that drug users can more safely dispose of their used needles.

The BPHC also started the Narcan Education Program in 2006, which provides Boston residents with free, twice monthly Narcan training sessions. There, students can learn not only how to administer the anti-overdose drug, but also how to make sure overdose victims get medical assistance without being arrested themselves.

Steve Wright, who works at the AHOPE Needle Exchange during the day, is one of three teachers in the Narcan Education Program. He is sometimes dispatched to teach at businesses that offer overdose-prevention training for their employees. He has been teaching Narcan education for four years and understands that many of his students have either witnessed an overdose before or will in the future.

Wright recognizes that the lessons he teaches can often play a large role in public spaces. Taking the class is "an important step," he said, "so people don't see an overdose and freak out."

The Narcan Education Program was created in conjunction with the Safer Bathrooms Initiative, a poster campaign started in 2012 that aims to educate lay people on identifying and responding to overdoses in public bathrooms.

McDermott said that public awareness in Boston of the opioid crisis has increased immeasurably since the initiation of programs such as the Narcan Education Program. Before such programs were offered, she said, "nobody knew what an overdose looked like."

"Overdoses are preventable by the everyday bystander," McDermott said. "Any bystander can make a difference."

• • •

Supervised, or "safe" injection sites have been proposed as a means of managing the effects of the ongoing opioid crisis on non-user Boston residents. Such sites would provide drug users with hygienic facilities in which they would be allowed to inject under the supervision of trained medical professionals. Much like the public safety officers are at the BMC, those professionals would be on hand to revive overdose victims and minimize death.

Safe injection sites already exist outside of the United States. According to the Drug Policy Alliance, 120 such sites exist worldwide, the closest one to the U.S. being in Vancouver, Canada. Massachusetts legislators have been resistant to the legalization of safe injection sites because they believe their existence would violate the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, which prohibits the possession and use of regulated substances, including heroin. A 2018 proposal for the establishment of safe injection sites in Massachusetts was condemned by the State Senate.

To allow the existence of safe injection sites would be a lapse of legislative rigidity about drug use, argued Gov. Charlie Baker after the decision. "These sites are a terrible idea and, more important, they are illegal," U.S. District Attorney Andrew Lelling wrote.

Lelling also voiced concerns that safe injection sites would lead to an increase in drug addiction, drug overdoses, drug-related crime and death. A 2014 examination of 75 studies conducted on safe injection sites, however, concluded that safe injection sites had positive impacts on their surrounding communities. Without encouraging crime, drug abuse or trafficking, the report said, safe injection sites directly reduced drug use in public spaces, irresponsible needle disposal and internal overdose deaths.

In addressing the commonwealth's opioid crisis last March, the Harm Reduction Commission (created by Baker in lieu of accepting safe injection sites) echoed these findings and made an official recommendation that safe injection sites be constructed as a measure to reduce the harms caused by drug use in public spaces. "Supervised consumption sites are an effective harm reduction tool in the countries where they have been implemented," the recommendation reads. "These sites keep people who use drugs alive and help reduce the public health risks of disease transmission."

As of now, no legislative action has been taken to authorize safe injection sites in Boston.

After graduating from college last spring, Quay resumed her work as a Boston public safety officer in and around the BMC. With her training and experience, she feels that she is able to prevent some drug overdoses from becoming overdose deaths.

Those who inject opioids face overdose and death every time they use. When they use in private, that fact can be dismissed as a problem that is too far away to solve. But it's not far away anymore. When drug users inject in public spaces, they face overdose and death, sometimes just feet away from non-users going about their lives. Their shoes sometimes visible under the stall doors. Their agonal breathing sometimes audible over the sound of toilets flushing. Even if they make it out of the bathrooms alive, they sometimes leave things behind for others to find. One might be pricked by a dirty needle at a Dunkin' Donuts or come in contact with contaminated blood at the library. A public ill-equipped to handle overdoses and medical waste is a public at risk. With so much drug use in public bathrooms, Boston's addicts are not the only ones facing harm. Everyone is.

Of how to manage this threat to public safety, Quay is unsure. "I have no idea what the right answer is."

*Alexandra Diamond is a journalism student at Northeastern University.*



## WHERE'S MY PAPER?

YOU CAN FIND THE FENWAY NEWS EVERY MONTH AT:

### West Fens

Star Market (news rack by the service counter) • Fenway Health • Sunoco station • Fenway Community Center

### East Fens

YMCA • Whole Foods (news rack next to the restrooms) • Fensgate lobby • Woody's Grill & Tap • Fenway CDC offices • The Bebop

### Mission Hill

J.P. Licks • Parker Hill branch library • Tobin Community Ctr.

### Kenmore/Audubon Circle

Japonaise • Nuggets Records

### Back Bay

Boston Public Library (Copley Square)

# How Loud?

## RESULTS & MEANING OF THE FENWAY COMMUNITY NOISE STUDY

**A COMMUNITY MEETING  
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | 6:00PM  
 FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER**

Learn about the 2019 assessment of sound levels in the Fenway from Dr. Erica Walker of the Community Noise Lab at the B.U. School of Public Health. Dr. Walker will discuss her study's findings and the potential health impacts of excessive noise in urban environments, including noise from ballgames and concerts at Fenway Park. Everyone welcome!

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# Beginning Her First Term as District 8 City Councilor, Kenzie Bok Discusses Values, Plans

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

**K**enzie Bok was sworn in as the new District 8 City Councilor on Jan. 6, and she has hit the ground running.

Bok isn't new to the political world. As a child growing up in the small neighborhood of Bay Village, she was exposed to the core value of citizen service. The family expectation was that no matter what your profession, public service should be an essential part of that life. Bok took this to heart, and at 12 years old she was knocking on doors to garner support for political candidates.

Bok's grandfather, John Bok—who helped initiate the affordable housing movement in Boston and launch the cleanup of the Boston Harbor—was a strong influence on her.

Although she is the youngest serving councilor, Bok brings an impressive resume of accomplishments. Prior to her election, Bok served as a senior advisor for policy and planning at the Boston Housing Authority and as budget director for City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George.

In 2016, Bok helped lead the successful ballot initiative to adopt the Community Preservation Act in Boston. In 2019, CPA revenues funded 56 projects across the city, including affordable housing programs, historic preservation, and open space projects.

Bok is passionate about "making Boston a great city for people from all walks of life and all stages of life." She talks about the people she met while campaigning and points out that some of the memorable meetings she had were with senior citizens. Many have lived in their neighborhoods for a long time and have helped shape these communities into what they are today.

In her city council term, Bok says she will focus on equity in housing and education and affordable access to transportation. She will advocate for more bike paths, which will help reduce congestion and greenhouse gases on the streets of Boston.

Bok cites Mayor Marty Walsh's address last year, in which he announced free preschool for children at age four. She points out that although the program has been approved, the funds aren't all in place, so it will take cooperative efforts from both



Kenzie Bok at her victory party on Nov. 5.

public and private sectors to make sure this happens as promised. She also mentions that access to community-based preschools is not available in every neighborhood—The Fenway and Back Bay, two of the neighborhoods that make up District 8—are two communities that fall short.

Economic resources for Boston from the state and federal governments are dependent on population. So Bok says this year's national census is extremely important. Students who are here for only a short time can make a difference in the resources we receive by filling out their census forms.

The Boston City Council has recently declared climate change a public health emergency. Climate

change exacerbates health disparities and will disproportionately affect the city's most vulnerable citizens. Bok believes that what happens to our most vulnerable populations should stand as a guideline for public policy.

Bok is aware of her constituents' concerns about noise pollution from Fenway Park during summer concerts. Future decisions about development in Boston are also a major concern for Bok.

The new councilor usually walks or takes the T to work. First and foremost, she says, she thinks like a pedestrian. Walking to and from work also doubles as a way for her to unwind. Bok lives in Beacon Hill, where her extended family has lived for many years. In her spare time, she plays board games and, in the warmer months, sails at Boston Community Boating. She serves on the board of the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance and on the vestry of Trinity Church. Bok also holds a lectureship at Harvard University and has taught courses on "justice in housing."

Bok holds the belief that all policies and city projects need to reflect equality and justice for all. She cites the American philosopher John Rawls, whom she studied at the University of Cambridge in England as she pursued a PhD in the history of philosophy as part of the prestigious Marshall Scholarship program. Rawls contends that "equality is a requirement for the baseline and any inequalities must benefit all, but particularly those who have the least." Bok says Rawls is someone who embodies her vision for Boston

District 8 includes Mission Hill, the Longwood area, Audubon Circle, the Fenway, Kenmore, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the West End. Councilor Bok can be reached at [kenzie.bok@boston.gov](mailto:kenzie.bok@boston.gov) or by telephone through her office at 617-635-4225. She has assembled a staff of four: chief of staff Lauren Brody, director of policy and communications Emily Brown, director of budget and constituent services Jon Spillane, and director of operations Henry Santana. Bok also plans to schedule regular meetings throughout the area she serves. Watch for these meetings in the *Fenway News* listing of "Community Meetings."

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

## Dr. Marc Lamont Hill

Friday, February 7, 2020 • 11:30am

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# FENSVIEWS

## Measuring, Understanding Noise from Concerts

BY ERICA WALKER

After presenting Community Noise Lab's findings at a City of Boston's Consumer Affairs and Licensing Board hearing on November 20, 2019, I emailed Board Chair Kathleen M. Joyce (and cc'd Mayor Walsh, City Councilors Campbell and Wu, and State Senator Brownsberger). Our study investigated sound levels produced by the 2019 summer concerts and related events at Fenway Park. Within my email, titled *Fenway Sound Study: So, where do we go from here?*, I shared the hope that our study

### GUEST OPINION

would provide the concrete data to spark a meaningful conversation around the impacts of concert sound levels on the health and well-being of Fenway residents. I also expressed my desire to strike a fair balance between dollars and decibels, especially in a neighborhood where more than a few residents are socially, physically, and economically vulnerable.

Community Noise Lab has worked in the Fenway since early 2019. A research lab within the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health, we pursue a research agenda designed to help communities grapple with noise by providing tools such as a state-of-the-art, real-time sound-monitoring network; our smartphone app, NoiseScore; noise-perception surveying; laboratory-based experiments; and community-engagement activities. We use the data we collect to develop novel sound- and noise-perception metrics that holistically describe the environmental landscape, as well as to promote policy changes for reducing noise. We currently work with 11 communities across New England on issues ranging from live concerts to aircraft activity. (Our work has received generous support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and B.U.'s Initiative on Cities.)

In the Fenway we wanted to collect data to support a proposed "good neighbor" agreement among Fenway Park, Live Nation (which books and runs the concerts), the City of Boston, and residents. We released a preliminary report of our findings just ahead of the Nov. 20 hearing. In it we showed that concerts and related activity increased sound above typical levels in the Fenway in a statistically significant way and that these sound levels exceeded the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended limits for day and nighttime environmental sound. Since WHO doesn't address live concerts in residential areas, we relied on their recommendations for road traffic noise. We also recommended provisions designed to curb the acoustical impact of the concerts.

Nevertheless, on Dec. 19, the Licensing Board decided not to alter a request from Fenway Sports Group to allow up to 12 concerts

for 2020, a 100 percent increase over the number of concerts licensed in 2012. This decision loudly declared that the answer to my question "Where do we go from here?" is "Absolutely nowhere." It ignored an extraordinary amount of community organizing and the generation of 28 million data points documenting sound levels and more than 250 sound- and noise-perception metrics for assessing the loudness and character of sound and its potential impacts on public health in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood residents knew this was an uphill battle from the very beginning. They were challenging some big institutions whose priorities seem grounded in entitlement, profit, and indifference to impacts on neighbors — and who have consistently been enabled and rewarded by local officials. They also have faced the need to forge a useful path through the tangled mess left when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shut its short-lived Office of Noise Abatement and Control decades ago. The shuttering of that office left the defense against noise completely dependent on local noise ordinances, unsympathetic big players with deep pockets, and a collective shrug that says "Noise is just the price we pay for urban pomp and circumstance."

Despite the licensing board's decision, and despite the larger obstacles, I still think that society continues to head in the right direction. For context, at the time EPA's Office of Noise Abatement and Control closed its doors, it had estimated that one-third of the US population endured exposure to sound levels harmful to human health. That number has surely grown, and recent epidemiology of sound exposure — that is, research on the impacts of noise on human health — puts a lot more flesh on exactly what "harmful" means. The research has shown an association between exposure to environmental sound levels and a host of negative health impacts, from reduced cognitive function in children to hypertension, strokes and cardiovascular-related mortality.

Community Noise Lab's biggest challenge, I believe, is operating in a climate where we, as a society, refuse to face who we truly are and to own up to what we've done. It's easier to kick the can down the road than to find a solution that requires everybody to give up something to reach a workable solution. The neighborhood may have lost this battle, but losing battles is the best way we can prepare ourselves to win the war.

*Dr. Erica Walker directs the Community Noise Lab at BU's School of Public Health. She led monitoring and analysis of sound levels in the West Fens from May to September last year. On Thursday, February 24 at 6pm, the Fenway Quality of Life Alliance will hold a community meeting at the Fenway Community Center to discuss the results and recommendations of the study.*

### Quick Fix for Noise? Use OSHA Rules to Eliminate Beeping When Construction Trucks Back Up

TO THE EDITOR:

A matter of significant public concern is the level of noise in Boston. It's enough of an issue that the City Council held a public hearing about it this past summer, an app has been created to measure it, and a post-doctoral researcher at BU's School of Public Health has been analyzing the collected data to identify its public health impacts. For us residents, it's something that just makes us crazy. But is there something that we can do about it?

Here's one answer. As we know, construction is one of the noisiest things happening around us in the Fenway, and construction at night and on weekends is the worst offender. Of all the negative impacts of these after-hours construction projects, the most egregious instrument of disruption and annoyance is the back-up alarm on trucks and construction vehicles. Nothing can mask that piercing, repetitive beeping sound! Notwithstanding the oft-repeated story that OSHA's regulations require them for worker safety and that nothing can be done about them, it turns

out that there is a very clear alternative. Here's the exact OSHA rule:

*No employer shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless:*

- (i) The vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level, or*
- (ii) The vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so.*

That "or" between items (i) and (ii) is huge. The regulation makes it clear that use of a back-up alarm is necessary unless there is someone to instruct the driver that it's safe to proceed. This alternative gives Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) the immediate opportunity to require a construction company seeking an after-hours permit to employ sufficient manpower to provide this instruction to its drivers, obviating the need for the back-up alarm altogether.

This one thing would make a world of difference for residents and would be a fair and more than reasonable demand of companies seeking exceptions from City rules. (Such a requirement could apply in other circumstances, as well, such as when

construction takes place next to apartment and condo buildings.) The loudness of the alarm also isn't immutable; it must only be loud enough to be heard over surrounding noise. The City could require contractors to modify the alarm's sound to properly account for the environment in which they're working and still remain in compliance with OSHA regulations. This would help to reduce the distressing cacophony of alarms that people hear on the street or in their homes from hundreds, or even thousands, of feet away from the moving vehicle—when the alarm's purpose is to warn someone directly behind a moving vehicle.

Getting ISD to protect Boston's residents from the pernicious and unnecessary alarms that make us lie awake at night, raise our blood pressure, or maybe even contemplate the sad thought that we must leave our home in Boston altogether, is one step toward getting control over the noise around us. We now know one very simple, concrete thing that ISD can do: kill the back-up alarm. OSHA regulations tell us, and them, how.

**DOLLY BOGDANIAN  
AUDUBON CIRCLE**

### Northeastern's Office of City and Community Engagement: Reorganized and Rebranded

TO THE EDITOR:

After a year-long reorganization, Northeastern has rebranded its Office of City and Community Affairs as the Office of City and Community Engagement. We realigned our five unique teams—Community Service and Civic Engagement Programs, Massachusetts Promise Fellows, Community-Engaged Teaching and Research, the Youth Development Initiative Program, and an administrative team—to better reflect the work that we do

each day, both internally and externally.

Our new vision and name also provided opportunities to shift personnel within our department to better reflect their strengths and to position us for building partnerships and maintaining relationships with the communities that surround the university. With this being 2020, there couldn't be a better year to symbolize this new vision around public outreach and interaction.

The mission of the Office of City and Community Engagement is to help build partnerships and programs that connect community assets with university resources through engagement and education. We bring local residents, community organiza-

tions, schools, social service groups, and government agencies together with students, staff, and faculty across Northeastern University. A spirit of collaboration infuses everything we do, and we strive every day to strengthen communities.

Every one of us at City and Community Engagement is excited about this move. We are also excited about the possibilities to come. I hope this change also offers fresh ideas for how we can collaborate with our neighbors in the Fenway and support your work and initiatives going forward.

**JOHN TOBIN, VICE PRESIDENT  
CITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

## THE 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, March 6.**

#### > DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, February 28.**

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# STATE CITES AREA INSTITUTIONS FOR HEAVY METALS IN DISCHARGE WATER

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Massachusetts Water Resources Agency (MWRA) publishes an annual report on the testing of wastewater from large users, such as universities, hotels, laboratories, hospitals, and manufacturers. The report is based on fiscal year data from monitoring and sampling done onsite.

Created in 1984 to monitor drinking-water quality and manage the sewer system for metropolitan Boston, the agency managed the transformation of the sewage-treatment system under

the federally mandated 11-year, \$3.8 billion cleanup of Boston Harbor.

MWRA publishes the report every year in October, but the fiscal year 2019 legal notice “Significant Industrial Users in Significant Noncompliance” only appeared in the *Boston Globe* in mid-January. Several institutions in the Longwood Medical Area received violation notices, but not penalties, between July 2018 and June 2019 for releasing heavy metals in excess of legal limits. According to Ria Convery, the MWRA’s press liaison, agency enforcement works by degrees; penalties are only

invoked if violations continue after corrective actions have failed.

The hospitals all qualify as “significant” users due to the volume of lab discharges and laundry wastewater. For example, Dana Farber Cancer Institute was listed for significant lead and mercury violations and further actions are under review. Harvard University’s Longwood campus was issued a violation for silver in September 2018; later follow-up sampling indicated compliance.

Significant users are required to monitor themselves. Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center missed several filing dates, consequently receiving violation notices. Brigham and Women’s Hospital also made the list, receiving two noncompliance notices in 2019. Interestingly, the Midtown Hotel, although not listed as a significant user in the MWRA database, exceeded limits for both copper and lead in its wastewater and was the only local facility to be penalized. Zinc was the culprit for Northeastern, found in the discharge from a laboratory in 2018.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## Neighborhood Newsline

### Tower Next to Huntington Theatre Clears More Hurdles

There has been some small movement for the 34-story glass tower planned by Matteson Company for 252-258 Huntington Ave. for a parcel just east of the Huntington Avenue Theatre. Approved in 2017, the project has been labeled “inactive” on the BPDA website. Over the summer, the BPDA board approved changes in floor-to-ceiling heights to allow creation of two additional floors with 20 additional apartments, bringing the total to 446. Then, in January, Greg Mosman, Boston’s tree warden, held a public hearing at 1010 Mass. Ave. about Matteson’s request to take out 10 sidewalk oak trees. As of now, the trees have not been cut down. At the hearing, Liza Meyer, the city’s chief landscape architect, asked if any effort had been made to retain some of the trees. Becky Rupel of Copley Wolf Design Group stated that the developer would replace four. Todd Liming of the Public Improvement Commission said the project has only undergone informal staff review, but a public hearing is likely in the near future. The Huntington Theatre Company (HTC) website says demolition of the 100-year-old buildings at 252-258 Huntington Ave. is expected to begin early this year. Other sources say construction would begin after the Huntington’s final play finishes its run in May. The tower project is intertwined with the plan to restore and renovate the theater, including creation of a new entrance lobby and second-floor community space. In related news, HTC said in a press release that its \$100 million capital campaign for funding the theatre improvements has reached 60 percent of its campaign goal, a milestone that includes more than a dozen multi-million dollar donations. The Huntington also applied for a Community Preservation Act grant from the City—CPA can fund historic preservation projects—although those awards have not yet been announced.

### Northeastern Faces Pushback in Nahant and Roxbury

Northeastern’s expansion plan for its Marine Science Center on the narrow East Point peninsula in the North Shore town of Nahant has residents riled up. The Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs received 190 individual comment letters on the proposal in addition to more than 250 form letters. In January, the agency refused the university’s request to waive environmental review for the first phase of the project. Instead, it will reequire a Final Environmental Impact Report. Meanwhile, in Roxbury, City Councilor Kim Janey and residents have criticized the proposal for a 29-story, mixed-use tower at Tremont Street, Melnea Cass Boulevard, and Columbus Avenue, which would be owned and managed by American Campus Communities, a private company. A coalition, NU for the Common Good, submitted a letter to the BPDA opposing the high-rent dorm, where a four-bedroom unit would cost \$6,000 per month. Groups signing on to the letter include Northeastern graduate students, employees, and faculty as well as housing activist groups, Reclaim Roxbury, Right to the City, and the PILOT Action Group. The City’s response is still to be determined and, except for a sewer permit, no state agency actions are required.

### Structural Changes Could Help Forestall Garage Suicides

Following a suicide in May and both a suicide and double murder-suicide in December, Northeastern University announced it will make structural changes at the Renaissance Garage to deter people from jumping. In a statement from Jessica Hair, a media relations specialist, Northeastern said: “In early December, Northeastern University put additional security staffing in place to patrol three multi-level parking facilities on its Boston campus, including the Renaissance Park garage. Following the tragedy on December 25th, the university has indefinitely blocked both pedestrian and vehicular access to the top of the Renaissance Park garage. This restricted access will continue until a permanent solution—including structural modifications and signage to assist individuals in distress—is implemented. Temporary signage has been installed. In addition, since December 25th, there has been 24-hour security staffing in place to monitor the Renaissance Park garage. The university is also installing additional surveillance cameras to ensure full coverage of the top of the garage.” The statement made clear that the university would have nothing new to say about the December 25 deaths, “Out of respect for the current investigation.”

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Local media reported that the Top of the Hub restaurant in the Prudential will close in April, as will the Skywalk observatory. The restaurant, which dates to the Pru’s 1965 opening, reported strong sales and pointed to a decision by Boston Properties not to renew its lease. **Nice work if you can get it: The Chronicle of Higher Education released its annual list of college presidents’ salaries, and presidents Joseph Aoun (Northeastern) and Robert Brown (BU) placed on the list. Not only that, but at \$1.6 million a year each, both out-earned their peers at arguably fancier MIT (Rafel Reif, \$1.17 million) and Harvard (Drew Gilpin Faust, \$1.17 million). The numbers are for 2017, which is why Faust shows up on the list; she returned to teaching in 2018.** In other academic news, Boston Architectural College will join five other

smallish colleges in a new consortium that lets seniors earn credits toward a master’s degree and then automatically move on to UMass Boston to finish their graduate work. The program will let the students shave a year (and half the cost) off the time needed to earn their master’s. **The Boston Public Health Commission reported that a Northeastern student had contracted the measles and may have exposed hundreds of people to the extremely contagious virus January 3-6, when the student visited multiple locations in the East Fens, including Blick Art Materials, the Mass. Ave. CVS, Uniql on Newbury, and Amelia’s Taqueria at 1076 Boylston Street.** Children’s Hospital lost a bid to squelch a lawsuit, and it has already gone to trial. A family that fought bitterly against treatment plans for their daughter in 2013 brought the suit. After tangling with the parents over diagnosis and care plans, the hospital persuaded the state to take Justina Pelletier into protective custody and out of her parents’ care for 16 months.



## CORRECTION

A photo caption about John Engstrom’s art show at the Fenway Community Center incorrectly identified the artwork as paintings. They were actually collages. We regret the error.

## DASHBOARD

### → 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

Bring your pen—  
and a wine glass—  
to **WINE WEDNESDAY**  
on March 24.

The Fenway News is delighted to host a one-hour wine-buying seminar followed by a wine tasting with Steve Rubin of Huntington Wine & Spirits, a neighborhood fixture since 1936. Learn how to pick wines that suit your palate and zero in on good values when buying. We’ll finish with a tasting where you can put what you learn to use. Join us at this fun event, a benefit for *The Fenway News*. We’ll have ticketing details in our March issue.

**WINE WEDNESDAY: WINE SEMINAR & WINE TASTING**  
Wednesday, March 25 • 6-8pm • 301 Huntington Avenue • \$40  
A BENEFIT (WITH WINE AND FOOD) FOR THE FENWAY NEWS

HUNTINGTON WINE & SPIRITS **Fenway News**

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## CITY'S NEGLECT OF PLAZA TURNS BUYING ART SUPPLIES INTO RISKY BUSINESS



The plaza in front of Blick Art Materials at Huntington Avenue and Mass. Ave. is in disarray. Its holes, bulging surface, and missing bricks pose a particular hazard to people with mobility restrictions (imagine trying to get from the street to Blick's front door in a wheelchair or on crutches). Because the BPDA owns the plaza—a relic of aggressive land acquisition for urban renewal in the 1960s and '70s—Blick can't repair it. Instead, the store finds itself forced to post signs and orange hazard cones to warn customers of the obstacle course at its front door.

## CAC Blesses Phase 2 Changes in Fenway Center Height, Uses



A pedestrian-view rendering of the Fenway Center, shows the eastern portal on Brookline Avenue.

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

In a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting held on Jan. 21 at the Fenway Community Center, the developers of the Fenway Center proposed changes to Phase 2 of their project.

This project has been in the works for quite a while; it won approval in 2009 and consists of 1.3 million square feet in air rights over the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Phase 1—two buildings with offices and apartments above the turnpike between Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue—is under construction and near completion. John Rosenthal, developing Fenway Center with his company Meredith Management, said that the project started with expanding and revitalizing Lansdowne, formerly Yawkey, Station along the Mass Pike at the end of David Ortiz Drive. The station was completed in 2014.

In Phase 2, the developers propose a shift in uses for buildings three and four. Rather

than a mix of housing, offices, and labs, they propose eliminating the residential component and focusing on office, lab, research and development, and life sciences uses.

Rosenthal said that this change would address current investor and market demand for such uses close to the Longwood Medical Area. They also propose a modest height increase in buildings three and four, due to the need for more expansive rooftop mechanicals and an increased floor-to-ceiling height to accommodate lab and life sciences uses.

Another component of the project is the addition of civic open space, over a half-acre of outdoor landscaped roof terrace accessible to the public. In addition, the proposal reduces the number of parking spaces by 500. Construction of Phase 2 is due to start in June and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

The proposal received support from the Citizens' Advisory Committee members. The public comment period ended on Jan. 27.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

## ECO-TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know the City of Boston holds collections for electronic waste throughout the year? At these events, you can drop off:

- Computers, including desktops, towers, laptops, and tablets
- LCD flat panel monitors
- Printers—including inkjet and laserjet models—copiers, and scanners
- Networking equipment, including switches, routers, and servers
- UPS batteries, laptop batteries, and cell phone batteries
- Audio and video equipment, including VHS players, DVD players, and stereos
- Telephones, including cellphones and office phones
- Other electronic accessories,

including keyboards, mouse devices, cables, and wires. The City doesn't take air conditioners and refrigerators at the drop-offs, but you can contact 311 or call (617) 635-4500 to schedule a curbside pick-up for either appliance.

The City works with BoxQ, an electronics recycling company to make sure your electronics get disposed of in an environmentally sound way. If the company can't resell something, it disassembles the item and send the pieces to refineries to keep them out of the landfills.

Call (617) 635-4500 or email [publicworks@boston.gov](mailto:publicworks@boston.gov) to inquire about upcoming electronics recycling events. The City advises you to call and check an item's suitability before dropping it off.

## Bikeless in the Mass. Ave. Bike Lane



On Mass. Ave., across from the Christian Science Plaza, it became clear after a January snowfall that some pedestrians don't use the covered sidewalk at Church Park. The brick-paved area between the arcade and the bike lane is technically a landscaped plaza; with the area snow-covered, many pedestrians opted to walk in the bike lane instead of trekking over to the sidewalk.

Fenway Community Development Corporation is hiring a full-time Project Coordinator to support its housing development and community programming work. To learn more about the position visit [fenwaycdc.org/careers](http://fenwaycdc.org/careers).

## Save the Date!

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Fenway CDC's 47th Annual Meeting:  
Building(s) for Our Community

Keynote Speaker: Chuck Collins  
Director, Program on Inequality and the  
Common Good Institute for Policy Studies  
5pm - 6pm Cash bar and appetizers  
6pm - 8pm Program

King's Dining and Entertainment  
50 Dalton Street, Boston



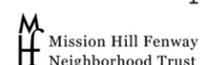
Improving Lives and  
Building Community  
Fenway Community  
Development Corporation

[fenwaycdc.org](http://fenwaycdc.org)

## MISSION HILL/FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

requests proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Please visit [www.missionhillfenwaynt.org](http://www.missionhillfenwaynt.org) to access the on-line application.



Proposals must be submitted no later than 5pm on March 31, 2020.  
Please email [hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org](mailto:hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org) with any questions.

# The Arts

## With Festive Opening, Wide-Ranging Installations, MassArt Takes Wraps Off MAAM, Its New Museum

BY KELSEY BRUUN

The MassArt Art Museum (MAAM) will host a grand opening event on Feb. 22. After a ribbon cutting at 12pm, visitors can view the three exhibitions, participate in arts activities, take a tour of the museum's preparatory workshops, and meet the artists. From 5pm to 7pm, there will be an opening reception, featuring refreshments, arts activities, and music.

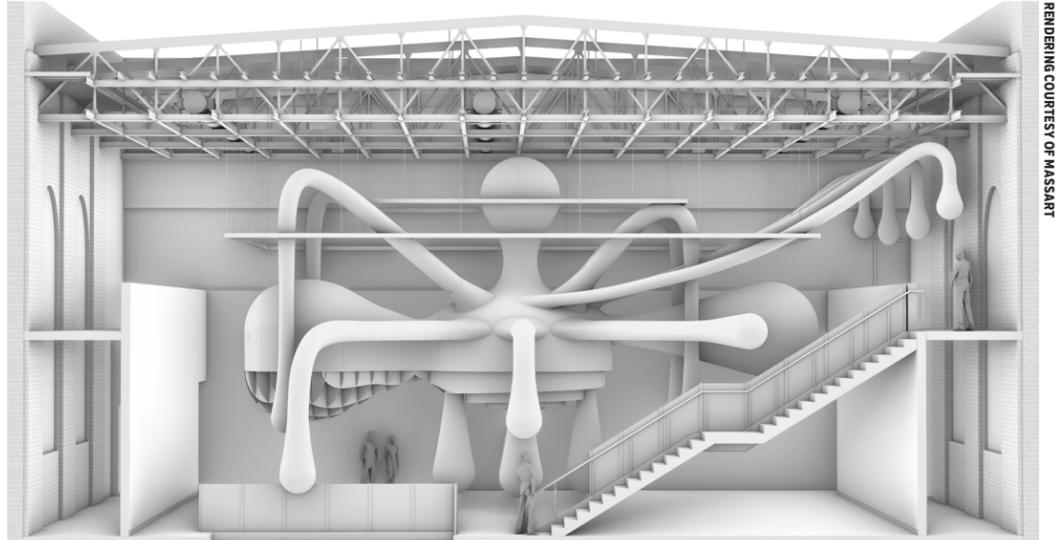
After extensive renovations, MAAM will open in the space formerly known as the Bakalar & Paine Galleries. MAAM will be a non-collecting museum, showing temporary exhibitions from both emerging and established artists.

As MassArt's teaching museum, MAAM will serve as a resource for MassArt students and faculty, educating students about

contemporary art, partnering with faculty to support the curriculum, and preparing students for careers in the museum field.

The first three exhibitions will highlight new work from artist Joana Vasconcelos, explore the role of contemporary art in video games, and bring a new site-specific installation from artist collective Ghost of a Dream.

Vasconcelos' work *Valkyrie Mumbet* honors Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, the first woman of African descent to sue for her freedom in Massachusetts and win, starting the



RENDERING COURTESY OF MASSART



RENDERING COURTESY OF MASSART

"Yesterday is Here," by Ghost of a Dream, installed in the MAAM lobby.

chain of events that helped make slavery illegal in Massachusetts.

**Above: "Valkyrie Mumbet" Rendering by Joana Vasconcelos**

The installation will remain on view through Aug. 2.

*The Game Changers: Video Games & Contemporary Art* artists and works aim to defy stereotypes about contemporary video game culture and creators, representing the expansion of possibilities beyond what's often expected within the genre. The exhibit will be on display through April 19.

Artist collective Ghost of a Dream has created a site-specific installation, *Yesterday is Here*, for the MAAM lobby, where it will remain for one year. In the installation, the collective has cut up, combined, and spliced together images from over 30 years of exhibition catalogs and announcements from the MassArt Bakalar & Paine Galleries, to create a kaleidoscopic look through the history of the galleries and create an experience that speaks to MAAM's future.

MAAM will always be free and open to the public, it is located at 621 Huntington Ave.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of *The Fenway News*.

### Gardner Casts Local Legend in New Light



IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

An exhibit opening Feb. 17 at the Gardner Museum has much to say about the politics of art, race, and privilege—and offers a sobering look into an obscure chapter of Boston history. In 1916 John Singer Sargent created murals of Greek gods for the rotunda of the MFA's then-new building on Huntington Avenue. Unknown to most viewers then (and now), the painter modeled his gods and goddesses—depicted as white—on the body of Thomas McKellar, an African-American elevator operator at a Back Bay hotel. After completing the murals, Sargent gave his working drawings to Isabella Stewart Gardner, in whose collection they remained. The museum says this exhibition "brings together Sargent's drawings and related historical materials to tell the story of McKellar's life. His central importance in Sargent's major artistic commissions in the Boston area considers critical questions of race, class, and sexuality—as relevant today as they were in Gilded Age Boston." The exhibit incorporates commentary from area artists and thinkers of color and from McKellar's descendants. *Boston's Apollo: Thomas McKellar and John Singer Sargent* will remain on view through May 21.

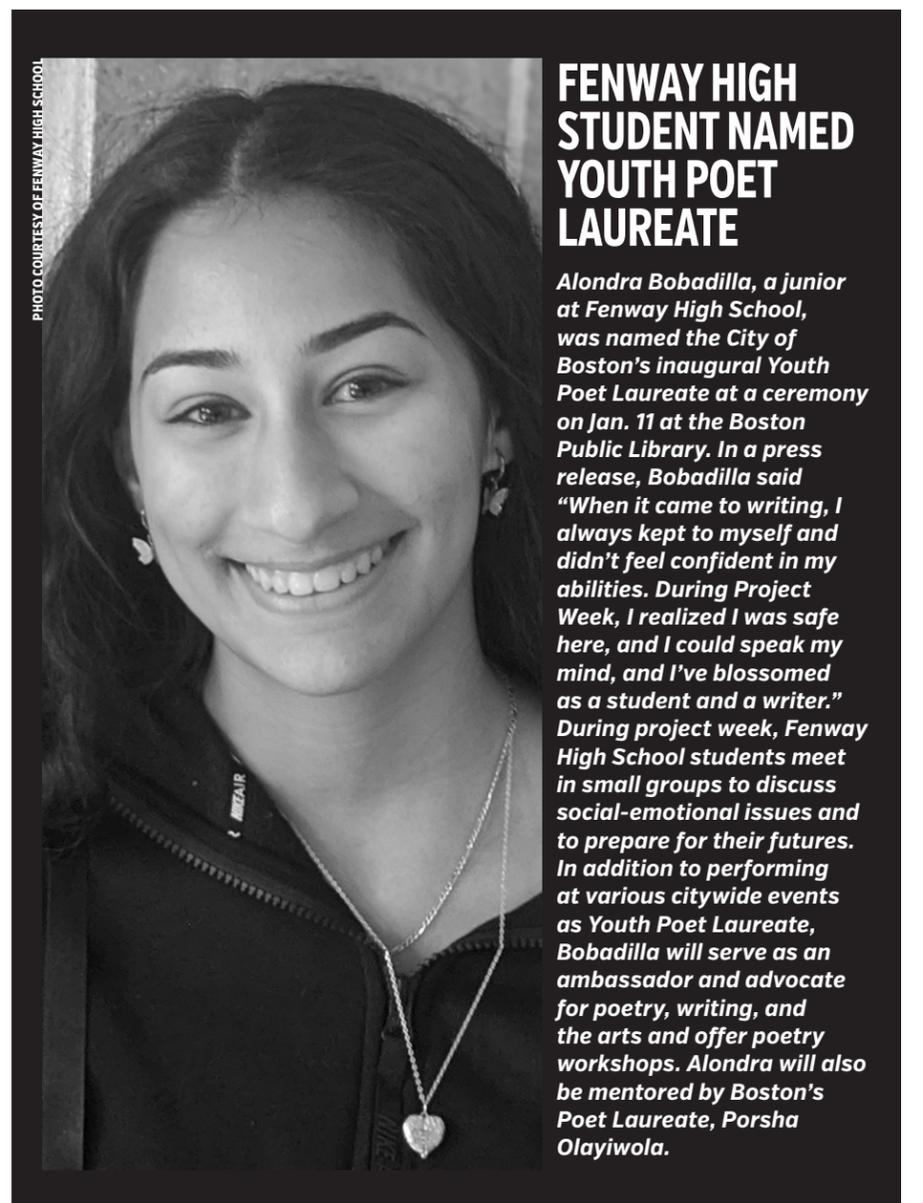


PHOTO COURTESY OF FENWAY HIGH SCHOOL

### FENWAY HIGH STUDENT NAMED YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Alondra Bobadilla, a junior at Fenway High School, was named the City of Boston's inaugural Youth Poet Laureate at a ceremony on Jan. 11 at the Boston Public Library. In a press release, Bobadilla said "When it came to writing, I always kept to myself and didn't feel confident in my abilities. During Project Week, I realized I was safe here, and I could speak my mind, and I've blossomed as a student and a writer." During project week, Fenway High School students meet in small groups to discuss social-emotional issues and to prepare for their futures. In addition to performing at various citywide events as Youth Poet Laureate, Bobadilla will serve as an ambassador and advocate for poetry, writing, and the arts and offer poetry workshops. Alondra will also be mentored by Boston's Poet Laureate, Porsha Olayiwola.

# February

## CALENDAR

**+** THIS SYMBOL INDICATES A FREE EVENT.

### arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Now → Mon, 3/1

Huntington Theatre presents **SWEAT**, Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about residents of a rustbelt steel town who wonder what the future holds when they hear the town's factory could close. Huntington Avenue Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave. Tue-Thu, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2pm (be sure to check the website, as some times and days vary). Tickets \$25 to \$115. Details and tickets at [HuntingtonTheatre.org](http://HuntingtonTheatre.org) or 617-266-0800.

Sat, 2/1

For its Faith & Film Series, St. Cecelia's hosts a **SCREENING OF HIDDEN FIGURES**, the story of the three female African-American mathematicians who played a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space program. 6pm, Saint Cecilia Parish Hall 18 Belvidere Street, FREE

Sat, 2/1 → Sun, 2/29

In an unusual collaboration, Company One Theater presents Hansol Jung's **WOLF PLAY IN RABB LECTURE HALL** at the Boston Public Library's Copley branch. A lesbian couple attempt to adopt a Korean boy, only to have his adoptive parents, trying to "unadopt" him, renege on their agreement because they don't want him raised by two mommies. Meanwhile, the boy himself thinks he's a wolf. Sat-Sun, 2-3:30pm; Thu-Sat, 7-8:30pm. All tickets are pay-what-you-want. Details, tickets at [companyone.org/](http://companyone.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.

- Tue, 2/3 at 1:30pm: Conversation with new CITY COUNCILOR KENZIE BOK.
- Thu, 2/6 at 12pm: AUTHOR TALK WITH ALISON BARNET, discussing her newest book, "Once Upon a Neighborhood: A Timeline and Anecdotal History of the South End."
- Tue, 2/18 at 1pm: DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S PRESENTATION with Amy Walsh from Dementia Friendly Boston and the Age Strong Commission.

## @ THE CENTER

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

- Fridays at 12pm: SENIOR BINGO. Join the Community Center for snacks and fun with friends and neighbors.
- Wed, 2/19 at 1pm: PUPPET SHOWPLACE THEATER'S "LISA THE WISE." All ages will enjoy this imaginative shadow puppet show about a brave girl and a famous witch!
- Sat, 2/22 at 11am: MUSIC FOR LITERACY WITH LISA BUCHANAN. Songs, rhythm, and rhymes prepare children's minds for learning to read. For infants through age 6.

Wed, 2/5

Get this party started! The **MFA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR KICKS OFF WITH AN ADMISSION-FREE DAY**, plus extra member discounts in the museum store and restaurants. Take a guided tour of 15 collection highlights (11am-1-3-5-7-8pm) or head for the main courtyard at 6pm to hear director Matthew Teitelbaum, spend time with Riley (the museum dog), and share some anniversary treats. 10am-10pm. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org). FREE

Thu, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 & 2/27

The Friends of Symphony Park will be hosting **FREE CHAIR YOGA CLASSES** every Thursday at 10am at Morville House, 100 Norway St. Classes are part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Winter Fitness Series, offered in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission.

Wed, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, & 2/26

**CLIMATE CHANGE: A COURSE FOR EVERYONE.** The second part of the Spring 2020 Myra Kraft Open Classroom series explores "Human Impacts: Local and Global Perspectives." 6pm, Northeastern University West Village F, Room 20. FREE

Thu, 2/6

The women of Boston's **CARDOMOM QUARTET** bring their music new and old works with a focus on works by women and non-binary composers—to the Boston Public Library in Copley Square in the Exhibitions Hall. 2pm. More information at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events). FREE

Sat, 2/8

- It started in Boston, but **NPR'S FROM THE TOP** performance series went on to conquer the nation. The show—with its entertaining mix of stories, narration, and performance by exceptional musicians under 20—returns to Boston every year for a taping at Jordan Hall, and this year it marks its 20th anniversary by setting ticket costs at \$20 for any seat in house. 2pm. Details and tickets at [fromthetop.org/show/nprs-from-the-top-boston-ma-show-383/](http://fromthetop.org/show/nprs-from-the-top-boston-ma-show-383/).
- See the first day of **ELSA DORFMAN: ME AND MY CAMERA**, a show of work from the legendary Cambridge photographer. The MFA exhibit focuses on Dorfman's self-portraits and images of family and friends, many taken on one of the only large-format Polaroid cameras in existence (so large that it lives on a wheeled metal cart). Through June 21. Details at [mfa.org](http://mfa.org).

Sun, 2/9

Conductor, composer, and NPR commentator Rob Kapilow's "What Makes It Great?" series takes a look at specific topics or themes in classical and popular music, breaking them down in eye-opening ways. For this Celebrity Series presentation, he joins the award-winning Verona Quartet in NEC's Jordan Hall to explore **THE ARC OF GENIUS—BEETHOVEN'S FIRST AND LAST QUARTETS**. Tickets \$30 to \$60 at the box office or from [celebrityseries.org](http://celebrityseries.org).

Mon, 2/10

The Boston University Symphony Orchestra performs works by **WEBERN, BARBER, AND BEETHOVEN**. Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., 8pm. More information at [bu.edu/cfa/news-events/events/](http://bu.edu/cfa/news-events/events/). FREE

Thu, 2/13 → Sun, 3/1

Boston Playwrights' Theater presents the drama **DEAL ME OUT** by MJ Halberstadt. With the 2016 presidential election looming large, tensions threaten to fracture a tightknit group of liberal friends living in Maine. Thu, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun,



include MIDA, Suya Joint, and Doña Habana. For drinks, stop by Wally's, and Farmer's Horse is a great option for coffee. 12pm, 604 Columbus Avenue. FREE.

2pm. Tickets \$35 general, \$25 for 62+, \$10 students. 949 Comm. Ave. More details at [bu.edu/bpt/](http://bu.edu/bpt/)

Fri, 2/14

Move fast if you want to hear the **HANDEL + HAYDN SOCIETY** perform C.P.E. Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart at Jordan Hall: Sunday's concert has sold out, and only a handful of seats for this one remained at press time. Acclaimed fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout directs the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3. Tickets \$63 to \$112. Details and tickets at [handelandhaydn.org](http://handelandhaydn.org).

Wed, 2/19

**BLACK HISTORIES, BLACK FUTURES**, a lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts, focuses on works by 20th-century artists of color. Free for MFA members, who can bring guests up to the limit of their memberships. 6:30-7:30pm. At the MFA, 465 Huntington Ave.

Wed, 2/19 & Thu, 2/20

**BERKLEE'S MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND**, a revue that brings together highlights from the musical career of Broadway team Kander and Ebb (Cabaret, Chicago). Berklee Performance Center, 8pm. Tickets \$10 advance, \$15 day of at the box office or [berklee.edu/events/](http://berklee.edu/events/).

Thu, 2/20

• **EMANCIPATION IN AMERICA, SEEN THROUGH ONE MAN'S DREADLOCKS.** Seminar with Abigail Cooper from Brandeis University. 5:15 pm. At Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St. Register at [programs@masshist.org](mailto:programs@masshist.org). FREE

• NEC's Black Student Union presents **CONTINUATION OF A DREAM: THE DREAM REIMAGINED.** This music, dance and spoken-word tribute to alumna Coretta Scott King features special guest performer, Boston poet laureate, Porsha Olayiwola.

New England Conservatory Brown Hall, 290 Huntington Ave. 7pm. FREE

### LAST CALL

The MFA's revelatory Hyman Bloom retrospective, which you won't soon forget, closes on February 23.

## Black Restaurant Challenge Kicks Off

**BOSTON BLACK RESTAURANT CHALLENGE KICKOFF** at Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen will have food, drinks, live music, giveaways, raffles and special guests throughout the day and night. The program begins at 2:30pm with civic leaders and restaurant owners as well as supporters. The organizers want Boston residents to visit black-owned restaurants throughout the month. In addition to Darryl's, great nearby options include MIDA, Suya Joint, and Doña Habana. For drinks, stop by Wally's, and Farmer's Horse is a great option for coffee. 12pm, 604 Columbus Avenue. FREE.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Fri, 2/21

The BSO loosens its dress code, lowers its prices, and shortens its program for the "Casual Fridays" series. Tonight, **LEGENDARY VIOLINIST PINCHAS ZUCKERMAN** plays as a soloist and conducts the orchestra in a program of Strauss, Bruckner, Mozart (Violin Concerto No. 3), and Haydn. Attend pre- and/or post-concert receptions, try out instruments at an "instrument bar," or follow interactive program notes on your phone (with the sound turned off). Tickets \$35, \$49, \$59. 8pm at Symphony Hall. Details and tickets at [www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/102559](http://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/102559).

Thu, 2/27

- Sports reporters love using the term GOAT when talking about Tom Brady. But we're going to appropriate "greatest of all time" for something else — the best film ever made about the world of classical dance. Michael Powell's and Emeric Pressburger's 1948 opus **THE RED SHOES** screens at the BPL's Copley branch in the Orientation Room, followed by a discussion led by Emerson College faculty member Barry Marshall. 2pm. More information at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events). FREE

- **COSMOSIS: THE MUSIC OF DAVE HOLLAND.** Visiting Artist-in-Residence Dave Holland with Jim McNeely for their first US performance. New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave. 7:30pm, FREE

Sat, 2/29

Learn history and take advantage of rare access during a two-hour **GUIDED TOUR OF THE FENWAY STUDIOS** on Ipswich Street organized by the Brookline Adult and Community Education. The 115-year-old building — whose charming Arts & Crafts-era architectural details helped secure a listing on the National Register — is America's oldest building designed and built as living and working space for artists. Meet at 10am in the lobby, 30 Ipswich Street. Register at [www.brooklineadulted.org](http://www.brooklineadulted.org), by calling 617-730-2700, or by mail (see details on line). \$22.

## COMMUNITY meetings

**WED, FEB. 5** Fenway Civic Association 58th annual meeting, featuring a special presentation "Engineering Ingenuity: Developing Air Rights Over the Mass Pike" by Peter Sougarides of Samuels & Associates and John Rosenthal of Meredith Management. 6-8pm. 401 Park, second floor conference center, enter through main building.

**WED, FEB. 5 & FEB. 19** Fenway Fair Foods, 3-5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Dr. 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.

**WED, FEB. 12** Meeting of the Wentworth

Institute of Technology Task Force to discuss the proposed 630 Huntington Avenue project. The project is a 13-story, approximately 208-bed student housing building on Wentworth's campus at the intersection of Ward, St. Alphonsus, and Huntington Avenue. 6-8pm. Flanagan Campus Center, Multipurpose Room, 550 Huntington Ave. For more information, email [Edward.Carmody@boston.gov](mailto:Edward.Carmody@boston.gov).

**MON, FEB. 24** Presentation on the Fenway Community Noise Study. Learn about the assessment of sound levels in the Fenway from Dr. Erica Walker of the Community Noise Lab at BU School of Public Health. 6pm. Fenway Community Center.