COVERING THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 48 NUMBER 7 • JULY 1 - JULY 29, 2022

Fensgate Residents Work to Restore Historic Mural



A group of Fensgate residents have unearthed some of the history behind a mural of the Public Garden painted in their building in the late 1930s. They hope to raise \$30,000 to restore the 84-year-old artwork.

BY MARY ANN BROGAN AND MAT THALL

istory surrounds the Fenway and a historic building many residents call home. The Fensgate Cooperative at 73 Hemenway St. was designed by architect Guy Lowell. Best known for designing the main building of the Museum of Fine Arts, Lowell also designed the Johnson Gates on Westland Avenue, and buildings at Simmons University.

The Fensgate opened its doors in 1905 as a luxury apartment building. Each floor, covering 12,000 square feet, contained one apartment, called a "Paris Flat." (The exhaustively researched website BackBayHouses.org notes that developers introduced the idea of luxury apartment buildings with a few, large "French Flats" as early as 1857; the Back Bay contained several of these "family hotels." At the time the Fensgate opened, many developers and officials expected the Fenway to become the city's newest fashionable neighborhood and attract many Back Bay homeowners in the process.)

Louis Comfort Tiffany designed a stained-glass skylight (no longer there) for the top floor of the building. Several prominent Bostonians owned the building between 1905 and 1923, including department-store magnate R. H. White.

In 1923, the City of Boston acquired the building and converted it to the Vocational High School for Girls. It operated under that name and as the Girls Trades High School until 1972. The City then turned it into a Little City Hall, part of a program started by Mayor Kevin White to provide more municipal services in the neighborhoods.

As a public building, 73 Hemenway Street was eligible to benefit from the Depression-era Federal Art Project. In 1938, Prescot Woodbury Baston painted a mural of the Boston Public Garden, depicted in 1870, in the ground floor of the building. Baston had worked for the Olmsted Brothers as a

miniaturist, having learned the trade from his father, who'd also worked as a miniaturist for the Olmsted architectural firm. Baston was a 20-year-old art student when the Depression devastated the livelihood of many artists. He painted several other murals in schools around Boston and one in the Custom House Tower as part of the Art Project. In later years, he became known for his "Sebastion Miniatures," created and sold as collectibles.

The mural at Fensgate (shown above) overlooks an original grand staircase. Residents have long puzzled over the location of the staircase and the story behind the mural. The staircase faces in the direction of the Back Bay Fens, which was still relatively new when the building opened. Today, instead of leading twoard the park, however, it faces individual apartments across a space that might have been a grand foyer in its day.

The curious orientation ties to questions about the building's original address. An exterior wall carries a chiseled "56," and an old photo shows wrought-iron railings encircling the building and also bearing the number 56. Addresses along The Fenway break between 54 and 60. All these clues suggest that the building's original address was, in fact, 56 The Fenway. If so, it would have had an entrance facing the park (now the building's back), and a grand staircase oriented in that direction would make sense.

An ad-hoc committee of residents has uncovered some of these clues about the building's past as it works to find a way to restore the massive, six-panel mural. Now 84 years old, it measures 28 feet by 7.5 feet. Committee members see the artwork as reflecting not just a piece of Fenway history but also parts of our national history. The committee has secured an estimate suggesting that it would take approximately \$30,000 to complete restoration.

In 1986, 73 Hemenway was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of a newly created Fenway-Boylston Street national historic district, which also

includes the headquarters of the Massachusetts Historical Society. That year also saw the building's conversion to mixed-income housing by the Fenway CDC. It has operated as a housing cooperative since 1987.

Mary Ann Brogan and Mat Thall live in the East Fens. Fensgate resident Patrick Maloney took the photo of the unrestored mural. The residents working to restore the mural would appreciate comments or suggestions about possible funding sources. Please email maryannbrogan@gmail.com or matthall49@gmail.com

FRI

:30-10:30PM

RUN TO HOME PLATE 7:00-11:00AM

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Report excessive event noise levels or fan misbehavior to these numbers. It's most effective to call all three.

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Tenants Vote In First New Directors Since 2018



Touch-screen voting created long lines at the RTH annual meeting on June 26, a day when temperatures reached 90 degrees.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

ylaws for the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Association require once- a-year elections for the 11-member board of directors. RTH owns 965 apartments in Mission Hill, nearly all low- and moderate-income households.

For three years, the pandemic halted in-person annual meetings and board members from 2018 continued to serve until new elections took place on June 26.

All 11 seats were reopened, and nominations were taken from the floor at a meeting held outdoors on New Whitney Street. To maintain the practice of staggered terms, of the 11 members elected in June, the five receiving the highest votes will serve two-year terms and the remaining six will serve a one-

Despite the hot weather, several hundred resdents attended and heard 20 candidates give two-minute speeches, simultaneously translated into Spanish, Russian, and Cantonese.

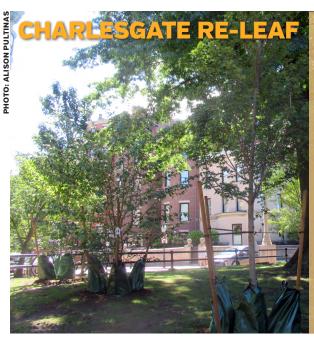
Flyers with some candidate namesapparently running as a slate-had been distributed ahead of time. Nearly all current board members won re-election, including board president Carol Menton

and board treasurer Izrail Tselnik. In his speech, Tselnik described the value of RTH's holdings as exceeding \$150 million.

Managing the meeting and the election fell to outside consultants, parliamentarian Patti Legault, attorney Sara Schnorr, and a company that handled touch-screen voting held in an adjacent parking lot. Supposedly a **COVID-safe method for voting (instead** of traditional paper ballots dropped into a sealed box), the touch-screen process required some residents to wait almost two hours in the day's 90-degree heat. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

ANNUAL MEETING

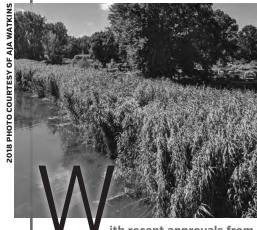
The founder of Speak For The Trees, David Meshoulam, will address the Fenway News Association's 2022 annual meeting on Thursday, July 7. The virtual meeting starts at 6:30pm. See details on page 4. We hope to see you there!



On June 28 the Charlesgate Alliance celebrated 15 new 2.5- to 3-inch-caliper trees planted along Charlesgate near Beacon Street. Alliance cofounder Parker James credited Margaret Pokorney as the mastermind behind the project, a taste of future improvements as the Alliance works with city and state agencies to revitalize the park and reconnect the Muddy River to the Charles. Pokorny says the shade of nearby large trees will help the new plantings survive summer heat, but each tree will also get 45 gallons weekly from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's water truck.

Commission OKs Plan to Double Area of Reeds Removed Along Muddy River

BY ALISON PULTINAS



Boston's Conservation Commission, both sides of the Muddy River in the Back Bay Fens will now undergo a phragmite-removal plan.

Originally part of the Army
Corps of Engineers scope for the
Muddy River dredging project—
then eliminated due to cuts in
the federal funding—phragmite
removal has been restored in time
for the dredging contractor, Charter
Engineering, to do the work. It now
carries an extended deadline for
completion.

"The phragmites removal is not required for the flood risk management project; however, the removal will provide additional environmental restoration benefits to the system as well as provide maintenance benefits for the dredged channel," said a June 24 Army Corps update.

In the May 13 application to the Commission, consultant CDM Smith describes the additional work as extending invasive-species removal and restoration planting from Agassiz Road up to Boylston Street. The Army Corps recommends zero tolerance for phragmites in all restored areas. Monitoring and control efforts will be required throughout the two-year guarantee period. Boston Parks will develop a plan for frequent meander surveys to detect invasive species and use herbicides when hand pulling is not enough.

At a June 15 hearing, **Conservation Commission executive** director Nick Moreno said the commission would require an operations and maintenance manual with details about invasive-plant control. Park Drive resident Lauren **Dewey Platt asked for abutters to** receive notices when herbicides will be applied. She expressed concern about possible broadcast spraying, an application technique specifically forbidden. However the language in the commission's Order of Conditions allows Boston Parks to return to the commission if it wants to request permission for spraying. **Tom Timmons represented the Parks** Department at the hearing.

Dewey Platt's concerns recall the neighborhood-wide opposition to aspects of a 1994 Boston Parks demonstration project for 5.2 acres of phragmite removal, a failed plan that relied on herbicide use following cutting, mowing, and smothering the plants with black plastic. Dewey Platt said non-selective herbicide used in the 1970s to clear the area of Japanese knotweed ended up destroying fruits and vegetables growing in the Victory Gardens.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

368 Graduate from BLS



Boston Latin School held its graduation ceremony on June 13 at the Leader Bank Pavilion in the Seaport. 368 graduates received their diplomas, including salutatorian Alex Chou (left) and valedictorian Rui Liu.

FENWAY CDC JOBS!

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our housing portfolio and ensure its long-term maintenance, financial health, and performance.

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See the full job description and learn how to apply at https://Tinyurl.com/FenwayCareer.

FCDC works to keep the Fenway vibrant and diverse by developing affordable housing, running programs that enrich lives, and strengthening community voices.



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Improving Lives and
Building Community



Community-Engaged Teaching and Research at Northeastern University invites non-profits, schools, government agencies, neighborhood associations and other community-based groups to submit a Request for Partnership for the Fall '22 Semester!

Scan the QR code
or visit
conta.cc/3MNPCHa

to learn more!





n June 25, a sunny Saturday morning, planners Brad Rogers and Yanel De Angel from the firm Perkins & Will worked the room at the Mission Church Parish Center to draw out discussion on "community goals and vision for the campus" for Wentworth Institute of Technology's new master plan.

According to Dave Wahlstrom, Wentworth's vice president of business, this is still the "quiet stage" of the school's institutional master plan (IMP) process. Multiple internal meetings with school staff have already taken place, and consultants have completed assessments of existing campus buildings.

Although the six residents attending gave considerable feedback, the elephant in the room remained the question of what happens with the Sweeney Field parcel at Ruggles Street and Huntington Avenue. Officially, Wentworth has turned it over to a development team headed by the Fallon Company, and although Wentworth will occupy around 10,000 square feet at the corner and hold a permanent ground lease, the parcel won't be part of the IMP review.

Another complicated issue involves a potential land swap with the Boston Fire Department. Wentworth wants to take ownership of the 560 Huntington Ave. station site in exchange for two buildings it owns next door. Edwards and Rogers halls, two dorms, have supposedly reached "the end of their useful life," and if the swap goes through, BFD would build a new station on that parcel.

Wahlstrom said the school expects to file its propsed 10-year mast plan with the City by March 2023.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Neighborhood Newsline

Neighborhood Trust Announces Its 2022 Grants

The Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust has awarded 18 grants totaling \$129,037 ffor 2022. The Trust administers a state fund intended to support community-based Mission Hill and Fenway nonprofits, community development corporations, and other civic groups through an annual grant program. Groups submit proposals in an annual spring funding round; the Trust's board—comprising three residents of each neighborhood—reviews the applications and approves funding.

This year's Mission Hill recipients and projects include:

- The Mission Hill Arts Festival concerts at the Tobin Community Center Backyard.
- The Mission Hill Women's Writing Group, based at the Parker Hill Library.
- a revamped website for the Community Alliance of Mission Hill.
- Habitat For Humanity's affordable housing under construction at 725-727 Parker St.
- Tai chi and jazz concerts at Kevin Fitzgerald Park, sponsored by Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing,
- Three art exhibits by the Mission Hill Artist Collective.
- Funding for programming for youth from Mission Safe, Sociedad Latina, and The Phillips Brooks House Association's summer camp.

Proposals from groups in the Fenway won funding for:

- Porchfest, co-sponsored by grant recipient Fenway CDC. (Porchfest takes place July 9.)
- Concerts and events sponsored by Fenway Civic and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.
 Infrastructure improvements at Symphony Community Garden.
- A second grant for a Fenway oral history project organized by resident Tim Ney.
- A second grant for a Fenway oral history proje
 A music series sponsored by Kaji Aso Studio.
- Health and wellness programs run by the Fenway Community Center and field trips for seniors with the Peterborough Senior Center.
- Upgrades for Operation PEACE's youth facility all received funding.

City's Neighborhood Liaison Leaves Her Job

Molly Griffin, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison for Mission Hill, the Back Bay, and the Fenway, left her position on June 27. No news yet on a replacement.

Design for Phase 2 of Ruggles Station Improvements Hits 75%

A sparsely attended June 1 virtual meeting announced the 75 percent design for Phase 2 of station renovations. AECOM engineers, led by Roger Gagnier, is under contract for the \$100 million job. Federal funding of the Phase 1 work means Phase 2 must provide additional accessibility. A major accessibility change will entail redesigning the iconic Columbus Avenue entrance to incorporate a ramp. Cyclists attending expressed concern about impacts on the Southwest Corridor bike path, which passes in front of the entrance.

Father John Unni Slips Into Chief Chaplain's Helmet at BFD

The longtime pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish, got a new hat (or collar?) last month: the Boston Fire Department has appointed Father John Unni chief chaplain. Unni succeeds Rev. Dan Mahoney, who'd held the chaplaincy since 1964. Parishioners at St Cecilia's expressed pride in Unni's designation and wished him well in the role. BFD Commissioner John Dempsey also had kind words for Unni, who had served as BFD ssistant chaplain since 2017. The appointment comes just as Fr. Unni has begun a three-month sabbatical, part of a Barr Fellowship he received in 2019. He will return in late September.

Harvard/Atrius Loses Tax-Free Status After Joining Optum

Harvard Vanguard/Atrius Health at 133 Brookline Ave. has changed its affiliation again

a the center

The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit for more details

- Thursdays at 1:30pm: TAI CHI.
- Wed, July 6 & 20 at 6:00pm: GUIDED MEDITATION.
- Wed, July 20 at 6:00pm: FENWAY SCOOP. Join for a virtual conversation featuring updates from BPD Sergeant Paul A. DeLeo, Jr. bit.ly/FenwayScoop

and will join the Optum healthcare network. That means it will lose its status as a tax-exempt charitable group. Patients received a letter from CEO Dr. Steve Strongwater informing them of the change. Founded in 1969 as Harvard Community Health Plan, the provider ranked as one of country's largest HMOs. The group's name has evolved through frequent mergers and partnerships, but its facility at 133 Brookline continues to provide primary and specialty care for many local residents.

Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Children's Hospital has put its 300 Longwood façade wraps. Presumably, long-discussed masonry repairs on the historic Hunnewell building are underway.

Now You See It...





Last month demolition crews took down the former Bed Bath & Beyond at 401 Park as redevelopment of the property's north side began in earnest. The **BPDA** approval process was already well under way when Californiabased Alexandria Real Estate Equities bought the property last year from Samuels & Associates. Demolition clears the way for a new building with roughly 500,000 square fee of office/lab space and a 50,000-square-foot Star Market. Samuels now owns the current Star site and filed a Project **Notification Form with** the BPDA in early June. It aims to build an 11-story building with a shade under 500,000 SF of office/research space, 20,000 SF of groundfloor retail, a 5,000 SF "cultural pavilion," and roughly 3/4 of an acre of open space along Park Drive facing the Emerald Necklace.

SOXBOX

Mon, July 4	1:35pm	Fri, July 22	7:10pm
Tue, July 5	7:10pm	Sat, July 23	4:10pm
Wed, July 6	7:10pm	Sun, July 24	1:35pm
Thu, July 7	7:10pm	Mon, July 25	7:10pm
Fri, July 8	7:10pm	Tue, July 26	7:10pm
Sat, July 9	7:15pm	Wed, July 27	7:10pm
Sun, July 10	7:08pm	Thu, July 28	7:10 pm

CIVIC AGENDA

The MBTA continues to hold hearings about its Bus Network Redesign initiative this month. The initiative seeks to re-align routes with demand and provide more service to underserved communities:

- TUE, JULY 19: A public open house for the entire system begins at 6pm in the Bruce Bolling Building in Nubian Square. Learn more or register at https://tinyurl.com/msk49vc6
- TUE, JULY 26: Virtual systemwide hearing starts at 6pm. Learn more or register at https://tinyurl. com/4fbwfhf3

TIME MARKET

BPL Offers Routers and Chromebooks

The Boston Public Library has more than 2,000 home WiFi routers and Chromebooks to lend to users through its Long-Term Device Lending Program. Any adult resident of Boston who doesn't otherwise have access to equipment can sign up for the program. Program participants can borrow the Chromebook and/or WiFi router for as long as they need. Visit bpl.org/long-term-lending for more information.





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FENSVIEWS

Planned Changes in 55 Bus Route Won't Serve Residents Well

TO THE MBTA

participated in the June virtual meeting regarding changes to the bus #55 service. It was a necessary and important meeting, but sadly my overall feeling was that the MBTA representatives are not really listening to the residents living in the Fenway neighborhood. They seem to have made their mind up.

LETTERS

Why not go back to the original route, past Copley and on to Park Street again? Bring back buses for early morning riders who are going to work downtown; it would add a lot more.

Having the bus go to Hynes [Station] only does not really help at all; there are no elevators for elderly or handicapped riders. Residents are asking to reinstate the bus to

downtown, not to Cambridge. On the positive side, I find the idea of the #55 bus going to the Longwood Medical Area a great idea.

The MBTA presented various maps, but none showed the bus going to Park Street again. The Better Bus Project does not even consider it. The new project should include some residents in helping to find a solution.

What about a one-year trial period to run the bus from the Longwood Medical Area to Copley and all the way to Park Street and still make the stops on Kilmarnock and Queensberry when going downtown? Why not give it a try?

PATRICK DUTOIT
WEST FENS

Sajed Kamal's June Opinion Piece on Renewables Was Spot-on

TO THE EDITOR

here is a climate crisis. Can we put out the "fire" in time?

The path to the future is open.

As Sajed points out, grassroots campaigns for renewable energy have seeped up to the leadership in many countries.

Away from messy, dangerous, and expensive nuclear power—a complicated way to boil water to turn turbines through electromagnetic fields to produce electricity. Instead, turbines can be turned by wind, and electricity can be generated directly by sunlight.

Away from climate-altering fossil fuels. Electricity will be widely used for transportation. And the use of hydrogen as a clean fuel—producing only water as a byproduct—will play a role.

Sajed and Rosie Kamal of the Fenway have an urgent message: what we do now can open the way toward solving the climate crisis for the next generation, our own families, and the worldwide human family.

> BOB CASE EAST FENS

-Fenway News

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ANNUAL MEETING + 6:30 PM + THURSDAY, JULY 7 Keynote by David Meshoulam, founder of 'Speak For The Trees'

avid Meshoulam, founder of Speak For The Trees, will address the Fenway News Association's annual meeting



on Thursday, July 7. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and will be held virtually (get the meeting link in the blue box, below).

Speak For The Trees works to "improve the size and health of the urban tree canopy

in Boston," with a particular focus on environmental justice and education.

We look forward to seeing you on the 7th!

GET THE LINK!

Sign up to and get the meeting link at https://tinyurl.com/mpvtzdz5

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YOGA SERIES PUTS TREE POSES UNDER TREES



Instructor Michell Coleman teaches a gentle yoga class in Mission Hill's McLaughlin Playground. The class takes place every Friday at 10am through October 1. Coleman also teaches chair yoga at Symphony Park in the Fenway on Thursdays at 10am. The free classes are part of the annual Parks Summer Fitness Series, co-sponsored by Boston Parks and Recreation and the Boston Public Health Commission. View the complete list of classes at https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/boston-parks-fitness-series.

Murphy Visits FCC



On June 24, City Councilor Erin Murphy (above left, standing) hosted a Q&A session at the Fenway Community Center. City Councilor Kenzie Bok, representatives of the Red Sox, and members of the general public joined Fenway seniors for the event.

"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, July 29.**

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, July 22.**

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

Gov. Baker hasn't sold the legislature on his plan to sell the Hynes. A version of his economic development bill emerged from committee with no language authorizing the sale. Instead, it would set up another study, run jointly

by the state and the city and not due until the end of 2023. The Back Bay Association, State Rep. Jay Livingstone, and State Sen. Will Brownsberger all told the *Globe* that they support a more deliberate evaluation of the plan. **The Green** Line's C branch will go offline July 11-22 and the E branch will close between Copley and Heath Street Aug. 6-21. Shuttle busess will cover the routes during all shutdowns.

 Goulston & Storrs has settled a lawsuit brought by John Fish, head of Suffolk construction company, over the air-rightsproject-that-never-was. Fish sued Goulston three years ago, claiming it had hidden a key partner's financial interest in Weiner Ventures, his partner in the proposal to develop Parcel 15, behind St. Cecelia's Church. Globe business columnist Larry Edelman reports that Weiner Ventures later backed out of the project, and Fish blamed a behind-the-scenes deal between Weiner and the Goulston lawyer—who was working for Fish on the project. Separately, Fish sued Steve Weiner and his son Adam over the cancellation; that suit—and a Weiner countersuit—appears headed to court. **Jason** Gallagher will take the reins at Boston Latin this fall after a successful tenure as principal of Harvard-Kent Elementary in Charlestown. He's got a double Fenway connection: his own BLS diploma and a masters in **education from Simmons.** Tickets have gone on sale for tthe MGM Music Hall on Lansdowne Street. The venue opens Aug. 27 with a benefit for Scars Foundation and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. So far, the Music Hall has 16 shows booked in September alone. **Two folks with strong Fenway** ties made Boston magazine's list of the 100 most influential Bostonians. Father John Unni of St. Cecelia's ranked #98 for his work on the board of the Pine Street Inn and Health Equity International. Fenway High student Marcus McNeill ranked #99 as co-chair of the BPS's superintendentsearch committee. If his name looks familiar, that's because we profiled him in our December 2021 issue. -

TIPSY TREE NEEDS SOME HELP



young tree on **Westland Avenue** looks likely to join the many trees that don't thrive in stressful streetside locations around Boston. As it happens, the keynote speaker at the Fenway News Assn. annual meeting, David Meshoulam, will focus on the crucial role urban trees play in improving health and mitigating extreme heat. Find out more on page 4.

M.H. Playground Back in Business

he Parks Department has reopened the Mission Hill Playground. Work on the ballfield remains ongoing, but the department plans to keep it closed for the season so the grass can get established. The Tremont Street level and playground level are both open. The former water spray features will return as sculptural elements installed among the trees.

The contractor was able to work through the winter and make deadlines of substantial completion by May 30 and final completion by June 30.

New At The Pru: High-Flying Dreams



The Prudential Center unveiled a a brightly-colored building wrap, "Ponle Vuelo A Tus Sueños/Let Your Dreams Take Flight," by muralist and graphic designer Yenny Hernandez. Now+There, a public art curator, produced the work for Boston Properties. Readers may remember them for producing the supersized mural "Patterned Behavior" that graced the Storrow Drive ramp at Charlesgate in 2017.

· Hoping to fill a gap left when Whole Foods closed in May, The **Wine Press** in Audubon Circle has begun stocking groceries. But don't expect bargains: the owner told the Globe he and his co-owner/wife will stock foodie favorite like Jasper Hill cheese and Oddfellows ice cream. It is technically Brookline, after all.

· And just like that, the Hawthorne in **Kenmore Square** has reopened as **Blue Ribbon Sushi,**

first of three restaurants that will fill the spaces left when restauranteur Garrett Harker folded his tent and left following a bitter rental dispute.

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- · BACK BAY: Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- FENWAY: Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday
- MISSION HILL: Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) resumed on April 1. For more information, check the City's web page with temporary transportation information, https://bit.lv/2KI3TXV.

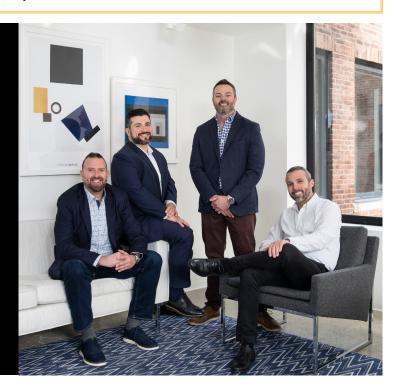
COMPASS

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Fenway Ball Draws 250

n June 22, over 250 guests joined the Fenway **Community Development** Corporation (CDC) for a ball to celebrate its 49th year of positive community impact. Volunteers, state representative Jay Livingstone, and community leaders from many local businesses and institutions showed up for dinner, dancing, and a live auction at the Harvard Club of Boston on Commonwealth Avenue.

Guests were welcomed by emcee John Tobin, vice president of civic engagement from Northeastern University. Fenway CDC's executive director Leah Camhi shared the organization's latest work with the guests. Suneeth John, deputy director and



Fenway CDC Executive Director Leah Camhi, board member James Smith, and Rosalie Frazier-Smith

head of real estate, and Tim Coakley, the CDC's board treasurer, had a celebratory toast with guests for two success milestones: preservation and renovation of 97 units at Newcastle Saranac at Southend/Lower Roxbury, and ndevelopment of 27 new units at Burbank Terrace, scheduled to break ground this Summer.

Enthusiastic guests bid for live auction items such as tickets to Red Sox concerts, gift cards to Fenway restaurants, and a golfing trip to the award-winning Lake Winnipesaukee Golf Club. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and dessert by chef Dean Moore, played limbo rock, and grooved to the music of 70s, 80s, and 90s.

The Fenway Ball supports Fenway CDC's work to provide critical services to low-income and moderate-income residents. They get assistance to access affordable housing, education, and jobs, as well as skills training, financial coaching, social services, food, and wellness programs to improve financial stability.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

Porchfest Returns July 9!



The Fenway might lack actual porches, but a little creativity can transform anyplace from a parking lot to a park (above) into a venue for musical performance. On Saturday, July 9, Fenway Porchfest returns from 12pm to 4:30pm. More than 60 local musicians will perform at more than 20 venues stretching from the MassArt campus to the Bebop to 401 Park. Visit www. fenwayporchfest.org to learn more—and set aside an hour or two to sample this once-a-year buffet of musical delights.

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FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

Summer entertainment kicks into high gear this month. Many of these concerts feature musicians from
Berklee's Summer in the City series.
Visit https://college.berklee.edu/
events/summer for full listings.

July 7, Over the Bridge at Time Out

- Market (401 Park Dr.) at 7pm
- July 7, Gozarsa at O'Day Playground (85 W. Newton St.) at 7pm
- July 9, **Fenway Porchfest,** see Eventbrite.com for details
- July 12, **KJ** at Symphony Park (Edgerly Road) at 6pm
- July 13, **Lydia Harrell** at Ramler Park (130 Peterborough St.) at
- July 14, **Beach Nights** at Time Out Market (401 Park Dr.) at 7pm July 21, **Aldous Collins Band** at
- Time Out Market (401 Park Dr.) at
- July 28, Handsome Women at Time
- Out Market (401 Park Dr.) at 7pm
- July 28, Boston Rock and Soul **Revue** at One Brigham Circle Plaza (1620 Tremont St.) at 6pm

END APPROACHES FOR 258 HUNTINGTON

ALISON PULTINAS

ith rat traps lining the sidewalk, contractors will soon begin ripping down the fabled Huntington Theater production facility at 258 Huntington Ave., immortalized on the facade as the Old France, a 1930s- and 40s-era nightclub.

The historic building also shows emblems of its early life as the Back Bay Post Office, designed by Richard Thomas Short in 1916. In *Town and Country:* The Architecture of James E. Ware & Sons, historian Patrick Wing wrote about Short's works in Manhattan, the Red House and the Alwyn Court apartment buildings. Short also designed the 1909 Kismet Temple in Brooklyn in a Moorish Revival style. All three are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Short worked for the Ware firm as a draftsman in the 1890s, and his eclectic architectural style is described as a blend of French baroque and Art Deco. He was very generous with ornamental decoration.

It appears he designed only two buildings in Boston, both post offices; the second, near North Station, underwent demolition in 1947.

The building will come down to make way for Toll Brothers' 34-story "Lyra" residential tower. It received City approval in 2017, and supporters of the Huntington promoted it enthusiastically, viewing it as a rejuvenating lifeline for the theater, which reopens this fall after extensive renovation. The Toll Brothers project will include an expanded lobby and community space that serve the Huntington.





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TIMENTIS

Early 1900s Postcards Mix Humdrum, Drama of Changing U.S.

BY STEVE WOLF

ou might not call the MFA exhibition "Real Photo Postcards: Pictures From A Changing Nation" art, per se, but its mix of history and sociology opens a fascinating window onto a period of dramatic changes that reshaped the US in the early 20th century: immigration, urbanization, women's suffrage, unionization, and a far-reaching revival of Ku Klux Klan terrorism. Politics and culture—from the first mass-produced automobile to moving pictures to Prohibition—added to the sense of disorientation.

In the midst of this cultural churn the Eastman Kodak Company introduced a seemingly modest innovation with its "real postcard camera" in 1903. With negatives sized for direct printing onto postcard blanks, it gave average Americans the power to capture anything that caught their eye, reproduce it, and mail it anywhere. You could easily see it as a primitive ancestor of today's ubiquitous social media.

People embraced the new technology, using it to advertise businesses, document family events, record travel adventures (infrastructure for mass tourism expanded dramatically during the period), record disasters, or simply freeze a slice of daily life. One display of 128 portraits, shot largely in studios, shows adults and children presenting their best selves for our inspection. (These images might give you an unsettling sense of spying on them.) We see bicyclists; a boxer; nurses; musicians; a clown; a tattooed woman: a magician; a streetcar conductor. A cook holds a carving knife and sharpening steel, while his toddler son, who barely reaches his knee, brandishes a pintsized set just like dad's.

Most of the subjects are white, but every racial group had access to this medium, puncturing the myth of PHOTOS COURTESYOF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTO



a long-ago all-white America. A black woman poses with a boy, probably her son; a black musician brandishes a trumpet; two Asian girls soberly address the camera in matched sailor dresses; two Comanche men and two Seminole women appear in traditional dress; black farmers sit wearing their

Sunday best in a town park. Some of the images defy easy classification, like the picture of a black woman posed with a white child. What connected them?

Despite this diversity, which reflects how America was changing, when groups appear on cards, race

Suffragists, about 1912 (left) and Tourists at Maripoa Grove in California (below), about 1914. Both images are from the Leonard A. Lauder Postcard Archive.

does tend to divide them, whether by law or custom, like the black suffragists and white tourists in the cards shown above.

In one alcove the curators have installed an oversized crescent moon made of cardboard. Behind it sits a stagey night-sky backdrop with childishly drawn stars-an "Instaworthy" moment, inspired by a common studio set-up of the era. In fact, a sign encourages you to shoot and post—social media, 2022, meet social medium, 1922. Nearby postcards attest to the popularity of this tableau then (and possibly now, too; check your Instagram feed). While the 1932 song "It's Only A Paper Moon" plays in the background, explanatory text says that most Americans would have seen the title as a reference to just this kind of studio prop.

The absorbing exhibit contains 300 cards, which sounds like a lot, but its organization lets you jump in anywhere and wander wherever your eye might lead. The curators have organized the cards by themes such as "Trouble," whose images of floods, fires, tornadoes, and train wrecks show that rubber-necking at disaster is nothing new. The themes cover a broad territory, from the deadly serious (a 1925 KKK march on Washington) to the comic (an Iowa rooster that raised \$40,000-roughly \$900,000 today-for the Red Cross during World War I). "Real Photo Postcards" creates a compelling mosaic of everyday American life at a key crossroads in the country's history.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. The exhibit runs through July 25.

Fri, 7/1 & Sat, 7/2

Like many events post-pandemic, the **24TH ROXBURY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** offers both in-person screenings and streaming access. Seven films from the festival remain available for screening through 11:59pm on July 2. They include a biopic of Mahalia Jackson's life (starring singer Ledisi), documentaries, and two collections of shorts. All rentals take place through the MFA's website. Visit https://www.roxfilmfest.com/films-and-events?tag=7/1/2022 to learn more.

Fri, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, & 7/22

The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers free fitness programming throughout the summer. On Fridays at 10am in McLaughlin Playground, join them for **GENTLE YOGA**.

Thu, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, & 7/28

The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers free fitness programming throughout the summer. On Thursdays at 10am in Symphony Park, join them for **CHAIR YOGA**.

Sat,7/8 > Sun, 7/30

MORNINGSIDE MUSIC BRIDGE brings 65 advanced musicians, ages 11-18, to New England Conservatory for intensive study and performance. The program presents 16 free concerts, including recitals by both the internationally known faculty and the students themselves. All concerts take place in Jordan or Williams halls, generally at

7pm. Some highlights all at Jordan Hall, include the Concerto Competition Finals (Sat., July 15, 7pm); a final "Highlights" concert (Sat, July 29); and a performance by the Morningside Music Bridge String Orchestra under the baton of BSO Assistant Conductor Earl Lee (Sun, July 30, 4:30pm). Tickets are free, but you must reserve a seat through the NEC website. For more, visit https://mmb.international/concerts/.

Sat, 7/9

- A threeway partnership of the Fenway Community Development Organization, Fenway Civic Association, and the Fenway Alliance brings **PORCHFEST** back to the Fenway. The free music festival takes place in a wide range of diverse outdoor spaces across the Fenway. Visit **www.fenwayporchfest.org** to learn more. 12pm to 4pm.
- CHALKFEST! Gather on the Arne Glimcher Plaza at the MassArt Art Museum for Art on the Plaza, as the museum's new series of artmaking events (and fun for all age) teams up with Fenway Porchfest. On July 9, join Zahirah Nur Truth for an afternoon of sidewalk chalk fun with live Porchfest performance. Sidewalk chalk will be available for the first 200 registered participants. In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place July 10. 21 Huntington Ave. 12pm. Visit https://maam.massart.edu/event/art-plaza-0 for details. 6

Sat, 7/9 & 7/18

ALENDAR

The 2022 MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL unrolls over six dates this summer in The Yard at the Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Performances start at 5:30pm and tickets range from \$10 (seniors, students) to \$20 (general) to \$40 (VIP). Details at https://mhartsfest.org/index.html.

- On July 9, hear Venezuelan-born "WORLD JAZZ" ARTIST LEO BLANCO, who has appeared at Montreux, Newport, and Monterey jazz festivals, among others.
- On July 23, hear the **NEBULOUS QUARTET FEATURING KELY PINHEIRO**, a Brazilianborn student at Berklee who has assembled a diverse quartet that mixes classical traditions and world music influences.

Wed, 7/13

The Esplanade Association offers **TREE TOURS** every month. Learn about the tree species around the lagoon, a history of the park's plantings, and how to identify common species. 10am; free, but \$10 donation suggested. Register at https://tinyurl.com/4sb3hxea.

Thu, 7/14

Fenway CDC Organizing Committee presents a **PIZZA SOCIAL** in Symphony Park. RSVP by July 8th to Cassie White, 857-217-4370 or **cwhite@fenwaycdc.org**. All are welcome for pizza and community! 6pm.

Thu, 7/14 & 7/28

SOUTH END/LOWER ROXBURY FAIR FOODS. Newcastle Saranac Community Space, 607 Columbus Ave. Masks required, walk-ins welcome! Contact Diego Soler at dsoler@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x15. 12pm to 3nm

Thu, 7/21

MAAM STROLLER TOUR. Enjoy a stroller-friendly tour of the MassArt Art Museum (MAAM) for children up to two years old and their caregivers. Designed as an opportunity to visit before regular hours, this interactive exploration of our current exhibitions includes touchable objects, artmaking, and conversation for adults. 621 Huntington Ave. 10:30am. FREE

Thu, 7/21 & 7/28

The MFA'S CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD **SERIES** returns with a short season (that we're just guessing has something to do with a certain pandemic.) July 21 brings indie/ folk/art-pop musician BARRIE LINDSAY, touring behind her new album and now performing as "Barrie." July 28 brings **DEDICATED MEN OF ZION**, a harmonizing quartet from North Carolina that mixes gospel, funk, R&B, and soul. Tickets \$24 members/\$30 nonmembers. Doors at 6pm, show at 7:30; low lawn chairs or blankets are permitted, but outside food and drink aren't—buy that on site. Learn more or order tickets at https://tinyurl. com/4xnhw5nz.



independent eateries do so much to define our community, we collaborated with the Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust to create the **Eat Here!** campaign. It starts with full-page ads that will run for

he pandemic hammered local restaurants. Because a yearand list roughly 80 non-chain, local restaurants. So...Eat Here! and help our neighborhood restaurants thrive and keep them part of everything that makes the Fenway, Mission Hill, and Audubon Circle such special places to live.

Audubon Circle

Audubon Boston 838 Beacon Street (617) 421-1910 www.audubonboston. com/site/

Bar 'Cino 1032 Beacon Street (617) 608-3220 barcino.com/brookline/

Futago Udon **508 Park Drive** (617) 505-6157 www.facebook. com/Futago-Udon-564602680690873/

Giggling Rice (TAKEOUT ONLY) 1009 Beacon Street (617) 655-8443 www.gigglingricethaitogobrookline.com/

Japonaise Bakery (TEMPORARILY CLOSED) 999 Beacon Street (617) 566-7730 www.facebook.com/ CafeJaponaise/

Sol Azteca 914 Beacon Street (617) 262-0909 www.solaztecaboston. com/

Taberna De Haro 999 Beacon Street (857) 743-4035 www.tabernaboston. com/



AK's Takeout & **Delivery 1427 Tremont Street** (617) 541-0300 www.akstakeout.com/ aks-roxbury/

Brigham Circle Chinese Food 728 Huntington Ave. (617) 278-2000 orderbrighamcirclechinesefood.com/

Chacho's Pizza & Subs 1502 Tremont St. (617) 445-6738 www.chachospizzasubs.com/

Chilacates Mexican Street Food 1482A Tremont St. (617) 286-3888 www.chilacates.mx/ location/chilacatesmission-hill/

Crispy Dough Pizzeria 1514 Tremont St. (617) 445-7799 crispydoughpizzeria.

Flames Jamaican Restaurant 746 Huntington Ave. (617) 743-4035 flamesjamaicanrestaurants.com/index-2.

Ginger Exchange 1625 Tremont St. (617) 739-8888 https://www.gingerexchange.com/mission/

Halal Indian Cuisine 736 Huntington Ave. (617) 232-5000 www.halalindiancuisineboston.com/

Il Mondo Pizzeria 1502 Tremont St. (617) 445-6738 ilmondopizza.com/

Laughing Monk Cafe 737 Huntington Ave. (617) 232-8000 www.laughingmonkcafe.com/

Lilly's Gourmet Pasta Express 1528 Tremont St. (617) 427-8080 lillysgourmetpasta. com/

Mike's Donuts 1524 Tremont St. (617) 427-6828 www.mikesdonutsboston.com/

Milkweed 1508 Tremont St. (617) 516-8913 www.eatatmilkweed. com/

The Mission Bar and Grill 724 Huntington Ave. (617) 566-1244 www.themissionb com/

Montecristo Mexican Grill 748A Huntington Ave. (617) 232-2228 montecristomissionhill.com/

Nachlo Mexican & Pakistani Cuisine 1443 Tremont St. (617) 516-8730 nachloboston.com/

Papa's Pizza Co. 682 Huntington Ave. (617) 648-7272 papaspizzacompany. com/

Penguin Pizza 735 Huntington Ave. (617) 277-9200 www.thepenguinpizza. com/

The Puddingstone **Tavern** 1592 Tremont St. (617) 435-7663 thepuddingstonetavern.com/

Solid Ground Cafe 742 Huntington Ave. (617) 445-6738 www.solidgroundcafe. com/

The Squealing Pig Pub 134 Smith Street (617) 566-6651 squealingpigpubs. com/boston/

Sushi Today 1562 Tremont St. (617) 738-0888 sushi-today.com/

Tavern of Tales 1478 Tremont St. (617) 7080172 www.tavernoftales. com/

Tremont House of Pizza 1590 Tremont St. (617) 566-5120 tremonthouseofpizza.



Amelia's Taqueria 1076 Boylston St. (617) 233-2100 https://www.ameliastaqueria.com/

The Bebop 1116 Boylston St. (857) 250-4641 https://www.thebebopboston.com/

Bobo Cafe 137 Mass. Ave. (No phone or URL available)

Dumpling Palace 137 Mass. Ave. (617) 266-8888 https://www.dumpling-palace.com/

Energize 265g Mass. Ave. (857) 317-3868 https://energizeboston.com/

Ginger Exchange 250 Huntington Ave. (617) 867-9999 www.gingerexchange. com/symphony/

Haju Kitchen 175 Mass. Ave. (617) 982-7118 haju-kitchen.business. site/

Ichiban Yakitori 144 Westland Ave. (617) 236-7907 ichibanboston.net/

Love Art Sushi 1 Haviland St. (617) 982-6953 loveartsushi.com/

Mumbai Spice 251 Mass Ave. (857) 350-4305 mumbaispiceboston. com/

Oakleaf Cakes Bake Shop 12 Westland Ave. (617) 299-1504 oakleafcakes.com/

Pad Thai Cafe 6 Hemenway St. (617) 267-2828 www.padthai.cafe/

Pavement 44 Gainsborough St. (617) 859-7080 pavementcoffeehouse. com/

Pho Basil 177A Mass. Ave. (617) 262-5377 phobasilboston.com/

Saigon Fusion 201 Mass. Ave. (617) 236-1464 www.facebook. com/Saigon-Fusion-111976630370661

Shin Hakata Ramen 173 Mass. Ave. (857) 350-3923 www.shinhakataramenboston.com/

Sombrero Chiquito 197A Mass. Ave. (857) 265-3254 sombreroboston.com/

Supreme Pizza 177 Mass Ave. (617) 247-8252 www.eatsupremepizza.com/

Symphony Sushi 44 Gainsborough St. (617) 262-3888 symphonysushi.com/

Tori Japan 1110 Boylston St. (857) 265-3642 www.torijapan.com/

The Westland 10 Westland Ave. (617) 208-6292 www.westlandboston. com/

Woody's Grill & Tap 58 Hemenway St. (617) 375-9663 www.woodysfenway. com/



Basho Japanese Brasserie 1338 Boylston St. (617) 262-1338 www.bashojapanesebrasserie.com/

Bennett's Sandwich Shop 80 Peterborough St. (857) 239-9736 www.bennettssandwichshop.com/

Blackbird **Doughnuts** 20 Kilmarnock St. (617) 482-9000 www.blackbirddoughnuts.com/

Citizen House & **Public Oyster Bar** 1310 Boylston St. (617) 450-9000 www.citizenpub.com/

College Pizza 50 Queensberry St. (617) 266-4919 www.collegepizzamenu.com/

El Pelón Taquería 92 Peterborough St. (617) 262-9090 www.elpelon.com/

Eventide Oyster Co. 1321 Boylston St. (617) 545-1060 www.eventideoysterco.com/

Fiouna's 90 Peterborough St. (617) 247-7717 www.fiouna.com/

FoMu 140 Brookline Ave. (857) 284-7229 www.fomuicecream. com/

Gyro City 88 Peterborough St. (617) 266-4976 www.gyrocity.com/

Hojoko 1271 Boylston St. (617) 670-0507 www.hojokoboston. com/

Kappo Sushi and Ramen 86 Peterborough St. (857) 263-8168 www.sushikappo.com/ M&J Teriyaki 130 Jersey St. (617) 424-0900 www.mjteriyaki-ma.

Nathálie Wine Bar 186 Brookline Ave. (857) 317-3884 www.nathaliebar.com/

Pavement 1334 Boylston St. [857] 263-7355 pavementcoffeehouse. com/

Orfano 1391 Boylston St. (617) 916-9600 www.orfanoboston. com/

Phinista Cafe 96 Peterborough St. (617) 266-7700 www.phinista.com/

Regina Pizzeria 1330 Boylston St. (617) 266-9210 www.pizzeriaregina. com/fenway.html

Rod Thai 94 Peterborough St. (617) 859-0969 www.rodthaifenway. com/

Saloniki Greek 4 Kilmarnock St. (617) 266-0001 www.salonikigreek. com/

The Sipping Room by Breeze 132 Jersey St. (617) 412-6668 www.facebook.com/ thesippingroombybreeze/

Sojuba 1260 Boylston St. (617) 424-1260 www.sojubaboston. com/

Sufra Mediterranean Food 96 Peterborough St. (781) 645-8080 www.suframediterraneanfood.com/

Sweet Cheeks Q 1381 Boylston St. (617) 266-1300 www.sweetcheeksq. com/

Thaitation 129 Jersey St. (617) 585-9909 www.bostonthaitation.

Thornton's Fenway Grille 100 Peterborough St. (617) 421-0104 www.facebook.com/ thorntonsfenwaygrille/