

THE Fenway News



HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 49 NUMBER 10 • SEPTEMBER 29–NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Northeastern Finalizes Plan for a Dorm at the Sheraton

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The low-key review process for conversion of the 29-story Sheraton Hotel South Tower into a Northeastern University dormitory winds down this month. Public comments are due Oct. 2 to BPDA manager Quinn Valcich.

Northeastern students currently occupy the building, which has operated as a dorm since the beginning of the pandemic. Northeastern has made a 10-year commitment to house 856 students in double rooms.

The conversion entails exterior improvements to the barren public plaza facing Belvidere Street and interior modifications to separate dormitory uses from hotel functions and amenities. For example, the existing driveway serving the Sheraton

lobby will remain, but students will enter through a new secured entrance from the renovated plaza. The residence hall will have no connection to the North Tower hotel.

The investor owners, Värde Partners and Hawkins Way Capital, plan to upgrade the North Tower in the future. In recent public meetings, Teddy Fogelman of Hawkins Way called the two towers, built in 1965 and 1975, dated and obsolete. The partners specialize in hotels and student housing; they sold their property at 12 Hemenway St., the former youth hostel, to Berklee College of Music last year.

In March 2022, the Boston City Council voted unanimously to support Sheraton Hotel workers from UNITE HERE, Local 26, who opposed the conversion. That opposition,

however, never came up in the two public meetings held on Aug. 30 and Sept. 21.

Representatives of the Fenway, the St. Botolph, and the Back Bay neighborhood associations sit on the BPDA-appointed Impact Advisory Group (IAG). Despite some confusion about which neighborhood has jurisdiction here, the Project Notification Form says, “this ‘super’ block is the anchor of the western end of the Back Bay neighborhood and the northern end of the South End neighborhood.” It makes no mention of the East Fens.

In the IAG’s August meeting, member Kathy McBride called the plan for bikes and presumably other personal mobility devices to be stored in student rooms “a janitorial hell.” Other topics brought up by IAG members included parking and adding trees to the plaza.

At the 40-minute-long Sept. 21 public meeting, architect Jule Reker stated that the dorm conversion will create a 102-space bike room. Two drop-off/pick-up parking spots will

be carved out of the existing on-street taxi stand on Belvidere.

Dennis Quilty, the attorney representing the hotel owners, said the exterior renovations will begin as soon as possible.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

CIVIC AGENDA

Wed, 10/18
BPDA Public Meeting for 1400 Boylston Street
 First public review of a proposal by Samuels & Assoc. to build 553,000 sq ft of office and lab space, ground-floor retail, and a public facility (possibly a branch library) on the current site of the Star Market. Over Zoom, 6–8pm. Register at bit.ly/3RvAc01.

DANA-FARBER, BIDMC PLAN NEW CANCER HOSPITAL

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center announced last month that they will collaborate to create a new, free-standing hospital for treating adult cancer patients. Both institutions will remain fully independent. The announcement came as a surprise throughout the LMA, as the new collaboration spells the end of a decades-long partnership between Dana-Farber and Brigham & Women’s hospital. The announcement said nothing about the new hospital’s location; some sources speculated that it could replace one of the area’s many garages or aging facilities. The hospital still requires regulatory approvals and several years of construction.

—AHMED M. ABDELFAH

A Bumper Crop of Awards for Gardeners



Joe and Dolores Fazio won first prize for a community-garden plot in the 2023 Mayor’s Garden Contest. In fact, Victory Gardens entries swept the category, with Kristin Corman taking second and Laura Coleman and Brian Harty, third. Rick Malkasian took first for a large-yard garden, and Audubon Circle’s Tess Cunard won third for a shade garden. Congrats to all our local winners!

Riders Weigh In On 39 Bus Service



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

On Sept. 20 the Boston Transportation Department held one of a series of pop-up meetings on the 39 bus route—not at a bus stop but at Francis Street and Huntington Avenue in Brigham Circle. The agency uses these “stand-outs” to solicit feedback from riders about their experiences on the route; it has held others in Jamaica Plain. From left, BTD planner Maya Mudgal, Taylor Adam of Regina Villa Associates (representing the MBTA), and Sam Huffman of consultants Nelson Nygaard talk to passersby. A virtual public meeting takes place Thu., Oct. 26, from 6:30 to 8pm, over Zoom. Register at boston.gov/calendar/route-39-virtual-meeting. It will include a look at early concepts for improving on-time performance and customer experience for the 39 bus. (And see page 2 for news about the 55 bus route.)

Trash Flooding Your ‘Hood? Send Us Your Photos!

The return of college students in September brings moving vans, increased traffic, and the escalation of an ongoing public health problem: TRASH. Improperly tossed and overflowing with materials that could be recycled or composted, junk piles litter our streets and alleyways. They attract rodents, violate city ordinances, and tax the City’s Department of Public Works. The Fenway News wants to know about trash in your neighborhood. Send your photos and location details to fenwaynews@gmail.com for an upcoming investigation. (Shown at right: two views of the alley behind 65 Hemenway St. in the first week of September.)

—CAROL LASKY



PHOTOS: CAROL LASKY

FENSVIEWS

A Year Later Keep The Promise And Extend 55 Bus Hours

BY LEO RUIZ SANCHEZ

One year has passed since the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Bus Network Redesign community engagement process, and the 55 Bus Route Coalition continues to advocate tirelessly for improvements on the 55 route.

We've made progress—most recently working with the MBTA to change the sign on the outbound leg of service to read “Fenway” to be more representative of the route and its stops. However, the 55 Bus Route Coalition, residents, visitors, and working professionals still find themselves asking: Where is the bus? Where are the extended hours that were promised last fall?

The 55 bus is more than just a desire for folks: it's a lifeline for the community and an equity issue. It connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, essential activities, and leisure. It's a thread that helps to connect us all in the heart of Fenway, and it's time for it

to extend its reach.

The reductions to the 55 route have

been a pressing issue for the Fenway since November 2020, when the MBTA announced drastic cuts and slated the 55 for suspension. After months of rallies by riders and elected representatives, the MBTA in October 2022 made a commitment to our community by approving extended service hours of 6am to 7pm. They acknowledged the Fenway's need for longer hours on the route, recognizing that our neighborhood's vitality doesn't adhere to the 10am-to-4pm schedule the 55's currently follows.

However, as the days turn into months and as we move into fall 2023, we've yet to see this promise materialize. Residents continue to wait for buses that often don't show up, and frustration is mounting. The 55 Bus Route Coalition understands that challenges exist within the MBTA—namely, a low bus-driver count—but our demands remain simple: we need action now. The MBTA's commitment to extending the 55's service hours offered riders some hope, and now we ask them to honor their promise to extend the route's hours.

The extended hours offer safer and more reliable mobility options for those working later shifts or morning jobs. An accessible and resilient 55 route would contribute to reducing traffic congestion and pollution. And let's not dismiss the power the 55 bus can have on boosting the local economy.

We've waited long enough, and it's time for action! Our message is clear: MBTA, please deliver on your promise to extend the 55 bus route's service hours, and let our community thrive. We're not asking for a small favor—we're demanding an accessible, efficient, and equitable public route.

Together, we can make our voices heard! It's time to make extended hours a reality for the people who depend on the 55. The MBTA's Bus Network Redesign community process was meant to identify challenges, needs, and priorities related to bus services and transit access. One year later, we're still waiting. The coalition urges readers to act now to increase our visibility—see the box below—and get tangible improvements for the 55.

Leo Ruiz Sanchez is the Fenway Community Development Corp. community organizer and staff lead for the 55 Bus Route Coalition.

GUEST OPINION

THE 55 BUS—HOW YOU CAN HELP

Call Governor Maura Healey at (617) 725-4005, Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm or Mayor Michelle Wu, (617) 635-4500 or 311, 24 hours a day. When you call please use this script:

- Hello, my name is [name] and I'm a constituent living at [address].
- I'm calling to urge you to take action on the 55 bus by working with the MBTA to improve the route and implement the extended service hours the MBTA board approved in 2022.
- Thank you for your dedication to the Fenway neighborhood, advocacy

on behalf of elders in Boston, and ensuring an equitable and accessible Boston through a robust public transit system. I know you're a supporter of public transit and I want to thank you for your commitment to an accessible Boston.

- The federal government has given the MBTA \$1.9 billion to restore service, yet the agency hasn't announced full restoration of 55 bus service. This has led to further isolation of our neighborhood, including our seniors, disabled

community members, people of color, and low-income individuals and families.

- Development of new housing and commercial space is flourishing in the Fenway, traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels, and our community members need to be able to travel to doctors, grocery stores, and city agencies in order to live happy, healthy lives.
- Your advocacy for the 55 can help guarantee its future. Thank you for your time!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Given an asking price of \$15 million, ICYMI isn't surprised to find that the Ayer Mansion hasn't sold in more than a year. [Zillow says ten months, but other sources put the initial sale date in May 2022.] The Back Bay building's unusual features—23 bedrooms, and 13

baths spread over 15,600 square feet—might help explain its failure to launch (although the price has surely played a role). The only house ever designed by artist and entrepreneur Louis Comfort Tiffany, the pale white building near the corner of Comm. Ave. and Charlesgate

East abounds in distinctive Art Nouveau details typical of all Tiffany's work. The many bedrooms and baths reflect its recent use as a private dorm for young Catholic women run by the controversial Opus Dei group. ➔ **You'll either be depressed, like ICYMI, or delighted to learn that the Red Sox have already booked two concerts for 2024 (July 19–20, to be precise),** ➔ Advocacy group Mass Parks For All praised plans to “reunite and improve open space along the Charles River with” the Back Bay and the Fenway. Writing for the *CommonWealth* website, Doug Pizzi and Michele Hanss cited the state's plan “as a model public-private partnership” for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. To be clear, much of the funding will come from MassDOT's Highway Division as it rebuilds the Bowker Overpass and part of Storrow Drive starting later this decade ➔ **Amal, a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, threw out the first pitch at Fenway Park on Sept. 9. If**

that doesn't sound noteworthy, consider that “Little Amal” is actually a 12-foot-high puppet created to raise awareness of the millions of Syrians displaced by a brutal civil war. Boston marked the first stop on a 6,000-mile journey across the US that will last two months. ➔ Kennedy Avery, Kenzie Bok's liaison to District 8 neighborhoods, including the Fenway and Mission Hill, has signed on as chief of staff for interim City Councilor Sharon Durkan. ➔ **Northeastern will receive \$17.5 million over five years to build a key node in a new national pandemic-detection network. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, source of the funding, aims to create “a National Weather [forecasting] Service for epidemic threats.” BU will contribute to the center's research.** ➔ Speaking of BU, the school did pretty well in *US News & World Report's* annual college rankings, coming in at #43. USN&WR re-jiggered its formula this year to address complaints that colleges can (and do!) manipulate some of the ranking metrics to climb the list. ➔ **A dramatic drop in demand for labs may force many local developments to rethink their plans. Real estate consultant JLL reports that demand for lab space nationally has plunged by nearly 60% since late 2021—even in Boston, the country's biggest life-sciences market. Will that translate into new thinking on projects already under construction in the Fenway?** ➔ ICYMI wonders: With Lego moving its US headquarters to the building going up at Mass. Ave. and Boylston, can we expect a new (and more colorful) facade? ➔

ICYMI

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, November 3.

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <
The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is Friday, October 27.

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Carlton Street Bridge Reopens (And It Only Took 47 Years)

BY LESLIE POND

After being closed for 47 years in disrepair, the historic Carlton Street Footbridge had its official re-opening celebration on Sept. 17. The footbridge, which connects Brookline neighborhoods with the Emerald Necklace, was originally installed as part of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted's 1890 plan for the Riverway and designed by Alexis French, Brookline's first Town Engineer.

Efforts to rehabilitate the footbridge, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, began in the 1990s and surmounted vigorous local opposition, lack of funding, and regulatory hurdles. The complex project required federal, state, and local collaborations and resources. Most of the funding came from federal grants.

Speakers at the celebration included Brookline officials Erin Chute, commissioner of public works; John VanScoyoc, Select Board vice-chair; State Rep. Tommy Vitolo; Cathleen Cavell and Hugh Mattison, both Town Meeting members, Carlton Street Footbridge Advisory Committee members, and longtime advocates for the restoration; Bill Smith, public works project coordinator; and National Park Service Superintendent Jason Newman, with closing remarks from former Governor Michael Dukakis.



PHOTO: JESSICA HO, KLEINFELDER



PHOTO: PAUL KEATING



PHOTO: PAUL KEATING

The big ribbon-cutting crowd above only hints at how many people had a hand in the footbridge restoration. Opened in 1894, the bridge closed in 1976 after decades of deferred maintenance made it unsafe to use.

completion. Smith highlighted the rehabilitation, as opposed to restoration, of the footbridge, which now includes accessibility

Chute thanked a multitude of community members, government workers, partners, project leaders, and team members for their work. A handbill to thank advocates who worked toward the reopening over the decades listed nearly 40 people, almost one-fourth of whom have died. Vitolo led a moment of silence. Dukakis offered an appropriate Greek saying: "It takes a while, but the bitter fruit

who served as honorary chair of the Friends of the Carlton Street Footbridge, and Mattison, who also chronicled the project.

Several speakers cited honoring Olmsted's vision and legacy as a driving force for the perseverance and high level of commitment from the people involved in bringing the project to

turns into honey."

Cavell recounted, "What did the struggle teach me about how things happen? That a few determined people who won't give up and organized and grow their grassroots can do almost anything." She recognized two such people: Dukakis,

improvements such as an ADA-compliant ramp and bike runnels on the stairs. As Vitolo said, "every link matters" when infrastructure is built primarily for automobiles, "it's your own energy that gets you places," and "you're in the rain or in the heat or snow."

Mattison noted that while non-functional bridges are usually discarded, this footbridge is special for being restored and improved. He emphasized that the project was about more than restoring a bridge, it's about citizen activists and government working together for a common goal, saying, "utopians build bridges."

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. For a recording of the speakers and ribbon-cutting, visit tinyurl.com/4rfxvrus. For more about the project, visit brooklinema.gov/1885/Carlton-Street-Footbridge-Rehabilitation and see the November 2022 issue of *The Fenway News*.

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

BACK BAY Monday and Thursday	FENWAY Tuesday and Friday	MISSION HILL Tuesday and Friday
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STREET CLEANING

In the Fenway and Audubon Circle, you need to check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place. Find City info at tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8. See the DCR schedule at tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3.

CORRECTION

In our September issue on page 5, we referred to City Council candidate Montez Haywood as Heywood Montez. We regret the error.

Farmers Markets

Summer's bounty of produce has started to wind down, but markets still offer quality local produce. Look for heirloom apple varieties, cranberries, pears, broccoli, and squash.

ROXBURY CROSSING (ORANGE LINE STATION)	Tuesday & Friday	11am-6pm
COPLEY SQUARE	Tuesday & Friday	11am-6pm
BRIGHAM CIRCLE	Thursday	11am-6pm
MISSION PARK (2 NEW WHITNEY STREET)	Wednesday	2:30-5:30pm

TimeOut MARKET

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Neighborhood Newsline

Fenway CDC Adds Hemenway Apartments to Affordable Portfolio

With the backing of the Mayor's Office of Housing, Fenway CDC recently purchased a six-apartment building at 43 Hemenway Street. The acquisition used American Rescue Plan funding the City allocated to its Acquisition Opportunity Program. Through the program, the City works with responsible investor-owners to buy occupied, multifamily buildings with below-market rents to create or preserve their affordability. The Hemenway building will continue to operate as rental apartments and, over time, the rental units will be converted into affordable homeownership units. The conversion will make three units affordable to households earning 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) and the other three affordable to households earning 100 percent AMI.

1400 Boylston Proposal Enters Next Stage of BPDA Review

Samuels & Associates filed a Draft Project Impact Report for 1400 Boylston Street last month, triggering the second phase of City's review of the proposal. On the site of the West Fens Star Market—which will move to the building under construction between 401 Park and the Fenway T stop—Samuels wants to build 553,000 square feet of labs and offices, plus ground-floor retail and a branch of the Boston Public Library. A virtual public meeting to review the updated plan takes place Wed., Oct. 18, from 6pm to 8pm. To attend, register at bit.ly/3RvAc01. The following Monday, Oct. 23, members of the project's Citizen Advisory Committee meet in a public session, also virtual and also from 6pm to 8pm. Register at bit.ly/454qyER. CAC members include Pam Beale, Dolores Boogdian, Kelly Brilliant, Rich Giordano, Ryan Hatcher, Tim Horn, Sandeep Karnik, Robert Kordenbrock, Kathy McBride, Gabriella Mora, Tim Ney, Martin O'Riordan, Julian Phillips, David Read, Mallory Rohrig, Fredericka Veikley, and Tom Yardley.

Northeastern Grad Workers Vote Resoundingly For A Union

On Sept. 21 more than 2,900 research and teaching assistants at Northeastern University voted to form a union. The vote, held over three days, yielded a resounding victory for the organizing effort: 1,130 voted in favor and 70 voted against—or 94 percent approval. The workers, known as GENU-UAW (Graduate Employees of Northeastern University-United Auto Workers), will join the UAW and tens of thousands of colleagues at universities across the U.S. who have already formed similar unions. Grad student play a fundamental role in Northeastern's educational and research operations, carrying out research, teaching classes, grading assignments, and more. Yet some earn just \$26,000 a year or receive minimum wage. Prior to the election, Northeastern had filed a motion seeking to reverse a regional National Labor Relations Board decision to allow the election to take place. The graduate workers expect the federal NLRB to uphold its regional unit's decision and certify the election, but the university's appeal could delay negotiations.

City Announces 2023 Mayor's Garden Contest Winners

The City has announced the winners of the 27th annual Mayor's Garden Contest, which recognizes residents who help beautify Boston's neighborhoods by landscaping and planting flowers, trees, and shrubs. For a community with minimal space for gardening, the Fenway and Audubon Circle cleaned up. Rick Malkasian took first place for a large-yard garden, and Tess Cunard won third place among shade-yard gardens. All three awards for community gardens went to Victory Gardeners—Joe and Dolores Fazio (first), Kristen L. Corman (second), and Laura Poulin and Brian Harty (third).

COMMUNITY meetings

WED, OCT 4, 11, & 18 VITA visits the Boston Public Library's Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center with **FREE DROP-OFF OR REMOTE TAX ASSISTANCE**. Taxpayers must show Social Security cards for all individuals included in the tax return. 700 Boylston Street. 4pm to 7pm.

SAT, OCT 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson hosts an **IN-PERSON DISTRICT 7 TOWN HALL MEETING**. 1–4pm, 2377 Washington St.

THU, OCT 12 Join the Fenway CDC for its **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING** at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. The committee is open to anyone interested in advocacy and organizing—no experience or knowledge needed. Join us to explore housing policies and learn how to organize effectively and have a meaningful impact.

MON, OCT 16 City Councilor Sharon Durkan hosts **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS** between 5pm and 7pm. Sign up for a slot at calendly.com/councilordurkan/office-hours?month=2023-10.

TUE, OCT 24 The Red Sox host a **FENWAY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING** at 6pm in the Ford Clubhouse at 72 Brookline Ave.

WED, OCT 18 The Boston Planning and Development Authority hosts a remote **PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE 1400 BOYLSTON ST. PROJECT**. The meeting will review the the Draft Project Impact Report filed last month. Register in advance at bit.ly/3RvAc01. The call-in number: 833 568 8864; use meeting ID 160 342 2795. Please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions.

MON, OCT 23 The Boston Planning and Development Authority hosts a remote **1400 BOYLSTON ST. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**. Register at bit.ly/454qyER. The call-in number: 833 568

8864; meeting ID is 161 375 3793. Note that this is not a traditional community meeting (although it's open to the public). As part of development review, CAC members work closely with BPDA staff to identify a project's impacts and recommend appropriate community benefits to offset those impacts. CAC meetings prioritize discussion between the project proponent and CAC members. Contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions.

WED, OCT 25 City Councilor Sharon Durkan hosts **OFFICE HOURS FOR UNIVERSITIES** at 401 Park Dr., 6–8pm. Sign up for a slot at calendly.com/councilordurkan/office-hours?month=2023-10.

THU, OCT 26 City Councilor Sharon Durkan hosts **OFFICE HOURS IN MISSION HILL** at 1524 Tremont St. between 9am and 10am. Sign up for a slot at calendly.com/councilordurkan/office-hours?month=2023-10.

SAT, OCT 28 Boston Park Advocates presents the **ANNUAL PARKS FORUM**. Gather with advocates to hear from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, followed by a panel discussion "Advocating for Capital Improvements in Your Park" and small group discussions on CPA funding, dog parks, and other topics. 9am–12pm. The Clubhouse, Franklin Park's William J. Devine Golf Course, 1 Circuit Drive.

FRIDAYS Staff at the **LEGAL SERVICES CENTER AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL** provide advice and referral information to Boston Public Library patrons about civil legal issues. Join at bit.ly/LSCBPL or by phone at (646) 558-8656; use meeting ID when prompted: 886 1508 1914. 10am–12pm.

FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

20 YEARS & COUNTING



Opening Our Doors

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

Monday, October 9, 2023
10am - 4pm



Kera Washington of Project Misik performing at Opening Our Doors October, 2022. www.projectmisik.com
Photo credit: Annielly Camargo

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Fenway CDC thanks everyone for making our 5th Annual Taste of The Fenway another delicious success! Please visit the following restaurants and businesses often! Our heartfelt thanks to all vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and guests who joined us at this fun event. Together, we will promote economic opportunities to help residents, restaurants, businesses, and institutions thrive. tasteofthefenway.org

EVENT PARTNERS: Fenway CDC, Samuels & Associates, This Is The Fenway

RESTAURANTS: Basho Japanese Brasserie, Bleacher Bar, Cask n' Flagon, El Pelón Taqueria, Eventide, Fenway Beer Shop, Fenway Johnnies, Fenway Studios, Game On, Ichiban Yakitori Sushi House, Kungfu Tea, Lansdowne Pub, Loco Fenway, Loretta's Last Call, Nathalie's Wine Bar, Oakleaf Cakes Bake Shop, Playa Bowl, Rod Thai Family Taste, Saloniki Greek, Sausage King, Tatte Bakery & Cafe, Tenderoni's, Yard House, Wahlburgers, Wow!! Tikka

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Hurricane Lee Can't Dampen Audubon Circle's Block Party

BY TESS CUNARD

Despite warnings of Hurricane Lee, the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association forged ahead with its End Of Summer Block Party on Keswick Street on Saturday, Sept. 16.

The party was sparked by an announcement from Mayor Michelle Wu that neighborhoods could apply for mini-grants and block party kits to make planning a breeze. ACNA wasn't alone in their excitement, as the City saw a

PHOTO: DIANE PIENITA



300-percent increase in grant applications above prior years.

However, pulling off a Block Party was a hurricane itself, with a lengthy and complex process involving 12 separate permits. Members of the ACNA board—volunteers who work to enhance the quality of life within the pocket neighborhood west of Kenmore Square—had been meeting since June to plan a block party for the community.

Planning the block party presented challenges. The team secured The Cookie Monstah food truck, which offered ice cream sandwiches named after local streets like the “Medfield Monstah” and the “Klassic Keswick.” A wood-burning pizza wagon from Montilio's baked pizza on site, and guests were offered beer and wine from the Wine Press.

The party brought out more than 200 neighbors from the area, and State Sen. Will Brownsberger made a special appearance, arriving on his bike from Belmont. Local businesses like Audubon Bar, Time Out, The Aer Bar, The Wine Press, The Eye Store, Twilight Hair Salon, Down Under Yoga, FoMu, Cafe Landwer, Giggling Rice and Back in Action Bikes all generously donated items that were raffled off at the end of the successful event.

It was an unforgettable day filled with live music, delicious food, exciting games, vibrant community spirit...and the occasional wind gust.

Tess Cunard lives in Audubon Circle



Virtual Public Meeting

1400 Boylston Street

OCTOBER
18
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3RvAc01

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 342 2795



Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 1400 Boylston Street project located in the Fenway. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public. The information at this meeting is important. Interpreting services are available. If you require translation services, please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov no later than 10/13/23.

对于您作为波士顿的居民和利益相关者，本次会议的信息至关重要。与会的语言服务免费。如果您需要这些语言翻译服务，请在下方的日期时间之前联系 (quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov) : 10/13/23.

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，這次會議中的資訊對您非常重要。我們可以向您免費提供語言輔助服務。如果您要求這些服務，請在以下時間之前聯絡(quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov) : 10/13/23.

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4219
email: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment
Period:
12/4/2023
website:
bit.ly/1400-Boylston-St

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

THE 2023 RYAN SHAW MEMORIAL 5K RUN

Supporting the Ryan Shaw Foundation



DATE...

Sat, Nov. 4, 2023

LOCATION...

**DCR Artesani Park
1255 Soldiers Field Rd
Boston, MA 02135**

TIME...

**Registration
10:15 - 11:45 AM**

**Opening Ceremony
11:45 - 12:00 PM**

**Race Start
12:00 PM**

VISIT...

RyanShaw5k.org

CONTACT...

RyanShaw5k@gmail.com



The Arts

Can Art Inspire Human Change That Slows Climate Change?

BY LESLIE POND

Humans have altered our environment in many ways over centuries, leading to this moment of global climate change. In their exhibit “Inspiring Change for the Climate Crisis: The Non-Human is Pushing Back” at the Piano Craft Gallery, the i3C Artists Group aims to raise awareness of the consequences of human-caused climate change and spark action toward solutions that minimize its advance.

The 21 artists examine our kinship with

the natural world and take a clear-eyed, unwavering look at the reality of climate change—wildfires, floods, heat waves, species

decline and migration. Their 35 works draw us into reflection in myriad ways to help make sense of our changing world.

Some artists gently invite us to consider our interconnections with the non-human. Steve Bennett’s video *Northeastern Native 12: Volume 1* is a photographic series of beautiful and beneficial flowering plants native to our region. Set to lively music, the flow of images issues a mesmerizing call to foster diverse ecosystems.

By creating “terrariums” with used coffee grounds, tea leaves, and herbal infusions, Michaela Morse turns the ritual of preparing and drinking coffee and tea into art. Her creations—*my dried hot drinks (jars #47, #48, #49)*—recall classic terrariums made of layers of gravel and soil and offer space for reflection.

C. J. Lori’s paintings *Rising and Endeavor* show peaceful landscapes but with uprooted plants and trees in the air, leaving the earth that has sustained them. As climate



PHOTO: MICHAELA MORSE



PHOTO: LESLIE POND

Left: *Flood and Fire #1, What Have We Left Our Children?* by Martha Heller. Right: *my dried hot drinks (#47)* by Michaela Morse.

change threatens continued loss of habitat and the beings within, these paintings evoke a profound sense of loss.

Other artists pull us in through use of bright colors or sheer size, or by confronting us with how our earth is burning and melting.

Martha Heller’s *Flood and Fire #1, What Have We Left Our Children?* sends an unambiguous message, with a child’s gown colored with natural dyes depicting fire and surrounded by an indigo textile representing water.

Rebecca McGee Tuck collected sea debris and single-use plastic, such as the bags that newspapers are delivered in, to create *Up From Our Ashes*, a large phoenix rising from debris that clearly reminds us how our practices have polluted our ocean.

Using found and discarded items, several artists consider the impact of their craft on our environment by transforming “junk” into works that in turn prompt us to ask: what are the impacts of our consumption?

In *Souvenir Series*, Michelle Lougee ironically uses post-consumer plastic packaging to encapsulate—and thereby honor—found items once part of the living world: shells, stick, pinecone, monarch butterfly.

Lisa Barthelson takes us into her family’s lives with *in the red, family debris*, a composition of their many acquired and now unwanted red items, warning us to carefully consider “how much is enough?” when the health of our planet is at stake.

Climate change now demands our

attention; together, these artworks make it personal and therefore hard to turn away from. The exhibit reveals the artists’ courage in allowing themselves to be inspired by climate change and its devastating impacts and to hope that their work may inspire us to act.

Our health and wellbeing, and therefore our survival, are intimately tied to that of the world around us. How can we act individually and collectively to more closely weave our daily activities with the needs of the non-human for a more livable future?

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. To learn more about the exhibit and artists, visit <https://www.i3cartists.com/>. To view Steve Bennett’s video “*Northeastern Native 12: Volume 1*,” visit vimeo.com/839284332.

Arts Academy Names Honorees

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On Oct. 14, the Boston Arts Academy—Boston’s only public arts high school—will present awards to its 2023 honorees, including award-winning costume designer and BAA board member Ruth E. Carter and actress and screenwriter Kasi Lemmons.

Also featured among the honorees is Deborah Goldberg, Massachusetts state treasurer, who will receive a Lifetime Achievement award. The school’s website notes Goldberg’s deep-rooted connection to the arts. In her own words, “the Boston Arts Academy has been a special place to both me and my family, and to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award is an unbelievable honor. BAA is the only public school in Boston that combines rigorous training in the visual and performing arts with a strong academic program. I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure that their students have the resources and support to realize their full potential.”

The Boston Arts Academy is also honoring BAA alum Keenan Cooks, photojournalist Bill Brett, and president of the Recording Academy Panos Panay.

The award recipients will be honored in a gala event at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

In the West Fens, Artists Tackle Divisive Issues



PHOTOS: ALISON PULLITMAN

Seven art installations in the West Fens address a range of hot-button political issues, from racist redlining to the meaning of multiculturalism. Above left, Ruth Kathryn Henry takes on academic censorship in her piece “Free To Learn.” In “Transcending Borders,” artist Julia Cseko addresses immigration. Sponsored by Samuels & Associates, the seven pieces make up “Be The Change,” organized by the Jewish Arts Collaborative. Visit [JArtsBoston.com](https://www.JArtsBoston.com) for more information and precise locations.

10 LOCAL UTILITY BOXES WILL SPORT ORIGINAL ART

The Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture has announced the artists selected in the latest PaintBox competition for transforming sidewalk utility boxes. The office chose 44 artists to complete work in 15 neighborhoods, including the Fenway (three boxes), Mission Hill (two), and

Roxbury (five). Selection comes with a \$500 stipend from the City for each project—\$200 for supplies on approval of the application, and \$300 on completion of the painting. The artists have until Oct. 15 to finish their work.

TheArts

AFTER 2022 RAINOUT, 'TASTE' COMES BACK WITH A BANG

The weather gods must have felt guilty about washing out the Taste of the Fenway last year, because the restaurant and showcase enjoyed perfect weather on Sept. 20. Filling a block of Van Ness Street and organized with care and precision by the Fenway CDC, the two-hour event drew hundreds of smiling visitors to sample food and drink from 25 local businesses, listen to live music, chat with neighbors, and even try to win bottles of wine in a ring-toss game.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN (COURTESY FCDC)



KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying Together Celebrating 50 Years

50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT
Reception: Saturday, November 4, 7pm
ART 🌿 MUSIC 🌿 POETRY

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- Welcome back, **JAPONAISE!** The beloved Audubon Circle bakery is back after closing for remodeling in 2021—a project that took owner Takeo Sakan waaaay longer than expected. High demand and staffing difficulties have translated into limited hours (Thu-Sun, 8am-4pm) for the time being. A *Globe* profile advises that if you plan a visit to sample Sakan's goodies, which blend French and Japanese traditions, expect to stand in line. Sakan's mother, Kiroko, opened the Brookline store in 1991.
- The front page of the *Globe* Food section lavished some love on Garrett Harker's new restaurant on the Audubon Circle/Kenmore line. Eats Beat readers will recall that Harker built Eastern Standard, in the square, into a reliably excellent bar and bistro, then had to close it following a very public battle with his landlord that played out during the pandemic. He's returned with **ALL THAT FISH + OYSTER** in the fancy "Bower" building above the Turnpike on Beacon Street. The *Globe* reports that Harker plans three more eateries there—a bar, a café, and a reborn Eastern Standard.

**EATS
BEAT**

KAJI ASO STUDIO CONCERTS



Dāphā Songs *with* Pushpa Palanchoke

Presentation of traditional songs from Nepal

Sunday, October 22 at 3pm

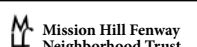
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October

CALENDAR

Now → Sun, 10/8

- Huntington's **PRAYER FOR THE FRENCH REPUBLIC**. Tickets \$20 to \$160. Performances Wed–Sun, 7pm; Wed, Sat, Sun, 1pm. Details at huntingtontheatre.org
- HARMONY: ART AND MUSIC AT THE PIANO FACTORY** celebrates the powerful connection between art and music, with artists from all disciplines showcasing work inspired by melodies, rhythms, and musical themes. Info at tinyurl.com/8n9wjssz. Gallery hours: Fri 6–8pm, Sat and Sun 12–5pm. **FREE**

Sun, 10/1, 10/8, & 10/15

OPEN NEWBURY STREET returns, with the street closed to motor vehicles from 9am to 8pm. **FREE**

Tue, 10/3

Join the Boston Public Library for a discussion with Darrell Hartman about his new book **BATTLE OF INK AND ICE: A SENSATIONAL STORY OF NEWS BARONS, NORTH POLE EXPLORERS, AND THE MAKING OF MODERN MEDIA**. *Battle of Ink and Ice* presents a frank portrayal of Arctic explorers, men who both inspired and deceived the public. It also sketches a vivid portrait of the newspapers that funded, promoted, narrated, and often distorted their exploits. Register at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/64e3b4cac9afc12f009632f7. 6pm. Central Library, 700 Boylston St. **FREE**

Wed, 10/4

The Fenway Community Center hosts a **BANNED BOOKS WEEK BOOK SWAP**. Bring gently used books for others to read and enjoy. The Community Center is looking for copies of the 13 most challenged books of 2022–2023 to keep at the Center for community members to borrow. See the full list at tinyurl.com/mr2s57mh. 2–6pm. 1282 Boylston St.

Wed, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 & 11/1

Northeastern University's School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs presents **OPEN CLASSROOM NEWSROOM CONFIDENTIAL: POLITICS AND MEDIA**, weekly lectures and online presentations open to the public without registration. 6–7:30pm. West Village F, Room 020. **FREE**

Thu, 10/5

- In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sociedad Latina presents **¡VIVA NUESTRA CULTURA! ON THE PLAZA**, featuring live music from Rafa Moreno, arts and wellness activities, and dancing. 5–8pm. 1 Brigham Circle. **FREE**
- In partnership with Boston Fashion Week and Revolution Fashion, the Boston Public Library hosts **FABRICATING THE FUTURE OF FAST FASHION**, which aims to educate people about the environmental impact of fast fashion while celebrating local designers using sustainable practices in their work. Registration required at tinyurl.com/8ewtavp6 and tinyurl.com/euwhzxsbs. 5:30–6:30pm. Copley Square. **FREE**

- Opening party for **THE MYTH OF NORMAL: A CELEBRATION OF AUTHENTIC EXPRESSION**, which showcases the achievements and creative abundance of MassArt alumni in celebration of the college's 150th anniversary. It's a party, so small bites and a signature drink are on the menu. 6–8pm. MassArt Art Museum, 621 Huntington Ave. **FREE**
- Berklee Songwriting Department **FACULTY CONCERT: PERFORMING WHAT WE PREACH**. Songwriting faculty members take the stage to perform their latest original songs. 8pm. \$12 advance, \$17 day of show. Visit berklee.edu/events for more information. Berklee Performing Arts Center, 136 Mass. Ave.

Fri, 10/6

Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral hosts **FENWAY HOME PLATES**, a free opportunity to take home fresh food from local restaurants at 1pm. 165 Park Dr.

Sat, 10/7

- Celebrity Series presents **JAZZ ALONG THE CHARLES**. Let's call this an upscale Porchfest, with 25 local jazz ensembles performing along roughly 1.5 miles of Esplanade pathways. This year's program highlights Boston-connected songs composed or popularized by women like Tracy Chapman, Esperanza Spaulding, and Donna Summer. A piece composed by Berklee's Teri Lynn Carrington opens the festival. 2pm to 4pm. Details at celebrityseries.org. **FREE**
- As part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Boston Public Library hosts **A CONVERSATION WITH SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA: HORROR FICTION, MEXICAN GOTHIC AND SILVER NITRATE**, 2pm. Register at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/65007b1368c826d59e471074. **FREE**

Fri, 10/6 & Sun, 10/7

The final two events in **THE CHICKERING SALON SERIES**. 10/6—**HIP HOP: BORN IN THE BRONX, GIFT TO THE WORLD**. Hip Hop artists Daniel Laurent and Premo Dee in conversation with Jamaal Bonnette and Fredericka King about the influence of early hip hop on their music and the art form's legacy. Each will perform a short set. 10/7—**AN EVENING WITH PIANIST FREDERICKA KING**. An informal program of music of classical and American composers, women and African American composers. tinyurl.com/5yeujzrh. 7pm.

Fri, 10/6 & Sun, 10/8

Handel & Haydn Society performs Handel's oratorio **ISRAEL IN EGYPT** under the baton of new director Michael Cohen. Tickets \$15–\$100 at Symphony Hall, Fri at 7:30pm, Sun at 3pm. Info and tickets at handelandhaydn.org.

Mon, 10/9

Join the Fenway Alliance for a day of art and cultural events throughout the Fenway

Cultural District. Interactive, inclusive, and interdisciplinary, **OPENING OUR DOORS** is family-friendly fun for all ages. The Station at 1400 Boylston St. will host a main stage with performances 12–3pm curated by new producing partner SidePresents. See the schedule at fenwayculture.org/ood-2023-schedule. 10am to 4pm. **FREE**

Tue, 10/10 → Sat, 12/9

The Boston Printmakers returns to Boston University to celebrate its 75th anniversary with the **2023 NORTH AMERICAN PRINT BIENNIAL**. Juror Elizabeth Rudy of the Harvard Art Museums has selected 121 prints from 1,800 entries. The exhibition features a broad array of contemporary prints spanning traditional to contemporary/integrated media, with both emerging and established artists from across the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. Learn more at bostonprintmakers.org/biennials/biennial-2023. 808 Gallery at Boston University, 808 Commonwealth Ave. Open Tue–Sat, 11am–5pm. **FREE**

Wed, 10/11 & 10/19

- The Boston Public Library's **FALL GENEALOGY SERIES** offers a range of workshops and lectures to help you uncover your family history. The events take place virtually on Zoom. 10/11—**PUTTING FAMILY HISTORY ON THE MAP** explains the use of historic maps for genealogical research. 10/19—**GENEALOGY: USING CHURCH AND CEMETERY RECORDS TO RESEARCH YOUR ANCESTORS** will provide a brief overview of where to find and how to get access to church records in Massachusetts, with an emphasis on Boston. Learn more and register at bpl.org/events.

Thu, 10/12

- In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sociedad Latina presents a **MOVIE NIGHT AT THE TOBIN YARD**. Join them for a screening of the 2023 movie *Flamin' Hot*, directed by Eva Longoria. Snacks provided. 6pm. 1481 Tremont St. **FREE**
- In **THE LARGER LANDSCAPE CONVERSATION: WHOSE LAND?** at the Gardner Museum discusses the role of landscape architecture and urban planning in relation to the acknowledgment, reparation, and restitution of land taken from Indigenous peoples. Speakers will explore how the Gardner and other institutions are confronting racist pasts and their historic role in structural discrimination and cultural appropriation. Ticket: \$20 general/ \$18 senior/ \$13 student at gardnermuseum.org. 7pm.

Thu, 10/12 → Sun, 10/15

Boston Conservatory at Berklee presents its annual fall dance concert, **FROM THE GROUND UP**. Tickets \$25–\$30 for regular seats; \$18.75–\$22.50 for seniors, non-Berklee students, and WGBH members;

and \$12.50–\$15 for Conservatory alumni. Purchase tickets at bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events/from-the-ground-up. Performances Thu–Sat at 7:30pm; Sat–Sun at 2pm. Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St.

Fri, 10/13 → Sun, 11/13

Wheelock Family Theatre presents **THE ADDAMS FAMILY**, a musical based on Charles Addams's *New Yorker* cartoons (and later Hollywood adaptations) about an unusual family's comic interactions with normies. Fri–Sat, 7:30pm; Sat–Sun, 2pm. Tickets \$24–\$48. Tickets and details at wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

Sat, 10/14 & Sun, 10/15

BOSTON VEG FOOD FEST. Learn, taste, schmooze, and browse at this celebration of plant-based foods, which includes cooking demos. Sat from 10am to 6pm and Sun from 11am–4pm at the Reggie Lewis Center, 1350 Tremont St. **FREE**

Sat, 10/14 & Sat, 10/21

This year, the **BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL** breaks out JustKids—a newer event focused on children's books—which takes place in Nubian Square on 10/21. The main event, under way in venues around Copley Square on 10/14, features dozens of big literary names, including Adam Gopnick, Heather Cox Richardson, former Harvard president Drew Gilpin Faust, poets Oliver de la Paz and Diannely Antigua, Tom Perotta, Richard Russo, and Rose Styron. A street fair and performance stage round out the fun. 10am–6pm. Visit bostonbookfest.org for details. **FREE**

Thu, 10/19

More and more, people are considering electrifying their homes and cars to fight climate change, improve their health and save money. Climate Reality Boston Metro and Southcoast chapters present **HOW TO ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME AND TRANSPORTATION**, an interactive, online info session. Rahul Young, director at Rewiring America, describes why and how to electrify your home and car and how to qualify for rebates, tax incentives, and funding for your project. Register at tinyurl.com/mr26cu5w. 7pm. **FREE**

Fri, 10/27 & Sun, 10/29

Guest conductor Václav Luks leads the **HANDEL & HAYDN SOCIETY PERFORMANCE OF BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 8** and Mendelssohn-Hensell's *Overture in C Major*. Tickets \$15–\$100; at Symphony Hall. Fri at 7:30pm; Sun at 3pm. Info and tickets at handelandhaydn.org.

Tue, 10/31

THE BROADWAY BAND PRESENTS HEROES VS. VILLAINS. Join Berklee's premier orchestra for musical theater in a cabaret-style show featuring Broadway's most memorable heroes and notorious villains. 8pm. \$12 advance, \$17 day of show. Visit berklee.edu/events for more information. Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave.

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Tour Kicks Off Fenway High School's 40th Anniversary

On Sept. 23, Fenway High School opened its doors on Alleghany Street to alums, friends, and community members for the first of several public events celebrating the school's 40th anniversary. Robin Cohen, director of development, led a tour for visitors, featuring the ground-floor commons with outdoor seating, the second-floor library, and student murals. Progressive educators started Fenway in 1983 as an alternative “school within a school” at English High School. Known as the Fenway program, the school moved several times. Nine years ago, following a major renovation, the school took over the three-story building that had previously housed New Mission High and Mission Hill School. The renovation doubled the size of the former basement cafeteria and opened the space to the rear-yard gardens with a glass exterior wall that added a modern touch to the elegant 1925 architecture of the building, which originally served as Mission Church High School. More 40th-anniversary events and volunteer opportunities are upcoming, including a Fensgiving Coffee Hour on Nov. 17 with head of school Geoff Walker. To join a listserv for the school's newsletter, contact rcohen@fenwayhs.org.