



MFA Workers Stage One-Day Walkout

BY ALISON PULTINAS

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

The museum’s wage offer contains no assured salary increase until 2024 and only a commitment to a 1.75 percent raise. Additionally, all benefits—including medical coverage, retirement contributins, and time off—would be subject to change or reduction at the administration’s discretion. Chants suggested in a union handout included “MFA You’re No Good/ Sign a Contract Like You Should” and “Ancient Art not Ancient Wages!” As of Nov. 27, a solidarity fund has raised more than \$15,000, more than enough to pay any striking worker in

need \$150 to compensate for a missed day’s pay. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the Greater Boston Labor Council, and the Museum Independent Security Union (MISU) submitted letters of support for the striking workers to MFA Director Matthew Teitelbaum (which you can read on mfaunion.org). The MFA’s own statement said that the “union’s committee has now gone over seven weeks without responding to our wage proposal....We remain committed to staying at the bargaining table to create an equitable

and sustainable outcome.” In its letter, the Greater Boston Labor Council expressed disappointment that the MFA has retained Jackson Lewis, a notorious union-busting law firm, and that the museum is contesting union eligibility of more than a hundred positions. According to John Storrow of MISU, that union’s contract has a no-strike/ no-lockout clause, which prevented them from participating on Nov. 17. That contract expires June 30. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

MBTA Fences Off Stairs at Fenway Station

On November 12 the MBTA closed the staircase between Park Drive and the Fenway stop on the Green Line’s D branch. Although a media representative said in a message that the agency blocked access as the result of a routine inspection, transit infrastructure became a hot topic in September after a B.U. professor died at JFK/UMass Station, where he apparently fell from a rusted staircase [that had also been closed to the public]. The Globe featured a photo of the Fenway staircase as an example of other risky transit structures following the September death. With the stairs closed, people must walk roughly 200 foot south on Park Drive to reach an accessibility ramp that loops back toward the station.



EVENT ALERT

DEC 29

AT FENWAY PARK
WASABI FENWAY BOWL
KICKOFF AT 11:00AM

REPORT EXCESSIVE NOISE OR MISBEHAVIOR

Call these numbers to report quality-of-life disruptions. Call all three for best response and to create a record.

CITY LICENSING BOARD • 617-635-4170
SOX COMPLAINT LINE • 617-226-6424
311 • CITY PROBLEM LINE

LIGHTING UP THE WEST FENS

On Dec. 1, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services and the Fenway Civic Association hosted at Tree Lighting featuring snacks from Tasty Burger, Wally the Green Monster (pictured), cocoa, cider, and live music.

2021 MAYORAL ELECTION RESULTS

The Fenway								
UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT								
TURNOUT								
Ward/Precinct ↻	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	5/2	5/2a	5/10	21/1
	29.2%	20.4%	23.0%	20.4%	24.1%	23.2%	21.0%	20.9%
RESULTS FOR MAYOR								
Ward/Precinct ↻	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	5/2	5/2a	5/10	21/1
ANNISA ESSAIBI GEORGE	123	71	80	65	71	47	99	90
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	28%	24%	24%	21%	18%	18%	24%	21%
MICHELLE WU	329	233	266	251	330	227	297	344
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	72%	76%	76%	79%	82%	82%	76%	79%

THESE FIGURES PROVIDED BY CITY OF BOSTON ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT, REPRESENT UNOFFICIAL TOTALS.

Mission Hill								
UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT								
TURNOUT								
Ward/Precinct ↻	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/8	
	31.5%	21.3%	19.9%	23.6%	23.8%	28.1%	32.9%	
RESULTS FOR MAYOR								
Ward/Precinct ↻	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/8	
ANNISA ESSAIBI GEORGE	92	58	62	108	62	84	115	
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	29%	27%	29%	24%	19%	21%	16%	
MICHELLE WU	234	173	153	361	257	324	623	
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	71%	73%	71%	76%	81%	79%	84%	

SEE PAGE 3 FOR LOCAL VOTE TOTALS FOR AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS

109 Brookline Developer Proposes Expanding Community Center



A rendering of the lower floors of 109 Brookline Ave.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

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

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

IQHQ would set aside 2,600 square feet of ground-level space, accessible from Overland Street, for the FCC. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), will discuss the potential expansion at its meeting on Dec. 13.

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

At the Nov. 3 CAC meeting, Will Ashton from IQHQ called the plan a community partnership, mentioning Emmanuel College, Quincy College, and Bunker Hill Community College as potential partners. This could open new opportunities for the FCC to collaborate with local schools and other organizations.

During the meeting, CAC members asked about local control of the programming, who would pay for the utilities, and FCC's financial stability and current board membership.

In an interview, FCC director Robert Kordenbrock mentioned positive conversations last spring with IQHQ, even before the CAC first met. IQHQ contributed some funding for the Center's 2021 operations.

Kordenbrock also shared the current FCC board list. The officers are Kerry Do, president, Georgina D'Cruz, vice president, and Kristen Mobilia, treasurer. At-large members are Councilor Kenzie Bok (*ex officio*), Sarah Castle, and Molly Griffin of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. In an email, Kordenbrock said a nominating process for adding new members has begun.

The FCC currently operates out of the Viridian at 1282 Boylston from an open, 2,700-square-foot "living room" with space for art exhibits, public computers, and moveable arrangements for seating. A moveable wall can divide the full kitchen area from the larger space. However, using the room simultaneously for two events can be difficult. Kordenbrock is the Center's second director; founding leader Daniella Torres left in 2017. The Center is not municipally funded like community centers in other neighborhoods.

At a Nov. 8 public meeting, members of the public asked more questions about the future community space on Overland. Kathleen McBride wondered about a second FCC facility and how the life-sciences workforce training would serve current residents. She felt that the current FCC space is underutilized. Mobilia said the new location could operate as a great collaborative space and suggested adopting a wider lens for what the Fenway could become as it gains population, with more families expected to move in.

Councilor Bok warned the meeting not to fritter away life-science training opportunities in separate silos. She mentioned that Samuels & Associates has promised similar programming. She expressed concern that without a focus on Boston residents, lab developments could increase inequity in the city. She applauded the plan for a ground-floor community space connected to local stakeholders.

In June, West Fens resident Leslie Pond asked in a comment letter about the possibility for a daycare and afterschool activity center that could benefit the community and workers in the building. She suggested it could be locally owned by entrepreneurs who are women and/or people of color.

The BPDA scheduled three virtual meetings in November for the 109 Brookline Avenue proposal within a two-week span. Project manager Eddie Carmody promised that the final public meeting on Dec. 13 would focus on the mitigation and benefits discussion removed from the CAC's Nov. 17 agenda.

Another potential topic for the December discussion involves concerns about vehicular

and nonmotorized transportation. The size of the project's underground garage has emerged as a common theme in the BPDA-sponsored meetings and public comments. Letters submitted by CAC members and others, including Bok, asked for a reduction in the size of the four-level garage. Initially proposed for 220 spaces, the current proposal calls for

a capacity of 216 cars, clearly not a major change. IQHQ senior vice president David Surette committed to no game-day parking at the Nov. 3 CAC meeting and promised "to disincentivize" public parking for Lansdowne Street events. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

KICKING THE TIRES ON PARCEL 3

Across Tremont Street from the Boston Police Department Headquarters lies a seven-acre piece of land known as Parcel 3. The BPDA recently released a new request for proposals (RFP) for developing the site. Several years ago, a New Jersey-based mall developer and its partner, Roxbury's National Center for Afro-American Artists, looked ready to take on the project, but financial uncertainties intervened. Then the BPDA rewrote the RFP, forbidding relocation of the Stony Brook Connector beneath former Hampshire Street, specifying that two-thirds of any new housing be income-restricted, and encouraging proposals for life science lab space. On Nov. 17, BPDA Senior Real Estate Officer Morgan McDaniel conducted a walking tour (pictured) for prospective bidders and other interested parties. Responses to the RFP are due Feb. 2.

As Coyotes Move In, Advice on Coexisting

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

FENWAY CDC IS HIRING!

WE'RE LOOKING for a community organizer to strengthen residents' leadership capacity and develop strategies for FCDC campaigns. Our campaigns focus on local issues related to housing, public transportation, and new development. Candidates must have a deep commitment to social justice and anti-oppressive practices.

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

Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community

FENWAY HEALTH

We Believe That Everyone Deserves Access To High-Quality, Affordable Health Care.

Has your employment situation recently changed?
Are you currently uninsured?

If you live in MA, we can help you enroll in insurance. We can also talk to you about our sliding fee schedule. Call us at 617.927.6000. No one is denied care based on ability to pay.

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

2021 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The Fenway									UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT								
TURNOUT																	
Ward/Precinct ↻	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	5/2	5/2a	5/10	21/1									
	21.3%	15.8%	16.7%	18.0%	15.6%	16.4%	15.1%	13.8%									
RESULTS FOR AT-LARGE COUNCILORS																	
MICHAEL FLAHERTY*	168	108	130	115	144	104	157	181									
ALTHEA GARRISON	93	61	68	64	74	64	82	84									
DAVID HALBERT	160	114	132	108	141	110	131	153									
RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE*	169	129	153	125	197	119	159	206									
JULIA MEJÍA*	201	162	192	151	221	137	183	236									
CARLA MONTEIRO	114	102	119	103	139	91	112	160									
ERIN MURPHY*	98	58	55	52	61	40	85	98									
BRIDGET NEE-WALSH	60	51	46	41	61	34	70	83									

* THESE FOUR CANDIDATES RECEIVED THE HIGHEST VOTE TOTALS CITYWIDE AND WERE ELECTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL.
RESULTS PROVIDED BY CITY OF BOSTON ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT. THESE ARE UNOFFICIAL TOTALS.

Mission Hill									UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT								
TURNOUT																	
Ward/Precinct ↻	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/8										
	31.5%	21.3%	19.9%	23.6%	23.8%	28.1%	32.9%										
RESULTS FOR AT-LARGE COUNCILORS																	
MICHAEL FLAHERTY*	146	97	98	197	105	112	273										
ALTHEA GARRISON	67	44	43	57	59	56	149										
DAVID HALBERT	89	94	69	154	135	167	302										
RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE*	97	88	83	147	172	160	354										
JULIA MEJÍA*	142	99	112	235	183	244	407										
CARLA MONTEIRO	73	62	53	151	136	151	293										
ERIN MURPHY*	54	43	37	59	52	50	147										
BRIDGET NEE-WALSH	41	35	34	32	27	45	92										

FENWAY HIGH STUDENT SERVES AS ADVISOR TO MICHELLE WU

BY KELSEY BRUUN

Marcus McNeill holds leadership positions within Fenway High School student government and in a statewide service-oriented organization. Now, the 12th grader can add mayoral advisor to his resume. McNeill, 18, lives in Dorchester. Each morning he commutes to school in Mission Hill via the Red and Orange Lines. McNeill is the 12th grade’s class representative for the student government. Outside of school, he works for Project 351, serving as a mentor for a cohort of eighth graders from around Massachusetts. McNeill has been involved with the organization for years and currently serves as a resource to the eighth graders as they work on various service projects. “[Working with Project 351] has

shown me how powerful youth voice can be and how powerful young people are,” said McNeill. Currently, McNeill’s voice is one of the most influential in Boston. He served on Michelle Wu’s transition team and continues to advise the mayor on education policy. In early 2020, McNeill reached out to all at-large city councilors to share his thoughts on attending Boston Public Schools during the pandemic. “[During the pandemic] there was a disconnect from my peers and my school,” explained McNeill. “I definitely agreed [with the decision of] keeping us out of school from March until the end of the year. We were learning about this new virus. I appreciate BPS’s being open for the new school year.” This initial outreach to Wu and her colleagues led to an advisory role

during the mayoral campaign. He was involved in framing the education policy Wu released during the campaign. Once she was elected mayor, McNeill was officially appointed to the transition team. The team has continued advising the mayor in the early months of her term. “Now we advise on her policy,” explained McNeill. “My position is pretty special, where I am the only student. I think it’s pretty historic. Any decision that is made on education in the city, the mayor should be talking to students and teachers first. We feel the effects way more than anyone else.” McNeill thinks one of the most pressing issues facing Boston Public Schools is infrastructure and facilities. “We have a lot of older buildings in the city of Boston. A lot of schools are closing or merging together. Sometimes buildings can’t hold all those students,” said McNeill. “When I was in middle school, there weren’t toiletries in the

bathroom. There should be no reason why a student has to ask a teacher for more toilet paper in the bathroom. We need to make improvements to schools so students have air conditioning and that the heaters are turned on on time.” McNeill has firsthand knowledge of the cost of making these improvements, as he previously served on a board of 15 students advising the BPS superintendent. Each student was assigned a mentor, and he worked closely with the BPS chief financial officer. McNeill cites “tackling the budget from an equity standpoint” as one of his top priorities. “That is still my passion to this day,” he said. McNeill is also committed to amplifying other student voices. “I value student input and I encourage students to reach out to me so I can pass along their input to the mayor,” said McNeill. “I want to get students a seat at the table.” Kelsey Bruun is the editor of The Fenway News.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCUS MCNEILL

Marcus McNeill



Virtual Public Meeting

2 Charlesgate West

Wednesday, December 15
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3oE6q9l
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 721 8909

Project Proponent:
Scape North America

Project Description:
The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 2 Charlesgate W Project in the Fenway. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Project Notification Form. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public. The proponent is proposing to construct a 254,000 square feet of mixed-use building, comprised of 400 residential housing units, 3,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and 75 below grade parking spaces.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本会议的内容，您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务，请通过以下方式进行联系：(caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov) (617-918-4280) 会议定于 2021 年 12月15日 (2021/12/15)，请在会议前5天内申请口译服务。

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，本會議的信息對您來說是至關重要的。可以提供翻譯服務以傳達本會議的內容，您無需承擔任何額外費用。如果您需要翻譯服務，請通過以下方式進行聯繫：(caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov) (617-918-4280) 會議定於2021年xx月12日15，請在會議前5天内申請口譯服務。

mail to: **Caitlin Coppinger**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4280
email: caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
01.07.21

[BostonPlans.org](https://bostonplans.org) |  @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Meet Our Newest Volunteer



PHOTO: ANDREW FARNITANO

It wasn’t in the job description, but our editor went ahead and recruited a new member of The Fenway News family—and her own. Editor Kelsey Bruun and her husband Andrew Farnitano welcomed Tessa Mae Bruun Farnitano into the world on October 14. We think this little charmer has a proofreader’s eye and look forward to her help on production in the very near future.

FENS VIEWS

Michelle Wu and Sustainability

BY CAROL LASKY, RYAN HATCHER, AND LESLIE POND

The election of Mayor Michelle Wu heralds a bold commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and innovation across the city. Wu’s plans for a Boston Green New Deal & Just Recovery encompass actions that tackle climate change and recovery from the pandemic in ways that center racial, economic, and climate and environmental justice, enhance public health, and build social resiliency. These actions can have tremendous impact on several priority concerns of the Fenway community.

Development

The rapid development of the West Fens, particularly along Brookline Avenue and Boylston Street, threatens to bring unsustainable changes to the neighborhood. We are hopeful that our new mayor’s focus on housing, transit, and environmental equity will translate into more sustainable development. Developers should capitalize on the Fenway’s proximity to the commuter rail, Green Line, buses (including the 55 route, which needs to be fully restored!),

and upgraded bike lanes, rather than citing outdated BPDA codes to exponentially add parking to the neighborhood.

We call on Mayor Wu’s City Hall to place more emphasis on shared streets by expanding and protecting bike lanes, widening sidewalks, and finding innovative ways to encourage employers to take advantage of public transit. New developments should also be vastly more sustainable in their design. The technology already exists to build (profitable!) carbon-neutral, or near-neutral, housing, office, and lab space.

Boston won’t meet its ambitious 2030 goals if new developments aren’t at the forefront of sustainability. We envision the Fenway growing responsibly, while also maintaining its character and vitality as one of America’s great walkable neighborhoods for decades to come.

Housing

Fenway’s resident leaders, community organizations, and elected officials have been at the forefront of the fight for affordable housing. Wage increases have not kept pace with housing costs. We applaud Mayor Wu’s proposal to de-commodify housing by expanding cooperatives and community land trusts, which have the potential to significantly boost existing housing-stability efforts.

In addition, we support the mayor’s blueprint to stabilize rents, create more affordable housing, and expand homeownership opportunities, which would offer welcome relief to many residents. Recent data from the BPDA, Boston Pads, and Apartment List show that the Fenway has one of the lowest percentages (less than

15 percent) of owner-occupied units in Boston, with an average rent of \$2,202 per month for a one-bedroom apartment, and that 50 percent of Boston renters spend 30 percent or more of their household income on rent. This imbalance adversely impacts our diverse residents, many of them students and elderly. Ever-rising housing costs threaten the stability of neighborhoods and families.

Food

The pandemic has significantly increased food insecurity in the Fenway, as evidenced at the busy Fenway Cares and Lifeboat food distribution sites each week. These support services, which didn’t exist here before the pandemic, underscore the ongoing and urgent need to address food insecurity among our neighbors. We support the proposal to expand good food purchasing and urban agriculture, along with strengthened efforts toward local food production, sustainable environmental practices, healthy and nutritious ingredients, humane animal treatment, and fair labor standards. This proposal will also help decrease our vulnerability to supply chain ruptures caused by the pandemic and climate change.

Environment

The Fenway is home to a historic environmental-restoration project initiated decades ago by landscape-preservation advocates, following a series of disastrous floods. It brought federal, state, City of Boston, and Town of Brookline resources together to advance the shared goal of protecting our treasured 3.5-mile urban waterway, the Emerald Necklace it traverses, as well as nearby private, academic, cultural, and institutional properties. The Muddy River Restoration Project, now in its second phase, is a multi-faceted engineering undertaking that will help mitigate the risk of future floods, enhance aquatic and riparian habitats, improve water quality, and rehabilitate the landscape with safe, accessible, green parklands along the river banks.

Once the dredging, invasives removal, and related path restoration and landscaping work have been completed over the next few years, the maintenance of the Muddy River and its parks will require continued support and concerted commitment from all the partners. In addition, projects like the Charlesgate Park revitalization—which will provide more green stormwater infrastructure for the Muddy River and turn a long-isolated area into a Fenway-friendly park—need to be nurtured. Mayor Wu can lead the way by placing the Muddy River at the center of her call for environmental protection and robust, neighborhood-by-neighborhood response to climate change.

For these and other priorities—and for the health and happiness of our community—we enthusiastically look forward to Mayor Wu’s leadership.

Carol Lasky and Ryan Hatcher live in the East Fens. Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

’TIS THE SEASON AT 401 PARK



Although you might not call it a “winter wonderland,” Time Out Market at 401 Park takes advantage of the season with a series of holiday-themed events this month.

- SAT, DEC. 4:** visit the Boston Women’s Holiday Market from 12pm to 5pm, to support small businesses like Peshtemal Collection, Avu Jewelry, Louis Sel LLC, Vibes Candles, Lady Jane Maker, Nabia Designs, Sarah Dudek Design, Itsmine Boston, Juniper and Buttercup. The event will

also feature live music. 1–4pm.

- SAT, DEC 18:** You thought Santa only comes to the mall? He’ll be here 10:30-11:30am and eager to have his picture taken with children. Live holiday music will continue until 1pm.
- FRI, DEC. 31:** Time Out Market hosts a New Year’s Eve party. The ticketed event features entertainment from Cirque de Light performers, a roaming magician, live music, a tarot card reader, a caricature artist, a 360 photo booth, and a champagne toast. Tickets come with a \$60 event

card you can use at any Time Out vendor from 8pm to 11pm. After ringing in the New Year, guests can enjoy late-night bites. Tickets \$90, available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-party-tickets-200937428257?aff=ebdssbdestsear>.

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

THE Fenway News

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

FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mary Ann Brogan • Steve Chase
Helen Cox • Mandy Kapica • Ruth Khowais
Alison Pultinas • Steve Wolf

EDITOR: Kelsey Bruun
DESIGN/PRODUCTION MANAGER: Steve Wolf
WRITERS: Alison Barnet, Mary Ann Brogan, Will Brownsberger, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, Taylor Driscoll, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Lisa Fay, Marie Fukuda, Kelly Garrity, Elizabeth Gillis, Katherine Greenough, Steve Harnish, Parker James, Ruth Khowais, Shirley Kressel, Kristen Lauerman, Joanne McKenna, Letta Neely, Leslie Pond, Susan Povak, Michael Prentky, Alison Pultinas, Mallory Rohrig, Matti Kniva Spencer, Susannah Sudborough, Mat Thall, Chris Viveiros, Steve Wolf
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Steve Chase, Patrick O’Connor, Alison Pultinas, Steve Wolf
CALENDAR: Ruth Khowais, Alison Pultinas, Steve Wolf
PROOFREADERS: Mary Ann Brogan, Steve Chase, Ruth Khowais, Alison Pultinas
BUSINESS MANAGER: Janet Malone
DISTRIBUTION: Della Gelzer, Aquilla Manna, Lauren Dewey Platt, Reggie Wynn

The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you’d like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, distribute, or sell ads, please contact us at **The Fenway News, PO Box 230277, Astor Station Boston, MA 02123 fenwaynews@gmail.com www.fenwaynews.org**

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$30/YEAR (\$20 FOR LIMITED INCOME)
©2019 FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION, INC.

“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** <

Our next issue will appear on **Friday, January 7.**

> **DEADLINE** <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, December 31.**

FAMILY-OWNED AND -OPERATED FOR 50 YEARS—AND COUNTING!

Mass Ave Locksmith

Lockouts ★ Master Key Systems
High-Security Key Systems
Mailbox Keys ★ Keys Made by Code
Door Closers ★ Deadbolts

125 St. Botolph St.
617-247-9779
MassAveLock@verizon.net

Open 9-3, Monday-Friday

PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

GET OUT THE EARPLUGS: DEMOLITION BEGINS FOR NEW W. FENS APARTMENTS



Site clearance began last month for the 60-80 Kilmarnock project that will bring 425 units of housing and ground-floor retail to a substantial portion of the block bounded by Kilmarnock, Queensberry, Jersey, and Peterborough streets in the West Fens. The rubble here comes from the garage on Queensberry Street formerly owned by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.



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

The board of the Fenway News Association has decided to return to print with the January 2022 issue of *The Fenway News*:

- **DISTRIBUTION** will look somewhat different as we streamline the number of places you can pick up the paper. See the partial list of pick-up sites below.
 - **COVID:** If the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus forces shutdowns within the next few weeks, we may delay our plans for printing.
 - **WEBSITE UPGRADES:** We'll be working to make our website more stable and user-friendly this year.
- None of this could have happened without the support of you, our

readers. We launched a funding campaign a little over a year ago to pay off a long-standing debt to our printer. We did it, raising more than \$17,000 through **GoFundMe** and donations made through FENSFund (for those who wanted a tax deduction). We're now debt-free and are exploring new ways to increase income and cut costs.

THANK YOU—WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Look for us early next year at the Y and Whole Foods (East Fens); Star Market and the Fenway Community Center. (West Fens); and the Parker Hill Library and Mike's Donuts in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

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

Students at Mission Grammar School got a visit from a local celebrity—Charlesbank Cooperative Apartments resident Enoch Woodhouse, 94, one of the last living Tuskegee Airmen. The all-Black unit of combat pilots earned a stellar reputation in European skies during World War II—even as they faced official segregation and unofficial harassment in the armed forces. The *Globe* reported that Woodhouse lives near the school, whose fifth and sixth grades had studied the airmen. According to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Jimmy Fund's marquee money-making event, the Pan-Mass Challenge bike ride and related events, raised \$64 million this year. **A *Globe* article on hospital workers who refuse to take the COVID vaccine revealed vaccination rates for the two biggest LMA players. At Mass General Brigham, the article said, only 0.6% of 80,000 workers remained unvaccinated; that translates to 458 facing termination. Beth Israel Lahey reported 153 employees "on leave" and at risk of losing their jobs if not vaccinated by mid-December.** One final LMA item (patience, children, this is the last one)...The Brigham announced that it will enroll a small group of participants in trials of a nasal vaccine designed to slow the progression of Alzheimer's in people with early symptoms. The trial will focus on determining whether the vaccine is safe enough to move on to larger-scale tests of effectiveness.

Ahead of schedule, the MBTA has opened two new stations on Comm. Ave. west of the B.U. Bridge. They replace four closely spaced stations as part of plan to speed travel on the Green Line's B Branch. Wasabi Technologies, a cloud-storage company, bought the naming rights to the new college-football bowl that will be played for the first time at Fenway Park on December 29. Wasabi has headquarters at the Prudential Center. **Ed Bullins, an influential black playwright, died in his Roxbury home. Bullins achieved critical success in the 1970s and 80s, and later taught in Northeastern's theater department.** Six area organizations landed on the *Globe* magazine's annual ranking of the top 100 women-led businesses in the state. The Commonwealth Institute compiled the rankings based on budget, workforce size, diversity, and other factors. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, led by Laurie Glimcher, topped the list. Other enterprises charting included Simmons University (#17, Lynn Perry Wooten); Joslin Diabetes Center (#63, Roberta Herman); Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries (#68, Joanne Hilferty); BlueHub Capital (#71, Elyse D. Cherry); and Whittier Street Health Center (#72, Fredericka M. Williams).

Count ICYMI as an enthusiastic fan of the new temporary bike lanes on the Harvard (aka MIT) Bridge. The state plans to make them permanent.

• Tiffani Faison giveth, Tiffani Faison taketh away: Taketh: The Fenway-based chef/restauranteur closed five-year-old Tiger Mama, a Thai eatery at Kilmarnock and Boylston streets. She told the *Globe* Food section that

**EATS
BEAT**

she has plans for a new restaurant in the same space, opening sometime next

year. Giveth: nearby Orfana, Fiason's Italian restaurant, has reopened. • Café Sauvage has set up shop at 25 Mass. Ave., between Beacon and Marlboro. It serves weekday breakfast and lunch, all-day brunch on weekends, and dinners Tue-Sat. The menu blends a sturdy French foundation with of-the-moment forms and ingredients, like banh mi, açai bowls, and Nutella crepes.

Neighborhood Newsline

Dec. 7 Community Meeting Will Address 55 Bus Campaign

On Dec. 7, Fenway CDC organizer Cassie White will facilitate a community meeting on the future of the 55 bus route. The meeting agenda includes results of a rider survey conducted in the Fenway. 70 people have responded so far (and there's still time to weigh in at tinyurl.com/FenwayBusSurvey). The campaign to restore service levels is supported by Operation Peace, the Fenway Civic Association, and the CDC.

The MBTA has not yet released its winter bus schedule; since the T eliminated the service during the pandemic, then restored it partially, changes in the schedule have become a perennial issue. The Dec. 7 meeting will focus on next steps in the campaign.

In news from the T's Bus Network Redesign Project, planners working within existing resources (financing, finite number of drivers, limited layover space, and garage capacity) plan to roll out a draft network map showing new routes in early 2022. Their stated goals include potentially reducing the number of bus routes but providing more frequent service.

In potentially good news for Fenway residents, a presentation shared at a Better Bus Project meeting in October included Fenway/Kenmore on the list of top regional destinations. the T's planners also insist on a focus on transit critical populations defined as low-income riders, people of color, seniors, or people with disabilities. All of these factors should have some bearing on the future of the 55 route.

In addition to the CDC rider survey, Fenway Sports Group has said it will fund a study of the 55 route that examines the line's challenges and potential route variations. Its results would be useful for the neighborhood and should be shared as soon as they're available.

A meeting link is included in the community meetings section on page 8.

Bok's Bill Would Expand City's Definition of Historic Landmarks

On Nov. 17, the Boston City Council unanimously endorsed the Councilor Kenzie Bok's home-rule petition to revise the definition used for designating official city landmarks.

The minimal change—substituting a comma for a preposition in the definition—allows naming sites with local significance as Boston landmarks. Since 1975, a building or site in Boston needed to show regional or national significance to earn designation as a landmark. This sets a much higher bar for landmarking than other cities use and likely limits designation to known historical locations. That makes it harder to protect many buildings important to the history of historically Black or immigrant neighborhoods.

Assuming the state legislature approves the petition, the new wording would likely go into effect by July 1, 2022.

A compromise worked out with the Greater Boston Real Estate Board since the first hearing on the issue last winter exempts projects in the pipeline that secure building permits or zoning variances before July 1 from challenges from preservationists. Projects in planned development areas (PDAs) will be exempt for up to two years after July 1.

Institutions Add Key Staff Members

In late October, Simmons University announced that bec rollins, an accomplished visual journalist and veteran communications professional (who does not capitalize her name), will serve as chief marketing officer and Beth Kramer, a strategic fundraising executive, will serve as chief development officer.

In mid-November, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy announced Jen Mergel's new position as director of experience and cultural partnerships. As a guest curator, Mergel organized the installation *Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya* on the Emerald Necklace in 2018. Since then she has worked with the Conservancy to steer next year's Olmsted Now: Greater Boston's Olmsted Bicentennial.

Berklee Alums Snag 10 Latin Grammys, 40 Grammy Noms

In November, three Berklee alumni won a total of six Latin Grammy Awards. Dominican artist Juan Luis Guerra (class of 1982) won Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album and Best Tropical Song. Guerra also won Best Arrangement and Best Long-Form Music Video.

Lewis Pickett (2009), won Best Engineered Album. Venezuelan pianist Krithyan Benitez (2010) won Best Classical Album for Latin American Classics, with a release featuring music from Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Mexico. Since the awards began in 2000, 48 Berklee alumni have received 114 Latin Grammys.

More Berklee names pepper the nominations list for the 64th annual Grammys, with 34 alumni receiving 40 nominations across 22 categories, including Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Alternative Music Album, Best Metal Performance, and Best Bluegrass Album, among others.

As It Gets Bigger, FGS Looks to Improve Governance

BY TIM NEY

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

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

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

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

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

Here is a summary of the recommendations.

Administrative and Procedural Recommendations

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

and other special events). There needs to be clearer position descriptions for leadership roles within FGS, including a description of the skills and experiences needed to execute each role successfully. A preliminary list of

prior to the election for the FGS membership to get to know the nominees (e.g., the skills, experiences, vision and ideas, etc. they bring). One possibility could be to begin to introduce the candidates at FENSfest in

staff. I think it’s worth thinking about hiring an Executive Director and transforming the board from a working board to an oversight/ governance board. I think the organization is just too big and too complex to run smoothly with the constant churning of leadership that comes with a working board. I can imagine that there would be funders out there who might be interested in helping the organization to professionalize.”

Recommendations Requiring Amendments to the Governing Documents

- **EXPANSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Given the size of the FGS membership (400-plus members) and a relatively small voting board of five members, it is recommended that the number of voting members on the Executive Board be expanded from 5 voting to 11. Expanding the board will allow for greater diversity in representation and perspectives within the FGS Executive Board of Directors and allow for better distribution of the workload. Total voting members should remain an odd number.
- **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR:** The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee should be appointed by majority of the Executive Board of Directors to ensure greater fairness and equity in FGS’s nomination and election processes.
- **GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:** A new standing committee, with the chairperson appointed by majority of the Board of Area Directors, should be formed to ensure greater accountability and integrity, and adherence to FGS’s governing documents, policies, and procedures. This recommendation emerged from our research, but is not specific to the charge of the NEW. It was previously proposed to the membership by the Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Tim Ney lives in the West Fens.



The 1976 FENSfest

candidates should be presented by FENSfest so that the membership has sufficient time to get to know the candidates.

- **VETTING:** The Nominating Committee should conduct interviews with each nominee and provide clear, written expectations of the duties for the elected positions to nominees/potential candidates. In addition to the skills and knowledge that are specific for particular roles, the vetting of nominees should also include the ability to work as a team and collaboratively with others.
- **BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:** Following the annual election of the Executive Board of Directors and the Board of Area Directors, there needs to be greater investment in board and team development, particularly in improving skills in communication and conflict management/ resolution working with fellow board members and in engaging with members of the FGS.
- **THE SLATE AND CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES:** The Nominating Committee needs to establish greater clarity and a written criteria for selecting the slate of Executive Board members. Additionally, there need to be additional opportunities

- September.
 - **PROCEDURES FOR GREATER CLARITY AND FUNCTIONALITY:** Provide clearer “position descriptions” for the various roles and develop clearer procedures for the Nominating Committee. One survey respondent wrote, “There should be a written set of procedures for the nomination and election to provide consistency from year to year, committee to committee.”
 - **PAID STAFF POSITION FOR THE FENWAY GARDEN SOCIETY:** Create a staff position (e.g., executive director) to provide administrative continuity and relieve volunteer board members from day-to-day operations of the Victory Gardens.
- One FGS member wrote in the survey, “It might be time for the FGS to have professional

PLAN AFOOT TO TRANSFORM SIMMONS LAND BETWEEN BROOKLINE AVE. AND PILGRIM RD.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

In 1905-06, when Architect Guy Lowell designed the refectory and two dorms for Simmons Female College (the school’s first name), the residential campus between Pilgrim Road and Brookline Avenue didn’t exist. However, one of the two elm trees between South Hall and Alumnae Hall (the former refectory) did, and it still stands in the quiet courtyard. In all, three buildings designed by Lowell—who also designed the main building of the MFA and the Fensgate Cooperative building on Hemenway Street—remain on the site.

Today, other large trees—oaks and lindens—gracefully frame a traditional campus green. Along Brookline Avenue there are red maples, and on Pilgrim Road, ornamental cherries. Unfortunately, ash trees that appear to be infected with the emerald ash borer are also present on school property.

In November, the development firm Skanska USA filed a letter of intent (LOI) with the BPDA to redevelop the six acres of the

residential campus as part of the One Simmons master plan, which would move all student facilities to the academic campus south of Emmanuel College. According to the LOI, the redevelopment “will reinvigorate a long, dormant, gated off stretch of Brookline Avenue” with



four buildings that will total 1.75 million square feet of mixed uses. “The project’s focus on creating publicly accessible open space will serve as a welcome contrast to its cloistered past.”

Fenway residents will remember Skanska for developing the Harlo apartment tower on

Boylston, on the former Burger King site. When Simmons’s Park Science building on Avenue Louis Pasteur is demolished, construction for a new residential tower begins. A ground lease that would allow redevelopment of the Brookline/Pilgrim Road campus will be signed when the tower is completed. The BPDA has the LOI on its web page for the “305 Brookline Ave. Mixed-Use Project.”

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

SENIOR EVENTS

The Senior Center hasn’t yet set a date for reopening physically. Visit www.operationpeaceboston.org for updates. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- Dec. 2/9/16/30 at 11:30am: COFFEE AND CONVERSATION.
- December 14 at 12pm: HOLIDAY BINGO. Please RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 267-5637.
- December 28 at 12pm: NEW YEARS TRIVIA on Zoom.
- December 29 at 12pm: CURIOSITY KIT DISCUSSION on Zoom.

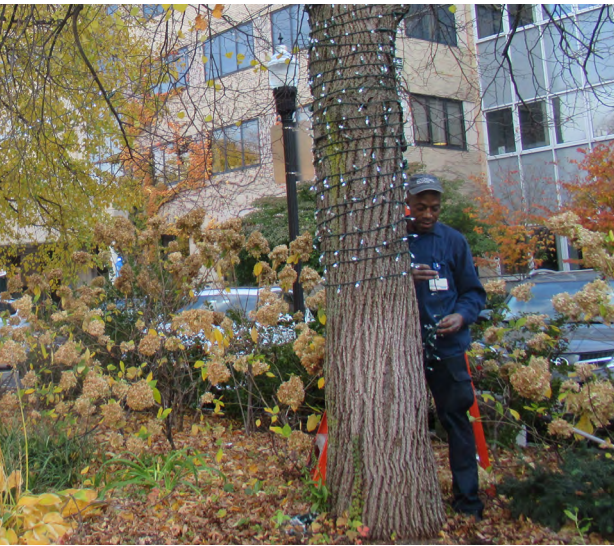
@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org for more details. Masks will be required, regardless of vaccination status.

- Sat., Dec. 4 at 11:30am: Children are invited to CELEBRATE HANUKKAH at the FCC by lighting menorah candles, sampling traditional treats, and making clay dreidels.
- Sat., Dec. 18, 11am–3pm: JThe FENWAY POP-UP HOLIDAY BAZAAR, a chance to shop for locally produced and handcrafted gifts while enjoying hot chocolate and a craft activity.

Let There Be (Holiday) Lights

On Nov. 18, Alonzo Smith of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center’s facilities department took advantage of unusually warm weather to string holiday lights in front of Beth Israel Deaconess East Campus buildings on Brookline Avenue.



The Arts

A Quilt Show Built Around Stories Tells One About the MFA, Too

BY STEVE WOLF

You might not think twice about the anodyne title the MFA settled on for “Fabric of a Nation: Quilt Stories,” but pay attention to the word *stories*. The show tells the stories of 50 varied quilts and how they fit together, but it also tells us a lot about how a staid cultural powerhouse has struggled with its mission and role in the community over the last few years.

The quilts

The show’s undeniable star is Bisa Butler’s “To God and Truth,” a 2019 composition of pieced, appliquéd, and quilted fabrics. It transforms an 1899 black-and-white photo of the Morris Brown College baseball team into a portrait buzzing with color and vivid patterns. Atlanta-based Morris Brown was one of the first colleges built by and for Black Americans (its motto gives the work its title). Butler’s dazzling re-imagining makes the athletes almost godlike—and forces us to see them as people. In a video, Butler explains her methods and intentions for the work as she sits surrounded by bins and bolts of bright fabric.

“To God and Truth” occupies the second gallery of the exhibit and introduces a largely chronological display of quilts dating back to the 1700s. Some of the oldest pulse with bright colors as well as astonishing needlework. Reaching the mid-1800s viewers will start seeing familiar patterns in quilts made by individuals, groups, and even small workshops that began using punch card-driven looms to turn out elaborate and repeating patterns.

In the section devoted to the post-Civil War era, some quilts appear out of chronological sequence for thematic reasons. “Strange Fruit II,” a 2020 quilt by Carolyn



To God and Truth, 2019, Bisa Butler

Mazloomi, confronts the extra-official violence of the segregation regime that took hold in South in the 1880s. Mazloomi creates a stark, black-and-white image of multiple lynching victims hanging from a tree. Singer Billie Holiday—who introduced the controversial anti-lynching anthem “Strange Fruit”—looms over the scene; her hand, pressed expressively to her chest, appears to cradle one of the victims.

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

course, made her quilts 60 years or more before Matisse put scissors to paper. In the 20th century quilting won increasing recognition as “legitimate” art. A dazzling pinwheel revolving around a star—made for the 1933 World’s Fair—is irresistibly joyous, but a few feet away, a more conventional quilt strikes a somber note: it contains the names of the Japanese American children who made it in a World War II internment camp. In the final gallery, the quilts become self-consciously arty and overtly political. In 2012’s “Camouflage,” avant-garde filmmaker Sabrina Gschwandtner stitches strips of old educational films into a classic “Sunshine and Shadow” quilt pattern. The work looks just like a quilt, but the artist’s statement explains the shadows hidden in one of the films, propaganda for a textile company that regularly abused workers and violated environmental laws. A startling omission haunts this gallery: In a period where quilts became political, the show fails to mention “The Names Project,” the crowd-sourced quilt begun in the late 1980s to memorialize people lost to AIDS.

The stories

Each quilt in this exhibit has a story. Sam Adams’s mother, for example, stitched a swaddling quilt at age seven; she later wrapped her newborn son in it, giving us the image of a future revolutionary firebrand surrounded by delicate flowers. The show also wants us to see its 50 quilts as a narrative arc showing how the United States took shape in the 18th and 19th centuries, politically and socially, and what it’s become in the 21st.

Woven into those two kinds of stories, the curators tell a third one about the economic, political, and social systems that gave us these quilts. Here we see the MFA, historically tied to elite white families, struggling to find the right voice for an era of economic inequity and racial reckoning. It suggests a new commitment to talking about art differently than in the past. We learn, for example, that imported fabrics used for the earliest quilts would have been luxuries only wealthy households could afford, thanks to networks of “17th-century globalism.” Almost invariably that meant they had a stake in the slave trade.

An elaborate, 18th-century quilt provides a case in point: a wealthy family bought the pricey imported fabric with a lustrous finish. The cover’s deep-blue color comes from indigo dye, which came to these shores with enslaved Africans. Further, slaves and indentured servants who worked as domestic servants would have washed and folded the quilt over generations so that it survived to hang in this show.

These explanations might look like a performance of wokeness, but taken together they tell us yet another story, of the MFA pulling away from old ways of explaining art. Not long ago, this museum—all museums—just wanted us to admire pretty objects on display. “Fabric of A Nation” shows the MFA working to broaden the lens through which it frames and explains its collection.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. “Fabric of A Nation” runs through Jan. 17.

EKUA HOLMES’S ILLUSTRATIONS FEEL LIKE QUILTS’ CLOSE COUSINS

BY STEVE WOLF

I wandered into “Paper Stories, Layered Dreams: The Art of Eku Holmes” on the same day that I visited the quilts. It was an accident, but this jewel of an exhibit has some surprising ties to “Fabric of A Nation.”

You may remember Holmes as the Roxbury artist who planted thousands of sunflowers on the MFA’s front lawn this summer, an extension of her “Roxbury Sunflower Project.” (See our August issue, page 6.) A MassArt grad accomplished in multiple media, she’s recently conquered a new



The Magician by Eku Holmes

field: children’s book illustration, the work the forms the bulk of “Paper Stories.”

Holmes builds simple yet elegant images in a way that recalls the panels and patchwork of quilts. Otherwise flat images gain subtle depth as she collages in layers of paper, fabric, and found objects. Some of the artwork showcases stories and figures from African American history—Thurgood Marshall, Billie Holiday, or Ruby Bridges, the first Black child to attend a desegregated elementary school in the South, despite violent community opposition. Beyond adding visual and tactile depth, her collages sometimes comment on a picture’s subject, like a newspaper article about the

Civil Rights movement fashioned into a bridge carrying a line of protesters. Holmes’s Roxbury childhood inspires another group of works not necessarily created as illustrations. But these also brim with rich colors and obvious affection for their young subjects. Two site-specific works honor Arkansas relatives, whom she visited in the summer. Her grandfather, Commado Hendrix, gave her a box of family photos that fired young Holmes’s artistic imagination and interest in her roots. Her Aunt Mary Lois Maxwell, Hendrix’s daughter, dreamt of city life but remained stuck on a farm; Holmes offers her portrait as an ennobling tribute. Both set traditional portraits within three-dimensional collages, framings made of things like cotton bolls, a book stand, and old letters that hint at each subject’s story. You might not know Holmes’s award-winning illustrations if you don’t buy children’s books. This exhibit—an unlikely but spot-on complement to “Fabric of A Nation”—should begin rectifying that and bring Holmes the wider recognition her work deserves. Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. “Paper Stories, Layered Dreams” runs through January 24.

SCULPTURE, PUBLIC-REALM IMPROVEMENTS WILL TRANSFORM IPSWICH STREET AT NEW ARTS ACADEMY

BY ALISON PULTINAS

With construction of the Arts Academy building on Ipswich Street in its final stages, a new streetscape has also begun taking shape. On Nov. 9, the Boston Art Commission approved the final design for “The Creative,” an eight-foot-tall sculpture by artists Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead that will sit in front of the building. The commissioners responded positively to revisions the artists made in a design they had presented in March. Approval came with one caveat: a request that the team consider rounding the edges of the concrete pedestal to both make it less of a tripping hazard and to “ennoble it” to complement the artistry of the sculpture, which depicts the head of a young woman. Donovan, who presented the work to the meeting, said the Arthur Fielder sculpture on the Esplanade inspired the design. The work

comprises multiple laser-cut plates of perforated stainless steel that produce a moiré pattern that changes in response to a viewer’s perspective. A committee with representatives of the school and the commission selected the artists in 2019; funding came from the Percent for Art program run by the City’s Office of Arts and Culture. Installation will include LED under-mounted nighttime lighting. According to Donovan, installation could take place as early as next spring. On Nov. 18, the Public Improvement Commission approved placement of the sculpture and a flagpole. Future plans to rebuild the street and sidewalk, led by the Public Works and Transportation departments, will add bike lanes, new streetlights, and improved crosswalks in time for the building’s completion. The Arts Academy plans to open the new building for the 2022–23 school year.



RENDERING COURTESY OF THE BOSTON ART COMMISSION

December

CALENDAR

COVID PRECAUTIONS KEY

- V** Proof of vaccination or negative PCR text within 72 hours
- M** Masking required
- R** Reduced seating capacity
- Z** Remote viewing

Through January 2 **V** **M**

New England premiere of **TEENAGE DICK** by Mike Lew, a comic re-telling of Shakespeare's *Richard III* set in a high school. Bullied because of his cerebral palsy, outsider Richard decides to exact revenge on his enemies by becoming senior class president. But all the scheming, manipulation, and revenge plots force him to ask whether it's better to be loved or feared. Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA, 527 Tremont Street. Tickets, to a live performance or a digital recording of the performance, start at \$25 at huntingtontheatre.org.

Sat, 12/4

- BRIGHAM CIRCLE TREE LIGHTING.** Join the City of Boston for the 25th annual Enchanted Trolley Tour and Tree

Lighting. One Brigham Circle. 3:30pm.

- The Boston Self Help Center, a Mission Hill nonprofit, introduces **VOLT HOCKEY** at the BCYF Tobin Community Center. Volt hockey puts three players on a rink installed on a basketball court. The sport, growing quickly in Europe and Canada, makes its US premiere here. 1:30–3:30pm.

Thu, 12/9 **V**

Berklee's Signature Series presents **SINGERS SHOWCASE: TINA TURNER—SIMPLY THE BEST.** A global cast of top Berklee vocalists, instrumentalists, arrangers, dancers, and track producers interprets Turner's 60-year career. Songs will include "Proud Mary," "River Deep, Mountain High," "What's Love Got to Do with It," "Private Dancer," and many more. Berklee Performance Center, 8pm. Tickets (\$15/20 advance, \$20/25 at the door) at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5293946/singers-showcasetina-turnersimply-the-best-boston-berklee-performance-center>.

Fri, 12/10 **Z**

Take "a sleighride-of-sleaze down the slopes of good taste and over the ski jump of religious beliefs to a snow drift of candy cane anarchy" as **JOHN WATERS** returns

with his 25th Christmas show. One thing you can be sure of: This won't be a silent night. 8pm, Berklee Performance Center. Tickets \$65 or \$130 (for VIP seats, an after-show "fireside chat" with Waters, and swag). More info at <https://www.berklee.edu/BPC>

Wed, 12/15 **Z**

Join the Boston Public Library for an online talk with **MASHA RUMOR**, award-winning journalist, immigrant, and author of *Parenting with an Accent: How Immigrants Honor Their Heritage, Navigate Setbacks, and Chart New Paths for Their Children*, which merges real stories, research and on-the-ground reporting to explore multicultural parenting and identity in the U.S. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/617056b1f67cb7430016c659>. 6pm to 7pm.

Wed, 12/15 & 12/29 **M**

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes Fenwickians to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3–5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akan-sara@fenwaycdc.org for more info.

Tue, 12/21

Join the Boston Ward 4 Democratic

Committee for its **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.** Suggested contribution \$15. Petit Robert Bistro (480 Columbus Ave). 6pm. Email ward4dems@gmail.com with questions.

Fri, 12/31

A slimmed-down **FIRST NIGHT** returns, mostly outdoors in/around Copley Square. Of special note: Handel & Haydn Society collaboration with the Museum of African-American History on the Emancipation Proclamation Concert at Trinity Church. Also, an organ concert at the Christian Science church. 12pm-12:01am. More info at www.firstnightboston.org/schedule/.

Thu, 1/6 **M** **R**

Join the Boston Public Library for a talk and book signing with Emmy Award-winning local journalist **TED REINSTEIN** discussing his book, *Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier*, which tells the story of little-known heroes who fought to end segregation in baseball. Rabb Lecture Hall, lower level of the Johnson Building at the Central Library in Copley Square. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/617328e048880941002b0765>. 6–7:30pm.

COMMUNITY meetings

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

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

TUE, DEC. 7 Join the Fenway Community Development Corporation and Fenway Civic Association for a virtual community meeting to **REIMAGINE THE CURRENT BUS ROUTES IN FENWAY.** Register for the virtual event at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/914-G8To0NMFSo69p7SHEB0>. 6pm.

WED, DEC. 8 Attend the **737 HUNTINGTON AVENUE ABUTTERS MEETING.** To attend the meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/3numSJT> and use the password 737hunt. Or call in at (408) 418-9388. 6pm.

THU, DEC. 9 The BPDA hosts the **2 CHARLESGATE WEST IMPACT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING.** The IAG will discuss the Project Notification Form. Register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_dLJ-0BE7QlyQ1Z1s4fvkpA. Contact Caitlin Coppinger at Caitlin.Coppinger@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4280 with any questions. 6pm to 8pm.

MON, DEC. 13 The BPDA hosts the **109 BROOKLINE AVENUE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING.** Discussion will focus on mitigation and

community benefits. Register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kD7Et4ZLRQKkAaMfLWBa7g. Contact Edward Carmody at edward.carmody@boston.gov or (617) 918-4422 with any questions. 6pm to 8pm.

WED, DEC. 15 The BPDA hosts the **2 CHARLESGATE WEST PUBLIC MEETING.** Discussion will focus on the Project Notification Form. Contact Caitlin Coppinger at Caitlin.Coppinger@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4280 with any questions. Register at bit.ly/3oE6q9l. 6–7:30pm.





Partner with us!

Community-engaged Teaching and Research at Northeastern is seeking community-based organizations to collaborate with on service-learning courses for the Spring 2022 semester (January-April)

In search of partners for courses focused on:

- Project-based and specific data
- Communications
- Marketing

Visit bit.ly/CETRcommunitypartners or contact service-learning@northeastern.edu for more info

A NOTE ABOUT THESE
LEGAL NOTICES

Following publication of our December issue, the Boston Planning & Development Authority asked to place these notices for the December 16th meeting of the BPDA board.

The meeting agenda includes discussion of the institutional master plan (IMP) for Boston University’s Fenway Campus, the former Wheelock College campus on the Riverway. Although the meeting begins at 3:30, the public portion begins at 5:30 and lasts to 7:30. The BPDA staff will post an agenda with the precise order of the meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 14, after 3:30pm.

To register to attend the meeting remotely, visit the BPDA website through **this link**. To download the most recent version of the IMP, visit **<https://bit.ly/3r4vR6Y>**.

LEGAL NOTICE

公开听证会通知

波士顿重建局现在以波士顿规划与开发署 ("BPDA") 的名义, 依据波士顿分区法 ("法规") 第 80A-2 和 80D-5 节的规定, 在此通知: 将于 2021 年 12 月 16 日下午 5:30 举行虚拟听证会, 听证会将在波士顿市电视台播出 (Xfinity 24 频道、RCN 13 频道和 Verizon Fios 962 频道), 并在 boston.gov 现场在线直播, 考虑提议的波士顿大学 Fenway 校区 2021-2031 年机构总体规划 ("IMP 提案")。BPDA 于 2021 年 9 月 23 日收到了 IMP 提案, 它涵盖波士顿大学 Fenway 校区 (原来的 Wheelock 学院) 在未来十年的开发与运作。IMP 提案不包括任何新的开发项目。在 2021 年 11 月 22 日之前接收对 IMP 提案的书面意见。公众参加这次公开听证会的形式有以下两种: 通过在 <https://bit.ly/DecBPDA> 注册, 或将您的证言用电子邮件发给 BRABoard@boston.gov。使用电子邮件发送的证言将在听证会上朗读。可在以下链接查看 IMP 提案: <https://bit.ly/3r4vR6Y>。

Teresa Polhemus, 执行主任/秘书, 波士顿规划与开发署

公开听证会通知

波士顿重建局现在以波士顿规划与开发署 ("BPDA") 的名义, 依据波士顿分区法 ("法规") 第 80A-2 和 80D-5 节的规定, 在此通知: 将于 2021 年 12 月 16 日下午 5:30 举行虚拟听证会, 听证会将在波士顿市电视台播出 (Xfinity 24 频道、RCN 13 频道和 Verizon Fios 962 频道), 并在 boston.gov 现场在线直播, 考虑提议的波士顿大学 Fenway 校区 2021-2031 年机构总体规划 ("IMP 提案")。BPDA 于 2021 年 9 月 23 日收到了 IMP 提案, 它涵盖波士顿大学 Fenway 校区 (原来的 Wheelock 学院) 在未来十年的开发与运作。IMP 提案不包括任何新的开发项目。在 2021 年 11 月 22 日之前接收对 IMP 提案的书面意见。公众参加这次公开听证会的形式有以下两种: 通过在 <https://bit.ly/DecBPDA> 注册, 或将您的证言用电子邮件发给 BRABoard@boston.gov。使用电子邮件发送的证言将在听证会上朗读。可在以下链接查看 IMP 提案: <https://bit.ly/3r4vR6Y>。

Teresa Polhemus, 执行主任/秘书, 波士顿规划与开发署