MFA Workers Stage One-Day Walkout

By Alison Pultinas

On Nov. 17, a cross-departmental group of Museum of Fine Arts staff and allies marched in a one-day strike on Huntington Avenue. A year ago, MFA workers voted to unionize and chose to join Local 2110 of the United Auto Workers. The union’s bargaining committee has met with the administration for seven months, but talks have produced no contract. Hence, the strike.

According to Local 2110, the MFA’s current contract offer is unacceptable. The museum’s wage offer contains no assured salary increase until 2024 and only a commitment to a 1.7% percent raise. Additionally, all benefits—including medical coverage, retirement contributions, and time off—would be subject to change or reduction at the administration’s discretion.

Chants suggested in a union handout included “MFA You’re No Good/ Sign a Contract Like You Should” and “Ancient Art not Ancient Wages!”

As of Nov. 27, a solidarity fund has raised more than $15,000, more than enough to pay any striking worker in need $150 to compensate for a missed day’s pay.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the Greater Boston Labor Council, and the Museum Independent Security Union (MISU) submitted letters of support for the striking workers to MFA Director Matthew Teitelbaum (which you can read on mfaunion.org).

The MFA’s own statement said that the “union’s committee has now gone over seven weeks without responding to our wage proposal….We remain committed to staying at the bargaining table to create an equitable and sustainable outcome.”

In its letter, the Greater Boston Labor Council expressed disappointment that the MFA has retained Jackson Lewis, a notorious union-busting law firm, and that the museum is contesting union eligibility of more than a hundred positions.

According to John Storrow of MISU, that union’s contract has a no-strike/no-lockout clause, which prevented them from participating on Nov. 17.

That contract expires June 30.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.
109 Brookline Developer Proposes Expanding Community Center

BY ALISON PULTINAS

A n expansion of the Fenway Community Center (FCC) could be a major community benefit under discussion for the future ten-story research and development project replacing the existing building at 109 Brookline Ave.

Proposant IQHQ has quickly upsized its investment in the Fenway-Kenmore corridor. In addition to 109 Brookline and the Fenway Center, it has acquired the Buckminster Hotel for $42.5 million.

IQHQ would set aside 2,900 square feet of ground-level space, accessible from Overland Street, for the FCC. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), will discuss the potential expansion at its meeting on Dec. 13.

The idea first surfaced in October in a 500-plus-page draft project impact report filed with the BPDA for the proposal. The concept is linked to IQHQ’s diversity, equity, and inclusion commitment to offer STEM programming for life-sciences-workforce training.

At the Nov. 3 CAC meeting, Will Ashton from IQHQ called the plan a community benefit project. CAC members and others, including Bok, asked for a reduction in the size of the four-level garage. Initially proposed for 220 spaces, the current proposal calls for a capacity of 216 cars, clearly not a major change.

IQHQ senior vice president David Sarette committed to no game-day parking at the Nov. 3 CAC meeting and promised “to disincentivize” public parking for Lansdowne Street events.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

FENWAY CDC IS HIRING!

We’re looking for a community organizer to strengthen residents’ leadership capacity and develop strategies for FDCC campaigns. Our campaigns focus on local issues related to housing, public transportation, and new development. Candidates must have a deep commitment to social justice and anti-oppressive practices.

For a complete job description and information on applying, please visit tinyurl.com/FCDCcareers.

As Coyotes Move In, Advice on Coexisting

Across Tremont Street from the Boston Police Department Headquarters lies a seven-acre piece of land known as Parcel 3. The BPDA recently released a new request for proposals (RFP) for developing the site. Several years ago, a New Jersey-based mall developer and its partner, Roxbury’s National Center for Afro-American Artists, looked ready to take on the project, but financial uncertainties intervened. Then the BPDA rewrote the RFP, forbidding relocation of the Stony Brook Connector beneath former Hampshire Street, specifying that two-thirds of any new housing be income-restricted, and encouraging proposals for life science lab space.

On Nov. 17, BPDA Senior Real Estate Officer Morgan McDaniel conducted a walking tour (pictured) for prospective bidders and other interested parties. Responses to the RFP are due Feb. 2.

This coyote, spotted along the Muddy River behind the Victory Gardens, joins other increasingly frequent sightings in the area. “We have received fairly frequent reported coyote sightings in several neighborhoods throughout the City,” said Alexis Trezinski, Director at Boston Animal Control. “Please note that it is not unusual to see coyotes during the day, and while coyotes may appear comfortable in parks, backyards and streets, they tend to avoid direct contact with people... It is also helpful for residents to understand that healthy coyotes are nearly impossible to humanely capture [even those who are injured create a significant challenge]; therefore understanding how to co-exist is important,” Because coyotes are opportunistic, any potential food sources should be removed; bird feeders should be properly maintained or removed; and trash or composting should be properly secured.

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Has your employment situation recently changed? Are you currently uninsured? If you live in MA, we can help you enroll in insurance. We can also talk to you about our sliding fee schedule. Call us at 617.927.6000. No one is denied care based on ability to pay.

FENWAY HEALTH | 1340 Boylston Street | Boston, MA 02215
617.267.0900 | fenwayhealth.org

As voted on by the BPDA for the proposal. The Center is not municipally funded like the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services.

The officers are Kerry Do, treasurer, and Kristen Mobilia, treasurer. At-large FCC board list. The officers are Kerry Do, treasurer, and Kristen Mobilia, treasurer. At-large

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BY KELSEY BRUUN

Marcus McNeill holds leadership positions within Fenway High School student government and in a statewide service-oriented organization. Now, the 12th grader can add mayoral advisor to his resume.

McNeill, 18, lives in Dorchester. Each morning he commutes to school in Mission Hill via the Red and Orange Lines. McNeill is the 12th grade’s class representative for the student government. Outside of school, he works for Project 351, serving as a mentor for a cohort of eighth graders who work on various service projects.

“[Working with Project 351] has shown me how powerful youth voice can be and how powerful young people are,” said McNeill.

Currently, McNeill’s voice is one of the most influential in Boston. He served on Michelle Wu’s transition team and continues to advise the mayor on education policy.

In early 2020, McNeill reached out to all at-large city councilors to share his thoughts on attending Boston Public Schools during the pandemic. “[During the pandemic] there was a disconnect from my peers and my school,” explained McNeill. “I definitely agreed [with the decision of] keeping school,“ explained McNeill. “My position is pretty special, which is I am the only student. I think it’s pretty historic. Any decision that is made on education in the city, the mayor should be talking to students and teachers first. We feel the effects way more than anyone else.”

McNeill thinks one of the most pressing issues facing Boston Public Schools is infrastructure and facilities. “We have a lot of older buildings in the city. A lot of schools are closing or merging together. Sometimes buildings can’t hold all those students,” said McNeill. “When I was in middle school, there weren’t toiletries in the bathroom. There should be no reason why a student has to ask a teacher for more toilet paper in the bathroom. We need to make improvements to schools so students have air conditioning and that the heaters are turned on on time.”

McNeill has firsthand knowledge of the cost of making these improvements, as he previously served on a board of 15 students advising the BPS superintendent. Each student was assigned a mentor, and he worked closely with the BPS chief financial officer. McNeill cites “tackling the budget from an equity standpoint” as one of his top priorities. “That is still my passion to this day,” he said.

McNeill is also committed to amplifying other student voices. “I value student input and I encourage students to reach out to me so I can pass along their input to the mayor,” said McNeill. “I want to get students a seat at the table.”

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of The Fenway News.
Trespassing is a “winter wonderland,” Time Out Market at 401 Park takes advantage of the season with a series of holiday-themed events this month.

- SAT, DEC 4: visit the Boston Women’s Holiday Market from 12pm to 5pm, to support small businesses like Peshmaian Collection, Ava Jewelry, Louis S. Avedisian, Inc., Vibes Couture, Jane Maker, Naba Designs, Sarah Dudek Design, Itsmine Boston, Juniper and Buttercup. The event will also feature live music. 1-4pm.
- SAT, DEC 18: You Thought Santa only comes to the mall? He’ll be here 10:30-11:30am and eager to have his picture taken with children. Live holiday music will continue until 1pm.
- FRI, DEC 31: Time Out Market hosts a New Year’s Eve party. The ticketed event features entertainment from Cirque de Light performers, a roaming magician, live music, a tarot card reader, a caricature artist, a 360 photo booth, and a champagne toast. Tickets come with a $60 event card you can use at any Time Out Market from 8pm to 11pm. After ringing in the New Year, guests can enjoy late-night bites. Tickets $90, available at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-party-tickets-200937428275?aff=ebdssbdestsea.

The Fenway News publishes monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc. a community-oriented newspaper dedicated to community journalism. If you’d like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, distribute, or sell ads, please contact us at fenwaynews@gmail.com

The Fenway News, PO Box 230277, AUBurn Station, Boston, MA 02123

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| FREQUENCY | Our next issue will appear on Friday, January 7. |
| DEADLINE | The deadline for letters, news items, and ask for our next issue is Friday, December 31. |

TIS THE SEASON AT 401 PARK

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- ALL MONTH: In addition to holiday events, 401 Park’s winter ice-skating rink is back (above). Open Monday–Friday, 3–9pm; Saturday, 11am–1pm, and Sunday, 11am–8pm.

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—namely 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.

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State Auditor Suzanne Bump issued a report faulting administrative practices at the Reggie Lewis Center, which Roxbury Community College manages [and which also came under fire in a 2014 audit]. The new report found that between mid-2017 and mid-2019, the center failed to run sex-offender-registry checks on 13 of 19 staff members; couldn’t document roughly $30,000 in payments to staff, and may have charged some schools to use the facility, nominally free for any public school in Massachusetts to use.

Students at Missiongarage School got a visit from a local celebrity—Charlesbank Cooperative Apartments resident Enoch Woodhouse, 84, one of the last living Tuskegee Airmen. The all-Black unit of combat pilots earned a stellar reputation in European skies during World War II—even as they faced official segregation and unofficial harassment in the armed forces. The Globe reported that Woodhouse lives near the school, whose fifth and sixth grades had studied the airman. According to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Jimmy Fund’s marque money-making event, the Pan-Mass Challenge bike ride and related events, raised $64 million this year.

A Globe article on hospital workers who refuse to take the COVID vaccine revealed vaccination rates for the two biggest MA players. At Mass General Brigham, the article said, only 0.6% of 80,000 workers remained unvaccinated; that translates to 458 facing termination. Beth Israel Lahey reported 153 employees “on leave” and at risk of losing their jobs if not vaccinated by mid-December. A final BMC item (patience, children; this is the last one). The Brigham announced that it will enroll a small group of participants in trials of a nasal vaccine designed to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s in people with early symptoms. The trial will focus on determining whether the vaccine is safe enough to move on to larger-scale trials of effectiveness. Ahead of schedule, the MBTA has opened new stations on Comm Ave, west of the BU. Bridge. They replace four closely spaced stations as part of plan to speed travel on the Green Line B Branch. Wasabi Technologies, a cloud-storage company, bought the naming rights to the new college-football bowl that will be played for the first time at Fenway Park on Dec. 29. Wasabi has headquarters at the Prudential Center. Ed Bullins, an influential black playwright, died in his Roxbury home. Bullins achieved critical success in the 1970s and 2015, and later taught in Northeastern’s theater department. In his Roxbury home, Bullins achieved critical success in the 1970s and later taught in Northeastern’s theater department. In his Roxbury home, Bullins achieved critical success in the 1970s and later taught in Northeastern’s theater department.

Back to Print in 2022...And We Couldn’t Have Done It Without You

The board of the Fenway News Association has decided to return to print with the January 2022 issue of the Fenway News. DISTRIBUTION will look somewhat different as we streamline the number of places you can pick up the paper. See the partial list of pick-up sites below.

COVID: If the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus causes shutdowns within the next few weeks, we may delay our plans for printing.

WEB SITE UPGRADES: We’ll be working to make our website more stable and user-friendly this year. None of this could have happened without the support of you, our readers. We launched a fundraising campaign a little over a year ago to pay off a longstanding debt to our printer. We did it, raising more than $17,000 through FundMe and donations made through FENSFund (for those who wanted a tax deduction). We’re now debt-free and are exploring new ways to increase our income and cut costs. THANK YOU—WE COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Look for us early next year at the Y on the Square, Whole Foods [East Fens]; Star Market and the Fenway Community Center. [West Fens]; and the Parker House and Mike’s Donuts in Mission Hill.
As It Gets Bigger, FGS Looks to Improve Governance

BY TIM NEY

The Fenway Garden Society (FGS) adopted a motion at its annual meeting in January 2020 to create the Nomination and Election Working Group (NEW) to strengthen gardener representation and diversity in the governance of the Victory Gardens. The group recently released its recommendations.

A block from the Victory Gardens, Fenway residents might remember Canestaro—a small family-run pizzeria—where Red Sox fans, politicians, and hungry locals gathered. Years ago, the Fenway Garden Society was small enough to hold its annual meeting, where its members elected a board of directors, informally assembled from gardeners, in the restaurant.

Today Canestaro is gone, replaced by an apartment building. The FGS has grown to 400 members and has financial assets, including an endowment that totals a quarter of a million dollars.

I served as co-chair of NEW with fellow gardener Lacretia Flash. Together with our volunteer team, we surveyed the FGS membership about their experiences and opinions. We were advised in our review by Professor Lori Ashline, an attorney and nonprofit expert in Northeastern University’s Cooperative Management Graduate Program.

The recommendations of the NEW review fall within two categories. The first category consists of administrative and procedural recommendations that do not require changes in the Constitution and By-laws. The second set of recommendations does require changes in or amendments to the FGS’s governing documents. Here is a summary of the recommendations.

Administrative and Procedural Recommendations

- RECRUITMENT: There should be a more active recruitment process by the Nominating Committee to identify, encourage, and cultivate future leaders of the FGS. This recruitment process should be undertaken with the assistance of the Executive Committee and Area Directors. Recruitment should occur during the growing season to take advantage of personal interaction and contact that can be made in the gardens and during FGS events (e.g., Community Participation Days).

- COMPENSATION: An Executive Director needs to be hired to professionalize the FGS. I can imagine that there would be funders out there who might be interested in helping the organization to professionalize.

Recommendations Requiring Amendments to the Governing Documents

- EXPANSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Given the size of the FGS membership (400-plus members) and a relatively small voting board of five members, it is recommended that the number of voting members on the Executive Board be expanded from 5 voting to 11. Expanding the board will allow for greater diversity in representation and perspectives within the FGS Executive Board of Directors and allow for better distribution of the workload. Total voting members should remain under 15. Improving the governance of the board in this way will allow for greater fairness and equity in FGS’s nomination and election processes.

- GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: A new standing committee, with the chairperson appointed by majority of the Board of Directors, should be formed to ensure greater accountability and integrity, and adherence to FGS’s governing documents, policies, and procedures. This recommendation emerged from our research, but is not specified to the charge of the NEW. It was previously proposed to the membership by the Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Tim Ney lives in the West Fens.

The Fenway News | December 2021

The 1976 FENSFest

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The quilts

The show's undeniable star is Bisa Butler's "To God and Truth," a 2020 composition of pieced, appliquéd, and quilted fabrics. It transforms an 1899 black-and-white photo of the Morris Brown College baseball team into a portrait buzzing with color and vivid detail. Butler's depiction of the team's uniforms holds in South in the 1880s. Mazloomi creates a stark, black-and-white image of multiple lynching victims hanging from a tree. Singer Billie Holiday—who introduced the song "Strange Fruit"—looms over the scene; her hand, pressed expressively to her chest, appears to create one of the victims.

Two quilts by Harriet Powers from the same era anchor the African-American story quilt tradition that ultimately included the renowned Gee's Bend quilters. Her quilts mix roughly a dozen bibble tales and memories of natural wonders, like a miner's shower or a deadly hard freeze. Powers lived through the Georgia. You could easily drop one of her energetic animals or people into a Matisse collage without missing a beat. Powers, of Civil Rights movement fashioned into a bridge carrying a line of protesters.

Holmes's Roxbury childhood inspires another group of works not necessarily created as illustrations. But these also brim with rich colors and obvious affection for their young subjects. Two site-specific works honor Arkansaw relatives, whom she visited in the summer. Her grandfather, Commodo Hendrix, gave her a box of family photos that fired young Holmes's artistic imagination and interest in her roots. Her Aunt Mary Lois Maxwell, Hendrix's daughter, dreamt of city life but remained stuck on a farm; Holmes offers her portrait as an ennobling tribute. Both set traditional portraits within three-dimensional collages, framings made of things like cotton bolls, a book stand, and other objects that hit at each subject's story.

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

COVID PRECAUTIONS KEY

Masking required
Reduced seating capacity
Remote viewing

Through January 2

New England premiere of TEENAGE DICK by Mike Lew, a comic re-telling of Shakespeare's Richard III set in a high school. Bullied because of his cerebral palsy, outsider Richard decides to exact revenge on his enemies by becoming senior class president. But all the scheming, manipulation, and revenge plots force him to ask whether it's better to be loved or feared.


Fri, 12/10

Take a sleighride-of-sleaze down the slopes of good taste and over the ski jump with his 25th Christmas show. One thing you can be sure of: This won’t be a silent night. Berklee Performance Center. Tickets $65 or $130 (for VIP seats, an after-show “Brookside chat” with Waters, and swag). More info at https://www.berklee.edu/BPC

Wed, 12/15

Join the Boston Public Library for an online talk with MASHA RUMOR, award-winning journalist, immigrant, and author of Parenting with an Accent: How Immigrants Honor Their Heritage, Navigate Setbacks, and Chart New Paths for Their Children, which merges real stories, research and on-the-ground reporting to explore multicultural parenting and identity in the U.S. Register at https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/617056bf167cb7430016c6e59. 6pm to 7pm.

Wed, 12/15 & 12/29

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes Fenwaykiks to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3–5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at aka@fenwaycd.com for more info.

Fri, 12/21

Join the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee for its ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. Suggested contribution $15. Petit Robert Bistro (480 Columbus Ave). 6pm. Email ward4dems@gmail.com with questions.

Fri, 12/31


TUESDAYS Mission Hill Main Streets SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL Join this weekly call featuring reopening guidance, support services, resources, and your questions. Register in advance at bitly.com/smallbizbos. 3pm.

FRIDAYS Harvard Law School’s Legal Services Center hosts weekly VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Advice and referral information on civil legal issues. 10am–12pm. For Zoom info, visit bit.ly/1SCBPBl

TUE, DEC. 7 Join the Fenway Community Development Corporation and Fenway Civic Association for a virtual community meeting to REIMAGINE THE CURRENT BUS ROUTES IN FENWAY. Register for the virtual event at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZuwOuOoppwviH9Y1-4Gf0eLNIU-S097PSHERQ. 6pm.

MON, DEC. 13 the BPDA hosts the CHARLESLEESEAST IMPACT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING. The IAG will discuss the Project Notification Form. Register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register?\_W\_dNJ-08EBTQyQI21s4fkg. Contact Caitlin Coppinger at caitlin.coppinger@bpda.boston.gov. 6pm to 8pm.

Tues, 12/21 Join the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee for its ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. Suggested contribution $15. Petit Robert Bistro (480 Columbus Ave). 6pm. Email ward4dems@gmail.com with questions.
公开听证会通知


Teresa Polhemus，执行主任/秘书，波士顿规划与开发署