

Projects Complicate Plans for Multi-Use Path from Riverway to Kenmore



Part of the multiuse path, recently repaved, runs along the north edge of 401 Park.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

In August, the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association (ACNA) submitted a comment letter on the draft project impact report for the development proposed at 819 Beacon Street. The letter suggested that the City’s goals should be to direct cyclists to quieter, safer streets where vehicle speeds and volume are much lower than they are on major thoroughfares.

The ACNA letter specifically calls out Burlington Avenue as a potential cyclist route to connect to the future multiuse path (MUP) that will eventually provide a cycling and walking connection from the Riverway to Kenmore Square. Munson, a block-long private way open to the public next to the apartments at 829 Beacon, sits on the other side of the tracks from Burlington. SCAPE’s 819 Beacon project will use Munson to provide access to its parking garage entrance, but there is no plan to connect Burlington and Munson. The 2017 design for the MUP

showed an ADA-compliant pedestrian ramp to Burlington, but no access to Munson.

Historically, the short blocks perpendicular to what is now the D Line between Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue dead-ended at those tracks. Since 1958—when the train tunnel was covered and the freight sidetracks abandoned—parking lots, barricades, and loading docks have occupied these forgotten areas, including the MBTA’s own parallel right of way.

The Fenway Civic Association also recommended using Burlington as an activated connection to the MUP. In its June comments on the 109 Brookline Avenue project, the group said “this street has the potential to be a shared space amenity similar but on a larger scale to the proposed alley at the Cabot, Cabot & Forbes 60 Kilmarnock project.”

The MUP is a federally funded project first discussed in community meetings between 2007 and 2009. The State approved a 25-percent design in 2014, and an official hearing took place in 2017. The MBTA and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will continue to own the 12-foot-wide paved route parallel to the tracks, but the agencies have negotiated maintenance agreements with abutters, including Harvard Vanguard on Fullerton Street. And adjacent developers have committed to extensive landscaping.

The current MUP design on the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) project webpage shows pedestrian and cyclist connections to to the path at Fenway Station on the D Line, Fullerton/Miner, and Maitland/Overland, where the path ends. Bikers would use Maitland and Beacon Streets to complete a connection to/from Kenmore Square.

Charlotte Fleetwood of the BTD said the Maitland-to-Miner section of the MUP will go out to bid soon. On Aug. 4, before Boston’s Public Facilities Commission, she presented a plan for taking small tracts of land from two developers to facilitate the construction. The two commissioners present, Larry Mammoli and chair Katherine Craven, approved the easements from 819 Beacon St. LLC and IQHQ-109 Brookline LLC.

The MUP section bordering 401 Park is already paved. Samuels & Associates completed this phase (minus landscaping that will come much later) and will contribute \$500,000 to a refurbishment of Fenway Station when the MBTA proceeds with a promised renovation.

The Brookline portion of the path—from the Riverway to Fenway Station—was removed from the MUP project scope and will be added later in Phase 3. A final agreement will require negotiations with the Town of Brookline, the MBTA and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The most recent presentation says Phase 3 should follow completion of the Army Corps of Engineers’ Muddy River Flood Risk Management project, scheduled for 2023. Fleetwood said BTD will focus on Phase 3 after Phase 1 goes out to bid.

(Reconstruction of the Carlton Street footbridge and creation of new bridge ramps, now under way in Brookline’s Monmouth neighborhood, will further expand options for cyclists from the Riverway.)

MassDOT’s interactive database states that “the Multi-Use Path will improve access to the Fenway MBTA Station and the [formerly named] Yawkey Commuter Rail station and provide a non-motorized transportation link to key job centers and new mixed-use developments planned for the Fenway area.” The description focuses on the value of the path for Longwood Area commuters and Fenway Park patrons.

Today, years after initial planning began, would the spike in residential development near the MUP—built and contemplated—change the expected uses? Could it lead to a recommendation for more entrances and

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expansion of the future off-road pedestrian and cycling route? As an example, Jennifer Leonard, co-chair of the Southwest Corridor Park Management Advisory Council, has said that residents of streets adjacent to Southwest Corridor Park (Albemarle, Blackwood, and Cumberland) who rejected access to the greenway in the 1980s because of security concerns now regret that decision.

Given the slow pace of the MUP’s construction, interest in using Brookline Avenue as a cycling route has grown. However, that idea has sparked pushback because of congestion, roadway width, and, most significantly, possible impact on the four bus routes that travel on Brookline to and from Kenmore.

In separate submissions to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), both 109 Brookline Avenue’s life science lab and WS Development’s massive Fenway project show “buffered” bike lanes on Brookline Avenue along their respective properties. Public comments from some Fenway residents also asked for separated lanes protected with bollards. Would that leave enough room for buses? At a July 19 public meeting on the WS project, Jessica Finch asked, “is there an opportunity to make Brookline Avenue a corridor that works well for buses?”

Richard Henderson, chief real estate officer for the MBTA, noted in his comments to the BPDA on the 109 Brookline project that potential bike lanes would reduce the street to a single vehicular lane in either direction. “The MBTA suggests the city and developers propose shared bike/bus lanes along Brookline Avenue, as putting MBTA buses in the single travel lane will slow travel times and result in reduced frequency.”

Four major real estate projects adjacent to the MUP remain under review by the BPDA. The joint SCAPE/Childrens’ Hospital plan for 819 Beacon and the Landmark Center’s Phase 3 await final approvals from the Civic Design Commission. Proponents of 109 Brookline must submit an environmental impact report, triggering another public-comment period. The WS Development/Fenway Sports Group plans have only just begun public review with City agencies and commissions.

MassDOT and the BTD have not held a public meeting on the Multiuse Path since 2017—maybe it’s time they did.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS: COYOTES



Two Fenway residents spotted this coyote crossing Agassiz Road at Park Drive around 9pm on Thursday, July 29. At least one other resident has reported encountering a coyote this summer.

Simmons Launches Master Plan Update

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Simmons University administrators and Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) staff held a public meeting on Aug. 12. The meeting appeared to have sparse attendance, although the webinar format did not allow participants to see each other.

Fenway neighbors who spoke questioned a proposed zoning change for Simmons’ seven-building residential campus, which will allow the filing of a planned development area master plan. The BPDA’s Eddie Carmody offered a somewhat complicated explanation of SIMMONS on page 3 >

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING

THE BASICS

- PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS:** Boston holds nonpartisan preliminary elections to produce a slate of two finalists for each office. This year we vote for mayor; four at-large city councilors; and one district city councilor. The final election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 2.
- EARLY VOTING: VOTE SEP. 4-10:** Walk into any early-voting site and cast a ballot. Any voter registered in Boston can vote at any location. You don’t need an excuse or reason to vote early. We’ve listed some key sites; for other sites, visit www.boston.gov/news/early-voting-locations-boston-2021-preliminary-municipal-election
- DROPBOXES:** If you requested a mail-in ballot, you can drop it at a secure dropbox at any early-voting site or at any branch of the Boston Public Library. You have until 8pm on Election Day to drop off your ballot

- ELECTION DAY: VOTE TUE, SEP 14** at your neighborhood polling place. Not sure where that is? Find out at www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx
- ELECTION DAY: VOTE TUE, SEP 14:** You still have time to register for the general election on Nov 2. Visit www.boston.gov/departments/elections/how-register-vote for more information.

EARLY VOTING SITES

Sat-Sun, Sep. 4-5 | 11am-7pm

CENTRAL LIBRARY (COPLEY SQ.)
700 BOYLSTON STREET

Tue, Sep. 7 | 12-8pm

TOBIN COMMUNITY CENTER
1481 TREMONT STREET, MISSION HILL

Tue-Fri, Sep. 7-10

BOSTON CITY HALL

• Tue + Thu = 9am-8pm

• Wed + Fri = 9am-5pm

You can also deposit your mail-in ballot at any early voting site.

COVID-19 UPDATE

COMPILED BY KELSEY BRUUN

As of Aug. 27 there were 75,541 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Boston. There have been 1,406 deaths. Due to the Delta variant, the City reinstated mask requirements for all indoor public spaces on Aug. 27, and will require all municipal workers to show proof of vaccination or undergo regular testing.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

AREA	TOTAL NUMBER TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE TESTS (CUMULATIVE)	% OF POSITIVE TESTS FOR CURRENT WEEK	TESTING RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Back Bay/ Beacon Hill/ West End/ Downtown/ North End	60,104	6.4%	2.6%	107,862.1
Fenway	95,125	3.8%	2.6%	173,817.3
Mission Hill /Roxbury	51,247	11.3%	4.9%	118,828.1

CASES: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN CASES	% OF CASES
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,216	6%
Black/African American	17,267	25%
Latinx/Hispanic	20,274	29%
White	23,549	34%
Other	4,283	6%
Total Boston Cases with Race/Ethnicity Identified	69,589	

Of 75,541 cases in Boston, 92.1% include data for race/ethnicity

DEATHS: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN DEATHS	% OF KNOWN DEATHS
Asian/Pacific Islander	109	8%
Black/African American	459	33%
Latinx/Hispanic	189	13%
White	602	43%
Other	46	3%
Total Race/Ethnicity Identified Deaths in Boston	1,405	

Of 1,406 deaths in Boston, 99.9% include data for race/ethnicity

Back to School With COVID: Kids and Parents Share Their Thoughts

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

As schools reopen this September, Fenway residents—both students and their parents—are excited about the prospect of a normal school year. Yet they still have concerns and worries.

Vivian and her daughter Ava live in the East Fens. They’re hoping that Ava’s school will help kids that fell behind because of remote learning challenges. Ava anticipates that being in ninth grade will be demanding but is looking forward to being with her friends again. Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Ava was involved in many after-school activities. Vivian points out that all her time was structured. During the pandemic, getting used to having so much down time was challenging for Ava. As she thinks about her new school year, she plans to be more punctual when it comes to schoolwork. Vivian supports continuing all COVID safety measures, since more people will be in closer contact once school starts.

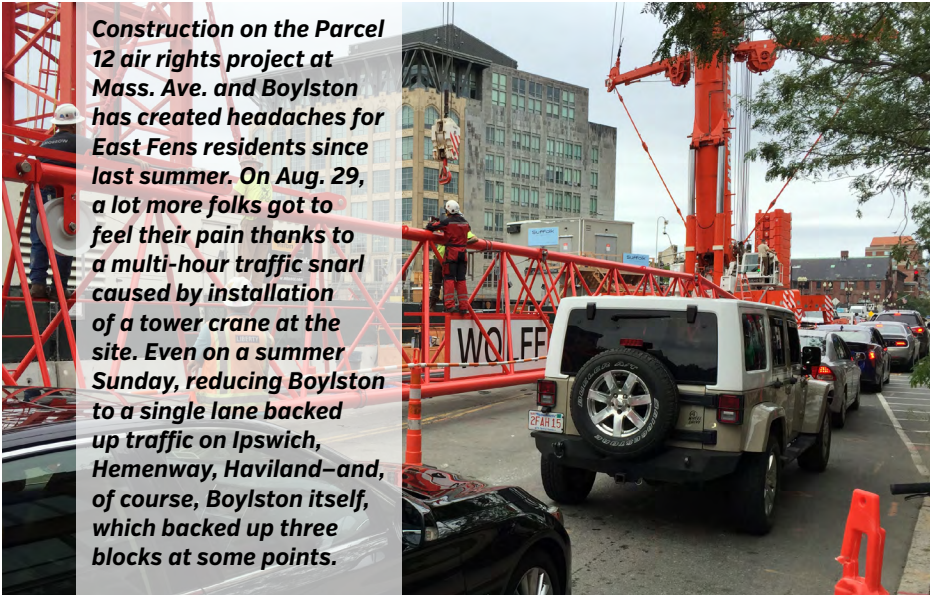
Lisa and her daughter Beatrice are also from East Fens. Beatrice is going into seventh grade and, like Ava, looks forward to being with her friends again. She just wants things to be “normal, like they were before.” Beatrice feels anxious because her school will have two new principals. Having new principals adds to the unfamiliar, and Beatrice wants to go back to the normal that she remembers. She’s also worried about the younger children in the school who are not vaccinated. Her mom, Lisa, remains concerned about social distancing and ventilation.

James and his son Gio live in West Fens. Gio is going into third grade and attended summer school this year, where he was able to catch up academically. His dad James believes summer school helped Gio prepare for this year and points out that his son loves school and loves to learn. Remote learning was hard for Gio; he found it difficult to stay focused on the screen when at home—there were too many distractions that would entice his attention away from the computer. James plans to drive Gio to school every day.

All parents and children look forward just to being back in school and what will indeed be a new normal for everyone.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in East Fens.

Big Crane Makes A Big Traffic Mess



Construction on the Parcel 12 air rights project at Mass. Ave. and Boylston has created headaches for East Fens residents since last summer. On Aug. 29, a lot more folks got to feel their pain thanks to a multi-hour traffic snarl caused by installation of a tower crane at the site. Even on a summer Sunday, reducing Boylston to a single lane backed up traffic on Ipswich, Hemenway, Haviland—and, of course, Boylston itself, which backed up three blocks at some points.

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

Arthur Rose’s Fenway-bred Monarchs Leave Victory Gardens

In late August, Arthur Rose—at 102 the oldest member of the Fenway Garden Society—released four monarch butterflies raised from eggs found on a milkweed plant in his garden. In December the US Fish & Wildlife Service listed the monarch as a candidate for endangered species status.



PHOTOS: CARMEN MUSTO

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY MOVE-INS WIND UP SEPT. 6

The majority of local students have already moved in for the semester, but move-in season won’t wrap up until September 6:

EMMANUEL	NORTHEASTERN	WENTWORTH INSTITUTE
All move-ins take place on Sunday, Sept. 5	Move-ins take place every day through Sunday, Sept. 5	Last group of move-ins scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 4 through Monday, Sept. 6

JANEY MEETS CONSTITUENTS IN THE FENS

On Aug. 20, Acting Mayor Kim Janey visited the Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens for a well-attended Neighborhood Coffee Hour. At right, Juniper Lee, 1, and her mom Carina meet Mayor Janey. [Juniper seemed especially focused on pocketbook issues.] Below, left to right, Sarah Zettek, Rich Giordano, and Elivira Castillo took a break from the festivities with coffee and refreshments.



PHOTOS: DON SEAMANS



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40 Years Later, BPDA Could Cede Control of Garden

BY ALISON PULTINAS

In June, the real estate arm of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) advertised a public meeting to discuss the potential sale of 7,100 square feet of land at the corner of Parker and Alleghany streets in Mission Hill. The former residential lots which were converted to community gardens in the late 1970s/early 1980s—the heyday of Boston’s back-to-the-land movement.

The then-Boston Redevelopment Authority transferred more than half of the property to the Trustees of the Reservation years ago. Although the entire site was zoned for open space, the lots abutting Alleghany were still ground-leased. At the virtual community meeting, BPDA procurement officer Morgan McDaniel asked for feedback about the potential sale. Current gardeners spoke up strongly in support of The Trustees, who manage 56 Boston gardens, becoming the owners and not just the caretakers of the space.

Only gardeners have keys to the locked Oscar Parker Community Garden. At the meeting, a discussion of public access became somewhat heated. Eric Herot of Jamaica Plain suggested establishing a process for planning public events, and Kara Verrochi wondered



The Oscar Parker Community Garden

if the bulletin board could move to the fence to face the sidewalk, as other Trustee gardens have done. All acknowledged the benefit of the green space for neighbors even if they didn’t have a plot there—noting especially the beauty of the flowers.

The BPDA board approved the release

of a request for proposals and responses, were due Aug. 27. Not unexpectedly, the Trustees emerged as the only bidder. The BPDA’s McDaniel said the next step is an evaluation of the bid, then another vote from the BPDA board.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

> **SIMMONS** from page 1 how the zoning change should give the community a larger role in the future review of any proposed development on the five-acre site, a thin, dagger-shaped tract between Pilgrim Road and Brookline Avenue.

Meredith McCarthy of architecture firm Sasaki and Carolyn Desmond of construction company Skanska are consultants working for Simmons on redeveloping the land, which Simmons expects to ground-lease. Carmody said the request for the zoning change will likely appear on the agenda of the Sept. 13 BPDA Board meeting, then go to the Zoning Commission in October.

Neighbors focused on the expected loss of much of the existing green space. Sarah Nailor, a direct neighbor on the Riverway, said that pre-pandemic the parcel’s gates were not locked, but that they are now. West Fens resident Freddie Veikley said the existing peaceful landscape was a calming presence for Longwood Area workers and that any new development’s public realm should bring a similar benefit. The East Fens’ John Bookston asked whether the future master plan could include residential uses, although past presentations have indicated the likelihood of a Longwood Medical Area related commercial project.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

E LINE WORK WRAPS UP AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Angel Peña (right), head of Green Line transportation for the MBTA, and Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler (left) held a press event at Brigham Circle on Aug. 31. They discussed completion of track work that closed a section of the E Line on South Huntington Ave. for four weeks. Trains began running again on Aug. 29, two days ahead of schedule. While not initially included in the scope of work for the project, construction did include rebuilding the the Brigham Circle intersection at Tremont and Francis streets with a new rubberized pedestrian crossing over the tracks.



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GOAT GOES FISHING IN THE MUDDY RIVER



On Sunday, August 1, the Muddy Water Initiative relaunched its “water goat” in the Muddy River by the Ipswich Street bridge. With netting hung from floats, the goat can span the river [see top photo] and then be hauled to shore, where volunteers use pool skimmers and other tools to fish out some of the tons of debris and garbage that plague the river. Despite high temperatures, the event—which included live music and a pen full of frisky goats [get it?]-drew dozens of onlookers and supporters.

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

The Beautiful Lawn Is Empty

The lawn at the Christian Science Church reopened to the public this summer after two years of restoration. Curiously, local residents haven’t seemed to take advantage of the open space. [Apologies to Edmund White for our headline.]

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

An unidentified man drowned in the Charles River near the BU Bridge in late July. When bystanders saw the victim floundering in the water on the Cambridge side, according to a report in the *Globe*, they resorted to “commandeering” a boat from the BU Boathouse, but the man went under before they could reach him. Boston Fire Department divers recovered the body. ➡ **That end-of-July Green Line crash on Comm. Ave. has now drawn the attention of the National Transportation Safety Board. An NTSB announcement, reported by the Associated Press, said that the westbound B Line train was traveling at 30 mph—three times the allowed speed limit at that point—when it rear-ended another train near Pleasant Street.** ➡ *Commonwealth Magazine* profiled the Roxbury-based partners behind Rooted in Roxbury, a cannabis company that plans to open stores on Newbury Street and in Nubian Square. Partners Brian Keith, Solmon Chowdhury, and Rokeya Chowdhury have built the company around small investors of color—96 percent are Black, 51 percent are women, and all are Boston residents (in contrast to the dominant model of corporate ownership). According to the article, the Newbury Street store already has City approval and has begun the state-certification process; it could open by early next year. The Nubian Square store is one step behind, with approval of the Boston Cannabis Board secured. It heads next to the Zoning Board. ➡ **In another sign of returning normality (however halting), Whole Foods Symphony has extended its closing time to 10pm.** ➡ A feature on the work of Roxbury artist Ekua Holmes led the *Sunday Globe’s* Arts section. An exhibit of Holmes’s multimedia work for children’s books—a field she came to after establishing herself as an artist and gallerist—has just opened at the MFA. Holmes also created the sunflower garden on the museum’s front lawn as part of her Roxbury Sunflower Project, which distributes 10,000 sunflower seeds annually in Roxbury and sees the flower as a potent symbol of Black survival and creativity. ➡ **After an 18-month suspension, the BSO doesn’t plan to risk its upcoming season, which opens Sept. 30. The Symphony announced that entry to any event at Symphony Hall—regardless of sponsor—will require proof of vaccination (CDC card, photo of the card, or a digital passport) or negative results**



Back Bay with the opening of a Boylston Street outpost, across from the BPL, planned for this fall. The café also has a branch in Cleveland Circle (along with a network of cafés in Israel).

- **Boston Beer Works** shut the doors on all five of its restaurants, including the mother ship on Brookline Avenue. The announcement laid the blame on prolonged COVID closings.
- **Flourishing in Audubon Circle, Café Landwer** has turned its sights to the
- **Anna’s Taqueria** at the Prudential Center has reopened after its pandemic shutdown.



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- **Anna’s Taqueria** at the Prudential Center has reopened after its pandemic shutdown.

Farmers Markets

Look for early season cranberries, strawberries and raspberries; late corn; and bok choy and eggplant.

ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)	
Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
COPLEY SQUARE	
Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	
Sunday	11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

SENIOR EVENTS

The Senior Center hasn’t yet set a date for reopening its physical space. Visit www.operationpeaceboston.org for more information. Some of the events listed below are virtual. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- **Thursdays, 11am: COFFEE & CONVERSATION IN RAMLER PARK, 130 Peterborough St.** This event depends on the weather—it will take place over Zoom in the event of rain or an extreme heat advisory. The Coffee & Conversation that would have taken place on Sept. 30 will take place on September 28.
- **September 14, 11am: Walk with friends and neighbors around the ROBERTO CLEMENTE TRACK.** Meet at the track.
- **September 21, 12pm: BINGO AT THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER.** 15 people maximum, RSVP required to Tracey or Sara.

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center has begun gradually moving back to in-person events. Visit www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org for more information. Note that masks are required at all in-person events, regardless of vaccination status.

- **Wednesday, 6pm: VIRTUAL GUIDED MEDITATION**
- **Fridays, 12pm: IN-PERSON (AND VIRTUAL) BINGO.**
- **Wednesday, September 15, 6pm: FENWAY SCOOP (Virtual).** Join a conversation featuring updates from BPD Sergeant Paul A. DeLeo, Jr. (Community Service Supervisor, Area D—District 4), celebrations of community members and organizations, elected officials, and Fenway-based organizations, groups, and businesses. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84591872981>.
- **Friday, September 24, 7pm: VIRTUAL PAINT NIGHT.**

from a PCR test taken within the previous 72 hours or an antigen test completed within the previous 24. Once inside the building, everyone will be required to mask up, except while eating or drinking. ➡

Neighborhood Newsline

CDC’s Burbank Terrace Project Hits Several Milestones

The Fenway Community Development Corporation’s plan to build 27 compact, income-restricted apartments on a small East Fens lot passed several milestones during the last weeks of summer. First, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development awarded FCDC subsidies and tax credits for creation of affordable rental housing. Then on August 2, the CDC completed the \$2,800,000 purchase of the vacant lot on Burbank Street from Parkside Tower LLC (Forest Fenway Investors LLC). Ten days later, the BPDA Board voted to approve the project. The proposal subsequently cleared another key hurdle when the Zoning Board of Appeals granted a one-year extension of variances it initially issued two years ago.

Did Northeastern Over-Admit Again?

Wentworth Institute of Technology has leased its Edwards and Rogers dormitories to Northeastern for the 2021–22 school year. Its last master plan listed 88 beds at the dorms. The two former apartment buildings at 572-574 Huntington Ave. sit next to the Engine 37/Ladder 26 fire station. After several attempts to reach administrators from both schools, this reply came from Renata Nyul, Northeastern’s vice president of communications: “The demand for a Northeastern University education is at an all-time high. We have seen the most robust admissions yield in the university’s history. We have a well-structured plan to support our talented and diverse incoming class this fall across every aspect of our students’ education, including housing, learning, and campus life.” Wentworth’s update to the Community Task Force forecasts a full-time undergraduate enrollment of 3,901 this fall. According to Johanna Sena, the community relations and government affairs director, the school hasn’t altered the goal in its master plan to bring more students onto campus. However, it has paused planning for a dorm on Ward Street.

Sheraton Boston Reopens

The Sheraton Boston on Dalton Street reopened August 1. The city’s largest hotel, the Sheraton boasts 1,200 rooms.

City Council Creates “Hero Square” for WWII Soldier

At its Aug. 18 meeting, the Boston City Council approved Kenzie Bok’s resolution to create a hero square in honor of Lester A. Burton at the intersection of Westland Avenue and Hemenway Street. Born in 1918, Burton lived at 364 Mass. Ave. for most of his childhood. He enlisted in the Army during World War II and died in battle on Sept. 8, 1944. The plaque and square designation will honor Burton for his service.

Berklee Adds New Degree Program

Berklee has announced its first-ever bachelor of arts degree program in music industry leadership and innovation beginning with the fall 2022 semester. The schools says it has designed the program specifically for non-musicians with an interest in business and technology. The school says the “curriculum will combine theoretical and practical learning, providing students with the knowledge and experience necessary to thrive in the job market, as well as to adapt and evolve as professionals in an ever-changing industry.” The program includes specializations in marketing and production development, licensing and administration, and emerging technologies, as well as other relevant coursework rooted in the contemporary music industry.

FGS Sweeps Community Garden Prizes in Mayor’s Contest

On Aug. 24, the City announced the 2021 winners of the Mayor’s Garden Contest. In the community garden category, members of the Fenway Garden Society swept first, second, and third place for their plots in the Victory Gardens. Craig and Kimberly McNulty received first place, John Ruiz received second place, and Dionna Di Pierro and Steven Davy received third place.

MissionSAFE wins \$500,000 Cummings Foundation Grant

MissionSAFE: A New Beginning has received \$500,000 for use over 10 years from the Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program. The program, established by a prominent suburban developer, supports nonprofits based primarily in and serving Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties. With the help of roughly 80 volunteers, the foundation began by identifying 140 organizations—some of them new to Cummings as well as previous recipients—to receive grants of at least \$100,000. MissionSAFE works with young people, primarily from Mission Hill, Roxbury and Dorchester, who face multiple obstacles to success. It describes its work as fostering their innate talents and dreams and helping them gain the skills, joy and confidence to thrive, not just survive, and to help make their world a better place. The group offers a nurturing yet challenging environment, using a trauma-responsive approach and growth-fostering adult/youth relationships to help young people move out of intergenerational poverty, violence and hopelessness.

City Taps Griffin As New Liaison for the Fenway, Mission Hill

The City’s Office of Neighborhood Services has named Molly Griffin the new neighborhood liaison for The Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the Fenway and Mission Hill. She’ll work as the primary contact for constituents and businesses within the Mayor’s Office, facilitating the delivery of services in collaboration with various City departments. A recent B.U. grad who attended Boston Latin School, Griffin grew up and currently lives in Dorchester. Prior to taking on this role, she spent summers working at the Leahy Holloran Community Center in Dorchester, and interned at the Massachusetts State House as a Ward Fellow.

S O X B O X

Fri, Sep 3	7:10pm	Sat, Sep 18	1:10pm
Sat, Sep 4	4:10pm	Sun, Sep 19	1:10pm
Sun, Sep 5	1:10pm	Tue, Sep 21	7:10pm
Mon, Sep 6	1:10pm	Wed, Sep 22	7:10pm
Tue, Sep 7	7:10pm	Fri, Sep 24	7:10pm
Wed, Sep 8	7:10pm	Sat, Sep 25	4:10pm
Fri, Sep 17	7:10pm	Sun, Sep 26	TBD

Urban Detective Deciphers Clues in the City Around You

BY ED BALLO

Welcome to the Urban Detective! I hope that these vignettes of history will enhance your appreciation of the city and ignite your curiosity like a true detective.

This inaugural installment centers on three specific items in a very small area where the Back Bay, the Fenway and Kenmore Square commingle. [See map].

1 495 Beacon Street (formerly Crossroads Pub)

This was the last watering hole for BU English professor Richard Yates (1926-1992), who coincidentally lived on a floor above. Yates showed exceptional early promise as a writer, and his first novel, *Revolutionary Road*, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 1962 (alongside *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller). The novel was turned into an award-winning film in 2008, which paired Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. Though Yates's novels received a good measure of critical acclaim, he never succeeded with the public. His alcoholism



and divorce in 1959 fueled a deep depression and by the time of his death in 1992, most of his novels were out of print.

2 Statue of Leif Eriksson by Anne Whitney (1888)

Standing on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall looking west across the Muddy River at Charlesgate East. Whitney was born in Watertown and spent much of her life in the area, with the exceptions of stints at a Brooklyn hospital (with the secret agenda of studying anatomy) and studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. The impetus for the creation of



the statue is as interesting as the work itself—a popular belief in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that Norse explorers had set foot in New England some 600 years before the English. This popular belief also manifests itself in the monumental prows of Viking ships that adorn the bases of the Longfellow Bridge.

3 Lombard Lamp, last block of Commonwealth Ave. Mall

On the west side of the Bowker Overpass in the last block of the mall, this is a copy of a lamp that adorns the Lombardsbrücke, which crosses the River Alster in central



Hamburg, Germany, and was a gift to Boston for the city's 350th anniversary in 1980. The two port cities share similar characters, and, in fact, the Charles River Basin was modeled in good measure on improvements made in the 19th century to the Alster. Just behind the lamppost, you'll see a curious concrete archway that is partially buried.

This is the original subway (Green Line) portal from 1914. Transit improvements



in the 1930s, pushed the subway portals west to their present locations. The A and B Lines (the A ran to Watertown and was discontinued in 1969) shared one portal, and a separate C Line portal moved up Beacon Street to St. Mary's. The D Riverside Line was built in 1959, and that portal was created by branching off of

the C Line tunnel. Ed Ballo lives in the West Fens.

The Arts

Painting It Blue In Mission Hill



Colombian artist Felipe Ortiz recently completed a three-story mural on a blank brick wall at 38 South Huntington Ave. The 1905 row house is owned by landlord David Keto and his partner Beth Tomasello. Ortiz graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2009 and created the colorful mural "Plumage" on Northeastern University's Stearns Center several years ago. In an email, Ortiz said, "this [South Huntington] mural project is a labor of love, supported in part by the building owners. I self-produced this project as a way to give back to a neighborhood that I've respected and honored for 15 years. If you [or someone you know!] may be able to contribute to our production costs, any amount goes a long way! (Contributions of \$500 or more will receive a signed, archival quality art print of the final mural.) Please visit our GoFundMe to learn more: www.gofundme.com/f/missionhillmural."

SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON: TRIUMPHANT 'TEMPEST' ON THE COMMON

BY JOHN ENGSTROM

"Free" is the last word spoken in *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's island fantasia that opens with a storm and shipwreck, whirls us along a path of magic, romance and conspiracy, and winds down with forgiveness and reconciliation. The speaker is Prospero, a magician and

for a live, free-admission performance of *The Tempest* presented by the wonderful Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC).

Everyone went home in an elated state, knowing further what we already knew: nothing beats live Shakespeare performed well in an al fresco setting.

The company started work on the show



The cast of The Tempest

displaced Italian duke who ruled the island and orchestrated the whole phantasmagoria. In the last lines of the play, he relinquishes his powers.

Alone on stage, Prospero delivers the play's famous epilogue directly to the audience. "As you from crimes would pardoned be," he tells us, "let your indulgence set me free." Peter Brook, the legendary Shakespeare director, has written that "as far as we can tell, this could well be the last creative word that he [Shakespeare] wrote." "Free."

There was freedom in the air on Boston Common this summer (July 21 to August 8) when, emerging from the coronavirus lockdown, hundreds of enthusiastic and relieved theatergoers crowded the park

before the pandemic hit town in 2020 and caused the cancellation of CSC's open-air 2020 Bardolatry. It was worth the wait.

Helming *The Tempest* on this occasion was CSC director Steven Maler, whose chops in Shakespeare direction are considerable.

Maler trimmed the longish text down to two hours without an intermission and cut two minor characters (shipwreck survivors Adrian and Francisco)—but it didn't matter.

The production was all you could have hoped for—clear, vivid staging, exemplary speaking of verse and prose, and more. Everything about the show captured the shimmering mystery with which Shakespeare saturated the play.

The spare, evocative scenery by Clint THE TEMPEST on page 8 >

The Arts

Gardner Pulls Off A Coup With Historic Titian Exhibit

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Between 1551 and 1562, Titian, considered the most important painter of the 16th-century Venetian school, created a series of monumental paintings for Philip II, the young king of Spain. The paintings, which Titian (actual name: Tiziano Vecellio) called *poesies*, or “painted poems,” were based on specific stories from Greek mythology—tales of love, caprices, and vengeance of the gods from the poet Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. In 1896, Isabella Stewart Gardner purchased one of this series, “The Rape of Europa,” considered the most famous Renaissance work of art on display in the United States.

For the first time in more than four centuries the six poesies have been reunited in a new exhibit at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum called “Titian: Women, Myth & Power.” This is the only American venue on an international tour, a coup for the museum because it owns the central piece: “The Rape of Europa.”

The Gardner carefully restored its masterpiece to reveal its radiant color. Titian was known for intense colors, sensual figures, and creative composition. He set thinly painted passages against textured impasto so that the paint stood out from the surface, and he laid multiple glazes over his brushstrokes. He specialized in portraits as well as religious and mythological themes—the show includes one of his portraits of Philip II. Titian explored themes of women in distress and the terrible consequences of contact between mortals and gods. Several of the paintings involve the rape of mortal women by Jupiter in various disguises.

The exhibit is arranged in pairs. “Danae,” the first painting Titian completed, shows the young princess Danae as a reclining nude who was



Rape of Europa at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

ravished by Jupiter, king of the gods, disguised as a shower of gold. Danae’s father had locked her in a tower, fearing a prophecy that said he would be killed by his grandson. Jupiter transforms himself into a shower of gold to penetrate the walls of the tower.

“Danae” is paired with “Venus and Adonis,” where the goddess of love is a seated nude seen from the back, as she struggles to keep her lover Adonis from hunting a wild boar. Cupid, her son, sleeps against a tree behind them.

In the next pairing, “Diana and Callisto” depicts a group of young women, mostly nude, reclining. The central figure, Diana, goddess of chastity and the hunt, is nude except for a transparent cloth about her shoulders and upper thigh. She appears to point an accusatory finger

at Callisto, her nymph, who was raped by Jupiter. Callisto lies to the left with her face in shadow and a white cloth draped around her body that exposes her pregnant belly.

In “Diana and Actaeon,” the hunter Actaeon, lost, stumbles upon a forbidden sight—Diana bathing with her nymphs in a sacred grotto. Startled by the male intruder, the goddess of chastity covers her body with a cloak. Titian focuses on the fate of the hunter: for his transgression, the goddess transforms him into his prey, and he flees from his own hounds.

The third grouping hangs two marine subjects side by side. In “Perseus and Andromeda,” the Ethiopian princess Andromeda struggles against her chains. She is being sacrificed to a frightening sea monster for offending

the gods. Perseus drops out of the sky to attack the monster.

“The Rape of Europa,” also shows a woman in distress. In it, the abducted Europa clings with one hand to the horn of a bull—Jupiter in disguise again. This painting captures the moment when Europa climbs on the bull’s back in the sea, bewildered and frantically waving to the women left behind to call for help. They are off through the Mediterranean to Crete, where he will rape her.

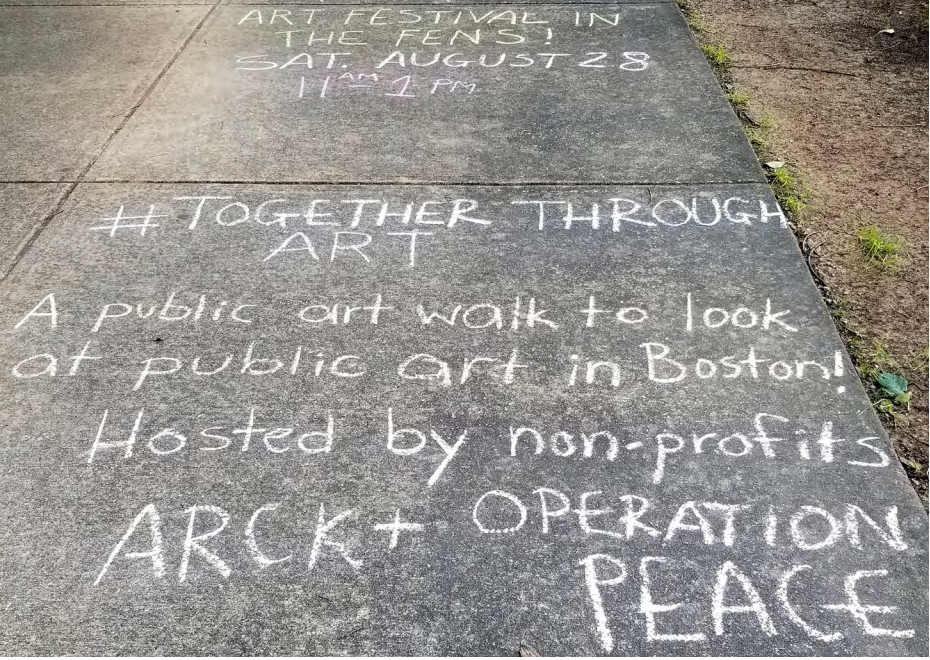
Of course, in the #MeToo era, viewers are concerned with questions of gender, power, and sexual violence.

To this end, in typical Gardner style, the museum invited artists to comment on the exhibition through painting and expressive arts. One of the commentary pieces is conceptual artist Barbara Kruger’s “Body Language,” displayed on the museum façade. Kruger created a provocative image of two overlapping bodies, using a detail from Titian’s painting “Diana and Actaeon.” She then overlaid the image with text to allow us to reflect on the representation of women, power, and sexuality.

The museum also commissioned Artists-in-Residence Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley to respond to Titian’s masterpiece, “The Rape of Europa.” The result is a nine-minute black-and-white film with graphic images, also called “The Rape of Europa,” that combines painting and performance with satirical poetry. In the film, Kelley portrays a series of historical and mythical characters trapped between comic and tragic scenarios. The characters’ dilemmas are expressed through rhymes, puns, and limericks, giving a voice to the character of Europa.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. “Titian: Women, Myth & Power” runs until January 2.

MURALS AND KIDS’ ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT ART WALK AND FESTIVAL



On Aug. 28, Operation PEACE and Arts Resource Collaborative for Kids hosted the Together Through Art, an art walk and Festival on Jersey Street outside Fenway Park. [Photos: upper right by Ruth Khowais. Remaining photos by Leslie Pond]

The Arts

> **THE TEMPEST** from page 6
Ramos—a sand floor, a giant hunk of driftwood, a shifting curtain of ropes—made the play into a visual poem. So did Nancy Leary’s eclectic costume designs, ranging from tattooed flesh to fringe and netting.
Choreographer Levi Philip Marsman provided vigorous movements for the cast that intensified the Bard’s poetry. That was so especially in the case of actor-dancer John

casting strengths of the show would fill more than a whole page. Suffice it to say that the impressive John Douglas Thompson as Prospero—monumental of voice and eloquent in emotion—led a distinguished ensemble of CSC regulars and others from Actors Shakespeare Project. Included in the latter were the mercurial John Kuntz in one of the clown parts, Trinculo; and Nael Nacer as an anguished, sinewy Caliban (one of Prospero’s



Nael Nacer (Caliban), Fred Sullivan Jr. (Stephano), and John Kuntz (Trinculo)

Lam, a Boston Ballet principal cast as Ariel, Prospero’s right-hand “aerie spirit,” whose darting leaps, whirls, and arabesques were a production highlight. Everything he did was incredibly difficult—Lam made it look easy. The same could be said of the other players.
Despite being miked, the actors gave as much value to the subtlety and nuance of the script as they did to speeches that called for volume and bombast. For actors as much as for readers and theatergoers, Shakespeare’s dramatic writing at this level of creative artistry is “as good as it gets.” Using language that is both earthy and elevated, intellectual and impassioned, with poetry of unparalleled magnificence, Shakespeare wove a fantastic entertainment for his Jacobean audiences. Boston’s contribution to that theater history was something to be proud of.
A detailed enumeration of all the

two servants with supernatural traits).
Miranda, Prospero’s naïve daughter, who grew up on the island and knows nothing of humanity—hers is the line about the “brave new world”—often fades into the background. Not so Nora Eschenheimer, whose blazing Miranda combined fight, brains, and wild humor.
CSC veteran Fred Sullivan Jr., as the clownish conspirator Stephano—described by Shakespeare as “a drunken butler”—together with Kuntz and Nacer made up a memorably rowdy and goofy trio.
Incidentally, Stephano is the only *Tempest* character with a connection to the Pilgrims and Colonial America. In 1609, a Stephen Hopkins was on a supply ship bound for Virginia that shipwrecked on Bermuda during a hurricane. Letters and pamphlets describing the event circulated widely in



John Douglas Thompson (Prospero)

England soon after and most likely reached Shakespeare’s literary circle, to judge from the references and images that turn up in the *Tempest* script.
More than a decade after the Bermuda adventure, Hopkins joined the Pilgrims on the Mayflower passage. Scholars today believe that he was Shakespeare’s real-life model for Stephano, and thus the only Plymouth settler with a historical tie to the Bard. For more on this fascinating intersection of culture and

history, look up Andrew Giles Buckley’s documentary, *Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare’s Shipwreck*.
Steven Maler’s outdoor Shakespeare productions with CSC have always been good, whether or not you agreed with the director’s interpretation. On the evidence of *The Tempest*—which breathed artistry and experience—they are just getting better. And of course, the price is right.
John Engstrom lives in the West Fens.



The Rusty Scott Quartet, featuring Tim Mayer, headlined a concert in Ramler Park on August 3.

September CALENDAR

Fri, 9/3 & 9/10

NOVEMBER PROJECT BOSTON, a nonprofit fitness group, sponsors free weekly group workouts and runs. Meet at McLaughlin Playground on Parker Hill Avenue in Mission Hill. Email novemberprojectbos@gmail.com for more information. 6:30am.

Thu, 9/9

BOSTON MAYORAL DEBATE. WBUR, *The Boston Globe*, UMass Boston’s McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, and WCVB co-host a live debate among the candidates for mayor of Boston. Hear the debate, moderated by “Radio Boston” host Tiziana Dearing and *Globe* columnist Adrian Walker, live on 90.9 FM or by free live stream at www.wbur.org/

[events/696382/2021-boston-mayoral-debate](https://www.wbur.org/events/696382/2021-boston-mayoral-debate). 7pm.

Sat, 9/11

PLACE-MAKING THROUGH SHORT FICTION. Authors Chandreyee Lahiri and Grace Talusan have both participated in the Boston Book Festival’s “One City One Story” program and the flash-fiction contest “Boston in 100 Words,” two programs committed to building place-based community through short fiction. “Boston in 100 Words” lead organizer Jane De León Griffin speaks with Lahiri and Talusan about how they approach writing short fiction and the role they see it play in building place-based community in Boston. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/611ad8d7cd0f1c2f0092a29a>.

[com/events/611ad8d7cd0f1c2f0092a29a](https://www.greenribboncommission.org/document/grcx-green-ribbon-commission-climate-action-exchange). 3pm. Central Library in Copley Square.

Tue, 9/14

INSPIRATION, EMPATHY AND EDUCATION: HOW CULTURAL ENTITIES ARE HELPING PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CLIMATE IN NEW WAYS. This GRCx program highlights three non-traditional approaches to climate change content used by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture, and the BPL’s Leventhal Map Center. It examines cultural institutions’ ability to document the long time horizons of climate change and resilience. Register at [/www.greenribboncommission.org/document/grcx-green-ribbon-commission-climate-action-exchange](https://www.greenribboncommission.org/document/grcx-green-ribbon-commission-climate-action-exchange). 8:30am.

Wed, 9/15 & 9/29

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes community residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive, Boston MA 02215. 3pm to 5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org for additional information.

Thu, 9/23

Briefing on “**CLIMATE AND HOUSING CRISIS: A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR URBAN COMMUNITIES.**” Join UMass Boston’s Sustainable Solutions Lab and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy for a briefing on a joint working paper, *Climate and Housing Crisis: A Research Agenda for Urban Communities*. Register at www.umb.edu/ssl/events. 12pm.

COMMUNITY meetings

TUESDAYS Mission Hill Main Streets **SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL.** Join this weekly call featuring reopening guidance, support services, and 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/LSCBPL.
THU, SEPT. 9 Impact Advisory Group meeting for **220 HUNTINGTON AVENUE.** This meeting will focus on proposed mitigation and the pocket park at 1 Cumberland Street. The meeting will begin with a presentation by the development team, followed by a 45-min discussion by IAG members and 15 minutes of Q&A with the public. Remote meeting. Register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3ziOipF>, or call in

to (833) 568-8864 and use meeting ID 160 778 3138. For more information, contact Nupoor Monani at Nupoor.Monani@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4425. 6pm.
THU, SEPT. 9 Fenway CDC **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING,** 6–7:30pm on Zoom. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 217-4370 for the link.
MON, SEPT. 20 Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services **ANNUAL MEETING.** The outdoor meeting will feature board

elections, guest speaker David Passafaro, president of New England Baptist Hospital, refreshments and entertainment. Call the MHNHS office at (617) 566-6565 for more information and the rain plan. 1 Brigham Circle Plaza, 1620 Tremont St. 6pm.
TUE, SEPT. 21 The Charlesgate Alliance and Emerald Necklace Conservancy host a **PUBLIC MEETING.** 7pm. This meeting will be held on Zoom, visit CHARLESGATEALLIANCE.ORG for more information.

FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS



20th anniversary

A Free Art & Culture Festival in the Fenway Cultural District

Saturday, October 9, 2021
10am - 4pm

fenwayculture.org • #fenwayculture • #openingourdoors

F E N W A Y

The
Fenway
AllianceBCC BOSTON
CULTURAL
COUNCILMC Mass
Cultural
Council

Sign up for Northeastern's Fall Volunteer Fair!

We invite our neighbors and community organizations to discover local volunteer opportunities and network with our campus and Boston non-profit communities!

Date: Friday September 17th
Time: 10:00am- 2:00pm
Location: Centennial Common

*Event details subject to change depending on shifting
COVID-19 guidelines*

Scan here to register your organization
or visit tinyurl.com/nu-vol-fair-21!

