



THE

# Fenway News

COVERING THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 49 NUMBER 7 • JUNE 30-JULY 28, 2023

## NATIONAL UNIONIZATION WAVE HITS AREA COLLEGES, HOSPITALS, RETAILERS, MUSEUM

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Region 1 office has been busy responding to unionizing efforts

in Boston that range from educators and medical residents at large institutions, to museum staff, retail and delivery workers.

Local efforts reflect what is recognized as a national wave of organizing. One factor is Boston's high costs for housing and childcare, and wages that don't seem to keep up with the cost of living.

Following a vote to form a union, contract negotiation, including compensation terms, becomes the task of a bargaining committee. The process can often last months, if not years, because some employers slow-walk the negotiations in hopes that some union backers will leave and unionizing will no longer have majority support among employees. The Boston City Council has actively supported unionizing efforts at Boston University, Northeastern University, and at Mass General Brigham (MGB).

Major national players locally are the UAW (United Auto Workers) and SEIU (Service Employees

International Union). SEIU's local bargaining unit, Local 509, is now affiliated with the MGB Housestaff Union, graduate student unions at

when university representatives visited their workplaces to question their participation in union activity.

On May 14, the *Huntington*

*News* reported that "days after Northeastern graduate students filed federal charges alleging Northeastern intimidated union organizers, Boston City Council unanimously passed a resolution... condemning the university's alleged anti-union practices."

A calmer environment has prevailed at B.U. In December 2022, the Boston University Graduate Workers Union (BUGWU) affiliated with SEIU 509, previously established on campus with adjunct and part-time



IMAGE COURTESY OF MGB HOUSESTAFF UNITED

Boston University and Tufts, and many others.

The latest news involves medical residents at Mass General and Brigham & Women's hospitals. They voted to unionize on June 8, and the NLRB certified the results on June 16. MGB Housestaff United will be the largest housestaff union in the United States, bargaining with the largest private employer in Massachusetts.

This spring GENU-UAW led an organizing effort for research and teaching assistants at Northeastern. The effort found support among many grad students, but the university hasn't yet allowed a vote. According to stories in the student-run *Huntington News*, Northeastern has argued against formation of a union, claiming that research assistants are not school employees. In May, graduate students filed an unfair labor practice charge with the NLRB because of supposed retaliation against two organizers

lecturers. BUGWU's mission statement includes fighting for racial and gender justice. Other issues on the group's radar include COVID safety and protection from harassment, transportation, childcare subsidies, living wages, comprehensive health-care coverage, housing justice, and international students' rights and worker protections. The first bargaining session took place June 9.

Tufts graduate students, who successfully unionized under SEIU 509 more than five years ago, have begun negotiating their second five-year contract. A related effort is Local 509's advocacy for salary increases for part-time lecturers at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in the Fenway.

Unions are cropping up at smaller workplaces, too. In a 44-23 vote in

## CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

JULY 31  
AUG 1

P!NK WITH  
PAT BENATAR & NEIL  
GIRALDO, GROUPLOVE

6:00-10:30PM

AUG 2

FALL OUT BOY  
5:45-10:30PM

### REPORT NOISE OR BAD BEHAVIOR

Help document noise or other problems by calling ALL THREE of these numbers:

CITY LICENSING BOARD ☎ 617-635-4170

SOX COMPLAINT LINE ☎ 617-226-6424

CITY PROBLEM LINE ☎ 311

May, employees at the Park Drive REI Co-op store voted to unionize with the United Food and Commercial Workers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine Local 1445. They became the fifth REI store nationwide to vote in a union.

In good news for the MFA staff union affiliated with UAW Local 2119, negotiations yielded a contract in 2022 after years of advocacy. On the other hand, MFA guards in the Museum Independent Security Union (MISU) haven't yet reached a contract agreement, and they continue to seek support from museum visitors.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## JOIN US JULY 20!

City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson will address the Fenway News Association's annual meeting. See page 2 for details.

## VOTE JULY 25!

### SPECIAL ELECTION: DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCILOR

- Kenzie Bok's resignation in April triggered a special election to fill the District 8 seat. The winner will have to run again in September to win a full term.
- Polls are open **7AM-8PM**.
- Given changes in precinct boundaries, **EAST FENS AND MISSION HILL VOTERS** should be sure to check [www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx).

## Redrawn Council Map Moves Some East Fens Voters to New Districts

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The redrawing of Boston wards and City Council districts in 2023 has a history of contention.

Federal Judge Patti Saris prohibited the City from using a map initially approved in May, as she determined it was racially unbalanced. Saris further stated that the City Council was in the best position to act on her ruling and sent them back to the drawing board.

Redistricting occurs every 10 years after the City reviews US Census data. The City Council's nine district boundaries have to be redrawn so that each contains roughly equal populations. One conclusion of this recent redistricting endeavor is the need for an independent redistricting committee. Bullets below delineate the changes.

- **Mission Hill:** No Mission Hill precincts have been moved.
- **Audubon Circle:** No change.
- **South End:** aside from Ward 4 changes: Ward 3 Precinct 16 (SoWA) was moved from District 2 to District 3.

While Mission Hill and Audubon Circle districts didn't change—and the South End had just one change—several precincts in Fenway did see major changes:

- Ward 4/Precinct 5 (East Fens) will move from District 2 to District 7
- 4/6 will move from District 2 to District 8
- 4/7 will move from District 8 to District 7

And in 2021, some voters in Ward 4 were assigned a new precinct. Certain voters in Precincts 1 or 3 are now voting in Precinct 4. These voters were part of District 2 but will now vote in District 7.

Some voters in Ward 4, Precinct 2 were reassigned to Precinct 6 in 2021. These voters were part of District 2 but will now vote in District 8.

Some voters in Ward 4, Precinct 7 were reassigned to Precinct 8 in 2021. These voters were part of District 8 but will now vote in District 7.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. Jonathan Cohn contributed to this article.

PHOTO: RUTH KHONVALS



## Porchfest Returns

On June 10, the Fenway Community Development Corporation, Fenway Community Center, and the Fenway Alliance hosted Porchfest. The free music festival took place in a wide range of outdoor spaces in the Fenway. At left, Valerila Vovk performs at Phinista café on Peterborough Street. See page 6 for more Porchfest highlights.

# Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson to Address Annual Meeting on July 20

The Fenway News hosts its 2023 annual meeting on July 20 at 6pm at the Fenway Community Center. District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson will deliver our keynote. Anyone in the Fenway, Mission Hill, or Audubon Circle can join the Fenway News Association, but you must do so at least 14 days before the meeting (by July 6) in order to vote in the elections held at the meeting. Email [fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com) to join. We have three exciting nominees enthusiastic about joining our board—and, of course, there will be light refreshments.

**FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (AS OF JUNE 26, 2023):**

Delia Alvarez, Shannon Al-Wakeel, Arlene Ash, Nicole Auberg, Jonathan Ball, Ed Ballo, Alison Barnet, Mary Ann Brogan, Will Brownsberger, Kelsey Bruun, Steve Burke, Tony Capobianco, Bob Case, Steve Chase, Conrad Ciszek, Brian Clague, Suzanne Comtois, Tracy Conta, Jerry Cooper, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, Alex Danseco, Bennie diNardo, Kerry Do, Richard Dunshee, Margot Edwards, Johnette Ellis, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Barbara Fay, Lisa Fay, Mary Finn, Nikki Flionis, Michael Foley, Marie Fukuda, Raul Garcia, Slim Gelzer, Galen Gilbert, Kathy Greenough, Renee Harmon, Sam Harnish, Steven Harnish, Mary Ellen Hendrickson, Tim Horn, Tracey Hunt, Cathy Jacobowitz, Akshata Kadagathur, Rosie Kamal, Sajed Kamal, John Kelly, Joseph Kenyon, Ruth Khowais, Robert Kordenbrock, Nasreen Latif, Kristen Lauerma, Nate Lescovic, Brenda Lew, Adanya Lustig, Janet Malone, Aqilla Manna, Joanne McKenna, Maureen McLaughlin, Kristen Mobilia, Pat Murphy, Joan Murphy, Letta Neely, Timothy Ney, Patrick O'Connor, Catherine Pedemonti, Eesha Pendaharkar, Rich ard Pendleton, Jana Peretz, Camille Platt, Gloria Platt, Lauren Deway Platt, Ryan Polhemus, Leslie Pond, Susan Povak, Michael Prentky, Cara Presley, Alison Pultinas, Michelle Reinstein, Karla Rideout, Michael Rogan, Mallory Rohrig, Mike Ross, Rosaria Salerno, Valarie Seabrook, Helaine Simmonds, Ginny Such, Will Tentindo, Mat Thall, Bonnie Thryselius, Eric Tingdahl, Theresa Tobin, Fredericka Veikley, Chris Viveiros, Derrick Warren, Jim Wice, Hugh Wilburn, Margaret Witham, Steve Wolf, Erica Yee

## CORRECTION

In our June issue, we omitted a photo credit on page 3. The photo of Joyce and Mel King in 2006 was taken by Ken Kruckemeyer. We regret the omission.

## THE Fenway News

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

**FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mary Ann Brogan • Steve Chase  
Helen Cox • Mandy Kapica • Sam Harnish  
Ruth Khowais • Leslie Pond  
Alison Pultinas • Steve Wolf

**EDITOR:** Kelsey Bruun

**DESIGN/PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Steve Wolf

**WRITERS:** Ed Ballo, Alison Barnet, Mary Ann Brogan, Will Brownsberger, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Lisa Fay, Marie Fukuda, Katherine Greenough, Steve Harnish, Ruth Khowais, Leslie Pond, Alison Pultinas, Mallory Rohrig, Mat Thall, Chris Viveiros, Steve Wolf

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Steve Chase, Patrick O'Connor, Alison Pultinas, Steve Wolf

**CALENDAR:** Ruth Khowais, Alison Pultinas, Steve Wolf

**PROOFREADERS:** Mary Ann Brogan, Steve Chase, Helen Cox, Ruth Khowais, Leslie Pond, Alison Pultinas

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Janet Malone

**DISTRIBUTION:** Della Gelzer, Aqilla Manna, Reggie Wynn

The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you'd like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, distribute, or sell ads, please contact us at

**The Fenway News,**  
PO Box 230277, Astor Station  
Boston, MA 02123  
[fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com)  
[www.fenwaynews.org](http://www.fenwaynews.org)

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$30/YEAR  
(\$20 FOR LIMITED INCOME)

©2022 FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION, INC.

*“Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.”*

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

**> NEXT ISSUE <**

Our next issue will appear on **Friday, July 28.**

**> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <**

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

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

## Mass Ave Locksmith

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

125 St. Botolph St.  
**617-247-9779**  
[MassAveLock@verizon.net](mailto:MassAveLock@verizon.net)

**Open 9-3, Monday-Friday**

## Food! Neighbors! Fun! See you on the 20th!

### NEW LEG (FINALLY) EXTENDS MULTI-USE PATH

A second leg of the Fenway Multi-Use Path, planned for more than a decade, has opened. At right, the view from Miner Street toward Kenmore Square. Below, the view west from the path toward Miner Street. The path now connects Yawkey Way Station (commuter rail) with the D Line's Fenway Station.

PHOTO: KATHERINE GREENOUGH

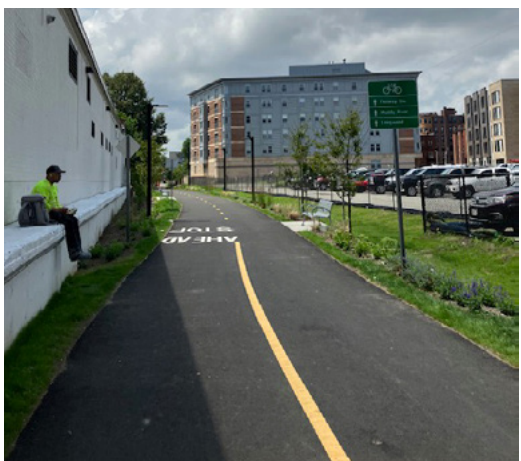


PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

## Annual Rose Garden Picnic Basks in Sunshine

PHOTOS: KERRY BROGAN



The weather gods smiled on June 14, delivering a beautiful late-spring day for the Fenway Civic Association's annual Rose Garden Picnic. Dozens of neighbors enjoyed food and music from The Bagboys. The Boston Police Department's ice cream truck, left, did a brisk business.



## Residents Highlight Rat Problem at Mission Hill Coffee Hour

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



On June 20, the City hosted a Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour at the Mission Hill Playground. Constituents posed for selfies with Mayor Michelle Wu and had an opportunity for intense one-on-ones with City Hall representatives. A not-so-positive topic: the increased population of rats in the area. Could this citywide problem possibly be related to the massive number of construction projects? Illustrating the problem, this photo shows entries to rat burrows in a formerly a landscaped area next to Mission Church's small driveway, which borders the stone wall of the playground. Two days after the coffee hour, Maggie Van Scoy of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services reported that the City's Inspectional Services Department's Environmental Services treated the area with carbon monoxide. Van Scoy also said that the church plans to pave over the plot.

## HUNDREDS TOAST 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS AT FCDC'S FENWAY BALL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FENWAY CDC



On June 21, the Fenway CDC hosted the Fenway Ball AND marked its 50th anniversary with a festive gala at the 521 Overlook space at Fenway Park. The upbeat crowd of more than 300 sat through a briskly moving program, emceed by Northeastern's John Tobin, that included a toast to the group's next 50 years (above). Among other accomplishments, speakers celebrated the Burbank Terrace project, under construction in the East Fens, the CDC's first ground-up housing project in nearly 20 years. The event raised over \$300,000.



A pre-event reception honored founders and key figures from the CDC's 50 years. Seated left to right, Sajet Kamal, Rosie Kamal, Bob Case, Osla Case, and Rosaria Salerno all lent a hand to the organization in its first years. Joining them were (standing) Brian Clague and Gregory Paulson-Haig, and (seated, far right) Sarah Jenness, all current board members

### SOX BOX

Tue, July 4	1:35pm	Fri, July 21	7:10pm
Wed, July 5	7:10pm	Sat, July 22	4:10pm
Thu, July 6	7:10pm	Sun, July 23	7:10pm
Fri, July 7	7:10pm	Tue, July 25	7:10pm
Sat, July 8	4:10pm	Wed, July 26	7:10pm
Sun, July 9	1:35pm		

## Neighborhood Trust Spreads \$125,000 Among 18 Local Projects

BY ALISON PULTINAS AND STEVE CHASE

The checks circulated at the Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust (MHFNT) awards night at MassArt on June 7. In the 2023 funding round, the Trust awarded 18 grants totaling \$125,525.

The event took place in the school's Design and Media Center lecture hall, the first in-person grant distribution since 2018.

The in-person ceremony was traditionally a mainstay of the organization, according to board president Lauren Dewey Platt, who relishes the opportunity for grantees to hear about each other's projects, potentially network with each other, or just to meet folks they didn't know before. The board reviews applications in an annual spring request-for-proposals process and tries to balance awards distribution between the two neighborhoods.

At the ceremony, Dewey Platt said the Trust is especially happy to fund programs for youth and seniors who don't always have a voice. Echoing that sentiment in an emotional acceptance speech, Mission Hill's Pat Flaherty, receiving a check on the behalf of the Maria Sanchez senior building, thanked the Trust board for funding activities that touch people's lives.

Applicants are typically civic groups as well as nonprofits, this year including the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Dawne Young from STEP Nation whose project, Holiday on the Hill, is being funded for the first time,

talked about bringing back a sense of the community she grew up with.

Attendees were happy to see former city councilor Kenzie Bok at the event. Dewey Platt thanked her for arranging for the meeting space, an unexpected challenge in post-COVID times.

A list of grantees appears below.

### The Fenway

- **[bitsandflow ]:** \$3,025 / final grant for Fenway Memory Project
- **Emerald Necklace Conservancy:** \$4,600 for Fenway Porchfest, Tuesday with Roses, and Muddy River Cleanup events
- **FENSFund:** \$8,850 / matching grant for a design project to rehabilitate the Agassiz Road Duck House for use as a

community space

- **Fenway Civic Association:** \$5,000 for musicians' fees for events in the Back Bay Fens and Ramler Park and fitness classes in Symphony Park in 2023
- **Kaji Aso Studio:** \$9,000 for support of concert music series and marketing for 50th Anniversary Recognition Project
- **Fenway Community Center:** \$5,650 for a Fenway Focus monthly speaker series
- **Operation P.E.A.C.E.:** \$9,000 for creation of a "makerspace" to support learning, creativity, and personal development for Fenway youth, plus a tool lending library
- **Peterborough Senior Center:** \$10,000 for cultural trips, healthy food, and technology upgrades for seniors

### Mission Hill

- **Arts Talks:** \$10,000 for sound and stage equipment for the Mission Hill Arts Festival summer events at the Yard space at the Tobin Community Center
- **Charlesbank Cooperative:** \$5,000 / matching grant for companion dog walking area for residents
- **Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston:** \$5,000 / final grant for last phase of construction of the 725-727 Parker Street townhouses
- **Massachusetts College of Art and Design Foundation:** \$7,000 for public events on the plaza this summer
- **Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services:** \$4,530 for summer fitness and art classes and concerts at Fitzgerald Park
- **Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, Maria Sanchez House / Roxbury Crossing Senior Building:** \$3,355 for summer art and knitting classes and yoga for seniors
- **MissionSAFE:** \$16,200 for summer internships for nine young adults in Mission Hill
- **Mission Hill Women's Writing Group:** \$4,620 for women's writing workshops at the Parker Hill Branch Library
- **Sociedad Latina:** \$10,000 for stipends for youth leaders in Workforce Development Pathways program
- **STEP Nation:** \$4,695 for a Holiday on the Hill winter carnival at the Mission Hill Playground

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill. Steve Chase lives in the West Fens. Both are MHFNT board members.

### The Neighborhood Trust's Origin Story

It's not a movie franchise based on Marvel or DC Comics, but the Fenway Mission Hill Neighborhood Trust does have an origin story.

The Trust was established in 1995 under a law filed by the late State Rep. Kevin Fitzgerald after the sale to Beth Israel Hospital of the historic Massachusetts College of Art building at 330 Brookline Ave. Fitzgerald's bill set aside a portion of the sale proceeds to establish a trust to benefit the two neighborhoods most affected by Longwood area institutions.

The Trust began distributing grants in 2001. After much community process—Mission Hill and Fenway residents met for several years to hammer out the details of bylaws, the grant-application process, and related questions—the original fund had grown to \$1.5 million. According to current board president Lauren Dewey Platt, by 2022 that amount had doubled with investments guided by the Sustainability Group at Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge. More recently, however, stock market ups and downs have lowered the Trust's value.

A six-member board, comprising three residents from the Fenway and three from Mission Hill, oversees the Trust's activities.

# June Was Annual Meeting Month for Mission Hill Groups

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



**Soul of Boston performs—with two young Mission Park residents—at the MHNHS annual meeting on June 15.**

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Prominent Mission Hill organizations held public meetings in June: Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, and Mission Hill Main Streets. In addition, Ward 10 Democrats hosted a caucus on June 3 on New Whitney Street in Mission Park—it was underattended but important for politicians.

Current elected officials—including the mayor and city councilors—as well as candidates for office spoke at the **Ward 10 caucus**. In election years, the ward committees choose delegates to the state Democratic convention. The deadline to submit names is July 14.

In a talk to the caucus, Mayor Michelle Wu mentioned future planning initiatives for major corridors and her ambitions for young people. She envisions every Boston Public School student achieving academic success, knowing how to swim and ride a bike, and having opportunities to get their hands dirty

with digging in the earth, in addition to experiencing the arts and sports.

On June 11, hundreds gathered in the Vining Street Community Center gym for **Roxbury Tenants of Harvard's annual meeting**. The housing nonprofit manages more than 1,000 apartments.

A hired parliamentarian conducted the annual elections for the resident board of directors. Candidates lined up at the microphones to make three-minute campaign speeches. Board seats are highly sought after—members are paid for meeting attendance, and the board has significant decision-making powers. Electronic balloting, managed by the company Honest Ballot, allowed for quick results. Several incumbents retained seats and two new members, Huiqun Christine Ma and Tomeka Taylor, joined the board.

Announcing a new start for the TRIO project, director Karen Gately said, “we

listened to the opposition and redesigned the program...there will be no subdividing of large apartments without board approval.” She also promised 60-day notice for required relocations.

As reported in the January *Fenway News*, the TRIO project, affects 109 households in the “old neighborhood.” The multimillion-dollar renovation project will add life-safety and accessibility features to apartments on Francis Street, Fenwood Road, and St. Albans Road and “right size” units. Public funding for the project includes improvements for 777 and 779 Huntington Ave., two market-rate apartment buildings owned by RTH.

Gately shared news of the updated website, [roxburytenants.org](http://roxburytenants.org), and board treasurer Izrail Tselnik gave a financial report. Highlights included \$341,085,534 in unrestricted assets, revenues of \$47,237,346, and \$30,074,532 in expenses. Gately and Laura Adams, director of senior services, confirmed that the population of seniors at RTH has reached 853.

The June 15 **Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services** annual meeting had more of a party atmosphere. Held outdoors at the One Brigham Circle Plaza, with shoppers going to the escalator, ambulances on Tremont heading to the hospitals, and helicopters overhead.

Speeches, board elections, and an award ceremony were followed by an hour of dancing with the band Soul of Boston. To represent the entire Mission Hill community on the MHNHS board, the neighborhood is divided into eight districts, in addition to five at-large seats for residents, plus designated institutional, merchant, and City of Boston seats. Director Patricia Flaherty announced that a September move-in date is scheduled for new families at One Halleck Street, the affordable rental project under construction near Roxbury Crossing. Over 3,000 applications were received for the 46 apartments.

Mayor Wu made a brief appearance and presented John Jackson, the long-serving Tobin Community Center director, with a city proclamation. The crowd enjoyed sandwiches donated by Penguin Pizza and neighbors danced as the sun went down.

On June 21, **Mission Hill Main Streets** honored seven awardees with a dinner reception at Brigham and Women's Hale Building for Transformative Medicine. This was new director Courtney Wright's inaugural event just a few weeks after taking over the business district organization from Ellen Walker. Ex-City Councilor Kenzie Bok won the Outstanding Public Servant Award. Others honored included Volunteer of the Year, awarded to Martin Beinborn, current president of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill; Neighborhood Asset, awarded to New England Baptist Hospital's Chris Dwyer; and the Kevin Fitzgerald Friend of Mission Hill award, which went to Dan Weldon, the Mission Hill Little League president.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

WISHING ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS A

# HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

FROM

N

Northeastern  
City and Community Engagement

## Graduation at Fenway High School

PHOTO: PATRICK O'CONNOR



Fenway High School held graduation on Friday, June 16, at White Stadium in Franklin Park. Head of School Geoff Walker stood with valedictorian Jakayla Furr after presenting diplomas to 92 graduates.

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

The Boston Housing Authority named the community center at the Mission Main development for Willie Pearl Clark, a long-time activist with the Mission Main Tenant Task Force. **We already knew that The Theater Offensive will set up shop in the black box theater at the awkwardly named Scape development "The Bon" in the West Fens. Now the Gardner Museum has named TTO, which focuses on issues facing queer and transgender people of color, its inaugural "community organization-in-residence."** Details remain vague, mostly because the museum and the troupe have just begun exploratory discussions on how they can build on each other's programs.



Globe columnist Jeneé Osterheldt published a warm appreciation of the two Roxbury sisters who've guided the Roxbury International Film Festival over its 25 years of growth. Alison and Lisa Simmons have shepherded the festival from a modest one-day screening to a sprawling 12 days of films, panels, and networking that plays out in local venues like the MFA, Northeastern, and Nubian Square's Hibernian Hall. Many of this year's films remain available to stream through July 2. Find details at [www.roxfilmfest.com/films-and-events](http://www.roxfilmfest.com/films-and-events). **No historic plaques exist, but Globe columnist Scott Kirsner thinks they should. The Technicolor Motion Picture Corp. operated out of 110 and 120 Brookline Ave. from its 1916 founding through 1931, when it consolidated operations in Hollywood. (The Technicolor name paid homage to MIT, where two of the firm's three founders graduated and later taught.) Bray argues that Boston should celebrate its connection to the technological breakthrough that enabled cost-effective production of color movies, first used widely for Walt Disney's 1937 classic Snow White.** As if concerts weren't enough, prepare yourself for 14 hours a day of pickleball "thwocks" emanating from Fenway Park, July 13-16. Fenway Park leads off the Pickleball4America series (seriously) in three MLB ballparks this year. Applicants register for 80 minutes of court time on one of 12 mobile courts set up on the ballfield (at a cool \$1,500 a pop), but they'll also have to win a lottery drawing due to anticipated demand. **The Globe and other media outlets report that an investor in Tiffani Faison's Big Heart restaurant group has sued the Fenway-based chef. The lawsuit accuses Faison of misappropriating pandemic-relief funds, a charge she has denied vehemently.**

## Farmer's Markets

Look for blueberries, raspberries, eggplant, and garlic.

<b>ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)</b>	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
<b>COPLEY SQUARE</b>	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
<b>BRIGHAM CIRCLE</b>	Thursday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
<b>SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)</b>	Sunday	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## DASHBOARD

### TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

<b>BACK BAY</b>	<b>FENWAY</b>	<b>MISSION HILL</b>
Monday and Thursday	Tuesday and Friday	Tuesday and Friday

### STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) resumed on April 1. In the Fenway, you need to check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place. Find City info at <https://tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8>. See the DCR schedule at <https://tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3>.

## FENWICKIANS GRAB COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS, AND A LITTLE FACE TIME WITH THE MAYOR



On the morning of June 13, the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour drew several dozen people to Symphony Park in the East Fens. Constituents spoke with Mayor Michelle Wu and mayoral liaison Maggie Van Scoy (top), and posed for photos with Wu (bottom).

TimeOut MARKET

# BEST OF THE CITY, UNDER ONE ROOF!

15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS. ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON

FENWAY HEALTH

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

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

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

FENWAY HEALTH | 1340 Boylston Street | Boston, MA 02215

617.267.0900 | [fenwayhealth.org](http://fenwayhealth.org)

## Porches Optional...But Not Music



On June 10, the Fenway CDC, Fenway Community Center, and the Fenway Alliance brought Fenway Porchfest back again, with musicians playing throughout the neighborhood on both sides of the park. Top, The Newtaliens serenaded audience at Ramler Park; bottom, the New Wright Brothers outside the Fenway Community Center—which proved an ideal location when a cloudburst arrived in the early afternoon.

## Neighborhood Newsline

### Ward 4 Democrats Back Sharon Durkan for D8 Seat

THE BOSTON WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE has endorsed Sharon Durkan for District 8 City Councilor. “Sharon has demonstrated a strong commitment to increasing civic engagement in our city and realizing a vision of Boston that is affordable, climate-resilient, and vibrant,” said the committee vice chair, Jonathan Cohn. “With a proven record of being responsive, hardworking, and forward-thinking, Sharon will be an excellent advocate for the residents of Ward 4 and across District 8.” The special election to select a councilor to fill out the rest of former Councilor Kenzie Bok’s term will occur on Tuesday, July 25. District 8 runs from the West End through Beacon Hill, Back Bay, the Fenway, and Mission Hill.

### Garden Contest Sets July 12 Deadline for Submissions

MAYOR MICHELLE WU has announced the 27th annual Mayor’s Garden Contest highlighting the hard work of Boston’s urban gardeners. The deadline for entering is July 12. Gardeners, or those nominating their favorite gardeners, will find printable and online nomination forms at [boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest](https://boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest). The City encourages nominators to submit photos through the online application.

### Not Everyone Loves Proposal to Relocate the O’Bryant School

IN EARLY JUNE, MAYOR MICHELLE WU and superintendent Mary Skipper announced plans to build a new campus for the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science at the vacant West Roxbury Education Complex. The proposal has provoked some controversy, as the O’Bryant—the most diverse of the city’s exam schools—would move from a neighborhood of color to a predominantly white neighborhood. Some critics argue as well that the current location puts it close to the Orange Line and multiple bus routes, while the West Roxbury complex has far less transit service. Others questioned the wisdom of moving a school from the city’s geographic center to its far southern reaches. The proposal does include plans for dedicated shuttle buses to move students between transit services and the school in West Roxbury.

### Boston Foundation Awards 2023 Equality Fund Grants

THE EQUALITY FUND AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION recently announced \$336,000 in grants to 36 organizations as part of its 2023 grantmaking docket supporting LGBTQ+-led and -serving organizations in Greater Boston. Fenway Health received \$12,000 in this grant round.

### BPL Announces Video Interpretation Services

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY recently announced that video interpretation services are now available at all its locations through Certified Language Interpreters. This on-demand video/remote interpretation service connects visitors to ASL or spoken language interpreters, allowing patrons and library staff to have interactions in more than 200 languages. To request video interpretation, patrons can simply enter any BPL location and visit the welcome desk, or ask a BPL staff member for assistance. Using designated Chromebooks, staff will be able to connect to an interpreter instantly in the visitor’s preferred language.

## Commission Boosts Heights Allowed in Fenway PDAs

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Article 66 of the Boston Zoning Code, specific to zoning provisions for the Fenway, changed dramatically in just 20 minutes during a virtual hearing at the Boston Zoning Commission on June 7. That’s all the time it took for Chair Jay Hurley’s required preamble, BPDA senior planner Kristina Ricco’s presentation, plus five members of the public to either speak in support or opposition—with a few comments from the commissioners thrown in as well. Commissioner Mike Nichols said, “The fact that we’re not hearing much from [residents of] the West Fens indicates a level of comfort with the amendments.” Apparently true, since most who did speak supported the changes.

The amendments change the heights allowed in Planned Development Areas (PDAs) in the Fenway Triangle Neighborhood Development Area and the Brookline Avenue Community Commercial subdistricts. With the amendments, building height maximums jumped from 150 feet (roughly 15 stories) to 250 and 300 feet, respectively (roughly 25 and 30 stories). Commissioner Drew Leff explained that this would allow for taller, narrower buildings that will cast shadows farther, but the shadows won’t be as wide as they would be if the amendments had increased the allowable floor area ratio.

Three new commissioners, recently appointed—Aisha Miller, Midori Morikawa, and Ricardo Austrich—took part in the meeting.

Morikawa asked a question about text added to section 66.30 at Kenzie Bok’s request while she was still District 8 city councilor. The text reads: *Any Proposed Project that is within a PDA shall be subject to certain additional mitigation requirements as may be established from time to time by the adopted policy of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, including mitigation with respect to transportation, parks, workforce development, and the inclusion within Proposed Projects of certain public facilities and public accommodation provided, however, that the mitigation requirements as set forth in this Article and Article 80C also continue to apply.*

The BPDA’s Ricco explained that the zoning language is not as specific as Bok recommended in her testimony to the BPDA board, requiring contributions to support transportation planning and neighborhood parks from project proponents linked to the size of a development. Ricco said that level of specificity would be subject to continued study and tied to the ongoing reform of Article 80 for large development review. Ricco also said that the reference to providing public facilities such as a library or school is a new category of public benefit not previously listed in the zoning code.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## KAJI ASO STUDIO CULTURAL SERIES

# Tanabata Star Festival 2023

GROUP ART EXHIBITION  
INSPIRED BY THE BELOVED  
SUMMER LEGEND

FRIDAY, JULY 7 | 7:00–8:30PM

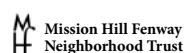


INCLUDES AT 7:45PM

Music  
Performed by  
**Mikiko Sato**

WITH VIDEO BY TAKAHIRO MIYAO  
AND GROUP POETRY READING

FREE • IN-PERSON • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
KAJI ASO STUDIO, 40 ST. STEPHEN STREET  
RSVP to [administrator@kajiasostudio.com](mailto:administrator@kajiasostudio.com)



KAJI ASO STUDIO Institute of the Arts  
[www.kajiasostudio.com](http://www.kajiasostudio.com)

# The Arts

## MFA STAFFERS ARE ARTISTS, TOO



PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

**Anna Diaz, a member and visitor services representative at the MFA, created the painting "Multiverse" in acrylic and graphite on canvas.**

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

**T**hirty-seven employees of the Museum of Fine Arts—security guards, customer service reps, instructors, and curators—had their artwork displayed in an exhibit at the Copley Society on Newbury Street from May 25 to June 24.

"The artists we targeted for this exhibition," said Max D. Stern, artist, and Board of Governors member for the Copley Society of Art, "have a unique connection to the visual arts having long witnessed, taken care of, and appreciated the work of some of the greatest artists in the world."

The exhibit invited artists to explore the show's title, "Emergence," in their own way and to express their interpretation through painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, or other artistic means, explained Edmund Barry Gaither, special consultant to the MFA.

John Storrow, an East Fens resident, has worked at the MFA as a security guard for 36 years. Storrow was inspired by being in the Hamilton Place period room while on a tour of the museum during his shift as guard. Working in oil on canvas, he captured the room and the light from the sun streaming through it. Another security guard, Stephen Holness, using mixed media, depicted a rainy night on Tyler Street in Boston's Chinatown.

Chloe Grinberg, the MFA's coordinator of rights and permissions—and formerly a *Boston Globe* photographer—was represented by a photograph depicting death and decay. Grinberg says that she was inspired by the Greek word *Apeiron*, meaning that which is boundless or infinite. She said, "the ancient Greek philosopher Anaximander considered emergence as a cyclical process."

In her acrylic-and-graphite painting on canvas, titled "Multiverse," Anna Diaz, the member and visitor services rep, uses organic, tentacle-shaped forms to suggest a parallel universe. Carla Nunez-Hernandez, of the MFA education department, uses mixed media on a board in

her colorful painting, to show two anthropomorphized shooting stars reaching out to each other for an embrace. "This illustration combines and recycles scraps of painted paper with colored illustrations exploring the mystical and miraculous quality of connectivity, the need for each other," Nunez-Hernandez said.

Six of the artists, including Storrow, Grinberg, and Diaz, received a \$100 honorarium and free membership in the Copley Society of Art. The Copley Society hosts 15 to 20 exhibitions each year and plans another exhibit in July based on the work of Edward Hopper, noted for his fascination with light. It will feature paintings inspired by Hopper, such as John Storrow's Hamilton Place Period Room, will be included.

"These artists we chose for 'Emergence,'" said Stern, "witnessed art but had not enjoyed the full recognition their own work deserved. This exhibit's purpose has been to promote that recognition and extend new opportunities to the community."

The exhibit seemed to have accomplished that goal.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*

## ARTSline

### Statue from Acropolis Museum Beguiles MFA Visitors

About 2,500 years ago, the Acropolis in Athens was filled with statues of young women, called korai. One of them—known as Kore 670—has traveled to the MFA, where it is on view through Jan. 8 in the museum's Art of Ancient Greece, Rome and the Byzantine Empire galleries. The loan was arranged in partnership with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Acropolis Museum of Athens. In exchange, the MFA has lent three vases to the Acropolis Museum.

### Arts Academy Student Tops National Monologue Competition

Sakura Rosenthal, a junior at Boston Arts Academy, was named National Champion at the 2023 Next Narrative Monologue Competition (NNMC) at Harlem's famed Apollo Theatre on May 8. Rosenthal competed with students from across the U.S., including Seine Young, a fellow Arts Academy student and Boston finalist. The competition, in its second year, introduces students to today's leading Black playwrights while instilling confidence in participants to find their voices. Students in grades 9 through 12 compete in regional contests in 12 cities across the country. The Huntington's Education Department runs NNMC as a free after-school workshop series culminating in the regional competition.

### MFA Hosts First U.S. Show Devoted to Painter Matthew Wong

Matthew Wong (1984–2019) achieved critical acclaim during a short yet prolific career. On July 1, the MFA opens "Matthew Wong: The Realm of Appearances," the first museum retrospective and first U.S. exhibition devoted to the self-taught painter. Ranging from rarely seen early works to later iconic paintings, the exhibition comprises approximately 40 works in the first formal account of Wong's career, with a particular focus on his vibrant and psychologically charged landscapes.

### Grants Boost Arts Education at Two Fenway Schools

EdVestors, a nonprofit school-improvement organization, recently awarded more than \$460,000 in BPS Arts Expansion grants to 65 Boston Public Schools to support equitable, quality arts education for the 2023-2024 school year. The grants were announced during the 11th annual BPS Citywide Arts Festival, a three-day celebration of the artistic talents of BPS students. Fenway-Kenmore grant recipient schools include Boston Arts Academy and the Kennedy Academy for Health Careers.

## MassArt's Musical Mystery Tour



PHOTO: ALISSON PULTINAS

On June 22 the powerful voices of the Boston Community Choir filled the MassArt Art Museum's second-floor gallery with gospel and choral music. Following that performance, sound artist Jace Clayton's electronic remix of the music filtered through 40 speakers encircling the space. The remix builds on Clayton's installation "They Are Part," on view through July 30. Plug your phone or tablet into the station at the center of the circle Clayton's algorithms remix and distort a song from your playlist in unexpected ways, pushing it through the ring of speakers.

## Roxbury International Film Festival at the MFA



PHOTO: ALISSON PULTINAS

On June 22, the Museum of Fine Arts held a screening of "Welcoming The Embrace" and Clennon King's short "The Boston Photograph" as part of the Roxbury International Film Festival. Above, John Adekoje and Noah Christofer, part of the local production team for "Welcoming the Embrace" take part in a panel discussion about the films.

# July

## CALENDAR

### Now → Sun, 7/23

The Huntington has extended its production of **THE LEHMAN TRILOGY**—winner of the 2022 Tony Award for best drama—through July 23. The company has added six performances in response to audience demand. The epic and timely story of family, ambition, and risk sprawls across 160 years of history and shines a relentless light on the spectacular rise and fall of the Lehman Brothers, a family who built a company that changed the world. Tickets at [www.huntingtontheatre.org/](http://www.huntingtontheatre.org/).

### Now → Sun, 9/17

The Gardner's new special exhibit, **THE PRESENCE OF PLANTS IN CONTEMPORARY ART**, brings together eight contemporary artists who work with plants as their medium, echoing Gardner's embrace of horticulture as a "living art." The show fills all the museum's special galleries and continues with a hanging garden on the facade. Free with museum entry (which requires a timed ticket). \$20, with discounts for seniors, students, and children. Details and tickets at [www.gardnermuseum.org/](http://www.gardnermuseum.org/).

### Mon, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17 & 7/24

Through the Fit in the Fenway series, Samuels & Associates hosts **STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING** with J.E.T Boston, 6pm. The Green at 401 Park.

### Wed, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19 & 7/26

- The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series presents **WORKOUT WITH POUND** at the Mission Hill Playground. Instead of listening to music, participants *become* the music in an exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and Pilates-inspired movements. Lightly weighted drumsticks engineered for exercising transform drumming into an effective workout. Please bring a mat or towel for moves on the ground. Class takes place at the entrance on the Tremont Street side at the top of the stairs. 6pm.
- More Fit in the Fenway: Samuels & Associates hosts **BOUNCE BY BARRE GROOVE**, 6pm. The Green at 401 Park.

### Thu, 7/6

**THE ROUGH RIDER & THE PROFESSOR: THEODORE ROOSEVELT, HENRY CABOT LODGE, AND THE FRIENDSHIP THAT CHANGED AMERICAN HISTORY.** Theodore

Roosevelt rose from unknown New York state legislator to the youngest man elected US president. Laurence Jurdem argues that his rapid success wouldn't have occurred without the help of the powerful Henry Cabot Lodge. Lodge, focused on dominating the political landscape of Massachusetts, served as the future president's confidante and mentor, advising him on political strategy while helping him obtain positions in government that would help lead to the White House. Hybrid event, free for Massachusetts Historical Society members. In-person, \$10. Virtual attendance, free. Register at <https://www.masshist.org/events/rough-rider-professor-theodore-roosevelt-henry-cabot-lodge-friendship-changed-american>. 5:30pm, 1154 Boylston St.

### Thu, 7/6 → Sun, 7/16

The **BOSTON FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL** returns to the MFA, opening with the razor-sharp heist comedy *The Innocent*, directed by and starring Louis Garrel. Other highlights include *Final Cut*, a meta film about a B-movie shoot that goes off the rails from the director of 2011 Oscar winner *The Artist*; *Pacifiction*, a fever dream set in Tahiti that feels like a Gauguin painting come to life; *La syndicaliste*, a true crime thriller starring the inimitable Isabelle Huppert and *Tori and Lokita*, a Cannes award-winning thriller about two young immigrants who find solace in each other. All films screen in French with English subtitles. [www.mfa.org/programs/series/the-boston-french-film-festival](http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/the-boston-french-film-festival).

### Thu, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20 & 7/27

- The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers **CHAIR YOGA**, great for everyone but especially folks who prefer to move with the support of a chair. Energize your body, cultivate resilience, explore spinal movements, and build core strength and flexibility through accessible seated postures. Led by Michelle Coleman. Symphony Park, 10am.
- Samuels & Associates, through its Fit in the Fenway series, hosts **BOUNCE BY BARRE GROOVE**, 12:15–1:30pm. The Green at 401 Park.
- Head to the Green at 401 Park for **BERKLEE SUMMER IN THE CITY**. 4–7pm.

### Fri, 7/7

**"FROM THE VAULT" COLLECTIONS SHOWING—SUMMER VACATION.** Join the Boston Public Library for an afternoon

of close map study! This edition of "From The Vault" takes a look at objects from the BPL collections that map places of summer relaxation and recreation. Drop in any time 2–4pm. Central Library in Copley Square.

### Sat, 7/8 & 7/22

**MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL.** The 2023 Festival theme is "Exuberance." On the 8th the festival welcomes THE LOOP, a Boston-based duo that captures listeners' emotions with a genre-blending fusion of pop, R&B, HipHop and spoken word. On the 22nd, the Lee Fish Quintet performs. Acclaimed Boston-born drummer and composer Lee Fish has been part of the thriving Brooklyn music scene since 2018. 6pm, 1481 Tremont Street. Tickets \$10–\$40, visit <http://mhartsfest.org/#lineup-2023> to purchase.

### Mon, 7/10

**PATHWAY TO HOMEBUYING.** Join Realtor Danielle Canty and Nathalie Jean, Tufts University's Urban and Environmental Studies research affiliate, for an informative event on affordable-housing rights and the home-buying process. Learn about your rights as a renter or potential homeowner, as well as resources available to help you navigate the process of buying a home. Roxbury Branch, Boston Public Library, 149 Dudley St., 6pm.

### Tue, 7/11, 7/18 & 7/25

- Head to the Green at 401 Park for **BERKLEE SUMMER IN THE CITY**. 12pm.
- Through the Fit in the Fenway series, Samuels & Associates hosts **YOGA FLOW** with the Handle Bar and the Monica Method, 6pm. The Green at 401 Park.

### Wed, 7/12

- **YOGA LUNCH BREAK.** Get your body moving at lunch in a 45-min gentle yoga class in the magnificent Abbey Room of the BPL's Central Library in Copley Square. Participants will be led slowly and mindfully through a variety of poses, helping work out work-day kinks. A meditative pace focuses on peace and calm in body and mind. 12:15pm. Register at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/645bb87a15e0d23700a151b2](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/645bb87a15e0d23700a151b2).
- **ANIMAL SPIRITS: THE AMERICAN PURSUIT OF VITALITY FROM CAMP MEETING TO WALL STREET.** In "Animal Spirits," historian Jackson Lears explores an alternative American cultural history by tracking the thinkers who championed the individual's spontaneous energies

and the idea of a living universe against the strictures of conventional religion, business, and politics. From Puritan times to today, Lears traces ideas and fads such as hypnosis and faith healing from the pulpit and stock exchange to the streets and the betting table. 6pm. Hybrid event, free for Massachusetts Historical Society members. In-person, \$10. Virtual attendance, free. Register at <https://www.masshist.org/events/animal-spirits-american-pursuit-vitality-camp-meeting-wall-street>. 6pm, 1154 Boylston Street.

### Thu, 7/20 & 7/27

The MFA's **CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD** series showcases rising musical acts from Boston and around the globe. Doors, 6pm; music, 7:30 pm. Tickets at [www.mfa.org/series/elaine-and-jerome-rosenfeld-concerts-in-the-courtyard](http://www.mfa.org/series/elaine-and-jerome-rosenfeld-concerts-in-the-courtyard). \$24, members; \$30, non-members. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave. On the 20th, hear **BETTE SMITH**'s "life-affirming fusion of soul, blues, and rock"; on the 27th, **TAMIKREST** rocks a unique fusion of French and African music.

### Wed, 7/26

The Landmarks Orchestra welcomes Berklee's Terri Lynne Carrington as performer and co-curator of **SEEN/UNSEEN: THE SYMPHONIC LEGACY OF BLACK AMERICAN WOMEN.** The program ranges broadly over works of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. 7pm, Hatch Shell. FREE. Details at [www.landmarksorchestra.org/events/current-season/seen-unseen/](http://www.landmarksorchestra.org/events/current-season/seen-unseen/)

### Thu, 7/27

**TITO PUENTE LATIN MUSIC SERIES.** Created in honor of Latin music icon Tito Puente, this City-curated series celebrates 16 years of bringing live Latin music with a strong salsa influence to Boston parks. Tonight's artist, Clave & Blues, is a young Cuban/Latin jazz band with strong Berklee roots. They have performed with the Boston Pops and at area jazz festivals. Mission Hill Playground, 7pm. FREE

## SENIOR EVENTS

To attend, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For more information about Operation PEACE programs and senior programming, visit [www.operationpeaceboston.org](http://www.operationpeaceboston.org). Some events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center (PSC), and others at the Fenway Community Center (FCC).

- Wed, July 5 at 12pm: **WATERCOLORS** at the youth afterschool program across from PSC
- Thu, July 6 & 20 at 11:30am: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** at Ramler Park (in the event of extreme heat or rain, C&C will take place at FCC)
- Wed, July 12, 19, & 26 at 1pm: **TECH CAFE WITH LITTLE BROTHERS FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY** at PSC
- Thu, July 13 at 11:30am: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** in Gerry Cooper's garden across from 11 Park Drive
- Wed, July 26 at 2:30pm: **KNITTING AND CROCHETING WITH GRACE LINCOLN** at PSC

## @ THE CENTER

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

- Wed, July 5, 4pm to 5:30pm: **BOARD GAMES FOR ALL**
- Wed, July 12, 6pm to 8pm: **WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP WITH ELI PORTMAN**
- Thu, July 13 and 27, 1:15pm: **CHAIR YOGA WITH HANDS TO HEART CENTER**
- Sat, July 1, 11am to 1pm: **FENWAY CONNECTS.** Celebrate the summer with chalk art and play pop ups.

## COMMUNITY meetings

**FRIDAYS** Staff at the **LEGAL SERVICES CENTER AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL** provides advice and referral information about civil legal issues. Join at <http://bit.ly/LSCBPL> or by phone at (646) 558-8656. Then dial meeting ID when prompted: 886 1508 1914. 10am to 12pm.

**THU, JULY 13** The Boston Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees host a **VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM** for the Boston City Council At-Large race. RSVP to attend at <http://bostoncitycouncilat-large2023.eventbrite.com/>. 6:30pm.

**WED, JULY 19** The Boston Transportation Department hosts **BETTER BIKE LANES OFFICE HOURS.** Better Bike Lanes aims to transform Boston's streets to better serve people walking, rolling, and riding bikes. The program aims to connect the bike network and bring safer streets to every neighborhood. Have questions or comments? Schedule a 15-minute phone call or video chat between 3 and 7pm to talk to the project team by visiting <https://calendly.com/active-transportation/bike-lanes?month=2023-07>.

## RECENTLY AT THE FCC...



Last month the Fenway Community Center sponsored an exclusive tour of the MGM Music Hall (far left) and threw a party to mark Delia Alvarez's half-birthday (near left), because at age 99 you get to celebrate every milestone. Alvarez also received premature congratulations from President Joe Biden for reaching 100. (In case you're curious, there are folks in unicorn costumes behind her.