

HOUSING RESOURCES DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Commonwealth lifted its eviction moratorium on October 17, which has put many people at risk of eviction or foreclosure. If you're one of them, you may be able to get help with unpaid and future rent or mortgage payments.

- The State's RAFT and ERMA programs provide financial assistance to renters and homeowners who can't make housing payments due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) for more information about RAFT and ERMA.
- The City of Boston's Rental Relief Fund provides financial assistance to Boston residents unable to make rental payments due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to learn if you qualify or to apply.
- While the state moratorium has expired, a federal moratorium remains in place through the end of the year. These protections aren't automatic—you must fill out a CDC declaration and present it to your landlord, and you need to meet several qualifications (primarily, earning less than \$99,000 annually, having lost your job, and the possibility that you would be homeless if evicted). Click [here](#) to fill out the declaration.

If you have questions about these programs, reach out to Alicia Brisson, district director for state senator William Brownsberger at Alicia.Brisson@MASenate.gov or 617-651-1516.

Lining Up at Fenway Park for a Different Reason



On the first two days of early voting in Massachusetts, Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18, hundreds of Boston residents took advantage of a chance to cast their ballots at Fenway Park. Multiple sports venues across the country hosted early voting, taking advantage of vast enclosed spaces to provide plenty of distancing for poll workers and voters. Lines formed early, snaking back from Gate A on Jersey Street and then east on Van Ness. As both days wore on, however, lines and wait times shrank considerably. If you haven't yet voted by the time you see this, check our roundup of your options at the bottom of the page—and see the opinion piece on page 4 urging the City to get creative in future elections by holding early voting at other high-profile locations.

Rising COVID Rates Send McKinley Schools' High-Needs Pupils Back to Remote Learning

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The churning turmoil of rising COVID-19 positivity rates in Suffolk County that shut down all Boston Public School (BPS) buildings on Oct. 22 profoundly affects two Fenway-area schools in the McKinley network. At the McKinley Schools, all students meet the BPS high-needs benchmark for returning to classrooms on Oct. 1. It turned out that the students received just a few days of in-person education.

The BPS website defines high-needs students as “students with disabilities in public day schools; students with disabilities in substantially separate classrooms; students with disabilities in inclusion classrooms with high needs, as defined by the student’s Individualized Education Plan; students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE); English Learners in English Language Development Programs Levels 1 & 2; students Experiencing Homelessness; and students in the care of the Department of

Children and Families.” Nearly 25 percent of total BPS enrollment qualifies as high-needs students, an estimated 11,000 pupils.

According to the Boston Public Health Commission protocol, once the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity testing rate drops below five percent for two consecutive weeks, students with the highest needs will have the option to return to in-person school. That

headmaster for the McKinley network. She is based at the McKinley South End Academy on Warren Avenue, which has elementary-age and high school students and serves as home base for most of the city’s McKinley students. There are neighborhood partners and promised multimillion-dollar state-funded repairs coming soon.

The Fenway programs are small. The McKinley on St. Mary’s, built in 1923, has eight classrooms and no gym or auditorium—though it has well-used basketball hoops outside. Recent enrollment has been approximately 50 students; in October that number hovered below 10.

McKinley Prep on Peterborough Street typically has 80 to 100 students enrolled. Jonathan Scott, the new head for the Fenway programs, has an office in the Peterborough Street building. In the past, McKinley

Prep emphasized vocational training and had a wood shop for furniture building and carpentry skills.

Related to reopening—on Sept. 29, the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) did a walk-through inspection of the two Fenway schools. While bathroom cleanliness, adequate soap and running water, and PPE supplies are important, the major topics moving forward are air quality and ventilation—especially with winter approaching. Like the majority of BPS buildings, both Fenway schools are heated by steam and have no HVAC systems.

MassCOSH has strong recommendations for all BPS facilities, specifically for nurses’ offices and so-called isolation rooms (used when someone has tested positive for the coronavirus). When students with asthma are in school, indoor air quality becomes even more relevant.

BTU is advocating for safe places for high-needs students and suggesting alternative sites for in-person learning. Other groups, such as the Special Education Parents Advisory Council and the Boston Education Justice Alliance have rallied together to ask for the same. The BPS administration has not publicly considered these ideas.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



The William McKinley Elementary on St. Mary's Street.

makes the earliest possible return date Nov. 9.

As of Oct. 23, the entire BPS system reported 15 COVID-19 positive cases among staff and students who had returned for in-person learning. By state regulations, the per-school numbers must be reported only if a facility has more than five cases. As of Oct. 23, no school had more than five cases.

The McKinley special education network was created in 1978. It began in the William McKinley Elementary School on St. Mary’s Street in Audubon Circle, then expanded to the former Charles Mackey Middle School on Warren Avenue in the South End and the Martin Milmore Elementary School on Peterborough Street.

The Fenway schools are therapeutic day programs for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities, who are assigned from other schools. More than two-thirds of their enrollments are male. Peterborough’s program is for 9th to 12th graders and can serve students up to age 22. St. Mary’s Street is a middle school for 5th to 8th graders.

For these pupils, the fall semester has primarily meant remote learning with Chromebooks, a problematic scenario for all students, but even more complex for special education.

Since 2019, Cindie Neilson has been

VOTE NOVEMBER 3

- ☛ **MAIL-IN BALLOTS:** Your ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by the Election Department by Nov. 6 to be counted.
- ☛ **DROPBOXES:** You can deposit a completed mail-in ballot at one of 17 dropboxes located around the city up to 8pm on Nov. 3. The closest to the Fenway and Mission Hill are the now-infamous one outside the Central Library (700 Boylston St., Copley Square) and at the Parker Hill branch library, 1497 Tremont St. City Hall has two: at the plaza entrance and at the Congress St. entrance.
- ☛ **ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Apply by noon on Monday, Nov. 2, at City Hall.
- ☛ **VOTING IN PERSON:** At all polling stations on Election Day, poll workers will have face shields, masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Six-foot distancing will be required in line, and you’ll need to wear a face mask. Polls will be open from 7am to 8pm.
- ☛ **WHERE TO VOTE:** Not sure where to vote? Visit www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx. Morville House and Symphony Towers polling stations have relocated temporarily to Matthews Arena, 238 St. Botolph St.

Fenway Health Joins Study of Treatment for COVID Households

BY KELSEY BRUUN

In mid-October, Fenway Health was activated as a late-stage clinical trial site for the CoVPN 3502 monoclonal antibody study, which aims to prevent COVID-19 among household members of recently diagnosed people.

This study examines the efficacy of REGN-COV2, developed by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. This trial will evaluate REGN-COV2's ability to prevent infection among uninfected people who have had close exposure to a COVID-19 patient.

"Fenway Health is excited to be part of the COVID Prevention Trial Network's evaluation of Regeneron's monoclonal antibody combination for the prevention of COVID-19 disease," said Dr. Kenneth H. Mayer, medical research director at Fenway Health and co-director of The Fenway Institute, in a press release. "The study will enroll individuals whose household members have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and can provide important insights about this promising new prevention modality. Given our decades of studies focusing on pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection, this trial builds on our extensive experience in infection prevention research."

The study is one of several Phase 3, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trials testing whether experimental monoclonal antibodies can prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are proteins manufactured in a laboratory and delivered through an intravenous infusion (i.e., through a vein) or injection. They help people fight infection. Nearly 100 mAbs are approved for treating various conditions, including cancers and autoimmune diseases. Besides exploring COVID-19 prevention and treatment roles, mAbs have been shown to decrease mortality from Ebola virus and are being studied to treat and prevent HIV.

Kelsey Bruun is editor of The Fenway News.

AREA	TOTAL NUMBER TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE TESTS (CUMULATIVE)	PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE TESTS FOR CURRENT WEEK	TESTING RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Back Bay/ Beacon Hill/ West End/ Downtown/ North End	27,919	2.7%	4.6%	50,103.2
Fenway	41,932	1.5%	6.4%	76,620.3
Mission Hill /Roxbury	24,414	6.3%	10.6%	56,609.5

Rising COVID Rates Provoke Concern

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

As colder weather approaches and more people are forced to take to the indoors, our choices for what to do and where to go will diminish. As noted below, numbers of infections are rising in Boston—just as they are throughout the country. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has only issued "considerations" when it comes to living safely amidst the virus. While we all want our neighborhoods and businesses to flourish, there are difficult decisions to make, and it's probably safest to stay home. When you do venture outside, don't forget your mask, and wash your hands as soon as you get home.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. These data are from Boston Public Health Commission as of Oct 27, 2020.

CASES: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN CASES	% OF CASES
Asian/Pacific Islander	727	4%
Black/African American	5,323	30%
Latinx/Hispanic	5,911	33%
White	4,556	26%
Other	1,224	7%
Total Boston Cases with Race/Ethnicity Identified	17,741	
Of 19,880 cases in Boston, 89.2% include data for race/ethnicity		

DEATHS: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN DEATHS	% OF KNOWN DEATHS
Asian/Pacific Islander	52	7%
Black/African American	269	35%
Latinx/Hispanic	91	12%
White	343	44%
Other	22	3%
Total Race/Ethnicity Identified Deaths in Boston	777	
Of 776 deaths in Boston, 99.9% include data for race/ethnicity		



Back in the Day: Kenmore Square's Merrymount Press

As a new project across the street at 819 Beacon St. undergoes review, and new development brings dramatic changes to Kenmore Square, here's a look back at 712 Beacon, just west of the square. A spring exhibit at the Rhode Island School of Design's Fleet Library focused on the history of Boston's famed Merrymount Press. It included images from the period when the company occupied the top floor of 712 Beacon (above). That building still stands, but stripped of all historic detail and with no entrance on the street (right). There's no date on the photograph, but it would have been taken between 1932 and 1949. Merrymount's founder, Daniel Berkeley Updike, is considered one of the finest representatives of the Arts and Crafts movement in American book arts [typography, publishing and bookbinding].
—ALISON PULTINAS



HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE FLEET LIBRARY AT RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, PROVIDENCE. CONTEMPORARY PHOTO BY ALISON PULTINAS

Symphony Tours, Pandemic-Style

PHOTO: TOBY OFT



Global demand to hear the Boston Symphony Orchestra has taken it on regular tours of Asia and Europe, but the pandemic has ended BSO touring for the duration. Shifting to an itinerary closer to home, players from the symphony set off on a trolley tour Oct. 23 that had them popping up for physically-distanced concerts throughout the city. In addition to the green in front of Brigham and Women's Hospital (above), stops included Symphony Hall, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and stops in Dorchester. Audiences were limited to 50 people.

Investors Propose West Fens Dispensary

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

In September 2018, retailer MedMen made a pitch for a marijuana dispensary at 120 Brookline Ave. According to the state's Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), the MedMen storefront has met all local requirements and may be ready to open by the end of December—although it will still face a CCC inspection before receiving a final license.

In 2019, another cannabis company bid for a location at 601 Newbury St. Extension near Kenmore Square. Then, Cypress Tree Management put in a bid for a dispensary at the current location of Little Steve's Pizzeria on Boylston Street on a very busy block of restaurants and outdoor cafes. These dispensaries have not opened but might be somewhere in the multi-stage licensing process.

Now a new candidate hopes to secure a Fenway location. Queensberry Pure, LLC, a completely minority-owned firm, intends to apply for a license to open a dispensary at 112-114 Queensberry St., the former site of a laundromat. In a virtual community outreach meeting on Oct. 28, the principals of Queensberry Pure discussed their plan.

The meeting was hosted by Shanice Pimentel, the Fenway representative from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. About 50 people attended. Pimentel made it clear that "no decisions were being made tonight" and that she was not there to debate whether marijuana should or should not be legal.

Rebecca Adams, a compliance consultant for Queensberry Pure, said the group has applied for an adult-use—that is, recreational—license, as opposed to a medical license, for customers over 21 would. Per state law, Queensberry Pure would only purchase from licensed growers in Massachusetts. Adams said the store would receive deliveries two to three times per week, and that all deliveries would be in the back.

In terms of security, Damond Hughes, a realtor and CEO of Queensberry Pure, said that the team has a 10-point security plan that includes 24-hour monitoring with security cameras, intrusion alarm systems, and electronic keycard access. He said that customers must sign a pledge at the end of every

CANNABIS on next page >

DCR WANTS METERS FOR 399 PARKING SLOTS IN THE FENWAY

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On Oct. 14, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held the first of two meetings on Zoom to present its proposal to install parking meters on DCR parkways, including those in the Fenway.

DCR manages 450,000 acres of parks and land statewide. DCR representatives made it clear that the proposal aims to generate revenue for the agency. Spokesperson Jennifer Norwood said that spaces “designated as resident permit parking” would not be affected.

The proposal would introduce 231 parking spaces along Park Drive, from Peterborough to Beacon; 136 spaces along The Fenway; and 32 spaces on Charlesgate East on both sides of the Pike. Meters would be in effect 8am to 6pm daily, except Sundays and holidays, and would cost \$1.25 an hour.

State Sen. William Brownsberger and State Rep. Jay Livingstone both noted the limited number of parking spaces for residents on Fenway streets. They noted that, unlike the Revere and Cambridge sites, parkways in the Fenway abut residential property without off-street parking. (Both have signed a letter opposing the plan, along with Reps. Jon Santiago and Chynah Tyler.)

Brownsberger said that there has been “a loss of residential spaces” and that the DCR should look at getting back some residential spaces.

Residents also expressed concern about how the money would be spent. It appears that revenues from the meters would go into the DCR general fund and would not benefit the neighborhoods affected. Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association, spoke to this issue, saying that the money “should go to the Back Bay Fens.”

East Fens resident Brian Clague said, “Between the MFA and Westland Ave., I can’t believe how much parking has been taken away and how we are squeezed.” He brought up the issue of jurisdiction. “Part is controlled by the DCR and part is controlled by the City, and they never talk to each other.”

“The concerns of residents are very real,” wrote East Fens resident Carol Lasky in the chat, “and need to be incorporated into this plan.”

To learn more about the plan by viewing the presentation and a report prepared by students at Harvard’s Kennedy School, click here. DCR staff initially said comments could be submitted through Oct. 30, but the deadline has been extended to November 2 either here or by email to jennifer.norwood@mass.gov.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

Relic of Mission Hill’s Bucolic Past Awaits Its Fate

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Mission Capital, one of Mission Hill’s semi-notorious student-rental companies, submitted a demolition application this fall for a single-family house on Wait Street, one of the neighborhood’s steep streets. It climbs from Huntington Avenue at Mama’s Place restaurant to the intersection with Sachem Street near Iroquois. The Boston Landmarks Commission was scheduled to discuss the application at public meeting Oct. 27, but the project was pulled from the agenda at the last minute.

The project, at 42 Wait St., also encompasses a second single-family house next door at number 46, a similar parcel with a large backyard, also known as the historic home of the McCourt Construction Company. Mission Capital proposes to build three 5-bedroom apartments at 42 Wait and three 3-bedroom apartments at 46. The plan includes six parking spaces in the rear of 42 Wait.

Apparently, the project needs no zoning variances, so there have been no recent community meetings. Mission Capital proposed a project at 42 Wait in spring 2019, but later purchased the house next door and combined the two lots in a new plan.

Wait Street has some unusual aspects. It ends near the top of the hill with a 1915-era public stairway at Sachem Street, near the New England Baptist Hospital. The yellow brick apartment block near Huntington Avenue borders a public shady green corner at Pequot Street. While heading uphill there is a surprisingly large garden apartment complex at Darling with a wide expanse of parking bordering the street. Further uphill are the two 19th-century wood-frame houses with backyards at 42 and 46 Wait St.

42 Wait is one of the older survivors on Parker Hill and an example of architecture quickly disappearing—the single-family home on a generous lot no longer common in urban neighborhoods.

When 42 and 46 were built, in 1886 or 1887, the nearby properties were large estates. But the semirural neighborhood was on the cusp of major changes.

42 and 46 Wait St. preceded the big wave of speculation and construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Wait Street side of Parker Hill was populated later than the more accessible Roxbury Crossing area and areas with lower elevations.

Thomas Child Wait was a real estate entrepreneur, but Norfolk County deeds usually described his vocation as mason or bricklayer. His land deals between 1841 and 1863 fill page after page in the Norfolk Registry, where deeds were recorded before Boston, in Suffolk County, annexed Roxbury. With his partner Greenleaf Sanborn, whose occupation was listed as carpenter and builder, Wait owned the entire northwest-facing hillside stretching from Parker Hill Avenue to Huntington Avenue. In 1850, Sanborn and Wait were neighbors on Highland Place (also known as High Street; it was extended and renamed Parker Hill Avenue in 1870). Federal census forms labeled the area Roxbury Highlands. The partners built the 139 Hillside Street dwelling—known as the Samuel Warren house—in 1845.

In 1886, there were almost no streets running north to south on the steep northwest-facing slope between Tremont Street and Parker Hill Avenue and Hillside Street. Coleman’s Quarry dominated the foot of the hill on Tremont. Wait Street—known as Garden Street in 1845, then later called Hillside Avenue—was the exception. According to Boston’s Public Works Department Street Records, all of the short streets off of Hillside Street—Eldora, Iroquois, Stockwell, Darling, Pequot, Sunset, Sachem, Oswald, Frawley, and Mission—were laid out years later.

On Bromley Atlas maps prior to 1888, the dwellings on this side of the hill included Peter Banner’s 1806 Mansion House, owned by T. Quincy Browne; Wait’s own large house and stable at 38 Wait St.; and the brick



42 Wait St. harks back to the mid-19th century, when Mission Hill was still semirural.

rowhouses at 145 and 147 Hillside, built in 1886.

On the summit of the hill, Wait and Sanborn erected a few large houses on parcels west of the Parker Hill Reservoir, but none survive. Wait died in 1881. The breakup of his land holdings after his death played a fundamental role in the urban development of Parker Hill.

However, until the 1950s, Wait’s own federal-style house and stable/barn at 38 Wait St. sat at the prominent corner of Pequot and Darling streets, where the sprawling apartment complex and asphalt lot are now located. Current Mission Hill resident David Wilhelm’s grandfather Fred Wilhelm, worked at the auto dealership just a couple blocks away on Huntington Avenue, and his family lived at 38 Wait St. for decades up to the late 1930s.

After a fire and other changes in the neighborhood, George Romanos, a local investor, negotiated with the Blood Research Institute to develop the large plot of land where the apartments sit. However, the corporation sold the site to Joseph Coppola in 1972, and it was developed years later for the apartment complex.

On one short but very steep street, Mission Hill’s complicated history is somewhat hidden. With more changes coming, only the puddingstone outcroppings remain unchanged—revealing what lies beneath.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



- After closing its doors on Comm. Ave., **Taqueria El Barrio**, has joined the line-up at Time Out Market. Chefs/co-owners Alex Saéñz and Servio Garcia trained at Bisq, which also has a stand at the market.
- **PANDEMIC HIBERNATION PLANS:** For many restaurants, the numbers don’t work once cold weather rules out

sidewalk service. So far, local establishments closing until spring include **The Kenmore**, which closed Oct. 3, according to *Boston Eater*; **Tiger Mama** and **Orfano** (although **Sweet Cheeks Q**, also owned by Chef Tiffani Faison, will remain open for takeout); and the **Trillium** beer garden at 401 Park.

> MARIJUANA from previous page

transaction agreeing not to open the package while on the premises or publicly consume marijuana (which is prohibited by state law). Hughes said when a dispensary opens, “crime in the area tends to drop due to increased security.”

Hughes also said, “we want to be good neighbors” and that Queensberry Pure would donate a percentage of its profits to nonprofit organizations.

Comments and questions from residents took up most of the meeting. Attendees expressed concern about traffic and parking, which are already difficult in the West Fens. When asked about parking, Adams responded, “There are ample parking spaces.” When attendees pointed out that the parking spaces are resident spaces, Hughes responded, “We will encourage people to use public transportation.” When asked why they had chosen to be in a residential neighborhood rather than on a major thoroughfare such as Boylston Street, Hughes said, “a lot of landlords won’t rent to cannabis dispensaries.” He insisted that, due to the site’s former use as a laundromat, zoning allows a commercial use there.

Audience members also asked about a formal traffic study and abutter meetings. In addition to parking, the most contentious topics was foot traffic on Queensbury Street.

“We don’t anticipate long lines based on the number of other dispensaries in the city,” said Adams. She also said, “If customers order ahead of time, it minimizes foot traffic outside the store.”

Alex Sawczynec, a board member of the Fenway Civic Association, commented that “People are going to take the residential [parking] spots and are going to queue up.” He also said that Queensberry Pure had “a great business model” but it was “an extremely poor choice for the neighborhood.”

Another concern was for the effect on Ramler Park on Peterborough Street. Freddie Veikley suggested that the park would be the first stop customers would go to consume their purchase. Ramler, she noted, “is perfectly suited for a bucolic, discrete area to sit with little visibility, and consume your marijuana.”

“This is a highly residential neighborhood, and Queensberry is a one-way street,” noted Marie Fukuda of the East Fens. She also noted that the owners had not looked at nonprofits within the neighborhood for community-support donations.

“We are not this neighborhood for everyone to come in and make money,” commented Kristen Mobilia. She said, “You have a good business plan but this is not the location.” Another resident noted that when the Red Sox are in town, 38,000 people come

Worshipping on Forsyth Way

From August to October, King’s Hill Church held Sunday worship in the public parkland on Forsyth Way. Here, Pastor Jonathan Mosely preaches to congregants. Indoor services start this month at the Marriott Copley Place.



into the Fenway, and that the dispensary could clog residential streets.

Questions were also raised about how far away this location was from the Millmore School and the other proposed dispensaries; City ordinances set minimum distances.

Not everyone attending the meeting spoke against the proposal. West Fens resident Steve Wolf argued that the dispensary would encourage economic empowerment for an ownership group of color and that “it could be a nice addition to the neighborhood.”

No hearing date has been scheduled. The Fenway Civic Association recommends sending comments to Lesley Delaney Hawkins of the Boston Cannabis Board at CannabisBoard@boston.gov and encourages copying Councilor Kenzie Bok at Kenzie.Bok@boston.gov and Representative Chynah Tyler at Chynah.Tyler@mahouse.gov on the email.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

FENSVIEWS

IN MEMORIAM

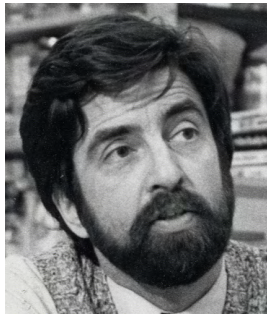
David Scondras, 1946-2020

BY STEVE WOLF AND HELEN COX

David Scondras, a leader of a grassroots movement that changed the Fenway's trajectory in the 1970s, died of kidney failure on October 21 at the age of 74.

Scondras and a group of other young activists helped create STOP, the Symphony Tenants Organizing Project, in response to dozens of suspicious fires that tore through neighborhood buildings in the mid-1970s. The group uncovered an arson-for-profit ring, then shamed local and state officials into investigating it, ultimately involving the attorney general's office. That investigation led to the indictment of 33 people, including landlords, insurance agents, and City inspectors, and prompted passage of major statewide anti-arson legislation. Then-Gov. Mike Dukakis signed the bill into law at the Edgerly Road Playground.

Scondras also helped found the Fenway Community Health Center (now Fenway Health), the Fenway Community Development Corporation, and *The Fenway News*. In 1981 he ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Boston City Council, but following an overhaul of the council's structure, he ran for and



won the newly created District 8 seat in 1983—in an era when running as an openly gay candidate could have doomed his candidacy.

Working with a committed staff and community members, he introduced multiple measures that shaped the city, including a sweeping human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination in many forms, including based on sexual orientation; regulating condominium conversions and expanding eviction protections for tenants; and banning the ownership of assault weapons in Boston.

After leaving the council he founded and initially led Search For A Cure, an organization devoted to finding a cure for AIDS.

In addition to his partner of 42 years, Robert Krebs, Scondras leaves three sisters and an extended family in the Lowell area, where he grew up. He was a graduate of Harvard College. *David Scondras wanted no formal memorial; The Fenway News will collect thoughts about his role in the neighborhood and impact on the city in our December issue. You can submit a comment to editor@fenwaynews.org or on our Facebook page.*

What Can Boston Learn from Fenway Park Voting?

BY ALEXANDER GRAY

Fenway Park has been the site of countless memories for me. It was the site one October night in 2013 where, for the first time in 95 years, I witnessed the Red Sox celebrate a World Series victory on home soil. It has been the site of countless, unforgettable, concerts I have attended, most notably the two-night stand of Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band back in September of 2003.

And it has been a place of enormous consistency in my life since the first time I went through the turnstiles at age six, and I have distinct memories of times spent there with many loved ones.

Last month I was able to add another Fenway Park memory to my collection when I proudly cast my vote at the ballpark for Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris for president and vice president. While this memory lacked the buzz that can only be made when 37,000 plus fans cram into what John Updike famously referred to as Boston's "lyric little bandbox," it will nonetheless be a memory that I will cherish with all the others I have made at the ballpark.

For me, it was a new and different take on a Fenway "fall classic." COVID-19 has forced all of us to change our lives in so many ways. And, for the most part, these changes have been unwanted and ultimately served to take away activities and traditions we hold dear.

But when it comes to elections, I hope that some of the changes that Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston's Election

Department have made locally, along with statewide changes, will stay in place even after we eventually recover from COVID-19.

The decision of Mayor Walsh and the Boston Red Sox to open Fenway Park for early voting was one likely born out of public health concerns, but it has the potential to boost civic engagement in 2020 and beyond. Thousands of voters turned out to Fenway on October 17 and 18, and the media attention that the ballpark drew shined a bright spotlight on

early voting.

We should explore opening up similar civic institutions throughout Boston's neighborhoods in the years to come to draw attention to the availability of early voting by using the platform of some of Boston's best-known public places such as museums, theaters, and green spaces.

In addition, the ability to vote early by mail or in person without needing to make a special request has created greater access for Bostonians to vote at their convenience. Whether it is working parents struggling to find time in their busy schedules or seniors or people with disabilities who may have mobility or accessibility barriers, mail-in or early voting options dramatically increase the options that the people of Boston have for casting their votes. The ability for us to vote is a sacred right and a right that is made stronger when we have more ways to exercise it.

Finally, the recent court decision making it possible to vote electronically for people with certain disabilities in Massachusetts is yet another step toward

making it possible for all to vote safely and independently. As someone who is blind, I know personally that it can be tough to find ways to vote independently.

I have had either to search at polling locations for an accessible AutoMark voting machine which, when available, offers me the ability to scan, read, and then fill out my own ballot, or, alternatively, to rely on a trusted friend to help me complete the ballot. Ultimately, the decision about whether to vote electronically will vary depending on one's circumstance, but knowing the option exists is a relief to many within the disability community.

As a candidate for at-large city councilor in 2021, I pledge to build on the progress we have made in 2020 in terms of voter access and to work to find more ways to ensure that all people, including those with disabilities, can vote in a way that respects their safety and independence.

Boston is a city of champions when it comes to athletics, and it is important that we also continue to champion our democracy with as much passion as we do our beloved sports teams!

Alexander Gray lives in Jamaica Plain. See Page 1 for photos of early voting at Fenway Park.

GUEST OPINION

Chasing Innovation, COVID Drugs Must Lower Costs, Assure Access

TO THE EDITOR:

We need to do all we can to support the biopharmaceutical industry working to find a vaccine for COVID-19 for all people, but especially for individuals with rare and chronic illnesses, such as myself. We

LETTERS

need policies in place that foster innovation. Recently, the Trump administration signed a most-favored-nation executive order, which poses great hazard to Americans waiting on new treatments and cures for COVID-19 and for other rare and chronic conditions. I can only hope that this policy will be revoked—it does not have patients' best interest in mind, and it threatens the current research being done for a vaccine for COVID-19.

The most-favored-nation executive order will ultimately restrict patients' ability to get critical treatments and cures. We must advocate for proposals that lower costs and ensure access, but also that protect innovation. During a time like this—one of the biggest public health challenges of our lifetime—there is only space for proposals that can promise to do both. Those are ultimately the best for patients and the most effective for the domestic biopharmaceutical industry.

We have seen that countries with government price-setting structures have faced significant challenges in terms of accessibility. We must advocate for proposals that lower costs and ensure access, but also that protect innovation—and the best and most effective proposals will be the ones that do both.

LYNN JULIAN
BACK BAY

FCDC'S JENNESS WINS STATEWIDE AWARD

Fenway CDC board member Sarah Jenness will receive the Mass. Association of CDCs "Rising Star" award at the group's annual meeting on Nov. 19. A five-year resident



of the West Fens, Jenness got involved in the CDC after finishing a master's degree in public policy at Simmons University.

She joined the CDC, she explains, because "I care about many social justice issues, but housing is so foundational to all our needs." She also values how it's helped her feel more connected to the neighborhood. Jenness has worked on the campaign to protect tenants at Our Lady's Guild House and helped organize a Racial and Housing Justice Committee through which staff and board members will examine ways the CDC can address racial justice in its internal structures and its community work.

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 on **Friday, December 4.**

► DEADLINE ◀

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, November 27.**

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Local institutions put more women and people of color in leadership positions last month. First, the MFA's board of trustees hit a diversity perfecta with the election of a woman, Cathy Minehan, as board chair and a Black man, Edward E. Greene, as board president. **Over in the LMA, another Black man, Dr. Kevin Churchwell, will become CEO, replacing Sandra Fenwick when she steps down as the hospital's chief next March.** And circling around to the East Fens, Berklee announced that composer and educator Erica Muhl will succeed Roger Brown as president next summer.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Fenway Sports Group is kicking the tires on a plan to go public. You, dear reader, could own a piece of the Olde Towne Team. [ICYMI might buy shares in order to kvetch about concerts at the annual meetings.] BU's renovation of Myles Standish Hall won a 2020 Preservation Achievement Award from the Boston Preservation Alliance. The dorm opened in 1925 as a luxury hotel—Babe Ruth stayed there—and BU converted it in 1949. The renovation increased energy efficiency, addressed structural problems, and returned entrances to their original designs. **The T pushed back the timeline for replacing Orange Line trains. Train sets will continue to join the fleet, but at a much slower rate, due to problems at the factory in Springfield and supply-chain tie-ups the contractor blames on the pandemic. Don't expect full fleet replacement until summer 2023; the previous plan was spring 2022.** Boloco owner John Pepper told the *Globe's* business section that he hopes to reopen the branch on Boylston near Berklee in the next few weeks. But the chain's future looks shaky—only two of seven stores have reopened. Pepper says if his landlords won't renegotiate rents, Boloco will have to close. **ICYMI geeked out over an interactive map on *The New York Times* website that tracks donations to the presidential campaigns by ZIP code. From April 1 to Oct. 14, donors in the Fenway and Mission Hill gave nearly \$517,000 to the campaigns, and—no surprise—only 6.4% of it went to Donald Trump. East Fens donors (02115) sent \$345,881 to Biden and \$17,864 to Trump. West Fens donors (02215) sent \$115,025 to Biden and \$11,979 to Trump. Mission Hill posted more modest totals: \$22,827 for Biden and \$3,337 for Trump. Our neighbors in 02116, aka the Back Bay, outdid us all, sending \$3,040,051 to Biden and \$57,040 to Trump.**

More Work Will Hem In #39 Bus Shelter



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

goals for plaza accessibility, perhaps the railing has acted more as a barrier than a safety feature.

*In response to a query, spokesperson Jasmine Holzworth from the Mother Church told *The Fenway News* that the yellow railing separating the Christian Science Plaza from the Huntington Avenue sidewalk at Dalton Street has finally been removed. Holzworth said "the yellow garlock was temporarily placed last fall as a safety precaution to help pedestrians avoid the uneven surface that could have been hidden by snow and ice... the First Church of Christ, Scientist has engaged an outside Construction Manager, and in partnership with the city will perform repairs hopefully this fall. Our scope is at the sidewalk and curb, and we understand the city will perform repairs on Huntington Avenue next spring." She said that fencing will be re-installed near the bus stop while the work takes place. The cramped waiting area for riders at the outbound 39 bus stop has been a concern during the pandemic. Given COVID precautions and the Church's*

Neighborhood Newsline

Fenway Sports Group Plans Development Around Ballpark

The owners of the Red Sox have partnered with the D'Angelo family and WS Development to propose five acres of development that would feature office space, apartment buildings, retail stores, and possibly a hotel, along with public art and green space. It would be built on four sites along Jersey, Lansdowne, Van Ness streets, and Brookline Avenue.

Berklee Will Bring Students Back This January

Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee plans to reopen in January with a mix of remote and in-person instruction. The school says it will introduce new safety measures "that enable students to progress toward academic and career goals in a safe and flexible environment." To reduce mid-semester travel, the school plans to cut out its spring recess. It will also allow students who don't choose to come back to complete studies entirely online during the semester, which begins January 25.

Whittier Street Redevelopment Launches Phase Two

Flat 9 at Whittier—a mixed-income reimagining of the Whittier Street Apartments public housing near the Orange Line's Ruggles Station—marked a milestone last month. The Boston Housing Authority launched the second of the redevelopment's three phases, which will ultimately replace 200 existing public housing apartments with 210 deeply affordable units, create 262 new units of mixed-income rental housing, and add 14,000 square feet of commercial space. The newly completed first phase also adds a community room, management office, and recreation space. Funding for the redevelopment came from a mix of partners, spurred by a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods grant from HUD issued during the Obama administration. Phase 3, a 12-story residential project, recently underwent review by the Civic Design Commission and is expected to receive approval at its November board meeting.

Fenway Health Wins Grant for Opioid Harm Reduction

RIZE Massachusetts, a nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid-overdose epidemic in Massachusetts, announced nearly \$1.1 million in grant funding to improve racial equity in healthcare and to support harm-reduction services. The foundation extended its Enabling Health: Enhancing Harm Reduction Services in Massachusetts grant program and will distribute an additional \$490,171 to six grantees, including Fenway Health. The objective of this grant is to invest in novel harm-reduction interventions and the development of low-threshold addiction treatment. Fenway Health will continue harm-reduction services for people with opioid-use disorder, including an outreach van that circulates in Cambridge and Roxbury.

Fenway Studios Throws a Party for Long-time Superintendent

In early October, Fenway Studios celebrated the 20-year anniversary of its superintendent, Jean Étienne. A socially distanced party in his honor took place in the back of the building. Originally from Haiti, Étienne holds an associate's degree from Bay State School of Technology in refrigeration and air conditioning.

Tufts Art Galleries Provide Artist Grants

The Collective Futures Fund (CFF), launching in mid-November through Tufts University Art Galleries, will distribute \$1,500 emergency relief grants to 40 Greater Boston artists. The funds come from the Regional Re-granting Initiative of The Warhol Foundation. Following distribution of these grants, CFF will launch an annual program to support collaborative, experimental art practices in Greater Boston. That program will award \$60,000 yearly in grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. An application process for the COVID-19 emergency relief support will begin in mid-November 2020, visit artgalleries.tufts.edu for updates.

Berklee Joins African Music Reality Show

Berklee has pitched in to help pull off the largest mobile-based music reality show in Africa, partnering with mobile telecommunications company MTN and multimedia mobile app and creative hub company Afrinolly. MTN's mobile platform will broadcast the Yello Star Reality Show to nearly 1 million users, as contestants from Africa compete to become the next Nigerian music star. Members of the Berklee community will serve as judges and coaches for the contest's 16 semifinalists. The grand prize winner will record their debut single at the Power Station at BerkleeNYC, Berklee's New York City campus. The program began in late October and will run through November.

PLANNED GREEN TEA CAFE WILL BRING NEW LIFE TO OLD LAUDROMAT SPACE



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

The Fenway will get the first local franchise of Matcha Cafe Maiko, a Japanese takeout restaurant specializing in soft serve and green tea. The Boston Licensing Board issued the permit in July, and a Zoning Board of Appeals subcommittee approved the change of use on Oct. 15. The license application listed Henry Yu as the future manager. Attorney Matt Eckel from Drago + Toscano represented owner Mei Chen at the ZBA hearing. Maiko plans daily service from 9am to 11pm. The corner had housed laundromats since the 1960s; the space has been vacant since the most recent one closed in 2018.

STREET CLEANING & TRASH PICK-UP

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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

STREET CLEANING

The **CITY OF BOSTON** has resumed ticketing of cars parked in street-cleaning zones, but it hasn't resumed towing ticketed cars. Check the City website for pandemic restrictions at <https://bit.ly/2KJ3TXV>.

The **DCR** cleans state-owned streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**
8:00am–12:00pm: The Riverway

• SECOND FRIDAY

- > 8:00am–noon: The Fenway from Ave. Louis Pasteur to Westland (includes inside lane) + Forsyth Way
- > 12:00–3:00pm: 8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) + Boylston + Charlesgate East + Charlesgate Extension

• THIRD TUESDAY

- > 8:00am–noon: Park Drive from Boylston St. to Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (includes inside lane) + upper Boylston Street
- > 12:00–3:00pm: Park Drive from Holy Trinity to The Pierce, then from D Line overpass to Beacon Street

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fenway/download>

DEVELOPER BLAMES UNPLANNED DELAYS FOR EXTENDED CONSTRUCTION AT 28 THE FENWAY

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The fencing and construction signs have surrounded 28 The Fenway for months. The building formerly housed MIT fraternity Sigma Nu, which shut down in 2018. (MIT originally sat on the Boston side of the Charles; when it moved to Cambridge in 1916, many fraternities remained here.)

28 and 30 The Fenway were originally built by the Thayer family of Boston. The beautiful building, with its grand entrance and staircase, reflect the storied past of wealthy Brahmin families. It has seen many uses over the years, from mansion to rooming house to dorm to fraternity house.

In August 2018, the dormitory license was transferred to Maverick Suites LLC—a short-term apartment company with properties throughout New England—and became a lodging house license. Maverick plans to create 42 short-term rental studios. Each will have a kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave, and two-burner stove. The renovation will add two stories atop the structure for two three-bedroom penthouses, where both owners of Maverick Suites will reside.

According to Maverick partner Frank Hoff, the penthouse construction will cost more and take longer than originally planned. He says he's interested in keeping the historically significant grand foyer and staircase intact. In addition, the rooftop expansion will need extensive structural reinforcement. Steel sheets are being added to the building's reinforced structure.

Hoff looks forward to living in the Fenway, which he frequently visits as he walks from his office on Newbury Street. He acknowledges that some neighbors are unhappy with the penthouse design, which will feature large amounts of glass and not reflect the architecture of the area or the original building. But, he says, it is a matter of taste and the City has approved the addition. He expects that construction will be finished and the building ready for occupancy sometime next year.

Neighbor Tom Backalar, who lives at 30 The Fenway, appreciates that there will no longer be a fraternity next door. Along with the rest of the city, the Fenway continues to change, but residents hope it retains the charm and feel of a real neighborhood.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

Open windows and lack of activity left neighbors wondering about the renovation of 28 The Fenway.

@ THE CENTER

Find relevant links and additional information on all activities at fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

- Mon., Nov. 2, 7pm: VOICE & JUSTICE. On the first Monday of month, share your voice with your neighbors and work toward racial justice one step at a time at this virtual lecture.
- Mon., Nov. 16, 6:30pm: BOSTON BAKED BOOKS. Book club featuring wooks about Boston or written by Bostonauthors. This month's: *Out of Line: A Life of Playing with Fire*, by Boston restaurateur Barbara Lynch.
- Wed., Nov. 18, 7pm: DEATH CAFE. This virtual event brings people together to discuss death, helping them make

the most of their lives.

- Wednesdays at 6pm: GUIDED MEDIATION. Pallavi and Vaibhav—Fenway residents and licensed instructors—lead you in reducing stress, improving emotional health, and practicing self-compassion.
- Wednesdays at 7:30pm: TRIVIA NIGHT. Noncompetitive fun with neighbors and friends.
- Wednesdays/Thursdays, 6pm: ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB. Fun weekly projects completed together on Zoom. Open to adults, teens, and tweens.
- Thursdays at 7pm: GAME NIGHT. Play Drawful and other online games, all suitable for all ages.

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

Kaji Aso Studio 32nd Annual Haiku Contest

SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN BOSTON

FIRST PLACE

yesterday's news
outpacing me
spring breeze

MICHELE L. HARVEY
HAMILTON, NEW YORK

SECOND PLACE

cricket song
night sky
turning

JEFF HOAGLAND,
HOPEWELL, NEW JERSEY

THIRD PLACE

subway car
the baby's toes jiggle
all the way home

FRANK HOOVEN
MORRISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

SENRYU PRIZE

quarantine ...
all the time
I never had

KENNETH ELBA CARRIER
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Pilates for you
pasta for me
two lockdowns

SCOTT MASON
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK

winter dispute
all I see is
the puffs of smoke

CYRIL IOUTSEN
MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

end of the line
the em-dash
of a dead mosquito

BRAD BENNETT
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HONORABLE MENTION

at the far end
of my childhood courtyard...

KANCHAN CHATTERJEE
JHARKHAND, INDIA

leaden sky
a scattershot
of crows

MICHELE L. HARVEY
HAMILTON, NEW YORK

Indian Summer—
frantic bees
frantic flowers

KENNETH ELBA CARRIER
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

golden hour
the barn's face
loses its age

PETER NEWTON
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

turtle log
the dark shininess
of the newcomers

KENNETH ELBA CARRIER
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

summer night
feeling the air
the thunder moves

LAWRENCE RUNGREN
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

street bazaar
the wind lifts a tune
from a terracotta pot

ALAN BRIDGES
LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

hilltop meadow
light from the sunshower
everywhere

FRANK HOOVEN
MORRISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

goldfinches
gleaning dandelion seeds
morning stillness

JOHN BARLOW
LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

crack of thunder
ravens press down
on the earth

RON C. MOSS
TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

KAJI ASO STUDIO PROGRAMMING IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ARTS AND CULTURE COVID-19 FUND; A GRANT FROM THE BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL ADMINISTERED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE, AND A GRANT FROM THE MISSION HILL / FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

I HEARTS

'Basquiat' Plunges Temple of High Culture into the World of

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Jean-Michel Basquiat, an American artist with Haitian and Puerto Rican roots, died in 1988 at the age of 27 from a heroin overdose. In his short life, the brilliant young artist, who started his career on the street under the name SAMO, rocketed through the New York contemporary art world in the 1980s and became the frontrunner of the post-graffiti movement. He and his crew of creative peers began as street artists—spray-painting subway cars and public building with bold designs. They then shifted to studio work, transitioning from city walls and subway trains onto canvas.

A new exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, *Writing the Future: Jean-Michel Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation*, features 120 paintings, sculptures, drawings, videos, and fashion designs by Basquiat and his friends and collaborators, including A-One, ERO, Fab 5 Freddy, Futura, Keith Haring, Koolhaas, LA2, Lady Pink, Rammellzee, and Toxic.

It's the first major exhibit to chart Basquiat's relationship to early hip-hop culture.

Hip-hop music was infused with street art, and the exhibit explores this connection. Rapper and graffiti artist Fab 5 Freddy (Fred Braithwaite), featured in the exhibit, became the host of "Yo MTV Raps" pushing rap into the mainstream. Rammellzee, also in the show, was a well-known rapper when he and Basquiat collaborated on one of the first hip-hop records. "Beat Bop" is an experimental hip-hop single by Rammellzee and K-Rob, its cover designed by Basquiat. The artist Futura created a vividly colored mural, "Untitled," with spray paint and marker onstage during the first hip-hop tour of Europe. The lines in the painting emerged from the beats of the music.

The exhibition is organized thematically, beginning with the foundational elements of hip-hop culture—including graffiti, rapping, scratching, MCing, and breakdancing. A large-scale video from the 1983 hip-hop documentary *Style Wars* greets the visitor at the entrance to the exhibit showcasing bombed subway trains, break dancing, and graffiti art.

In the first gallery, the works show the early influence of graffiti art. "Thor," created in 1982 by Basquiat, shows the influence of comics and graffiti art. "Urban Landscape," also by Basquiat, attempts to show the multistoried buildings of the Lower East Side and convey what it felt like to live there by using a layering of advertisements, signage, and graffiti.

In a Portraiture section, Basquiat's "Six Crimee" (1982) honors six unnamed partners in crime using crude strokes of black paint to obscure their features. His "Hollywood Africans," composed of acrylic and oil paint stick with a bright yellow background, lionizes Toxic and Rammellzee, but also alludes to the limited roles given to Black artists in both Hollywood and real life.

In the Writers gallery, language is incorporated into works of art. A spray painting on canvas entitled "Flashlight Text: Survival," by A-One (Jenny Holzer), shows an entanglement of letters and body parts. Toxic's "Ransom Note: CEE" (1984) is a colorful abstract that incorporates graffiti.

The Music gallery showcases large videos that feature original music by Debbie Harry (lead singer of Blondie), performances by Blondie and Kid Creole and the Coconuts, and break dancing. Notable is "Downtown 81," directed by Edo Bertoglio (you can see the trailer on the MFA website), which features Basquiat as a young graffiti artist as well as Fab 5 Freddy, Lee Quinones, and Debbie Harry. Blondie's 1981 music video for "Rapture" featured Harry rapping against the backdrop of bubble-letter murals made by Quinones and Fab 5 Freddy and an appearance by Basquiat as the DJ. Next to the video screens, a large portrait of Harry by Quinones is spray-painted onto two pieces of metal.

The gallery titled Bodies focuses on the works of Basquiat and Lady Pink, both fascinated by the human body. It features "Anatomy" from 1982, a series of 18 silkscreen prints and Lady Pink's "Untitled (Nude Lounging Woman)" from 1983, which Basquiat purchased for his personal collection.

In Futurism, Koolhaas (Charles Hargrove) has created "The Panzerized 13," a spray paint on canvas mural that explores futuristic utopian propositions with starships, rockets, constellations, and flying pyramids. Koor is known for his space-age inspired works.

Ascension, the final segment, explores questions about the afterlife: Fab 5 Freddy's "Return of God to Africa" from 1984 shows a robot-like, dominant god figure amid graffiti. Futura's "Robot with Spray Can" from 1981 blends text, imagery, and swaths of vibrant color. Rammellzee, who performed in self-designed masks and costumes of different characters (often otherworldly figures), is represented by his Gash-o-Lear bodysuit, fashioned out of found items and used in some of his stage performances. The bodysuit resembles the elaborate robe of an African shaman, and Rammellzee wore it during some stage performances. Also exhibited is a pyramid that Rammellzee wanted to contain his ashes; it is not known if he got his wish.

Many of these artists shared Basquiat's Black and Latino roots, his love of music, and his rebellious spirit. They left an enormous impact on the world of art. As one of the commentators in the show said, Black and Brown people don't really see themselves in museums. This show helps to remedy that.

Writing the Future runs until May 21, 2021. Tickets must be reserved in advance at mfa.org. Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



Six Crimee (1982) © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York.



Hollywood Africans (1983) © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York.

MOVING ONLINE, SMFA SALE SPOTLIGHTS ARTISTS FROM LESS-REPRESENTED GROUPS

BY KELSEY BRUUN

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University will host its 38th annual art sale from Nov. 9 to Nov. 23. Due to COVID-19, the event is moving online for the first time.

The sale will feature nearly 600 works by more than 300 students, alumni, and

faculty. The works available for sale were selected by a jury of artists, curators and gallerists.

The annual event is SMFA at Tufts' biggest fundraiser, with the proceeds of each transaction supporting the contributing artist and a dedicated scholarship for students from underrepresented groups.

This year's sale also prioritizes work from Black, indigenous, LGBTQIA+ and feminist communities, providing

artists often overlooked by mainstream contemporary art communities an opportunity to have their work seen widely.

Jurors include Akili Tommasino, associate curator of modern and contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Nina Johnson, SMFA alumna and director of Nina Johnson Gallery in Miami; and Shinique Smith, SMFA alumna and artist.

Kelsey Bruun is editor of The Fenway News.

THE INS & OUTS OF GETTING IN

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

It used to be so easy. Living in the Fenway, if I needed a cultural (or sanity) break, I could just slip over to the MFA, flash my member card (or enter free on Wednesday evenings) and enjoy the sights. No more.

Though the Museum of Fine Arts has opened on a limited basis, unlike the ICA, you cannot just show up with your card and enter. Instead, you have to endure a complicated process to get a ticket.

Thinking I could go to the members' preview for the Basquiat exhibit, I went online. First, I discovered that all the member preview tickets were gone. Then, finding a time slot that was available was not easy, as the museum's hours are now limited.

My first obstacle was that they wanted a password. Why would I have a password? I'd always visited in person. After filling out the form to get an account, I was rejected. According to the website, I already had an account and a password. Who knew? Since I had no idea what my password might be, now I had to apply to change my password. The website said that it would send me a form by email that would allow me to change my password. It said the form would arrive within two minutes. Five minutes later—no form. Ten minutes later—no form. I shut the whole thing down and started again from the beginning. Again, I requested the change of password form; again, it did not appear. I started all over again. About 20 minutes later, five forms suddenly appeared.

Success at last, I thought—the site has accepted my password and time of entry, but, alas, that was not to be. As I reached the very last step, the site told me that I had requested too many tickets (I thought I had requested two) and I had to start all over again. I downloaded the tickets, but would my printer, which is fairly unreliable, churn out the tickets? Miraculously, it did!

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

'Silver Linings' Projects Community



On Oct. 15 and 16, local nonprofits Operation P.E.A.C.E. and FENSFund hosted the Silver Linings Project, a community projection event. Recorded interviews and art submissions—both focusing on unexpected positive changes and experiences emerging from the pandemic—were projected onto the brick side wall of 72 Peterborough St. from the SDA Temple parking lot. Dozens of people viewed the show in person, and more than 250 watched online. You can see a video of it here. (Photos by Aram Boghosian)

November

CALENDAR

Sat, 10/31

FUGITIVE SONGS. Boston Conservatory presents an innovative story/song cycle that captures the yearnings of a generation longing for escape from home, from lovers, from trouble, and from themselves. *Fugitive Songs* blends folk, pop-rock, and musical theater to offer a new sound for a restless America and examines the renegade spirit in us all. This production will be presented virtually, and a link for viewing it will be available [here](#) prior to the performance. 8pm.

Sat, 10/31 & Sun, 11/1

Northeastern University presents a recorded production of one of the Theater Department's fall plays, **SHE KILLS MONSTERS**. The play focuses on Agnes as she embarks on a quest to understand her younger sister, Tilly, following her tragic death. Registration required, click [HERE](#) to register.

Tue, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, & 11/24

LIFEBOAT BOSTON FOOD PANTRY distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to anyone in need. Get a free bag of

produce from 4pm to 6pm. Boston Seventh-Day Adventist Temple, 105 Jersey Street, Boston. For inquiries, email lifboatboston@gmail.com. Register at bit.ly/lifboatbostonregistration

Wed, 11/4 & 11/18

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. From 3:30pm to 5pm, stop by Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive, for a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables for just \$2. For info, please contact Jasmine Vargas at jvargas@fenwaycdc.org.

Thu, 11/5 & 11/12, 11/19, & 11/26

LIFEBOAT BOSTON FOOD PANTRY distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to residents in need. Get a free bag of produce from 4pm to 6pm. Boston Temple, 105 Jersey Street, Boston. For inquiries, please email lifboatboston@gmail.com. Register at bit.ly/lifboatbostonregistration

Tue, 11/10

VIRTUAL BERKLEE IN THE ROUND NO. 2. Inspired by the intimate performances at Nashville's world-famous Bluebird Cafe rounds in Nashville, Berkee in the Round

presents free performances showcasing Berklee students. Due to COVID-19, this performance will be virtual. Go to the Berklee livestream, [here](#), to watch. 7pm.

Wed, 11/11 & 11/25

FENWAY CARES FOOD DISTRIBUTION. Grab a free bag of fresh fruits, grains, vegetables and more! East Fens: Symphony Community Park, 189 Edgerly Road, Boston, West Fens: Fenway Community Center, 1283 Boylston Street, Boston (pick-up on Jersey Street). 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Thu, 11/12

HOW WE GO ON: THREE LIVES OF PERSISTENCE, RESISTANCE, AND RESILIENCE. This online lecture from Massachusetts Historical Society examines three recent biographies. Tufts University professor Julie Dobrow, author of *After Emily*, will chair a panel featuring Nicholas Basbanes (*Cross of Snow: A Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*), Kimberly Hamlin (*Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener*) and John Loughery (*Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American Century*). Click [here](#) to register (required for viewing).

Fri, 11/20 & Sat, 11/21

FALL DANCE CONCERT: FROM THE GROUND UP. Acclaimed choreographers create new virtual works for Boston Conservatory dance students. Each artist creates a unique online dance experience in collaboration with the dancers. All five works will be premiered live and introduced by the artists, who'll provide a brief overview of the work and their creative process. Presented virtually. A link for viewing will be available [here](#) prior to the performance. 7:30pm.

Fri, 12/5

Fenway CDC and Roxbury Community College host a **CAREER FAIR** from 9:45am to

2:15pm. For more information, contact Kris Anderson at kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 29.

COMMUNITY meetings

THU, NOV 5 The Boston Parks and Recreation Department holds a virtual public hearing at 10:30am on a request to remove one public shade tree in the Fenway. The request is for the removal of one Hornbeam tree measuring 2.5 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) adjacent to 74 Kilmarnock St. as part of the 60-80 Kilmarnock St. residential project at the corner of Kilmarnock and Queensberry Streets. Submit written comments or questions to parcs@boston.gov prior to the hearing with "Fenway Tree Hearing" in the subject line. To participate by computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88503537797>. To participate by phone call (312) 626-6799 or (646) 558-8656 and enter webinar ID 885 0353 7797.

THU, NOV 5 The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a virtual meeting to discuss conceptual designs for improvements at Mission Hill Playground. The \$2 million capital project potentially involves all three levels of the park, from Tremont to Smith Street. To participate by computer or pad, go to bit.ly/MissionPlayground. To participate by phone call (312) 626-0958 and enter webinar ID 872 3761 0958. For more information, contact abigail.chatfield@boston.gov.

WED, NOV 18 A virtual meeting of the Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Committee will take place at 6pm. A link for access to the meeting will be available at a later date; email rgiordano@fenwaycdc.org for more information.

THU, NOV 19 The Charlesgate Alliance will host a virtual meeting at 6:30pm. A link for access to the meeting will be available at a later date.

SENIOR EVENTS

All events are hosted by the Peterborough Senior Center. Email mallory@operationpeaceboston.org for the Zoom login information.

- Monday, Nov. 2 at 7pm: **VOICE & JUSTICE.** On the first Monday of every month, share your voice with your neighbors and work toward racial justice one step at a time at this virtual lecture.
- Wednesdays at 1pm (with the

exception of Nov. 11): **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly.

- Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1pm: **A SHINE** (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) presentation.
- Thursdays, from Nov. 5 to Nov. 19: **VIRTUAL PHYSICAL THERAPY** with Simmons University graduate students.



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