

Transactions Show Mission Hill Real Estate Remains Hot

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The past six months have seen a frenzy of real estate transactions, approved projects, and future proposals in Mission Hill. The biggest recent sale was the historic mixed-use McCarthy Building across from Mission Church at 1536-1542 Tremont St. Seth Prietbatsch added it to his Groma Realty

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



The condominiums at 3-5 S. Whitney St.

Mission Hill portfolio in July for \$5.7 million. The building sits next to a derelict former commercial property at 6-12 Pontiac St.

Other transactions included a slew of condominium sales.

23 Parker Hill Ave., Unit 2 sold for \$989,800. Eight condos in a new five-story building at 3-5 South Whitney St. were on the market, four were purchased for over \$1 million. Unit 2 is available for \$1.095 million.

The Mosaic at 80-82 Fenwood Rd. saw two sales: #613 for \$1.2 million and #811 for \$625,000. The Bullfinch Condos at 841 Parker St. also had two sales, one for \$950,000 and another for \$700,000. And the Oliver Loft condos at 166 Terrace St. had another two sales for \$459,000 and \$490,000.

Certain companies and individuals made multiple purchases. Vasilius Lentis of Brighton bought several properties from Mark Lepler and Alex Peselman: 16 Sewall St. for \$2.45 million, 44 Hillside St. for \$2.78 million, and 1566 Tremont St. for \$2.38 million.

Lepler bought 33 Wigglesworth St. for \$1.27 million and 154-156 Hillside St. for \$1.79 million.

Landlords with multiple buildings also made deals. Alp Kantar, R.E. Boston LLC, added 120-122 Hillside St. to its holdings for \$1.3 million, while Calumet Street Partners (Paul and Greg Grant with Alex Peselman) sold 212 and 216 Calumet St. to out-of-town investors.

Projects approved by the BPDA board of directors include the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard's 775 Huntington Ave. tower. The 13-story building will include a mix of 111 income-restricted rentals and income-restricted and market-rate condos.

The Bullfinch Company's plans for a research and development office and lab at 804-812 Huntington Ave. and 23 condos at the rear of the property on Hillside Street also advanced.

The Boston Landmarks Commission waived demolition delay for 2 and 4 Terrace Place, allowing Mathew O'Hara's 47-condo project to proceed.

Permitted new construction included 0 Hillside (25 Sachem St.), vacant land at the corner of Hillside and Sachem.

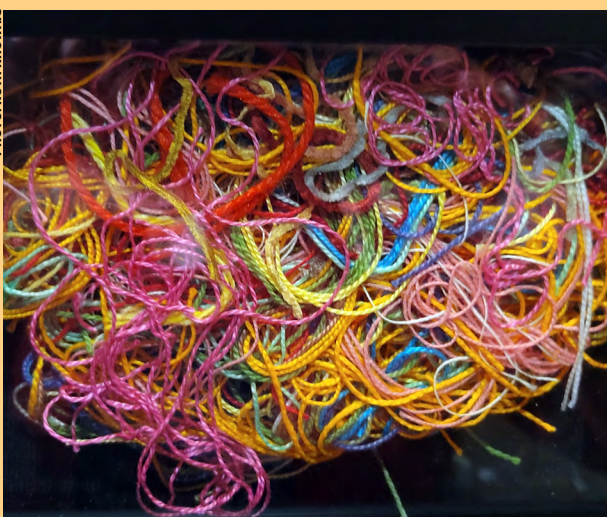
New projects, currently under review (and with anticipated public meetings) would add 586 rental apartments to the neighborhood. They include:

- 80 and 100 Smith St. (218 units)
- JVue Apartments on St. Alphonsus and Worthington streets (150 units)
- 110-128R Terrace St. (79 units)
- a seven-story building at 1558 Tremont St. (139 units)

At a Sept. 21 meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill, attorney Joe Hanley and Bruner Cott architect Jason Jewhurst presented plans to transform the Chabad-owned building at 1615-1617 Tremont St. into a five-story social hall with 12 hospitality suites. The building would be much larger than the adjacent rowhouses on Wigglesworth and Tremont. The site sits within the historic

'EMERGING ARTIST' EXHIBIT FEATURES TWO FENWICKIANS

PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS



The annual Fay Chandler Emerging Artist Exhibition at Boston City Hall features works by artists who live, work, or create in Greater Boston. Two exhibitors this year have Fenway connections. West Fens artist Lisa Fay has multimedia piece (shown), and Sara Theophall, who works at the Peterborough Senior Center, has a collage entitled "Burden of Resilience." Through Oct. 28 on the third floor of City Hall.

Triangle Architectural Conservation District.

After hearing this plan, a key topic emerged at the meeting—understanding the definition and allowable zoning for lodging houses.

City zoning defines a lodging house as five unrelated residents not living as a single unit; kitchenettes are optional. Executive suites are different and must have 10 occupants or fewer. Mission Hill's zoning allows lodging houses as a conditional use, which requires a zoning variance, but forbids executive suites.

Short-term rentals—for 28 or fewer days—are an entirely separate category and have their own requirements. If there is a

contract with a business or institution for an extended stay of at least 10 days, then the rental is not considered short-term.

All three Mission Hill buildings owned by the Chabad—5 Worthington St., 1615 and 1617 Tremont St. are either currently vacant or being used for short-term stays.

And transitional housing is proposed for the residential three-family subdistrict at 130 Fisher Ave. The project entails an addition and alteration on the back of the hill costing more than \$1 million.

Nearby residents have heard about the plans for single-room occupancy units from workers at the site, but owner Mario Ricciardelli has not yet approached the Alliance.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



Construction at 130 Fisher Ave.

SENIORS REMEMBERED

On Sept. 8, more than 40 seniors met in Ramler Park in the West Fens for a day of remembrance, hosted by the Peterborough Senior Center, for more than 20 residents who have died over the past 25 years. To mark the occasion, PSC staff members Tracey Hunt and Sara Theophall assembled photos of the deceased on a three-paneled memorial board with names and date of death beneath each photo. Some of the seniors depicted included Kaye McLean—first president of the Peterborough Senior Club, as the group was once known; Lisa Rein-Woisin—first director of the PSC; Richard Barry; Barbara Boger; Pat Boulos; Sandra Brant; Barbara Brooks Simons; Stephen Brophy; Joyce Ellis; Clare Fleury; Joyce Foster; Elizabeth Gillis; Harold Gregory; Phyllis Hanes; Lois Johnston; Christine Kleckley; Romin Koebel; Pauline Mack; Joe Matthieu; Richard Parker; Gloria Platt; Evelyn Randall; Helen Singleton; Matti Spencer; and Anne Tobin.

—HELEN COX

Protest Spotlights Humanitarian Crisis in Ethiopia

PHOTO: KELSEY BRUUN



On Sept. 10, dozens of protesters gathered in Copley Square to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. According to speakers at the event, the Ethiopian government refused to allow western journalists into the country, so they have only received information about the crisis from family members on the ground. According to the UN's refugee agency, the crisis—growing out of a military dispute between the national government and the regional government—has displaced hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians since fall 2020, and left more than 9 million people in Tigray and two neighboring provinces with little or no food. In addition to keeping journalists away so they can't verify reports of atrocities, the warring parties have also hampered work by international agencies attempting to provide food, medical care, and temporary housing for internal refugees.

FCC BEGINS SEARCH FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rob Kordenbrock, who began his tenure as executive director of the Fenway Community Center in 2018, stepped down from the position early last month in order to take a new job at another nonprofit. The FCC board has formed a hiring committee, posted the job, and as of press time had begun interviewing candidates for a replacement.

FENS VIEWS

After State’s 2022 Climate Bill, Where Next on Climate?

BY WILL BROWNSBERGER

Recent Massachusetts legislation and federal legislation will together lead to significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions—the cause of climate change. I’d like to talk about what worries me and where we have more work to do.

Massachusetts has set a goal to cut our emissions to zero by 2050, and getting there sooner would be better. That means we need to cut current emissions by roughly one third in the next 10 years.

The consensus strategy is simple: electrify everything and convert electric power-generation sources to renewables.

I’m hopeful about electrifying vehicles. Most of the vehicles in use today will be gone by 2050. Governments around the world have put in place incentives for consumers to purchase electric vehicles and mandates for manufacturers to transition their fleet production to electric vehicles. The global auto manufacturers are all responding, and there is huge momentum toward electric vehicles.

Some worry about mineral supplies for batteries. Others worry about availability of fast charging stations. But I believe that these problems will be solved and, soon enough, most of us will be driving electric vehicles.

By contrast, most of the housing in place now will still be in use in 2050. In fact, at least in Massachusetts, most of the housing that will be in use in 2050 has already been built.

We have to retrofit all our existing buildings to use electrified heat. To avoid expensive electric bills, we have to make sure that these buildings are reasonably energy efficient.

The challenge is that every building is a little different. In general, the prescription is to improve insulation, windows, and sealing, and to replace fossil heat sources with electric heat pumps. However, this is much more complicated than it sounds.

Unless a building is already efficient and already has ducted hot-air heat (which can be easily connected to a heat pump), homeowners and building managers have to sort through some difficult choices and may have to engage in disruptive interior construction work. The total costs per housing unit can easily run well over \$20,000. Consumers will face significant costs even with

the generous incentives we have created.

Heat pumps are so efficient that a switch to heat pumps usually reduces carbon emissions (even if the electric power is not green), but the switch may not reduce operating costs—that depends on gas and electricity prices, and currently it’s a close call.

So far, very few of our 3 million homes in Massachusetts have made the necessary transition, and I’m pessimistic that our home-by-home incentive approach will work.

On the power production side, the legislated incentives are generous enough that companies can make good money installing wind and solar. Therefore, they will be aggressive in doing so. I do worry about our permitting process for large wind projects, but even if we don’t quite hit our targets, we’ll make big progress.

Another challenge is beefing up our transmission grid to support new renewable power flows. There are only a few points in the state where our transmission grid has the capacity to distribute large flows of power. As we shift the locations of power generation sources, the grid has to adapt. Nobody is saying that is impossible, but the costs and permitting challenges for new transmission lines aren’t fully understood.

A final concern is reliability. Where do we get our power if the weather is calm for a couple of weeks in the dark winter months? None of the technologies available today really answers that question. Batteries and hydro power don’t work at the right scale and national transmission lines that might bring power from other areas will be hard to build. The easy answer is to maintain our fossil fuel generators on standby for rare use, but that raises the possibility that they might be used too often.

Finally, it’s important to acknowledge that the renewable transition may not look beautiful. In Massachusetts, we are accustomed to buying our fuel from other places. If we produce our energy here using renewables, we are going to have to get used to seeing a lot of solar panels and wind turbines.

We live in the decade in which we’ll find out whether we have the will and the technology to achieve deep emission reductions. For all that we have done legislatively, we still have a lot more work to do.

Will Brownsberger represents the Back Bay, Fenway, Allston, Brighton, Watertown and Belmont in the state senate. His website is willbrownsberger.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Carl “Rick” Richter, 1955–2022

Rick Richter led a life well spent. He loved connecting with other people, whether it was around sports, music or green space. Rick managed to find commonality with just about everyone he met.

Rick moved to Boston from North Carolina in 2008. An avid cyclist, shortly after arriving, he took a three-hour bike ride to the Arnold Arboretum during Columbus Day weekend. He enjoyed riding along the Southwest Corridor and made early-morning and afternoon rounds of the Fenway Victory Gardens for which he served as section coordinator and vice president of the park.

Rick’s North Carolina roots were deep. He crewed at Duke and helped organize the Jimmy V Golf Classic fundraiser, named in honor of North Carolina State coach Jim Valvano who died of cancer. He volunteered in launching the Festival for the Eno, an annual folk and arts gathering in Durham dedicated to preserving the environment and culture of the Eno River basin.

Rick believed that community organizations should not work as silos unto themselves, but if they could share what they felt was important with others, great things could be accomplished.

He helped bring services to the unhoused and addicted and advocated for parks and green space at numerous coffee hours with the mayor. Rick would show up and talk about what was needed, then work tirelessly to make things happen.

Rick served on the board of the Victory Gardens during a time when encampments, threats from drug dealers, and garden vandalism were rampant. In response, he worked on public safety with the Park Rangers and Boston Police Department while obtaining services for those in need through Pine Street Inn, the CareZone mobile health van, and Communicate and Connect, an initiative of Berklee’s Neighborhood Improvement

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FENWAY NEWS



Committee.

When Boston police suggested that creating more foot traffic and activity in the Fenway Victory Gardens could help curtail crime, he fostered the idea of a community butterfly garden. With Elizabeth Bertolozzi, his partner in life and civic service, he secured funding from the Fenway Park Demonstration Project Community Benefits Fund, obtaining the Garden Society’s largest grant in an 80-year history. The Pollinator Garden opened last month.

The mark of a true leader, Rick led by example. He rolled up his sleeves to barbecue at FensFest, organized a Duke Alumni

clean-up of the Emerald Necklace, and knocked on doors of local businesses to solicit FensFest raffle prizes.

During the pandemic in 2020, he switched to an all-vegetable garden, starting 150 tomato plants in his apartment. He grew and collected vegetables from fellow gardeners for the Women’s Lunch Place, the daytime shelter and advocacy center.

Rick was a recipient of the “South End Community Service Award” from Mayor Walsh and Police Commissioner William Gross. He was recognized with Elizabeth Bertolozzi for their volunteer work in the Fenway and South End.

An adopted son of Massachetts, Rick once took note from John F. Kennedy:

We are the premier community garden in the country. We are proud and honored to be able to garden in the heart of Boston. We also have a responsibility to each other. Ask not what your Gardens can do for you, ask what you can do for the Gardens.

—TIM NEY, *West Fens resident.*

Please see the facing page for remembrances of Rick from friends and community members.

THE Fenway News

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

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“Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.”

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today’s Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

> FREQUENCY <

Our next issue will appear on
Friday, October 28.

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is
Friday, October 21.

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AVOID THE RATE HIKE—AND GO GREENER—WITH CITY’S ELECTRICITY CHOICE PLAN

BY LESLIE POND AND STEVE WOLF

You’ve probably heard that National Grid has plans to raise electric rates by 64 percent beginning Nov. 1. The rate hike reflects turmoil in global natural gas markets—

Massachusetts generates more than half its electricity

from natural gas—created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, inflation, and increased demand.

Much of Boston’s electricity comes from Eversource, the state’s other major supplier. WBUR reports that it won’t file a proposal until later this fall, with any new rates taking effect in January. Over the summer, however, Eversource more than doubled its rate for New Hampshire customers.

One group of customers, though, doesn’t have to worry about these increases: anyone who’s joined the City of Boston’s Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) plan.

Here’s a quick recap (or check the Jan. 2021 and Jan. 2022 issues of *The Fenway News* on fenwaynews.org for more details). To date Massachusetts has authorized roughly 150 municipal CCE plans to purchase electricity “in bulk” on behalf of residents and businesses. The more people participate, the more power those plans have to negotiate lower rates. Boston launched its program in 2021, aiming to give residents a more stable and affordable not-for-profit option. Customers have three options (numbers are valid until December 2023):

- **Standard** (default): \$0.11161/kWh; 30 percent renewable energy
- **Basic** (optional): \$0.10771/kWh; 20 percent renewable
- **Green 100** (optional): \$0.13858/kWh; 100 percent renewable

All three options cost less than Eversource’s Basic Service residential rate of \$0.17871/kWh, which includes 20 percent renewable energy and is in place through Dec. 31.

You can switch to Boston’s CCE any time—it might take one or two billing cycles to take effect—without a contract or fee. Your current supplier, however, may charge a termination fee.

The reasons given for the requested rate hike show precisely why we need faster adoption of renewable energy sources—they’re local, abundant, and increasingly affordable. If you haven’t switched to CCE, the coming rate hikes should be a wake-up call. In combination with DIY tips for lowering energy use, BCCE will help cut your electricity costs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and help meet the city’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Learn more about Boston’s CCE at www.boston.gov/departments/environment/community-choice-electricity. Use the City’s calculator to compare rates at www.cityofbostoncce.com/calculator-iso-ne-and-third-party-rate/.

Leslie Pond and Steve Wolf both live in the West Fens

GUEST OPINION

Remembering Rick Richter

I met Rick by way of the Fenway Garden Society. Originally from the Midwest, I joined FGS as a way to connect with something familiar and to contribute to something larger—a landmark in the city of Boston. At the time, Rick was on the board of directors, and was leading many Garden and community efforts in the Fenway area. While I was no stranger to gardening, Rick was an incredible role model; he taught me what a steward of the park really was all about: care of the land, camaraderie behind a shared interest, and always leaving your surroundings in better condition than when you found it. Little did I know, he cared for his friends that way, too! Thank you, Rick—for your lasting impression on the Gardens and for leaving them (and me) in better condition than you found them.

—JOE NOWICKI

Former board member, Fenway Garden Society

Rick was one of the kindest, most supportive people I have known, someone with a firm moral compass who spent time building things and people up rather than tearing them down. When I would see him in the gardens, he was frequently working to either help someone or to help the park. He loved to volunteer and he loved helping others. He was a

dedicated partner to Elizabeth Bertolozzi, and their life together was a reflection of all the things that were priorities: nature and outdoor activity, community, and service. The world is certainly missing his light.

—MARIE FUKADA

Fenway Civic Association

Rick is a force of spirit from multiple backgrounds. He had a relationship with the “best coach ever in basketball at Duke,” he played handball with Coach K. The games were not a soft touch. The power of sports in our society are front and center, and so is Rick in my spirit. And it was not only basketball. The power of the Red Sox’s winning years included Rick’s life.

Rick had a spirit of caring for the environment and for human beings as meaningful creatures, living a life of sharing and saving the less powerful. Here is where the partnership of Rick and Elizabeth reached the center place for living. The frail appearing body of the butterfly. Here is a lifetime of going to the extremes to save the complex lives of the most threatened creatures. Rick, a man of power, yes, but also a person who cared for all in multiple ways. As my adopted daughter from Ukraine said after [my] telling her of his death. “I will miss him so, but will remember how kind

and thoughtful he was (to) me.” For our lives, Rick’s life continues to be a motivation to care for others and to immerse ourselves in the natural world where we find caring, balance and love.

—GERRY WRIGHT

Founder and president, Friends of Jamaica Pond & Frederick Law Olmsted impersonator

Rick was always concerned about trying to address the problems of homelessness and substance abuse and the impacts on the Gardens and the Fenway. He always brought that concern and clarity to our Communicate and Connect meetings. And back in the old days when we met in person at the Starbucks, he used to bring bagels for us to eat.

—RICH GIORDANO

Fenway Community Development Corp.

Rick was tireless in his devotion to the Fenway Victory Gardens (including the ongoing battle with the phragmites and other invasives). He was also a generous caretaker, as he was always willing to lend a hand or to share advice from his vast well of knowledge about how to be a good steward of the land.

—LACRETIA JOHNSON FLASH

Gardener

One of the things I remember most about Rick is that he seemed to be in constant motion, and almost always he was doing something for someone else. I will also always remember Rick be-

cause I had a milestone birthday in summer 2020; I was feeling blue because I was unable to get together with friends to celebrate. I mentioned to Elizabeth that it was my birthday, and got a voicemail from Rick in which he sang happy birthday. It was such a sweet gesture and made me feel very special.

—TRINA ALPIN

Gardener, Former board member, Fenway Garden Society

When I think of him I think of consistency. This is a person who just consistently dedicated his time to our most valuable resources. He gave his time to the open space and making that open space as productive as possible for as many people as possible, and as inclusive as possible.

It was so incredibly important for him to be telling this story of the Fenway Victory Gardens, their history and what they mean, but to tell that story in a way that invited people to really enjoy them and make them a safe place.

His impact on open space went well beyond the Fenway. I have vivid memories of him attending numerous coffee hours that the Parks Department would run. He would advocate for an item that would relate to pollinator health or the tree canopy. He was willing to have his influence felt for the benefit of neighborhoods beyond the Fenway.

He was a man who dedicated an enormous amount of time, never wavered and always had a smile. He did so in a respectful way.

There are so many people in the world who think that the only way to communicate is to violate, scream and yell. Rick was a good reminder that there is such a wonderful way to push and advocate and to do so with a smile and really be inclusive in that advocacy. He will be terribly missed by the parks community.

—CHRIS COOKE

Executive director, Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy; formerly Commissioner Boston Parks & Recreation and Chief, Environment, Energy and Open Space

Meet New West Fens State Rep.

BY ALISON BARNET

State Rep. Dan Ryan—formal name Daniel Joseph Ryan—will newly represent parts of the Fenway after upcoming changes to the Second Suffolk district. Chelsea will no longer be included in the district, which will now take in small parts of Charlestown, Allston, Cambridge, Everett, and Ward 4, precinct 10A and Ward 5, precincts 10 and 12, all in the West Fens.

Ryan, a Democrat, was first sworn in as a state rep back in 2014. He has an interesting background as a boys and girls teen center director and a bartender. He lives in Charlestown with his wife, two daughters and stepson, and walks the two miles to work.

When we met on Sept. 21, we discussed several issues pertinent to the Fenway.

As the chair of the Election Laws Committee, he agreed with me—a poll worker—that in-person voting on Election Day used to be a community event, where neighbors and friends saw each other. The recent primary election was quite the opposite, with write-in ballots and

early voting encouraging people to stay home.

Ryan is not opposed to labs and “luxury” condos, commenting that “luxury” is often a meaningless label. We need balance in homeownership, he believes.

He has mixed feelings about bike lanes. More protections are needed, he says, and we don’t need lanes on every street. He used to bike a lot himself—out to places like Lexington—but how to deal with the present proliferation of bikes, he says: “I don’t know.”

He read the article in the last *Fenway News* about the 55 bus and said State Rep Jon Santiago is studying it and the Better Bus Project.

Although “Mass and Cass” is not in the Fenway, it affects everyone. Ryan comments that one size does not fit all and that there are different mental health and addiction issues needing to be addressed and requiring different solutions.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End. Changes in the the district take effect with the 2023-24 legislature, which will be selected on Nov. 8.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN RYAN

CORRECTION

In our September 2022 issue, we did not include a photo credit for an image of Pat Boulos, which appeared courtesy of the Boston Athenæum. We also omitted a photo credit for the Ghost Bike ceremony photos, taken by West Fens resident Leslie Pond. We regret the omissions.

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BPL Exhibit Explores How Maps Can Reveal Political, Social, and Environmental Meaning

BY LESLIE POND

In our daily lives, maps help us locate the people and places we care about and navigate between them. They are also a wonderful way to engage with our environment on a different scale, such as a bird’s-eye view. They allow us to visualize data such as income, race, noise levels, or even odors. And maps reveal past choices and plans for the future.

“I think about maps as extraordinary visual devices that open up questions and invite us to consider our identities, how we relate to one another, the shape of our communities, and how they change over time,” says Garrett Dash Nelson, president and head curator of the Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

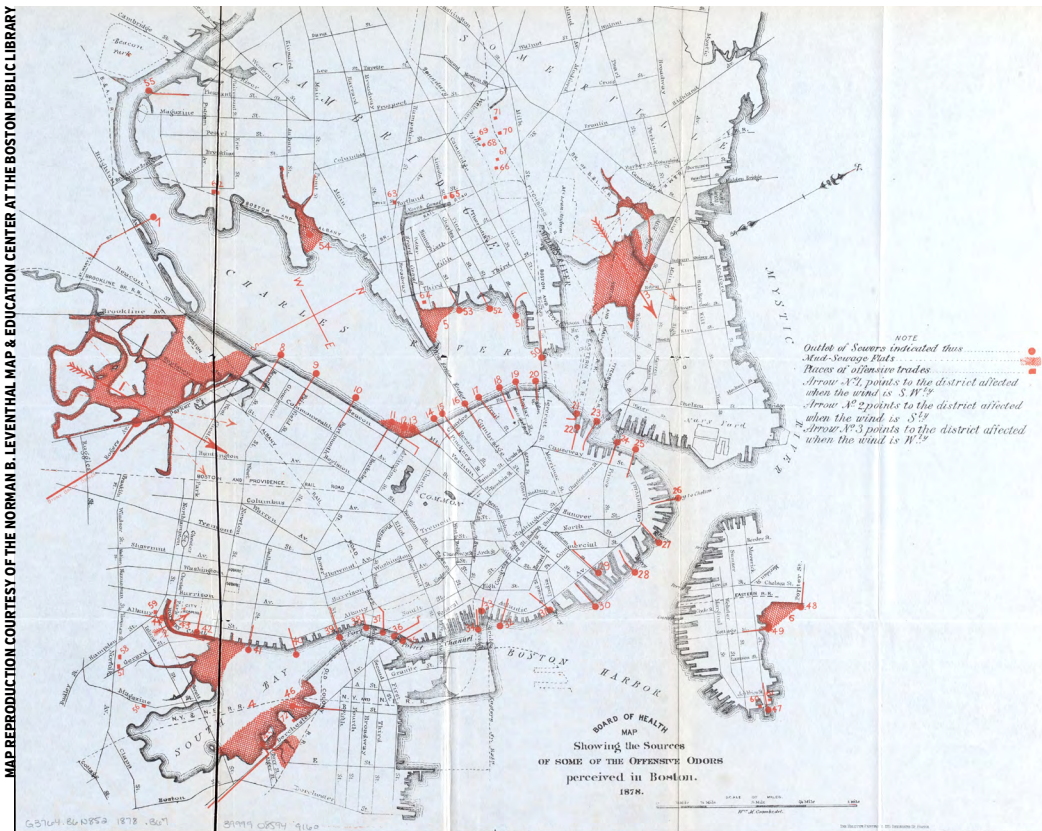
The exhibition *More or Less in Common: Environment and Justice in the Human Landscape* focuses on the overlap between social and environmental issues. It asks the question, “Is the environment something we all have in common?” and shows through maps and additional objects why the answer is “more or less.” The maps reveal how people and the natural world are intrinsically connected, and how the relationship has changed over the past 150 years.

This exhibition has breadth and depth, spanning global, national, and local scales and the past, present, and future. The historical maps allow us to recognize how choices made decades ago have led to pollution and social and geographical marginalization that continue to impact people today.

The exhibition also includes contemporary maps and highlights environmental justice advocacy and activism. The curators feature next-generation designers who contributed work to a Green New Deal Superstudio and ask us to consider actions we can take to break the cycle of social and environmental injustice.

Visitors to the exhibition—more than 23,000 in person and thousands more online—have included city, state, and national experts, such as representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, and student groups of all ages.

“One of the most rewarding things for us is to see people who hadn’t thought about



This map of “Offensive Odors Perceived in Boston” dates to 1878 and shows sewage outfalls, sewage-laden mudflats, and “places of offensive trades,” all of which gave off unpleasant smells that affected different neighborhoods based on wind direction.

the environment as a social issue have an ‘aha moment’ when they spend time with the maps on display,” says Nelson.

He explained that, “a story that captures many of the exhibition’s themes is about the shifting fortunes of two bays in Boston.”

One map illustrates the sites of offensive odors in 19th-century Boston. Decisions made to manage the problem, such as constructing the Emerald Necklace, led to the Back Bay as an affluent neighborhood with plenty of green space.

In stark contrast, the South Bay continues to be used for industrial purposes, is home to lower-income communities and communities of color, and is more impacted by air pollution and heat islands. A map from 1897 shows the Columbia Road parkway, a part of Olmsted’s plan for the South Bay section of the Emerald Necklace that was never built.

These disparate outcomes raise the challenging questions of how to address inequities and bring green amenities to the parts of Boston that lack them, without causing displacement. “Over and over again, we see that communities who have been socially marginalized get geographically marginalized, and the fact that they’re on the geographic margins makes them more socially vulnerable,” says Nelson.

Two large floor maps, created by the Map Center for this exhibition, are well worth seeing in person. “A Shared Problem, An Unequal Burden” is a world map that shows how climate change knows no boundaries and how interconnected we are on a global scale. It reveals how our individual choices, considered

together, matter beyond our own space. A second map, “A City of Unequal Risks,” zooms in on Boston’s neighborhoods and layers in data from the City’s 2019 *Climate Ready Boston* report, which included the heat-island effect, coastal flood risk, and open space ownership. It also included information on the groups identified as most vulnerable to climate hazards: older adults, children, people of color, and people with limited English proficiency, limited incomes, disabilities, or medical illness. Parts of the Fenway, Longwood, and Mission Hill have three or more of these seven measure of social vulnerability and are subject to higher temperatures than nearby areas.

“This map invites us to consider where Bostonians most impacted by climate change are and ask questions like where they would go if they were unable to live where they live now. It would be great to see a future map that includes data from cities and towns around Boston,” says Ezra Acevedo, visitor and exhibition services assistant and gallery tour leader.

“A central part of the Map Center’s mission,” says Nelson, “is to use maps to promote civic engagement. Environmental justice is one of the key questions that connects our landscapes to social, political, and economic questions, both historically and in the future,” says Nelson.

What will future maps of Boston reveal about our choices—as individuals, communities, and organizations—and the effect that these choices have in advancing environmental justice? How will we as Boston’s residents come together across neighborhood boundaries to help implement climate change solutions and support the communities that are already most burdened by environmental impacts and most at risk for climate change impacts?

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

COMMUNITY

meetings

MON, OCT. 3 Kenzie Bok hosts **OFFICE HOURS** at Penguin Pizza (735 Huntington Ave.), 4–6pm. Sign up for a slot at tinyurl.com/276pvej.

TUE, OCT. 4 The BPDA hosts a **110-128R TERRACE STREET IMPACT ADVISORY GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING** to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report received on Sept. 16. Register at bit.ly/3qt9qH7 or call in at (833) 568-8864 (meeting ID # 161 362 4169). Contact Quinn Valcich at quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions. 6–8pm.

TUE, OCT. 11 The BPDA hosts a **110-128R TERRACE STREET VIRTUAL PUBLIC**

MEETING to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report received by the BPDA on Sept. 16. Register in advance at bit.ly/3DrBnGG. Call in at (833) 568-8864 (meeting ID # 161 268 0422). Contact Quinn Valcich at quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions. 6–8pm.

THU, OCT. 13 Join the Fenway CDC for its monthly **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING**. Interested in campaigns for affordable housing and a chance to develop skills as an advocate? All are welcome; visit tinyurl.com/FCDCorganizing to register. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 217-4370 with any questions. 6–7:30pm.

MORE EXHIBIT RESOURCES

- View the exhibition through December 28. For info on hours and gallery tours, visit www.leventhalmap.org/digital-exhibitions/more-or-less-in-common. The website includes the digital exhibition, K-12 lesson plans, and much more, and will remain available after the physical exhibition closes.
- The exhibition is part of the celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted’s 200th birthday. For more information, visit www.olmsted200.org and www.olmstednow.org.
- For articles on this and other exhibitions, including Ezra Acevedo’s on “Mapping depictions of oil,” visit www.leventhalmap.org/tags/exhibition.
- This semester, the Myra Kraft Open Classroom at Northeastern’s School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs offers a course connected to the exhibition. It explores the policies, practices, ethics, metrics, and outcomes related to achieving environmental justice. The course is free, open to the public, and offered in-person and by livestream. For details visit cssh.northeastern.edu/policyschool/events/open-classroom-fall-2022.



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 Mass Cultural Council

 BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

 Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

Forum Spells It Out: Climate Change Makes Groundwater Issues Urgent, More Complex

BY ALISON PULTINAS

At the Sept. 20 Boston Groundwater Trust Forum, “How Climate Change May Threaten the Foundations of Boston,” panelists discussed a range of issues related to groundwater. However it’s clear that coordinating comprehensive solutions remains a conundrum.

The city’s footprint expanded in the 19th century with filled land, essentially sand and gravel dumped on top of mud flats. Consequently, for new buildings, a European method of supporting foundations with wood pilings was widely adapted. The pilings must remain submerged in water; otherwise, if exposed to air, the wood deteriorates, and eventually pilings can collapse.

The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGWT, established in 1986) last held a public forum in 2005, according to

executive director Christian Simonelli. At that time, an emergency task force organized by business and community members helped drive several new initiatives. A memorandum of understanding created a City-State Groundwater Working Group that includes all public agencies responsible for underground infrastructure.

Later that year, Mayor Thomas Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Authority drafted the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD; Article 32 of the Zoning Code), primarily focused on holding stormwater in the soil with recharge wells. The wells take water run-off from rooftops, paved areas, and roads; filter it; and send it underground to raise the water table.

With increased knowledge of the location of buildings supported on wood pilings and new monitoring wells, GCOD zoning has been updated to cover more

neighborhoods. The zoning requires the Trust to make recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeal and the BPDA about impacts from construction and new development on the water table.

The forum took place at the Boston Public Library’s Rabb Hall, where Mayor Michelle Wu said that preventing groundwater depletion as Boston experiences extreme weather variations with heat, drought, and intense rain represents an effort to preserve Boston for future generations.

She noted that East Boston will experience both sea-level rise and groundwater depletion, which will affect many buildings that rest on wood pilings—a “double whammy,” as surface flooding doesn’t solve groundwater depletion. Impervious pavement and expected long droughts make absorption much harder.

The prelude to the panel included introductions from multiple speakers, limiting the time allotted for the invited guests. Each panelist had only a few minutes to share their story. They varied in their approach and were both academic and creatively optimistic.

Kate England, head of the City’s new Green Infrastructure office, spoke of porosity in the public right of way; for example, creating bioswales (small vegetated trenches) at street corners when sidewalks are widened. Her goal is making sure we integrate green infrastructure intentionally through policy.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission Chief Engineer John Sullivan explained that the Commission plays a significant role in managing stormwater. Old, cracked pipes are everywhere, he said, and he aims to solve for leaky pipes and redirect stormwater. The harder problem to solve—according to a report released this summer by a UMass Boston group—is that Boston’s sewer system wasn’t designed to handle the intense rainfalls expected with climate change.

Former City Councilor Matt O’Malley now works for Vicinity Energy (formerly Veolia, and before that Trigen), which operates district-energy

systems nationally. He described their plans for turning steam condensate into groundwater recharge. Locally, the power plant on Scotia Street in the Back Bay serves as a backup for the downtown substation on Kneeland Street, but future expansions are likely. O’Malley praised the district-energy concept with electrified boilers heating the steam as a future carbon-reduction strategy for the city.

Dr. Vandana Rao, state director of water policy, was emphatic: “Land use matters!” She said climate change will make Massachusetts’s future weather be like North Carolina’s current weather.

Other speakers included Dr. Jayne Knott, a hydrologist on the City-State working group, and Wilko Koning, a Dutch engineer who participated virtually from Amsterdam.

However, no unified plan for measurable goals and successful strategies was presented, and there was no time for questions.

What exactly is the established State-City working group doing now? Our government is monitoring groundwater much more broadly than decades ago, but organizing a collective effort with multiple agencies is complex.

The forum title was euphemistic: there’s no doubt climate change threatens the foundations of Boston. Because of limited time at the forum, Christian Simonelli asked that follow up questions be sent to him at csimonelli@bgwt.org.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

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Opening Our Doors

All Yours, All Free: A Day of Art & Cultural Experiences in the Fenway Cultural District

Monday, October 10, 2022 • 10am - 4pm



PHOTO CREDITS: SOPHIE PARK

PERFORMERS (STARTING FROM TOP LEFT): NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY JAZZ BAND, 4 STAR DANCE STUDIO, ZILI MISIK, ASIAH HERRERA, GROOVERSITY, HOT TAMALE BRASS BAND



fenwayculture.org • [#fenwayculture](https://twitter.com/fenwayculture) • [#openingourdoors](https://twitter.com/openingourdoors)

DON'T FORGET THE BOOKS!



PHOTO: KELSEY BRUNN

It's easy to forget that the new Boston Arts Academy has all the features of a high school—like a library and cafeteria. Both have large windows and are visible from Ipswich Street.

Fensfest Tradition Continues



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

The crowd was a bit thinner, but Garden Society members and friends brought back much of the spirit of FensFest on Sept. 10 at the front of the Victory Gardens. This year's festival featured music, desserts, drinks, a white elephant table, and a small awards ceremony.

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Why Document Phosphorus Levels in the Muddy River?



An MWI volunteer assembled the boom for phosphorus sampling last August.

BY STEVE WOLF

The Muddy Water Initiative (MWI) has opened a new line of attack in its efforts to clean the Muddy River. On Aug. 18, MWI—whose “WATERGOAT” has helped it pull nearly 1,500 pounds of trash from the river since 2020—installed a boom to test a new method for filtering phosphorous from the water. Three months of sampling and analysis will reveal whether the boom can cut phosphorus levels in the Muddy and, potentially, other urban waterways.

State regulations forbid disturbing the riverbed, where sediments contain lead, cyanide, and PFAS—the “forever chemicals—among other toxins. That meant that MWI needed a novel way to filter the water. Danielle Ibrahim, a recent BU graduate with training in engineering and stage design, came up with the solution: a heavy-gauge chain, staked to each bank and buoyed by floats, from which hang 32 evenly distributed 25-pound bags of phosphorous-filtering clay. Phosphorus acts to accelerate the growth of cyanobacteria [aka blue-green algae], which now appears annually in the Charles River basin and bloomed earlier this year in Jamaica Pond and other waters that drain into the Muddy. It can come from cars, streets, fertilizer, and animal waste, and levels in the river exceed EPA recommendations. River-borne phosphorus also promotes red tide outbreaks in the ocean. “We’ve got all these big plans to open the Muddy River to the Charles [at Charlesgate Park],” says MWI co-founder Caroline Reeves, “but we’re not even doing the basic science to understand

what the conditions are” in the river. With the boom in place, MWI volunteers immediately began sampling the water from the Ipswich Street and Boylston Street bridges. MWI will send the samples—taken from three points on each bridge every week—to Alpha Analytical, an environmental lab in Westborough, for testing. Michael Berger, a chemistry professor at Simmons with expertise in environmental hazards, designed the sampling program and will help evaluate the results from the lab. [Turnaround times at the lab mean MWI doesn’t yet have solid results to report.] MWI uses a low-tech sampling method developed by the Charles River Watershed Association. From each bridge, volunteers use ropes to lower baskets with bottles attached into the water. “People ask them all the time if they’re fishing or magnet fishing,” says Reeves, laughing. Reeves underscores the

seriousness of the sampling regimen. By sticking to a consistent schedule, following state protocols, and using a recognized lab for analysis, the Muddy Water Initiative aims to generate high-quality data that both public agencies and academics will recognize as reliable. But the data won’t do much good if it’s not easily accessible, so MWI has recruited another Simmons faculty member, Adam Kresiberg, to help it create an online archive of test results. Reeves remains passionately focused on cleaning the river. Society, she says, has neglected urban waterways for too long, failing to recognize the environmental, recreational, and esthetic services they deliver—and how much more they could benefit us if we took better care of them. Reeves argues for a more deliberate approach to cleaning and remediation. “Let’s not wait until it’s too late,” she says, citing Superfund cleanup sites like Brooklyn’s Gowanus Canal. “The Muddy River needs help.” *Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.*

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

NPR’s “Fresh Air” devoted an entire show to an interview with Margaret Burnham about her book, *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners*. Burnham directs the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Program at Northeastern’s School of Law. Her book recounts the work of law and journalism students who documented a stomach-turning litany of murders of Black people committed by whites and never prosecuted in the Jim Crow South between 1920 and 1954. ➡ **President Robert Brown announced that he plans to retire next June after 17 years at the helm of Boston University** ➡ Several local schools made the annual *US News & World Report* ranking of best colleges and universities. Among big national schools, BU came in at 41, Northeastern at 44, and Simmons tied for 151. Emmanuel also tied for 151st among national small colleges. A backlash appears to be building against the rankings after Columbia University admitted reporting incorrect data to improve its standing [and dropped 18 places as a result]. ➡ **The Sunday Globe travel section featured a splashy spread on the fleet of 10 custom trailers parked behind the Verb Hotel along Ipswich Street. The swanky retro trailers don’t come cheap: According to Globe writer Christopher Muther, rates start at \$599/night, but extras can push the tab to nearly \$800.** ➡



NOV. 8 BALLOT INITIATIVES

When you head to the polls in the upcoming election, you’ll find four initiative questions on the ballot. Here’s a brief overview.

- **QUESTION 1** proposes establishing an a 4 percent state income surtax on the portion of a person’s annual taxable income above \$1 million. The measure, which would amend the state constitution, would reserve the revenue raised for education and transportation.
- **QUESTION 2** would regulate dental insurance so that providers of dental insurance spend at least 83 percent of premiums on dental expenses, not administrative costs.
- **QUESTION 3** would raise the statewide limit on the number of retail alcohol licenses any one retailer can own or control. Under the proposal, the current limit of licenses would rise to 18 licenses

by 2031. The question also would also designate out-of-state drivers’ licenses as valid identification for alcohol purchases.

- **QUESTION 4** would allow residents who cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the U.S. to obtain a standard driver’s license or learner’s permit if they meet all other qualifications. It would *not* allow people who can’t prove lawful presence to obtain a license under the federal “Real ID” program.

To learn more about the ballot questions, visit www.sec.state.ma.us/ele. Early voting in Boston begins Sat., Oct. 22. Locations haven’t been set yet, but the City will post dates and locations later this month at www.boston.gov/departments/election/early-voting-boston. Election day is Nov. 8.

October

CALENDAR

Thu & Fri, 9/30 ➡ 10/28

The Station, a new outdoor gathering space, hosts **FLORA’S WINE BAR**. In addition to wine from The Wine Press, there will also be snacks from local vendors and a DJ. 1400 Boylston St. 4pm to 9pm.

Sun, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, & 10/23

The Station hosts **FENWAY FLEA**. 1400 Boylston St. 12pm to 6pm.

SENIOR EVENTS

To attend these events, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For more information about Operation PEACE programs and senior programming, visit www.operationpeaceboston.org.

- Mondays at 11:30am: TAI CHI with Maria Tumang at the Fenway Community Center
- Wednesdays at 11:30am: LOW-IMPACT MOVEMENT with Simmons University physical therapy graduate students at the Peterborough Senior Center
- Thu, Oct 27 at 11:30am: Halloween-themed COFFEE & CONVERSATION at the Fenway Community Center

Thu, 10/6

Climate Reality Boston joins the producers of “Climate Emergency: Feedback Loops” and 350 Mass for **THE CLIMATE IS YOUR LEGACY: HOW YOU CAN SHAPE IT**, a virtual screening of excerpts. A panel discussion follows, including Bill McKibben, author and founder of Third Act, which mobilizes older Americans to act on climate change. Sabrina Shankman, climate reporter for the *Boston Globe*, moderates. 7–8pm. Register at tinyurl.com/5xxv2r84. FREE.

Mon, 10/10

- **OPENING OUR DOORS.** Visit the Fenway Cultural District for performances, activations, art, music, dance, nature walks, historic tours, and more. Now in its 21st year, OOD is the city’s longest-running and largest day of free cultural experiences. details at www.fenwayculture.org/opening-our-doors
- The Huntington hosts a **RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE** at its renovated main stage on Huntington Ave. Ribbon cutting at 11am; open house 12–3pm. RSVP at tinyurl.com/3psjfjev.

Wed, 10/12

Join the Boston Public Library for a discussion with **LORI GARVER, FORMER DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NASA**, about

how the U.S. will fare in the increasingly crowded field of space exploration. 6–7:30pm, both in-person (Rabb Lecture Hall, Central Library) and over Zoom. Register at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/62e83748884015b008b1309b.

Fri, 10/14 ➡ Sun, 10/23

THE BOSTON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL, returning for its 16th year, opens with *Far-ha*, screening at the Museum of Fine Arts. The closing film, *The Stranger*, screens at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. Set in the Golan Heights, the film was Palestine’s entry for international feature film at the Academy Awards. Visit bostonpalestinefilmfest.org for tickets, showtimes, and more information.

Sun 10/16

BOSTON BAROQUE PRESENTS BACH’S MASS IN B MINOR on period instruments with five top-drawer soloists. 3pm, Jordan Hall. Tickets \$25-125. A livestream of the concert goes online at 8pm, Sat 10/15. Pay-what-you-like tickets from \$9 to \$79. Details and tickets for both version at <https://baroque.boston/>.

Fri, 10/21

The Women’s Lunch Place hosts its annual **SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER** at 6pm.

Info, tickets at womenslunchplace.org/spaghetti-dinner.

Thu, 10/27

Join the Parker Hill Library for a lecture on the life of **CATHY WILLIAMS**, who rose from an enslaved woman to a proud Buffalo Soldier in service to her country. Williams disguised her gender in order to embark upon a new life in the American West. 1497 Tremont St. 6:30pm.

Sat 10/29

The **BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL** returns for the first time since the the pandemic, bringing 250 presenters to events around Copley Square (but also a few in the Fenway). Check <https://bostonbookfest.org/> for the schedule.

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit <https://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/> for more details.

- Fridays at 12:30pm: BINGO.
- Fridays at 5:30pm: PAINT OR KARAOKE (ALTERNATING).

Neighborhood Newsline

Partnership Plans Housing at Holy Trinity

Expect a formal BPDA filing soon by the partnership of Transom Real Estate’s Peter Spellios and Ted Lutz of THR Acquisition/ Harbor Run Development to build 111 apartments on land owned by Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral at 165 Park Drive. The parcel will be subdivided, allowing the church to remain on a separate lot. The proponents are working on the Northampton Residences, a new condo project at the rear of the recently renovated Newcastle-Saranac housing, owned by the Fenway CDC.

Kilmarnock Lot Gets Three More Years

At its Sept. 27 meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeal extended existing zoning for the 15-space parking lot at 101 Kilmarnock Street owned by Stanhope Garage. The extension allows the triangular lot north of Holy Trinity to remain in use until 2025. Maggie Van Scoy of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services stated that no opposition had been raised at an abutters’ meeting. Architect Timothy Burke said the fence and landscaping was improved recently and the signs have been updated. (The decision came a day after Mayor Michelle Wu announced a major overhaul

of the ZBA’s membership, nominating 11 new members to sit on the 14-member board, which annually reviews hundreds of proposals that require a variance from the zoning code.)

BPL Sponsors Diploma-Completion Program

The Boston Public Library now offers Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School, an accredited online diploma-completion program. The library began a pilot of the program— available at no cost to those who qualify—in late 2021. Learn more at www.excelhighschool.org/library/bpl.

YMCA Names Teixeira New Director

The Huntington Avenue YMCA has named Karina Teixeira its new executive director. Teixeira started her YMCA career in child development, leading summer camp and out-of-school time programs. She currently serves the organization as executive director of teen development and previously served as the director of operations for the Oak Square branch. Teixeira also co-chairs the Latino Resource Network Group and supports global diversity efforts on behalf of the YMCA of Greater Boston.

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.ly/2KJ3TXV>.

The Arts

TREES COME TO LIFE IN ED STITT’S PAINTINGS

BY LISA FAY

Painter Ed Stitt continues his growing success with his latest exhibition, “Larz in the City,” at Gallery NAGA on Newbury Street.

Stitt devotes most of the show to 13 tree paintings largely focused on Brookline’s Larz Anderson Park. Anderson was an early diplomat in London. His wife Isabel was an author of 40 books. Both had ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. She bequeathed their estate to the town of Brookline.

The Larz trees come alive when Stitt paints them. The paintings are looking down a slope, as if these trees were to be admired by skiers and sledgers alike. Even though these trees were not painted in the winter, I can imagine the paintings with snow on the ground. “Larz NW Through Three Trees,” “Two Afternoon Larz Tree Sunny,” “Two Summers Larz Trees Large,” and “Trees on Larz Hill

Sunny” are hilly examples.

Stitt paints trees in all weather. “Larz Tree Misty” blurs the trees after a foggy rain. In “City Through the Haze” Stitt reveals that the bushes of the Brookline countryside are never far from the Boston skyline. “Rainy Larz City” manages to show Boston’s pollution. Fall is his best season—the paintings “Autumn Sunny Trees Larz Morning” and “Autumn Trees Larz” shine through with orange and yellow leaves.

Stitt also paints Fenway scenes. Two Fenway bridge paintings are from the vantage point of looking up at the bridge—not looking down at it, as one would expect. Two notable paintings are “Rose Garden Trees” and “Palette Knife Pink Trees.” In the latter piece, the artist knifes the branches with pink leaves with much gusto, leaving much to the imagination.

Stitt maintains a studio at the Fenway Studio on Ipswich Street.

Lisa Fay lives in the West Fens.



“Two Summer Larz Trees, Large” by Ed Stitt

MassArt Exhibit Digs Into The Maternity-Industrial Complex

BY STEVE WOLF

Buy one, get one free” would work perfectly as the subtitle for *Designing Motherhood: Things That Make and Break Our Births*, the main exhibition at the MassArt Art Museum on Huntington Avenue.

The show offers a broad look at tools and products used to prepare for, deliver, and care for a child. If you go expecting a display of industrial design, you’ll certainly get one. But this exhibit has a lot more on its mind—the get-one-free part. It wants to unpack the social, political, and gender assumptions baked into objects as banal as a Snuggli.

This desire to unpack builds on long-simmering efforts to get museums, especially high-profile ones like New York’s Metropolitan and our own MFA, to acknowledge the destructive economic and political systems that made their collections possible. This kind of unpacking began showing up in exhibition text more than a decade ago, but the Movement for Black Lives and the pandemic boosted it the way a mail-order jet pack boosts Wile E. Coyote in a Looney Toons cartoon. Unlike Mr. Coyote’s rockets, always fizzling out at the wrong moment, this change seems to have staying power.

When you enter the show, be sure to

grab a guidebook—you’ll need it, both to follow the not-fully-intuitive layout and to appreciate the curatorial team’s choices. You might even think of it as an at-your-own-pace course on the topic that you can finish at home.

The show broadly defines “motherhood,” starting with recreational sex and running through roughly the first year of a baby’s life, with stops at reproductive healthcare, the long battle over abortion, pregnancy, and birth itself. Beyond objects’ designs, it pulls in art—photos, sculpture, and videos—history, and political analysis perspective.

The team behind the exhibit included two “thought partners”—a soon-to-open midwifery center in Boston and a Philadelphia group that helps low-income and immigrant families navigate pregnancy, birth, and getting kids off to a healthy start.

As an example of the show’s scope, an early section called “Exam” (as in, pelvic) reproduces a speculum found in Pompeii, a nasty-looking gadget clearly designed for examiner convenience, not patient comfort. A 19th-century American doctor, one of the first gynecologists, devised a better design, but it brought a different kind of pain. Long celebrated for that upgrade and a life-saving surgical procedure, he tested his innovations on enslaved women with no anesthesia. “Some of the instruments

of examination,” the guide drily notes, “were developed through procedures now understood as torturous and predicated on lack of autonomy or absence of consent.” Later, we find a contemporary prototype developed by women at frog design (famous for its work on Apple products) and seemingly light years ahead of its metal predecessors.

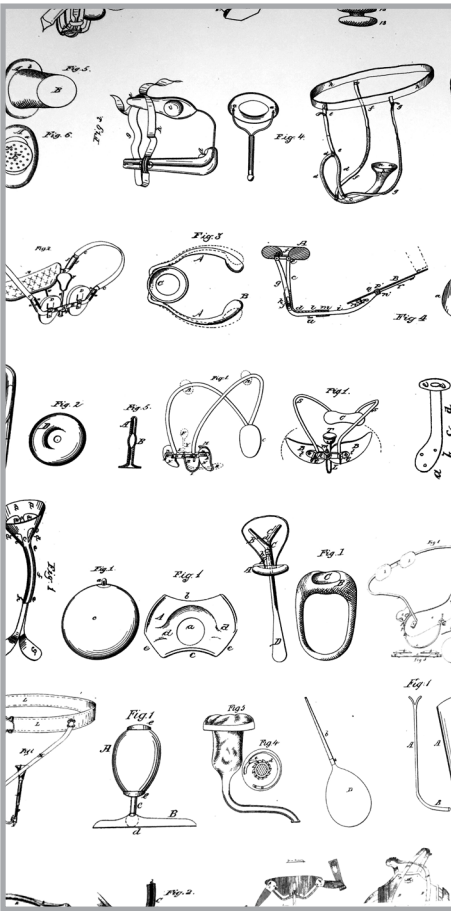
Almost every object in the show comes with a similar deep history. Family-planning posters from India; an early edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*; breast pumps; and a simple device called Pinard’s Ear that gives ultrasound-like results; ignored by high-tech American medicine, it remains in use around the world. A section on midwifery includes a sympathetic 1953 film on Black midwives in the rural South, showing how they “and their patients worked within a racist medical system.”

The show also presents simple, low-cost solutions for common birth-related needs. The Scottish Baby Box, for example, is a cardboard carton filled with essential infant supplies, clothing, and educational materials; in a pinch, it can serve as a crib. In a similar vein, the show shows several modern redesigns that dramatically reduce objects’ environmental impacts.

This thought-provoking exhibit reminds us of how much goes into the design of everyday objects. More profoundly, it shows

how ho-hum objects represent the end of a long chain of unexpected, rarely considered, and sometimes painful choices.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. “*Designing Motherhood*” remains on view through December 18. Entry is free; the museum is open Thu, 12-8pm; Fri, 12-5pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-5pm.



Martha Poggioli’s graphic, *Incomplete Patent Chronology, 1838-2021*, shows patent applications for “insertable technologies and devices relating to reproductive health.”

LAST CALL

The touring portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama wrap up their stop at the MFA on Sun, Oct 30. Timed-entry tickets are required and you must reserve them in advance. A companion exhibit of works from young local artists, “Portraits of Leadership: A Response to the Obama Portraits,” also closes on Oct 30.

Neighborhood ARTSline

New Hours, Free Days at MFA

The Museum of Fine Arts has changed its hours and ended free admission on Wednesday afternoons—but it will offer several free-entry opportunities this fall. New hours run 10am–5pm on Mon, Wed, Sat, and Sun. On Thu-Fri, the museum will stay open until 10pm. The museum will be

closed on Tuesdays. Take advantage of free admission on **Mon., Oct. 10**, for Indigenous People’s Day and Opening Our Doors. On **Thu, Oct 27**, enter for free 5-10pm in celebration of the Diwali. On **Thu, Dec 15**, enter free 5-10pm as part of a Hannukah celebration co-sponsored with the Jewish Arts Collaborative.

Eat Here!

The pandemic hammered local restaurants. Because 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 in

our next 12 issues and list roughly 80 non-chain, local restaurants. So...Eat Here! and help our neighborhood restaurants thrive. That will keep them contributing to 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.gigglingricethai-togobrookline.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/



Mission Hill

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.chachospizza-subs.com/

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

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

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

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.laughingmonk-cafe.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.themissionbar.com/

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

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

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



Eat Here!

Amelia's Taqueria
1076 Boylston St.
(617) 233-2100
<https://www.amelia-staqueria.com/>

The Bebop
1116 Boylston St.
(857) 250-4641
<http://www.thebebop-boston.com>

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

Dumpling Palace
179 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/order-online

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/

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

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

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

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

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

The Westland
10 Westland Ave.
(617) 208-6292
<https://www.westlandboston.com/>

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



West Fenway

Basho Japanese Brasserie
1338 Boylston St.
(617) 262-1338
www.bashojapanese-brasserie.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.collegepizza-menu.com/

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

Eventide Oyster Co.
1321 Boylston St.
(617) 545-1060
www.eventideoyster-co.com/eventide-fenway/

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

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

Fool's Errand
1377 Boylston St.
www.foolserrandboston.com/

Gyro City
1502 Tremont St.
(617) 266-4976
www.gyrocitcity.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.com/

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

Pavement
1334 Boylston St.
(857) 263-7355
pavementcoffeehouse.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/thesippingroomby-breeze/

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.com/

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