

Lilac Time

Stretching more than 100 aromatic feet, a bank of lilacs across from 81-95 Park Drive produces one of the glories of spring in the Fens. Cool weather extended the floral display for much of May.



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

Wentworth Proposals Could Remake Huntington Ave.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Changes coming to Huntington Avenue—foreshadowed in the 2015 *Avenue of the Arts Design Guidelines*—have moved closer to realization, with the heights of future buildings under discussion.

The BPDA held four virtual meetings this spring on both a revived mixed-use lab proposal for Wentworth Institute's Sweeney Field (500 Huntington) and a simultaneously filed institutional master plan notification form (IMPNF), a prelude to the school's next ten-year campus master plan.

The BPDA has named separate project managers to lead the two community processes: Stephen Harvey will lead the review of 500 Huntington, proposed by the Huntington Development Group LLC, a collaboration among the Fallon Co., Clayton Turnbull's Waldwin Development, and Edward Owens, Jr. of the Owens Company. Nick Carter will lead the IMPNF review.

In addition to reviewing the ten-year master plan, the existing Wentworth Task Force will serve as the Impact Advisory Group for 500 Huntington development, located across from the Museum of Fine Arts. An earlier version, approved in 2013, would have comprised 640,000 square feet of development. Wentworth would sign a ground lease for the parcel but not participate in the development team.

The meeting presentations included similar slides and surfaced similar concerns. Participants could be excused for confusion over which plans to comment on in which meeting. The two public comment periods overlapped, and Carter has already posted those received for the IMPNF. Unfortunately,

neither the recordings nor presentations from the April 25 or the May 2 public meetings on 500 Huntington appear on the BPDA website.

Meeting participants expressed concern about a potential 23-story dormitory next to the firehouse on Huntington and about two proposed 18-story buildings and up to 410 underground parking spaces on the Sweeney Field site. A proposed seven-story garage at Halleck and Mindoro streets raised even more controversy. Wentworth says it wants to replace surface lots with green space, but critics asked why the school needs to maintain existing parking capacity. David Wahlstrom, vice president of business at Wentworth, said that the school might continue its practice of leasing up to 300 spaces to Longwood commuters, Mass-Art staff, or the Boston Police Department.

The campus lies entirely within City Council District 7, although the Task Force comprises primarily Mission Hill and Fenway representatives. The Task Force also includes Kelly Brilliant of the Fenway Alliance and representatives of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Parker Street.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

ARTS ACADEMY NAMED FOR ELMA LEWIS

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



Community leaders and friends and family of the late Dr. Elma Lewis gathered at the Boston Arts Academy on May 24 to mark the official naming of the building after the pioneering arts educator. Speakers included BAA Head Of School Anne Clark; Boston Public Schools superintendent Mary Skipper; BAA student representative Shaumba Subira Golela Dibinga-Robinson; Barry Gaither, director of the National Center of Afro-American Artists; and Boston Public Schools Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. Mayor Michelle Wu spoke of the significance of the names we choose to elevate, and Skipper used the words "grace, grit, and joy" to describe Dr. Lewis' legacy. "What a wonderful day this is...to dedicate in memory one of the most extraordinary daughters of Boston and more especially of Roxbury," said Gaither. "This naming is now here and for everyone who walks down this street."



Up With The Birds: Back Bay Fens Walk Returns

PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS



On May 14, the annual bird walk was back with a new leader. This year the walk was led by birder and professional photographer Mike Bryant, who goes by "Nature Man Mike." Here, he is shown pointing out a bird to bird walk participants. The early-morning "Birds of the Back Bay Fens" tour lasted two hours and took participants through the Fens, along the Muddy River, the War Memorial area,

and behind the basketball court.

Bryant pointed out nesting sites, identified bird calls, and described bird behavior. He noted that a group of swallows, flying low over the river, were catching insects in the air. Bryant's method is to "follow the sound"—he spotted a pair of catbirds by listening for the *meow* call they make. A northern parula warbler was heard but never seen. The walk spotted more than 20

species of birds, including a Baltimore oriole, red-winged blackbirds, a northern flicker, an American goldfinch, and a leaf flycatcher. A highlight was the sight of a great blue heron, a year-round visitor, strolling in the river and a pair of wood ducks with distinctive bold colors nestled in a bush along the riverbank. For more information and art photos, visit Bryant's website, naturemanmike.com.

—RUTH KHOWAIS

CONCERT ALERT
AT FENWAY PARK

JUNE 23
KANE BROWN WITH DARIUS RUCKER, GABBY BARRETT & RESTLESS ROAD
6:00-10:30PM

JUNE 24-25
DEAD & COMPANY
6:00-10:30PM

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

@ THE CENTER

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

- Mon, 6/5, 6/12, & 6/26, 2pm and Fridays, 10:30am: BABIES AND TODDLERS DROP-IN PLAYGROUP
- Thu, 6/22, 5:30pm: PEN AND INK WORKSHOPS
- Wed, June 28, 4:30pm: ICE CREAM SOCIAL

CIVIC AGENDA

Mon, 6/13: Coffee With The Mayor
Join Mayor Wu with questions/suggestions at Symphony Park on Edgerly Road, 9:30-10:30am.

Tue, 6/27: Special Election for City Council District 8
Special election to fill the district seat

vacated by Kenzie Bok. The preliminary election opens a four-week campaign before the final vote on July 25. The seat will come up for a full term in the fall.

- KEY DATES**
- SAT, JUNE 17: Last day to register for the preliminary election
 - TUE, JUNE 27: Preliminary election, 7am-8pm
- If you don't know your polling station, find it at WhereDoIVoteMa.com.

FENS VIEWS

Leaders Took A Lifetime To Catch Up To Mel King

Activist, educator, and political leader Mel King died on March 28 at 94. At his funeral on April 11, historian Byron Rushing—who represented the Fenway in the state legislature for 15 terms—delivered a moving eulogy, which we have excerpted here. On page 3, read a companion piece on King's ties to the New York Streets in the South End.

When we commemorate Melvin King, we are commemorating more than one great man. When we—today and days and years ahead and forever—remember Mel, let us recall and remember where he came from and what and who he was a part of.

When we commemorate Melvin King, we commemorate not one man, but a whole race of people, a community of men and women of African descent which was and is his heritage. When we commemorate Melvin King, we commemorate not only one man but a whole liberation movement, the African American movement of survival, abolition and emancipation, Reconstruction, civil rights, and community and political organizing—at no time led by only one man or one woman alone.

And when we commemorate Melvin King, we commemorate more than people of African descent. We commemorate all people

and all human beings who have struggled for justice and freedom and peace in the Babylon of oppression and slavery and violence in our land and throughout the world.

We have his words: “Oppression—whether as a people of color, or as women, as lesbians or as gay men, as workers, or as tenants, as youth, as elderly, as handicapped, as undocumented workers—is possible only as long as we buy into it; we will remain oppressed, as long as we continue to fear those who put us down, inflicted upon us by those in control.”

We remember when we commemorate Mel. If we, when we gather here to commemorate Mel King, are to honor all who have by faith, all who are true to what they know is instinctively true, what should be self-evident. If we are to be faithful to the commemoration, faithful to all, the work of so many to bring us along the path here, we must come to ask the question; can we commemorate ourselves in this legacy of so many? Where do we fit in the legacy of Melvin King?

Melvin was also informed by a geography. A neighborhood. The South End. Mel was parochial in the original meaning of that word. The South End was his parish. He not only lived here most of his life, the South End in its heyday before gentrification informed and developed his ethics and his

politics.

Mel led and organized others in battles against commercial developers and the BRA [Boston Redevelopment Authority] in the 1960s to ensure the City's urban renewal program provided affordable housing for South End residents. Working with a number of organizations and individuals, King led protests against the BRA, which planned to demolish housing and construct a parking lot. King and his supporters built a temporary Tent City and lived on the demolished parking lot until developers agreed to construct a new housing complex, which of course was Tent City.

When we commemorate Mel King, we must remember the incredible trauma of 1,000 families being moved out of their houses and the buildings they were living in torn down. When we remember Mel King, we need to remember the incredibly diverse community of the South End in Boston before gentrification whose only crime was to be poor and working class.

When we remember Mel, we need to understand that Mel was not *ahead* of his time. Mel was *on* time. He was only working in a city where most of the leadership was behind the time, a leadership that for most of his life never caught up.

COMPILED BY LEW FINFER
AND RUTH KHOWAIS

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Burke

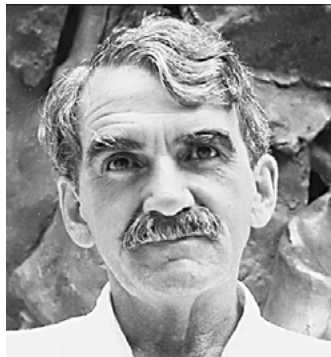
Edward (Ed) Burke, formerly of Mission Hill, died on April 30. He was 86.

Ed attended Mission Grammar and Mission High schools while supporting his family working various after-school jobs throughout the neighborhoods of Boston.

Following three years in the Army, he returned to Boston, where he helped set up the City of Boston's first data processing system. He was named assistant clerk of the Boston Municipal Court in 1966, later becoming a Harvard Medical School animal research technician, then a clinical lab technician at the Boston V.A. Medical Center.

Ed was a founding member of the Restore Olmsted's Waterway coalition and served as president of the Fenway Civic Association (FCA) from 1980 to 1986. FCA's goal was to promote the safety and beauty of the neighborhood, especially the Back Bay Fens, which had become sorely neglected in the middle decades of the 20th century. With Burke as president, FCA pressured then-Park Commissioner Robert McCoy to repair bridges and schedule regular grass cutting and litter pickup. The group raised money to hire park rangers and organized evening picnics to show that the park was safe.

Ed's passion as an activist became realized when he assumed Office of Neighborhood Services leadership under newly elected Mayor Raymond Flynn. Ed loved the job, walking each morning to City Hall, working all day, going to meetings at night with his beeper, and constantly being on call. “I worked really hard but didn't mind doing it,” he would say, “because you knew you were



making a difference.” Ed's intervention led to Park Drive's conversion to a one-way road, helping reduce traffic in the neighborhood. He received a Distinguished Service Award from the Newbury Street League for his commitment to the street's merchants. One of his proudest achievements was resolving the height controversy at 116 Huntington Ave.

Based on concerns about parking and effect on rents, Ed opposed large condo conversions. In a 2016 interview, he argued that the projects could have a substantial impact and that the community should receive benefits from

allowing conversions to go forward.

He was bolstered by the entrance of Fredericka (Freddie) Veikley, his new love, and later wife, into his life in 1986. They became dedicated lifelong partners.

Ed felt that his soul was in the parks. He brought new life to the Back Bay Fens and for decades sought restoration of the Muddy River, now coming to fruition. Together he and Freddie, with the City of Boston, created Ramler Park on Peterborough Street, which opened in 2004 as a quiet place of beauty. He and Freddie were co-gardeners in the Fenway Victory Gardens.

Ed is survived by his loving wife, stepdaughter Amber Kasbeer, several nieces and nephews, and long-time friends. A funeral mass took place on May 5 at Mission Church. If you wish to make a gift in Ed's honor, consider donating to Ramler Park (friendsoframlerpark.org) or helping sustain a park that sustains you.

COMPILED BY RUTH KHOWAIS

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.

> NEXT ISSUE <

Our next issue will appear on
Friday, June 30.

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <

The deadline for letters, news items,
and ads for our next issue is
Friday, June 23.

Fenway News Annual Meeting

The Fenway News will host our annual meeting on July 20 at 6pm at the Fenway Community Center. The guest speaker will be announced in our July issue. 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) to vote in the elections held at the meeting. Email fenwaynews@gmail.com to join. Our current roster appears to the right. We look forward to seeing you on the July 20!

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 1, 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 Cizek, 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 Lauerman, 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 Dewey Platt, Ryan Polhemus, Leslie Pond, Susan Povak, Michael Prentky, Cara Presley, Alison Pultinas, Michelle Reinsteinst, 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

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South End Roots Shaped King's Leadership On Human Needs

BY ALISON BARNET

Although people often think the West End was Boston's first urban renewal project, the first was actually the South End's New York Streets, where Mel and Joyce King were born and raised. Both demolition projects took place in the 1950s, the New York Streets a few years earlier than the West End.

The New York Streets were built on filled land not far from South Station. The 24-acre neighborhood was bounded by Washington, Albany, Dover (now East Berkeley) and Motte streets (now Herald). In 1881, when the Boston & Albany Railroad began, the streets were named after New York State cities and towns and Native American tribes. It soon became an immigrant community.

"The kids I played ball with were named Cohen, Finnegan, DeCicco, Kowalski and some were Chinese," Mel recalled. "There were markets of all kinds, including one that sold only lamb; corner stores with character; Italian bakeries noted for big wheels of cheese. There were churches, synagogues, theatres, and houses of prostitution....Although our buildings were pretty well sorted out by color and ethnic background, the streets belonged to all of us."

Mel always said that, although his family moved to Florence Street when he was 14, his experiences on Seneca Street shaped his life. When he was 13, he sold the *Boston Record* on Dover Street and then the *Sunday Herald* too—"quite an enterprise."

A story, told at his funeral, was that one day Mel felt nervous because a man was following him, but when they got to his house, Mel's father, sensing that the man was hungry, invited him in and fed him. Mel made this story and many others into poems in *Streets: Poem Book*.

no matter what we have there is something to share the most important of course is that we care

Although already living in the "League



Joyce and Mel King in 2006.

of Nations," Mel and wife Joyce (they married in 1951) joined the Church of All Nations and became camp counselors at Morgan Memorial Fresh Air camps. Joyce always said, "it taught us about the world and its mixes."

The New York Streets was a desirable area for redevelopment because of its proximity to downtown. In 1952, the Boston Housing Authority (later Boston Redevelopment Authority) reported that, "The most cursory inspection of the New York Streets establishes it as a blighted and deteriorated neighborhood...The dirty streets in the whole area swarm with children and adults..." The authority came up with a redevelopment plan and began evictions.

Mel was away in college in South Carolina when his family sent him articles from the *Herald Traveler* calling the area Skid Row. "I was surprised because I had always called it home. But there it was, right in print."

Joyce grew up on Rose Street and observed that "one way they got people out was to turn off the electricity, so there were no streetlights.... I left at 21 before the worst of it.... Then seeing the neighborhood when it was closed, when everybody was gone, it was desolate. The settlement houses tried to help people. The older people, especially immigrants, didn't want to move. That was where they'd first come, where they lived," said Joyce.

By 1956, when their old neighborhood was cleared, Mel and Joyce were living in an apartment on Tremont Street in the South End. Mel's mother and siblings had relocated to Roxbury. Soon Mel was working with a South End youth program, becoming director of Boys' Work. Joyce would become active on several South End boards.

The *Herald* moved its operations to the former New York Streets in 1959. Mel told this story: "Some years later when I was running for School Committee, I met with the editor and mentioned that we were neighbors. He asked if that meant I had a house in Danvers, where he lived. I explained that his office was on the site of my old home on Seneca Street."

The New York Streets is now the luxury high-rise Ink Block.

In an interview years later, Mel said: "If you're talking about a community with some diversity in it, then you're not going to have it when you convert buildings and push people

out... And that for me is the big issue. There is this indifference to those basic human needs, and it gets supported up and down by the banks and by the city."

Alison Barnet lives in the South End. Quotes are from King's book *Chain of Change* and interviews.

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. Some events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center (PSC), and others at the Fenway Community Center (FCC).

- Thu, June 8 from 12pm to 2pm: 10 MINUTE CHAIR MESSAGES at FCC
- Tue, June 13 at 12pm: ARTFUL MEDITATION at PSC
- Thu, June 15 from 12pm to 2pm: JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION at FCC
- Wed, June 21 at 12pm: NAME THAT TOON at PSC
- Tue, June 27 at 11:30am: MGM TOUR at PSC
- Thu, June 29 from 12pm: SUMMER ESSENTIALS with Maria Turnang of Brigham and Women's at FCC

S O X B O X

Fri, June 2	7:10pm	Fri, June 16	7:10pm
Sat, June 3	1:10pm	Sat, June 17	7:15pm
Sun, June 4	1:35pm	Sun, June 18	7:10pm
Mon, June 12	7:10pm	Tue, June 27	7:10pm
Tue, June 13	7:10pm	Wed, June 28	7:10pm
Wed, June 14	7:10pm	Thu, June 29	6:10pm

Tasty Burger Fills Ultimate To-Go Order



When Tasty Burger first opened at 1301 Boylston St., part of its appeal came from its kitschy reclamation of a former gas station. The vibe remains, but the eatery—now with four branches—opened the doors of a more conventional home on May 18, around the corner at 86 Van Ness Street.

LEND A HAND TO RELAUNCH THE COMMUNITY FRIDGE!



As we reported earlier this year, the Wine Press in Audubon Circle announced it would take charge of the community fridge that shut down after two years on Buswell Street. (The fridge is part of a grassroots national movement to help address food insecurity.) Wine Press co-owner Jyoti Mehta has a new kiosk set up and painted by artist Eli Lovich (visit @fun_art_with_eli on Instagram to see more of the artist's work). Mehta hopes to have the refrigerator installed in June, but she needs help! Volunteers can sign up to do things like monitor food freshness, help with cleaning, and update an open-source master document online. Email beaconstcommunityfridge@gmail.com to find out how to pitch in. In the meantime, you can leave nonperishable items for fridge users.

Virtual Public Meeting

Fenway Corners

June 12, 2023
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/41QaZij
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 166 1327



Project Proponent:

WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC

Project Description:

WS Development, on behalf of WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC (the "Proponent") is proposing a 5.32-acre redevelopment (the "Project") of 13 privately-owned parcels of land on four primary development blocks located south of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the vicinity of the historic Fenway Park. The Project will consist of approximately 1.8 million square feet of Gross Floor Area of building area for office/research, residential, and retail uses, and will involve the reconstruction and improvement of approximately 3.7 acres of other public roadways, sidewalks, and other areas of public ownership as part of the Project's overall commitment to making extraordinary public realm improvements in the Fenway neighborhood. The Project will also include the extension of Richard B. Ross Way from Van Ness Street to Brookline Avenue, achieving one of the City of Boston's long-planned transportation goals for the neighborhood.

Interpretation will be provided for Cantonese and Mandarin.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**
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Close of Comment Period:
06/16/2023

EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY MEETING FOCUSES ON MUDDY RIVER

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy held its annual meeting on April 27. Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek presided, introducing Tom Green, tribal council member of Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag as he set the stage with an historical overview of the Muddy River.

Today, people are wary of the river's waters because of pollution, but 400 years ago indigenous tribes saw it as a source of food, for it was teeming with fish. The Muddy River was also seen as protector, and vehicle of connection with other tribes in the area as it flowed into the river we call the Charles. Today, the Emerald Necklace continues to act a conduit of connection from one neighborhood to the next, and we are the stewards who must bear responsibility for current and future generations.

Restoration of the Muddy River and its surrounding land is essential to preventing future flooding from increasing storm severity and rising waters due to global warming. ENC began in 1996 after major storms and heavy rain flooded the area, including Kenmore Station on the Green Line. The restoration project

ANNUAL MEETINGS

brings together Boston, Brookline, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Army Corp of Engineers, and other local organizations. More than 1,000 volunteers have removed trash and invasive plants, including 400 volunteers in the recent spring cleanup.

The ENC gave a special thanks to (now former) City Councilor Kenzie Bok for helping procure more funds for removing invasive plants and phragmites. ENC also thanked the Olmsted Tree Society in its stewardship of 95,000 park trees and watering new trees with a designated water truck.

ENC posted signs throughout the park that state "Working together to restore the Muddy River," accompanied by QR scan codes. Other programs and projects include the Youth Education Program, Summer Green Team, and Natural Ways Program in collaboration with the US Forest Service, Olmsted Now, and Greater Boston Olmsted Community of Neighborhoods' Parks Equity and Spatial Justice Project.

Kate England, director of green infrastructure for the City of Boston, and Bob Delhome, founder and president of Charter Contracting Company, spoke about the

importance of clean waterways for animals and plants that live in or around the Muddy River.

Phase 2 of the restoration process is now in full swing. Charter and the Army Corps are working on 3.5 miles and 13 work areas to remove sediment, increase channel capacity, remove invasive plants, and restore riverbanks and surrounding landscape.

Good news for this coming fall: Fences will begin coming down in the Fens, including along Agassiz Road. Watch for celebrations heralding this milestone.

FENWAY CDC ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

Fenway Community Development Corporation celebrated a milestone as it held its 50th annual meeting at St. Cecilia Church Community Center on April 27.

Executive Director Leah Camhi opened the meeting and introduced a virtual welcome from Mayor Michelle Wu who congratulated the CDC for its stewardship of this storied neighborhood. Brian Clague, a longtime

board member, next led a moment of silence for the many injustices Massachusetts Native American tribes endured as colonists settled the lands.

Nikki Flionis, board president, presided over the next part of the agenda, an election of board members that returned longtime residents and activists Rosario Salerno, James Smith, and Mat Thall to the board. Dolores (Dolly) Boogdian, another long-time resident and activist was newly elected.

Community Service Awards were presented to Jay Livingstone, State Representative for the 8th Suffolk District; Mia Jean-Sicard and Sonia Bhabhalia, both departing board members; and Brenda Lew, of the CDC's Organizing Committee.

(Now former) City Councilor Kenzie Bok moderated a panel discussion with Emily Jones, senior program officer for Boston's Green Home and Green Jobs Initiative; Brianna Millor, chief of community engagement, City of Boston; and Coco Alinsug, outreach and enrollment manager for Fenway Health and a Lynn city councilor. Renewable energy and housing issues were highlights of this discussion.

Congratulations to the Fenway CDC as it begins its next 50 years.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

Oversight Committee Reviews and Celebrates Muddy River Restoration

BY LESLIE POND

Democracy in dirt." This was a key throughline of "The Muddy River Restoration Project: Public Oversight Reimagined," the Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee's annual meeting, held at the Museum of Fine Arts on April 26. The date—not coincidentally—was Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday.

The event celebrated the project's achievements and the people involved, in particular the volunteers who constitute the MMOC, as the committee is known; partners at federal, state, and municipal agencies; and community activists.

More than 100 people filled the room, and the evening was replete with Jerry Wright in character as Olmsted, birthday hats, a cake with layers representing the Muddy River, and music from Berklee College students JahQuan Richards and Deh Bredren.

In capturing the essence of the gathering during opening remarks, Kelly Brilliant, newly elected chair of the MMOC and co-director of the Fenway Alliance, a MMOC member, said that "in the 19th century and now in Boston and Brookline in 2023, the Emerald Necklace Muddy River represents, as Olmsted intended, 'democracy in dirt.' Parks are one of the last resources in our country which truly belong to everyone. Though held in trust by public agencies, in truth, they belong to all."

Established in 2000, the MMOC functions as the "eyes and ears on the ground" for the complex project—intended to manage flood risk and restore part of the Muddy River that was poorly maintained and paved over—and engages the broader public in its work. "Public oversight reimagined" refers to its rare model of public partnership.

"We have come a long, long way. There remains a long way to go," Brilliant said, as the MMOC embarks on the next 30 years of oversight after substantial completion of the restoration project later this year. In recognizing the critical role of state partners and residents' support, Erin Chute Gallentine, commissioner of Brookline's Department of Public Works, echoed Brilliant's remarks, saying, "there were many times that the project was at risk."

Gallentine, Jennifer Flanagan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager, and Ryan Woods, commissioner of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department, presented overviews and updates of the Muddy River project—which extends from Leverett Pond through the Riverway and Back Bay Fens to Charlesgate—and additional initiatives.

From this October through 2025 there will be a rolling turnover of Phase 2 work areas from the Army Corps to the municipal and state project sponsors, with ongoing maintenance such as phragmites management and plant replacement as needed, and the restoration of Agassiz Road. Woods cited

the City of Boston's intention for continued "positive activation," including public art and programming, saying, "This new park is here. It's ours. It's all of ours to care for."

In an inspirational talk, keynote speaker Byron Rushing, former state representative for the 9th Suffolk district, continued on Brilliant's theme, declaring, "When we speak to the democracy of dirt, we're speaking about the democracy of land...all of you engaged in this work, all of you, are radical...you are engaged in making land public."

Rushing offered a broader context for the MMOC's work: "You are setting an example of how we should understand 'free to all'... understand democracy in our communities, our state, our country, and hopefully influence the understanding of democracy in the world." He cautioned of potential challenges ahead: "But I don't want you to leave without understanding that in every future accomplishment that you attempt in making space, land, air available to everyone, there will be people who don't want to do that."

MMOC members offered moving tributes to honor four people who have been instrumental in championing the restoration project and establishing the MMOC: Betsy Shure Gross, who co-founded the National Association for Olmsted Parks and is a leader in many conservation organizations; Michael Dukakis, former Massachusetts Governor; Jack Martin, vice president of administration at Northeastern University who died in February; and Fran Gershwin, former MMOC chair who died a month after the meeting. Attendees signed two large maps of the Muddy River that were presented to the families of Martin and Gershwin.

Kay Mathew, MMOC vice-chair, spoke in recognition of the many community "environmental activists down through decades," and the impact of people who fought for the Muddy River project and are "working really hard to preserve tree canopy, to steward our parks, to save our trees, to preserve open space, to ensure environmental justice for all" in areas such as Melnea Cass Boulevard, Crane Ledge Woods, and Malcolm X Park, among others.

Together, the speakers recounted how the Muddy River has indeed come a long way—from Olmsted's 19th-century design for the Emerald Necklace that transformed the Back Bay Fens from an unhealthy "pestilential swamp" to part of a public park with built-in stormwater management, through a period of neglect and flooding, and now its restoration and enhanced flood risk mitigation.

To Rushing's point, public parks have often come under pressure to accommodate activities that compromise their use, which Olmsted envisioned as places of respite for all. An ongoing local example is the community's concern about the impact of shadows that would be cast by the proposed Longwood Place development over the Riverway section

of the Emerald Necklace.

The juxtaposition of the MMOC's annual meeting and its backdrop of 17th-century paintings in the MFA's Koch Gallery of European Art offered attendees an opportunity to reflect on the hope that the restoration and care of the Muddy River will be at least as enduring as the paintings.

For a link to the video recording of key presentations during the meeting, visit www.muddyrivermmoc.org/thank-you-for-attending-the-2023-muddy-river-annual-meeting/.

For an overview of the Muddy River Restoration Project, see the March 2023 issue of *The Fenway News*, at FenwayNews.

MORE ANNUAL MEETING NEWS...

- On page 6, read a recap of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association's first in-person annual meeting since 2019.
- On Thursday, June 15, join Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services for its annual meeting at 5:30pm at One Brigham Circle Plaza. The meeting will feature awards, refreshments, speakers, and music.

Report SSOs

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow is an unintentional discharge of untreated sewage into the environment or onto property.

If you encounter a sewer overflow, call BWSC 24 Hour Emergency Service Line 617-989-7000.



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
Let's Protect Boston's Waterways

BWSC.ORG

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Commission Mulls Zoning Changes Tailored To The Needs of Two Big Fenway Projects

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Boston Zoning Commission has scheduled a vote on changes to Article 66 of Boston's zoning code, which covers the Fenway. (The vote takes place June 7 at 9am.) The changes would expand the areas eligible for inclusion in planned development areas and raise allowable building heights, smoothing the way for two major projects under review. The Fenway Corners proposal for multiple parcels ringing the ballpark, and the 1400 Boylston proposal for the Star Market and former Gulf station parcels would both benefit from the change.

As proposed, the two developments would add more than 2 million square feet of office, lab, housing, and retail space to the neighborhood.

At an April 16 meeting of the BPDA Board, Kenzie Bok—in one of

her final advocacy acts as District 8 city councilor—spoke for more than 20 minutes in support of the changes if they are paired with financial contributions based on development area that would be codified into BPDA policy. These payments would fund park maintenance, transportation improvements, affordable childcare vouchers, and support for public facilities like a new branch library or a BCYF facility. They would come on top of a 20% target goal for limited-income units in future residential projects in the neighborhood.

Brittany Comak of the BPDA Communications Department confirmed that Zoning Commission votes do not take effect until the end of a 30-day period for appeals following a vote. The City's zoning map would not change until then, assuming no appeal is filed.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

BU students gave symbolic support to the Writers Guild of America at commencement, booing, turning their backs on, and waving signs at speaker David Zaslov, CEO of Warner Bros. Discovery and a favorite target of the striking writers. **The Huntington snagged 10 Eliot Norton Awards, the bulk of them for "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," produced with the Front Porch Arts Collective. The ceremony took place amid the lushly renovated Huntington auditorium, which has since won a 2023 award from the Boston Preservation Alliance.** Also receiving Alliance recognition was the BPL's Leventhal Map Center for its "Atlascope" online index of digitized Boston insurance maps from the 1880s through the 1930s.



Toast, the ubiquitous restaurant-tech firm, will break its lease at 401 Park. Banker & Tradesman reports the company will pay a \$15.7 million penalty for ducking out on 111,000 square feet of space six years ahead of schedule. But shed no tears for Alexandria Realty, the complex's owners: Children's Hospital is circling a deal to lease nearly half of the 550,000-square-foot building under construction just next door on the old Bed, Bath & Beyond site. The *Globe* reports that the hospital has entered "advanced discussions" for lab space at 421 Park.

And in more business news, REI employees at the Park Drive store voted, nearly 2 to 1, to unionize under the United Food and Commercial Workers, the *Globe* reports. They want higher wages, increased staffing, and more predictable schedules for part-time workers. The West Fens boasts a little sibling for the iconic Citgo sign now that the gas station at Ipswich and Boylston has switched from Shell to Citgo. **The Mass. Public Health Association named East Fens resident (and Victory Garden stalwart) Kevin Cranston the recipient of its Paul Revere Award. The association confers the award, its highest, on someone who's had "an outstanding impact on public health in the Commonwealth." Cranston is assistant commissioner of the state Dept. of Public Health** Openings: **Nubian Markets** in Nubian Square combines a fast-casual eatery, grocery shopping, and community space. **Eventide** in the West Fens now offers full restaurant service. **Loco Taqueria & Oyster Bar** has opened in the former Sam Adams space on Brookline Avenue.

LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on June 7, 2023, at 9:00 A.M., in connection with Text Amendment Application No. 510 and Map Amendment Application No. 757, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend Map 1Q (Fenway Neighborhood District) by proposing modifications to the boundaries of the Fenway Triangle NDA and North Boylston NS-3 Subdistricts. A portion of the southern boundary of the Fenway Triangle NDA subdistrict would be extended across Boylston Street to include a portion of the South Boylston NS-1 subdistrict, including all parcels bounded by Park Drive, Kilmarnock Street and Private Alley 932. A portion of the northeastern boundary would be extended to incorporate a parcel in the North Boylston NS-3 subdistrict bounded by Van Ness Street, Kilmarnock Street, and Brookline Avenue. The North Boylston NS-3 subdistrict would be expanded eastward to include the parcels bounded by Boylston Street, Van Ness Street, Kilmarnock Street, and Jersey Street.

Said text amendment would amend Article 66 (Fenway Neighborhood District) by proposing to

increase the allowed height for Planned Development Area ("PDA") projects in the Brookline Avenue Community Commercial and the Fenway Triangle Neighborhood Development Area subdistricts. The allowed height for PDAs in the Brookline Avenue Community Commercial subdistrict would increase from 150 feet to 300 feet and the allowed height for PDAs in the Fenway Triangle Neighborhood Development Area subdistrict would increase from 150 feet to 250 feet.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to https://bit.ly/BZC_June2023. **Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.**

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023. **Please request interpreting services no later than June 2, 2023.**

FOR THE COMMISSION
JEFFREY M. HAMPTON
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Farmers Markets

Look for early season strawberries as well as cucumbers, arugula, and peas.

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

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

BACK BAY	FENWAY	MISSION HILL
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>.

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



Fenway CDC's 50th Anniversary Fenway Ball

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

521 Overlook ♦ Fenway Park ♦ 14 Lansdowne Street ♦ Boston

We invite you and your guests to:

- ♦ Celebrate the CDC's 50th Anniversary
- ♦ Enjoy delicious food, drinks, and desserts
- ♦ Connect with friends, neighbors, and our supporters
- ♦ Dance to the greatest hits from the 1970s, '80s, and '90s
- ♦ Bid on exciting auction items and win raffle prizes

Your ticket helps the CDC improve residents' lives and strengthen civic infrastructure in the Fenway. We help connect folks of all ages, people with disabilities and special needs, and formerly unhoused people to a broad range of programs—from housing, education, jobs training, and financial coaching to social services, food distribution, and wellness. At the same time, we spearhead robust civic engagement that aims to build a thriving neighborhood for residents, institutions, and businesses.

Each event ticket is \$150.

Become a sponsor or purchase your event tickets online at fenwaycdc.org. For inquiries, please contact Iris Tan at itan@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 25.



Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community

ACNA Holds First In-Person Annual Meeting In Four Years

BY STEVE WOLF

On May 10, roughly 50 members, neighbors, and business owners listened to keynote speaker State Sen. Will Brownsberger at the

Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association's first in-person annual meeting in four years. Brownsberger described (and praised) the State's commitment to a reconstruction plan for the "spaghetti bowl of ramps" that is the



ACNA Board President Dolores Boogdanian addresses the group's annual meeting.

Bowker Overpass. The project will transform the area beneath the overpass into an inviting new Charlesgate Park, with a dramatically cleaned-up Muddy River as its focal point.

Brownsberger also broke down the interlocking set of issues dogging the MBTA and, in an unusual mea culpa, took some of the responsibility as one of the public officials who has pushed the agency in recent years to spend more aggressively on capital projects, pressure that shifted MBTA management's attention from basic nuts-and-bolts maintenance and allowed safety issues to proliferate.

The meeting, held at Ruggles Baptist Church, also heard from State Rep. Dan Ryan, who has added Audubon Circle and parts of the West Fens to his district, and former City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who will take up the reins soon as head of the Boston Housing Authority.

ACNA members added three people to the board of directors, which now includes Dolores Boogdanian, Tess Cunard, Steve Goldblatt, Kathy Greenough, Sandeep Karnik, Richard Ong, Diane Pienta, Erica Roberge, and Jacob Werner.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

BPDA Names Winners of Delayed Red Sox Beautification Grants

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The BPDA Board approved another \$100,00 in beautification funding from the Red Sox to Fenway organizations on May 11. This will represent the final year for these grants, with two rounds of requests for proposals (RFPs) substituting for the absence of the funding in 2022. That application round got pushed to January this year and yielded the eight winners just announced. According to Lacey Rose of the BPDA communications office, that agency will issue another RFP in late summer or early fall. That RFP will end the 10-year million-dollar benefit negotiated to make up for the game-day closing of Jersey Street and the negotiated air rights for the Green Monster seats.

This latest round received 11 applications, said Mark McGonagle, BPDA deputy director of community engagement. He did not describe the projects at a board hearing; the communications office also had no details and advised a public records request.

For the record, the proposals selected include:

- Fenway Community Center's Summer Connects, up to six art pop-ups with local artist Lydia Anderson as well as MassArt's Artward Bound students.
- New landscaping for six planting beds near the Shattuck Visitor Center and remediation work adjacent to the Mother's Rest Playground managed by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

- Angie Dickerson's Boston Rhythm Riders will host dance sessions with popular R&B/Motown tunes at 401 Park, the Fenway Community Center, and Symphony Park. The proposal includes six-week classes at each site, encouraging regular participation but also welcoming anyone who walks by. The Rhythm Riders have led line dancing for seniors in Franklin Park for more than a decade.
- The Fenway Garden Society plans to renovate the Boylston Street entrance to the Victory Gardens with volunteer help. This will increase visibility into the park, enhance the soil, remove large rocks, and add new plantings.
- The Muddy Water Initiative received a stipend for a volunteer coordinator May–November and a summer intern to manage the work with WATERGOAT cleanups of the Muddy River near the Ipswich Street Bridge.
- The Charlesgate Alliance received \$20,000 for 16 new trees in the north field of Charlesgate Park between Beacon Street and Comm. Ave.
- From the Friends of the Public Garden, the Kenmore block of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall will get two permanent custom-designed trash receptacles for \$6,400.
- The ARCK Collaborative, led by Sara Demeter, received \$17,000 for its programs with school-age kids and the Miles of Murals project.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

COMMUNITY meetings

SAT, JUNE 3—BOSTON WARD 4

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE caucuses to elect delegates to the state party convention on Sept. 23. All registered Democrats in Ward 4 are eligible to run. Email ward4dems@gmail.com with questions. 11am. Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave.

SAT, JUNE 3—BOSTON WARD 10 DEMO-

CRATIC COMMITTEE caucuses to elect delegates to the state party convention. Doors, sign-in, and snacks at 9am; program—featuring U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley—at 9:30am. Caucus at 10am. Robert & Theresa Parks Community Building, Mission Park, New Whitney Street.

TUE, JUNE 6—Join the BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT for a pop-up meeting at Roxbury Crossing Station. 1–5pm.

WED, JUNE 7—Boston Transportation

Department meeting on the redesign plan for **PARKER AND TERRACE STREETS**. Roxbury Community College. 6–8pm.

WED, JUNE 7 & 21—Boston Transportation Department hosts **BETTER BIKE LANES OFFICE HOURS**. Schedule a 15-minute meeting 3–7pm at <https://tinyurl.com/5fu6h2n3>.

MON, JUNE 12—The BPDA hosts a public meeting on the **FENWAY CORNERS** proposal. 6pm. Register at bit.ly/4IQaZij; contact Michael Sinatra at michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov with questions.

THU, JUNE 22—The BPDA hosts a joint Task Force/public meeting for the **840 COLUMBUS AVE.** project on the Northeastern campus. 6pm. Register at bit.ly/3OGqgj7; contact Quinn Valcich at quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions.



Join Fenway Cares as a Resident Leader Training and Stipend Provided

Fenway Cares is looking for responsible individuals to manage food distributions every other Wednesday at Fenway Community Center or Symphony Park. Training and mentoring will be provided to selected applicants. Upon successful completion of the three-month program providing coordination assistance for Fenway Cares food access program, participants are eligible to receive an optional stipend (\$500 + \$150 grocery gift card).

Requirements:

- Fenway/Kenmore resident
- Available about 5 hours every other Wednesday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- Access to a computer and cell phone
- Able to lift up to 30 pounds
- Interested in working remotely and can contact our delivery recipients two days before the distributions

To apply, please email info@fenwaycdc.org or call 617-267-4637 x25.

Fenway Cares is a collaboration of six Fenway-based organizations working together since March 2020 to provide food access to vulnerable neighborhood residents. To learn more about our program, please visit: fenwaycommunitycenter.org/fenway-cares

Program Partners

- Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association
- Fenway Alliance
- Fenway Civic Association
- Fenway Community Center
- Fenway Community Development Corporation
- Operation P.E.A.C.E.

Special thanks to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Community Benefits Fund for supporting Fenway/Kenmore Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity Burbank Terrace 72 Burbank Street, Fenway, MA 02115

27 Affordable Units

# of Units	# of BRs	Est. Sq. Ft.	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# Built Out for Mobility Impairments	# Built Out for Deaf/Hard of Hearing	# Built Out for Mobility+ Deaf/Hard of Hearing
2	1 BR	430	30% of HH Income	30%	1	—	—
5	2 BR	701	30% of HH Income	30%	—	—	—
8	0 BR	372	\$1,340	60%	—	—	—
5	1 BR	430	\$1,435	60%	1	—	—
7	2 BR	701	\$1,721	60%	1	1	—

3 Homeless set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit www.homestart.org/bostonhhsa

Minimum Incomes			Maximum Incomes			Minimum incomes apply. Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.
# of BRs	30% AMI	60% AMI	HH Size	30% AMI	60% AMI	
0	\$0	\$40,200	1	\$29,450	\$58,920	
1	\$0	\$43,050	2	\$33,650	\$67,320	
2	\$0	\$51,630	3	\$37,850	\$75,720	
			4	\$42,050	\$84,120	

Applications are available during the application period for 60 days, from 4/7/2023 - 6/6/2023

Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday	4/10/23	5 pm - 8 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Wednesday	4/12/23, 4/19/23, 4/26/23	5 pm - 8 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Thursday	4/13/23, 4/20/23	10 am - 2 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Friday	4/14/23	10 am - 2 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Saturday	4/15/23	10 am - 2 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Tuesday	4/18/23, 4/26/23	8 am - 11 am	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Friday	4/21/23	12 pm - 4 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA
Friday	4/28/23	9 am - 1 pm	Fenway CDC Community Room, 70 Burbank Street, Boston, MA

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit <https://bit.ly/BurbankAppRequest>

We will be holding informational meetings on **April 13th at 5 pm at BCYF Roslindale Community Center, 6 Cummins Highway, Roslindale MA** and on **April 20th at 1 pm at Fenway CDC Community Room, Boston, MA**. Join virtually, too, through the following link: www.LiveBurbankTerrace.com

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **June 6, 2023**. Mailed to **Peabody Properties Inc. c/o Burbank Terrace, 536 Granite St, Braintree, MA 02184**

• Selection by Lottery • Asset & Use Restrictions Apply • Preferences Apply

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 781.917.2333 or email burbankterrace@peabodyproperties.com



The Arts

Haitian Troupe Gets Audubon Circle Moving



On May 21 a “community land healing dance” organized by Diane Pienta—one of Audubon Circle’s masterful green thumbs—took place in a yard at Buswell Street and Park Drive. Pienta recruited Haitian dance troupe Jean Appolon Expressions & Drummers to lead the event during Haitian Heritage Month, commemorating the Republic of Haiti’s independence. Pienta and Appolon discussed goals of self-empowerment and healing that seemed to resonate with participants.

Neighborhood ARTSline

Local Poet Receives Award from Northeastern

On June 15, Fenway resident Charles Settles will receive a “Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award” from Northeastern University. The Award provides financial support for active, resident-led initiatives in neighborhoods adjacent to the Northeastern campus. Settles has composed hundreds of poems for Fenway Cares volunteers since the food-distribution program began in 2020; he has produced hundreds of them. He prints and laminates the poems for individuals who come to Symphony Park to help distribute food.

Porchfest Prelude on Peterborough



Porches were definitely optional (as the Porchfest slogan has it) for David Ehle, left, Gerry “King of Records” Cooper, and Rob Rudin when they performed for passersby at the corner of Kilmarnock and Peterborough streets on May 1.

MFA POP-UP FEATURES MISSION HILL ARTISTS



On Memorial Day, with the Museum of Fine Arts offering free entry, a one-day exhibit of work by local artists took place in the Shapiro Family Courtyard. Mission Hill Main Streets organized the show. Here, artist Monjree Yousuf talks about her work with fellow Mission Hill resident Marilyn Burke. Meanwhile, outside the museum, the guards’ union passed out flyers informing crowds that contract negotiations between guards and the museum have dragged on for nearly a year with no agreement and urging visitors to email director Matthew Teitelbaum to support the union.

Kaji Aso Studio 34th International Haiku Contest

SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN BOSTON

[All entries in the Kaji Aso Studio International Haiku Contests are randomized and judged anonymously]

FIRST PLACE

the moon crossing the river crossing the moon

STEFANIE BUCIFAL
KONSTANZ, GERMANY

SENRYU PRIZE

at the end of my rope a new puppy

SHAWN BLAIR
COHOES, NEW YORK

SECOND PLACE

crack in the sidewalk
where wildness
finds a way

JACQUIE PEARCE
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

THIRD PLACE

still traveling
at the speed of light
...that wish

HELEN OGDEN
PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

HONORABLE MENTION (ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME)

even now the cello’s last note

JOHN BARLOW
LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

nor’easter...
throwing whatnot
into a crockpot

ALAN S. BRIDGES
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

autumn drizzle...
a dim bulb in the shack
by the river

KANCHAN CHATTERJEE
JAMSHEDPUR, INDIA

field notes
so much is written
on the snow

EARL KEENER
BETHANY, WEST VIRGINIA

split rail fence
the neighbor’s winter drifts
into mine

BARRIE LEVINE
WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

icicles
who knew
about the codicil

SCOTT MASON
SOMERS, NEW YORK

night clouds
the moon now this
now that...

HELEN OGDEN
PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

moonless night
hightide brings
the darkness closer

JACQUIE PEARCE
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

autumn storm
the wavering flame
of the kerosene lamp

LAWRENCE RUNGREN
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

golden hour...
a deer path leads
through our pear trees

PAULA SEARS
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

all the extras
that outlived her...
grandma’s button jar

BARRIE LEVINE
WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

his baseball cards
now worth only
money

ANN MAGYAR
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

my eyes
dog’s nose
two walks

JACQUIE PEARCE
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Kaji Aso Studio programming is supported in part by grants from

THE MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL THROUGH THE CULTURAL SECTOR RECOVERY GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM
THE BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL/ REOPEN CREATIVE BOSTON, ADMINISTERED BY THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
THE MISSION HILL / FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

June CALENDAR

Sun 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

FENWAY GALLERY PRESENTS 'FENWAY FEVER!', an exhibit about "all things Fenway, not just baseball." View works from 19 of the artists who live and work at Fenway Studios on Ipswich Street. Visit Sundays, 12-4pm, 30 Ipswich St. FREE

Sun 6/4 ⇨ Sun 6/11

The world-renowned **BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL** returns every two years, and this year's edition rolls out at seven venues, with New England Conservatory hosting more than 20 concerts and talks. One intriguing departure from opera and concerts: on Wed., June 7, the acclaimed Orlando Consort performs 15th-century music organized as a live soundtrack for Carl Dreyer's 1928 silent film, *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*, considered a masterpiece 8pm, Jordan Hall. Tickets \$25-64. Visit www.BEMF.org for more info and tickets to all events.

Thu, 6/8

The Boston Public Library hosts a panel considering **CARE WORK IN**

MASSACHUSETTS, with a discussion of the racial wealth gap, organizing efforts, and ways to support care workers across the state. Panel members include union representatives, labor organizers, and workers weighing in on the future of care work. 1pm, Central Library in Copley Square. FREE

Thu, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, & 6/29

Join neighbors for **GENTLE SEATED YOGA** at Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road. In case of rain, meet in the community room at Morville House, 100 Norway St. 10am.

Tue, 6/13

BUILDING ECOLOGICAL WEALTH: A QUEER PERSPECTIVE ON A CLIMATE FUTURE.

Growing up in a community that faced environmental injustice, Isaias Hernandez's recognition of the ways pollution affected

his body and community spurred him to create environmental education that stresses accessibility and intersectionality. In conversation with BPL President David Leonard, followed by an audience Q&A. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/641dd1162f7729d104a2d102>. Central Library in Copley Square 6pm.

Tue, 6/13 ⇨ Sun, 7/16

THE HUNTINGTON PRESENTS 'THE LEHMAN TRILOGY,' winner of the 2022 Tony Award for best drama. Three actors portray dozens of characters in the remarkable "rags to riches to ruin" story of three immigrant brothers whose Alabama business begat a global banking giant whose collapse triggered the 2008 recession. Tue-Sun, 7pm; Sat-Sun, 1pm. Tickets \$25-200. Visit www.huntingtontheatre.org for details and tickets.

Wed, 6/14 ⇨ Fri, 6/16

The **EMBRACE IDEAS FESTIVAL** leading up to the Juneteenth holiday focuses on "the power of Black creativity, culture and community." Two of its three day-long programs take place at MassArt and Roxbury CC and offer a lively mix of chefs, musicians, academics, and journalists Nikole Hannah-Jones and Jenée Osterheldt. A free inaugural concert takes place at The Embrace monument on the Common. Details and tickets at www.embraceideasfestival.org/tickets.

Mon, 6/19

FREE MFA OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH, the oldest commemoration of the ending of slavery in the U.S. Activities include art making, music, dance, poetry, and a City Talks discussion about the legacy and future of Juneteenth. 10am-5pm.

Tue, 6/20

FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ROSE GARDEN PICNIC. Join neighbors and friends for food, fun, music, and a stroll through the roses. Rain date June 21. 6-8pm.

FENWAY PORCHFEST
Saturday, June 10th, 2023
 (rain date June 11th)
12:00 pm - 4:30 pm
www.fenwayporchfest.org

Volunteers needed!
 Sign up at bit.ly/3qg1Brt

FENWAY CDC 50 YEARS 1973-2023
 Fenway Community Development Corporation
 Improving Lives and Building Community

FENWAY The Fenway Alliance

FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

BOSTON UNITY CUP STREET FESTIVAL
 Competition | Performances | Food Trucks | Youth Jamboree | Resource Fair
SUNDAY, JUNE 25
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Carter Fields in Roxbury
www.soccerunityproject.org

NORTHEASTERN