



THE Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 50 NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 2 - AUGUST 30, 2024

MFA Work Imperils 100-Year-Old Oaks

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Commandeered for use as a construction staging site, the Museum of Fine Art's Fenway entrance will not be reopening anytime soon.

Shawmut Design and Construction will replace the Evans Wing skylights and make additional roof repairs. Karen Frasca, director of marketing and communications for the MFA, said the work is expected to be completed in early 2025.

The MFA's pending status as a designated City landmark means all exterior renovations require a Landmarks Commission review; the commission signed off on the project in January.

The project began this summer with construction trailers and fencing blocking the stairs. Four sculptures near the stairs are protected, but the oak grove just east of the entrance is not. Workers are parking beneath the grove's heritage-sized trees.

The oaks include red, black, and pin species, says ecologist Zara Zsido, who has collected the trees' acorns to germinate for tree cultivation. The grove appears to be more than 100 years old, although details of the historic landscaping plan associated with architect Guy



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Trucks parked beneath heritage oaks on the MFA's north side, between the Fens and the museum entrance, pose threats to the health of the trees.

Lowell's 1909 design have been lost. Surveys filed with the MFA's 2002 and 2003 master plan submissions to the City suggest the trees stand on museum

land. However, the multiple governmental jurisdictions along The Fenway have created some confusion about whether City or State arborists also are involved with the grove.

Frasca's response to inquiries about protecting the trees and offering the workers parking elsewhere was disappointing. In an email on July 29, she stated that the grove was state property and Shawmut had received an access permit from DCR for permission to park vehicles there.

Protective fencing surrounded the grove during a 2007 reconstruction of the Fenway entrance, but not in 2024—even though the value of preserving mature tree canopy has become more widely understood. Soil compaction and damage to the critical root zones are the most obvious problem of parking vehicles close to trees, but there is also the potential for careless backing into the trunks.

The Fenway or "State Street Corporation" Entrance has a checkered past, the doors seemingly closed more than open in recent

CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

AUG 5

DEF LEPPARD & JOURNEY
WITH HEART
5:30-10:30PM

AUG 7

GREEN DAY WITH
THE SMASHING PUMPKINS,
RANCID AND
THE LINDA LINDAS
6:00-10:30PM

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SOX COMPLAINT LINE ☎ 617-226-6424
CITY PROBLEM LINE ☎ 311

years. Although the entrance was returned to use in 2008 with a three-day press opening and speeches celebrating the restored connection of the museum and the Fens, the entrance had previously been closed for nearly 30 years. The entrance has not reopened since the pandemic closure in 2020. Frasca said there's no timeline for reopening, but discussions are taking place.

Longtime residents remember when the MFA reopened its Huntington Avenue entrance in 1995, making it a more walkable destination on the Avenue of the Arts. Before that, I. M. Pei's addition had served as the main entrance since opening in 1981.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Final Design In Hand, State Plans To Start Bowker Replacement In 2025

FENWAY NEWS ANNOTATION OF A MASSDOT RENDERING



This rendering shows six key changes resulting from reconstruction of the Bowker Overpass. 1) Safer and simplified intersection of the Bowker and Boylston Street. 2) Removal of the existing exit ramp to Comm. Ave. 3) Additional trees and park landscaping along the Muddy River. 4) The rebuilt deck, which will have no sidewalks. 5) New on- and off-ramp, with a wide, ADA-compliant sidewalk. 6) New ped/bike ramp connecting Charlesgate and the Fens. (The view is from above Comm. Ave. looking toward the Victory Gardens.)

BY STEVE WOLF

In a two-hour meeting held virtually on July 11, MassDOT's Highway Division presented near-final plans for rebuilding the Bowker Overpass.

The presentation—seen by 140-plus people—showed fine-tuning of the \$90 million project but no major changes from the last public version of the plan. MassDOT says the 60-year-old structure has exceeded its planned life; many elements show significant deterioration, even after repairs in the 1980s and the 2010s.

The devil is in the details, and the meeting revealed several new ones:

- **Timeline:** MassDOT plans to advertise for bids this month, award a contract by Jan. 1, and begin construction next summer. It projects completion in 2029.
- **Local impacts:** The presentation detailed construction phasing, designed to reduce—but not eliminate—impacts on Ipswich Street, the MBTA commuter line, and the

Mass Pike, all of which run beneath the overpass.

- **Increased non-car benefits:** The Bowker's 1960s design treated moving lots of cars as its sole function, giving pedestrians and cyclists short shrift and ignoring air, water, and visual pollution. The new plan takes a different tack, giving pedestrians and cyclists higher priority while significantly improving Charlesgate (the area beneath the deck) with new trees and a new pedestrian/bike link to upper Newbury Street.

The phasing plan will keep the overpass operating and maintain pedestrian connections throughout construction. It will, however, require restrictions on Ipswich Street parking, "rolling" closures of Mass Pike lanes, and work above the MBTA line during "non-revenue hours."

The diagram highlights key changes from reconstruction. The

> BOWKER OVERPASS ON PAGE 3

BEYOND PLASTICS BOOSTS UPDATED BOTTLE BILL AT FARMERS MARKET



PHOTO: LESLIE POND

As part of its mission, the Muddy Water Initiative invites other environmental groups that address urban-waterway pollution to share information during the weekly Charlesgate Farmers Market, which it manages. On July 28, Eileen Ryan (left), from Beyond Plastics Greater Boston, provided literature on limiting plastic use and pollution and asked visitors to sign postcards urging the legislature to boost recycling by updating the container-deposit law. Two key provisions of a larger climate bill would increase the types of containers eligible for a bottle deposit and double the deposit from 5 to 10 cents. Also shown are, from left, Jackie Royce, Andrea Catania, manager of the market, and Pamela Musoke. The market takes place every Sunday, 11am-2pm, through Oct. 13. —LESLIE POND

FENSVIEWS

MBTA's New Payment System: Express Bus to Confusion

BY ALISON BARNET

At the beginning of this month, the MBTA's new "contactless" payment system begins. If I'm confused, a lot of people must also be confused. Let's start with "contactless"—a word not found in the English dictionary. Riders will now begin to use "contactless credit/debit cards," phones, and watches. The new plan is also called "Tap to Ride." Isn't "tap" contact?

"Riders in reduced fare programs can link their benefits to their contactless card, phone, or watch. The Charlie digital assistant can help." Well, I don't know what a "digital assistant" is, and everyone

GUEST OPINION

I've asked doesn't know or hasn't explained it clearly. When I go online, I get the same "contactless" jargon, and the rare articles I've read just repeated the MBTA's scheme and didn't question it.

Well, let's see what happens when I get on a bus with my "reduced fare" CharlieCard. I may look like someone with a credit card or a cell phone, but I'm not. Most people who ride the same buses I ride may also not be prepared to pay the new "contactless"

way. Will drivers explain? How long will CharlieCards survive anyway?

The craziest part may be getting on the back door and paying on a "reader" on a pole back there. Are people even going to notice?

The MBTA flyer states, "be mindful of the readers." ["Readers" aren't people; they're the new black boxes.] "After you pay, keep your contactless cards, phone, and watch away from readers to avoid accidental charges." How are drivers going to deal with people complaining they slipped up and overpaid? I can also imagine how many credit and debit cards will land on the floor or be stolen. Of course, everyone has a phone these days so I'll probably have to hear over and over, "Oh, hi! I'm on the bus trying to pay with my phone. Yeah, that's what you have to do these days. Ow! I paid twice!"

Well, maybe it will go smoothly. But if it's supposed to speed up the way people get on the train or bus, I doubt it. People might be slow to pull out their credit cards or confused as to what to do. It will probably take more time than the old-style tapping of a fare card or paying with cash. I bet bus drivers are waving more people on without asking them to pay.

This new plan cost the MBTA millions. Aren't there more important things to do, more necessary improvements to the T? *Alison Barnett lives in the South End.*

Red Sox Honor English High's State Baseball Champs



Prior to the Red Sox game against the San Diego Padres on June 28, the Red Sox honored the English High School baseball team for winning the first-ever Division 5 state title and ending the season at 25 wins and 2 losses. Head Coach Christian Ortiz threw out the game's ceremonial first pitch.

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. While the Fenway has changed since then, we remain committed to the spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

CORRECTION

A photograph on page 8 of our July issue, credited to Alison Pultinas, was actually taken by Jen Lewis.

COMMUNITY meetings

MON, AUGUST 5 The City of Boston Planning Department hosts an Impact Advisory Group meeting for the **500 HUNTINGTON AVENUE** project in Mission Hill. The meeting will review the updated proposal and include a presentation, question-and-answer period, and general comments from the public. Note that this meeting is not a traditional community meeting. As part of the development-review process, IAG members work closely with staff to identify the impacts of a project and recommend appropriate community benefits to offset those impacts. Register in advance at bit.ly/3Wor5Az or call (833) 568-8864 (meeting ID: 161 932 3504) to participate. 6pm. Contact Stephen Harvey at stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov or (617) 918-4418 with any questions.

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 August 14, 2024, at 9:15 A.M.**, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 784 and a petition for approval of the First Amendment to the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 136, **Fenway Corners Project (West)** ("First Amendment"), 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 adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development ("PDA") overlay district to the property known as 96-98 Brookline Avenue. Said First Amendment would amend the boundaries of the Jersey Block within the existing PDA to include the property at 96-98 Brookline Avenue; reflect the resulting revisions to the site plan, the gross floor area and preliminary massing of the buildings to be constructed along Brookline Avenue on the Jersey Block

(including on the 96-98 Brookline Avenue parcel); and to amend certain other provisions of the Development Plan.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. **You can participate in this meeting by going to <https://bit.ly/BZ-CAug142024>.** A copy of the petition, the First Amendment 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 zoning-commission@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 August 14, 2024. **Please request interpreting services no later than August 9, 2024.**

FOR THE COMMISSION
 JEFFREY M. HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

> NEXT ISSUE <

Our next issue will appear on **Friday, August 30.**

> **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS** <
 The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, August 23.**

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The Iron Horse Cometh!



The Boston and Providence Railroad's Park Square terminal around 1907, after rail lines entering Boston from the south and west had shifted to South Station. The station sits on the site occupied today by the "prow" of the Park Plaza Building. (Notice "Lincoln Emancipating the Slaves," the monument at lower left.)

BY ED BALLO

The coming of the railroads from the west and the southwest of Boston in the 1830s—as much as the natural elements such as the Muddy River, Stony Brook, and Mission Hill—have come to define the contours of the Fenway and Mission Hill and have influenced our urban development.

Boston railroads have a proud place in the history of the United States. Although not the site of America's first steam railroad (that distinction goes to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1830), Boston was nonetheless a pioneer in the building of railroads as well as much of their related infrastructure, such as railway switches, turntables, and double-truck railroad cars.

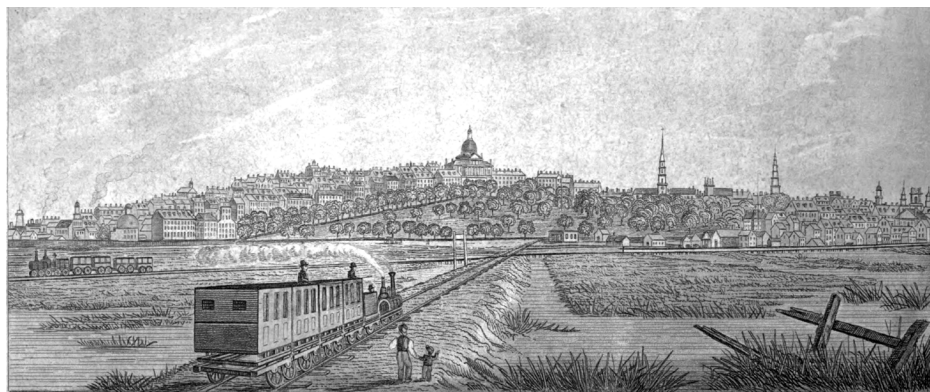
Essential to Boston's role as a center of early railroad technology was construction of the "Granite Railway," which opened on Oct. 7, 1826. This horse-drawn commercial railway was built in Quincy to move blocks of granite for construction of the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. The three-mile-long railway largely follows the path of I-93 in

Quincy and Milton. At the end of the railroad, a spectacular gravity-activated conveyor belt lowered rail cars with granite down the hill. They were then transported three miles by horse-drawn cars to the Neponset River, where the stone blocks were shipped to Charlestown.

Less than 10 years later, in 1835, Boston would have three steam railroads fanning out to Lowell, Worcester, and Providence. Boston would become one of the first rail hubs in the United States. For our purposes, we'll focus on the Worcester and the Providence lines.

The Worcester-to-Boston alignment has changed little in the last 190 years. When it arrived at the swampy expanse of the Back Bay, it crossed the bay on a train trestle. Indeed, the building of train trestles during these years further impeded the natural flow of water in the bay, exacerbating the degradation of the water quality and necessitating its subsequent filling. The Boston and Providence railroad followed the Stony Brook, and its alignment has also not changed—save for the last half mile, as it originally terminated at its depot in Park Square. Where these two lines crossed is today's Back Bay Station.

The Providence depot in Park Square was a magnificent, high Victorian Gothic building that, sadly, lasted less than 40 years



Railroads crossing in the Back Bay, about 1840. The point where the two lines meet near the center of the engraving became the site of Back Bay Station.

as the railroad moved its operations to the new (combined) South Station in 1899–1900. In the heady days of railroading, before mergers and consolidations, every independent railroad operated out of its own terminal. It was not rare to have five to seven separate railroad termini clustered in certain areas of the city, such as the eventual locations of South and North Stations.

In the case of the Providence terminal, the land was sold for development. Without the railroad line spewing soot and smoke, there was a spate of early 20th-century office building development from Park Square to Copley Square. The depot stood where the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and the associated Park Plaza Office Building are today.

The Providence Line had several stations in the 19th century located on or close to present day Orange Line stations, such as Chickering (Massachusetts Avenue), Roxbury

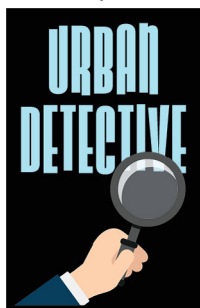
(Roxbury Crossing), Heath (Jackson Square), Boylston (Stony Brook) and Jamaica Plain (Green Street).

Lastly, for train nerds traveling on the MBTA's Providence Line or Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, keep your eyes open as you pass Canton Junction and its stone viaduct, one of the oldest pieces of railroad infrastructure in the United States. Two of the civil engineers on the project were the uncle and the father of American painter, James McNeil Whistler. It has been faithfully ferrying people across the Upper Neponset River since 1836!

Ed Ballo lives in the West Fens. His periodic "Urban Detective" column presents small bites of local history to help decipher the city around you and enhance your appreciation of it.



The Granite Railway, which opened in 1826, included this gravity-activated conveyor belt for bringing stone down from the quarry.



< BOWKER OVERPASS FROM PAGE 1 plan eliminates the existing ramp to Commonwealth Avenue on the east (Back Bay) side of the deck. A new ramp on the west (Kenmore Square) side will carry both on and off traffic as well as a wider and ADA-compliant sidewalk. A multi-use lane for cyclists and pedestrians, complete with landscaping, will thread between that new on/off ramp and the rebuilt overpass.

Residents mostly praised the plan, although some raised questions that had been settled much earlier in the planning process.

In response to a question, landscape architect Daniel Adams of Landing Studio projected removal of roughly 50 trees, many invasive, from beneath the overpass but promised 150 new ones—although a MassDOT representative later cautioned that a final review would determine the precise number of new trees planted. Other team members reported that modeling showed post-reconstruction traffic would act very much as it does today, with some rush-hour and event backups, in part to increase crossing times for the growing volume of pedestrians, cyclists, and scooter users.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

Pop-Up Reading in Mission Hill Turns Spotlight on Frederick Douglass' Famed July 4 Address



On July 9, readers (including the unidentified two shown here) spontaneously joined in reciting an abridged version of Frederick Douglass' famed 1852 speech, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" The event took place in Sheehy Park on Tremont Street, next to the Parker Hill Branch Library. The library co-sponsored the reading with the Mission Hill Health Movement. Funding came from a Reading Frederick Douglass Together grant awarded by the Mass. Humanities Council.

PHOTO: ANN ANTONELLIS

PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, MASS.11-QUI.4-1

IMAGE: PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Growing List of Duties, Shrinking Funding Stymie City Commission Charged With Marking Big Anniversaries

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Genesis Pimentel, designated manager for the City's Commemoration Commission, has a hard job, and she's vocal about it. The commission is underfunded and the task of executing the ambitious edicts of a City Council ordinance approved in 2021 seems nearly impossible.

The 44-member commission was only established this year, with the final members sworn in last January. It only elected co-chairs—Amanda Zettel of the Charlestown Preservation Society and Jean-Luc Pierite of the North American Indian Center of Boston—on July 25. A six-month progress report is due to the City Clerk soon. Drafted by Pimentel, the report describes the challenges facing the agency, some caused by the amorphous nature of the ordinance itself.

Former City Councilor Kenzie Bok established an admirable mission and goals for the commission—to bring hidden stories to life and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026 and Boston's own 400th in 2030 with full inclusion of those often left out of official narratives.

Bok used her office to advocate as an historian/activist. She filed dockets for updating legislation to empower the Landmarks Commission to help preserve more diverse kinds of buildings. In 2020, she proposed an ordinance for establishing a sestercentennial (250th) commission.

The following year, the Council's Government Operations Committee reviewed a second draft that added Boston's anniversary in 2030 to

the future commission's assigned tasks. The vision got even murkier when revamping City historic-preservation policies became part of the commission's agenda. This role was to be assigned to the Legislation & Preservation Tools subcommittee.

The ordinance names two other subcommittees—Events, Exhibits, & Trails and Timelines, Archives, & Curricula—intended to focus on historic tourism and education. At the July commission meeting, Embrace Boston's Imari Paris Jeffries said other major cities are light years ahead of Boston. He expressed frustration that the commission keeps having the same conversations.

One tangible product the Timeline, Archives, & Curricula committee will focus on is a Web platform with links to archives and resources. The current debate concerns how to use local historian Jim Vrabel's extensive "When and Where in Boston" database, currently maintained on a private server.

The amorphous nature of the ordinance lies in the language itself. Is the objective to make recommendations to relevant City departments or to develop and execute a plan (as stated in the ordinance)? Without funding in the City's budget, the latter goal seems unattainable. Noelle Trent, president of the Museum of African American History, suggests that there could be a perception that Boston doesn't take the 250th anniversary seriously.

Quorum requirements compound confusion; both subcommittee and full commission meetings are plagued by low attendance, making it hard to reach a quorum. Pimentel

is also working within the Office of Historic Preservation, a department with major leadership vacancies. Both Chris Osgood, senior advisor to the Mayor, and Brian Swett, head of the Environment, Energy and Open Space cabinet, have stepped into the oversight gap created when Murray Miller, director of the office, left in June.

At its most recent meeting, the commission discussed the possibility of dropping the commission structure and becoming an advisory group, a change that would exempt it from the Open Meeting Law and public notice and quorum requirements. David Leonard, president of the Boston Public Library, offered an alternative: making just the subcommittees advisory. How to amend commission governance and structure is a question for the City's

Law Department. Osgood said he would follow up.

Possibly adding to the confusion of responsibilities for planning the anniversaries is the announcement that an internal group of staff members from City departments will focus on creating citywide events. This will involve John Borders IV, director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment within the Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet. The Boston games for World Cup 2026 are one potential highlight.

The Legislation and Preservation Tools subcommittee has a longer timeline for its recommendations. Members have, however, expressed a desire to seize the opportunity created by the City's efforts to reform Article 80—review of large development proposals—to introduce historic preservation as a goal much earlier in development review.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Forsyth Park Bellies Up To The Bar



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

In a first for City-owned green space in the Fenway, Forsyth Park welcomed a pop-up beer garden for six days in July. The Boston Parks Department hosted the Alianza Park Series, a collaboration between Hyde Park's Roundhead Brewery and Fresh Food Generation, with music, food, and beer.



Jay is deeply committed to enhancing the quality of life in the Fenway neighborhood. As State Representative, working with residents and others, he has:

- Saved the 55 Bus.
- Stopped DCR from metering hundreds of parking spaces throughout the Fenway.
- Secured crucial state funding for Fenway Cares and the Fenway Community Center.
- Fought (and continues to fight) for increased regulation and enforcement of delivery drivers using motorized scooters and motorcycles.

RE-ELECT JAY—VOTE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

www.jaylivingstone.com

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Four thousand nurses at Brigham & Women's voted overwhelmingly to authorize a one-day strike after 10 months of negotiations with Mass General Brigham, the hospital's owner. The vote gives the Mass. Nurses Association the power to call a strike if negotiations don't make headway on key issues like understaffing, pay, and dissatisfaction with MGB's health-insurance benefit. The union must give 10 days' notice before a walkout.

➡ **Music industry veteran Jim Lucchesse will take the reins as Berklee's new president on Jan. 1, 2025. The Boston native has worked on the business side of the music industry at both large companies and start-ups. He credits a pre-college summer course he took at Berklee for setting him on a path to a music-industry career.**

➡ Two BU professors led a groundbreaking project to map every piece of fossil-fuel infrastructure—from extraction to processing to storage to delivery—across the

US. Unsurprisingly, Jonathan Buonocore, a professor of environmental health, and Mary Willis, an epidemiologist, found that neighborhoods with large numbers of people of color, non-English speakers, and low-income households put up with anything from three to eight times more carbon-fuel infrastructure than other communities nationally.

➡ **Madison Park High School hosted a mini-festival to kick off the Roxbury Unity Parade.** In (presumably) happier news for the Brigham, *US News & World Report* ranked it among the 20 best hospitals in the US. The national rankings for cancer treatment put Dana-Farber in fourth place and Beth Israel in 18th. Within Massachusetts, the survey put Mass General first for medical care, the Brigham second, and Beth Israel third.



WARM WEATHER BRINGS MUSIC OUTDOORS IN THE FENWAY AND MISSION HILL



PHOTO: RUTH KROMWIS



PHOTO: ALISON PULITMAS

There's no shortage of musical talent in Boston, and Mission Hill and the Fenway have plenty to spare. In the upper photo, the group *Ariadne* performed on July 16 in the *Sunset Concert series* at *Symphony Park*. In the lower photo, residents enjoyed the first in a new series of free acoustic music in the park on *Bucknam Street* on the back side of *Mission Hill*. The Boston-based jazz ensemble known as *tanline!* opened the series on July 28, and more performances will take place Aug. 18, Sept. 15, and Oct. 6, at 5pm. *Josh DeCosta* produces the series for the *Back of the Hill CDC*, under a grant from the *Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust*.

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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 tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8. See the DCR schedule at tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3.

Book Northeastern's Event Space, Northeastern Crossing

Northeastern University's City and Community Engagement provides individuals with complimentary access to a conference room and classroom space. Advance reservations are required for both spaces. Event organizers may only host programming that is free to participants.

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Short-Lived Our Fathers Deli Shifts to Pick-up And Delivery



PHOTO: AHMED M. ABDELFAITAH

Allston's Our Fathers, a gourmet deli operated by the Franklin Restaurant Group (the team behind Tasty Burger and Citizen Public House), opened a Fenway outpost in the former Tasty Burger space in late October of last year. Earlier this year, however, the restaurant quietly made a transition to takeout and delivery only, with pickups available at a stand inside Citizen Public House, across the street at 1310 Boylston St. The full-service bar and sit-down restaurant, which operated out of the retrofitted gas station at 1301 Boylston, appears to have closed.

NEWSLINES

Berklee Files IMP Amendment to Lease, Renovate 1249 Boylston

AN AMENDMENT TO ITS INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN would, if approved, allow Berklee College of Music to sign a 16-year lease (with an option to extend) for 1249 Boylston St. in the West Fens. On the corner of Ipswich Street, the building formerly housed a CVS on the ground floor and administrative office for Brigham & Women's Hospital above. The college proposes spending \$15 million to renovate all three floors and the basement for uses including classrooms, dance studios, and support space. It would dedicate 1,800 SF of ground-floor space to a café, restaurant, gallery, or similar use accessible to the public. Submit comments to the newly formed City of Boston Planning Office by Aug. 25; no public meetings are scheduled. Berklee's filing projects a year to complete renovations, starting in the final months of 2024. It also notes that the college has launched a master planning process that will form the basis of a new 10-year IMP to be filed in 2026. For more information, or to submit a comment, visit https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/institutional-master-plans/higher-ed/berklee-college-of-music#comment_Form.

Harvard's Chan School Takes Aim at Racial Inequities

THE HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH will address systemic racial inequities as part of the Harvard & The Legacy of Slavery Initiative (H&LS). The initiative grows out of the *Report of the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery*, which showed the connections between Harvard's rise to prominence and its connections to slavery in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Two Chan School projects received grants under Harvard's Reparative Partnership Program. One project focuses on educating community members, through walking tours and workshops, about the impacts of red-lining and urban renewal in Nubian Square. The second project will develop affinity spaces and programs for Native undergraduate and graduate students at academic institutions.

The school is also hosting 11 undergraduates this summer under the H&LS Du Bois Scholars Program. The program brings students from historically black academic institutions to Harvard for nine-week research internships.

grows out of the *Report of the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery*, which showed the connections between Harvard's rise to prominence and its connections to slavery in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Two Chan School projects received grants under Harvard's Reparative Partnership Program. One project focuses on educating community members, through walking tours and workshops, about the impacts of red-lining and urban renewal in Nubian Square. The second project will develop affinity spaces and programs for Native undergraduate and graduate students at academic institutions.

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Northeastern Removes Asbestos



PHOTO: ALISON PUTNINS

In June, Northeastern received a permit for asbestos-abatement work at the Matthews Arena parking (corner of St. Botolph and Gainsborough Streets). On July 29, Carla Morelli, senior capital projects manager at Northeastern, explained that tests had showed traces of asbestos underground, possibly traceable to buildings torn down to create the lot. The university's new institutional master plan, now under City review, proposes a 262,000-square-foot multipurpose athletic facility to replace the lot and the historic arena.

FENWAY BALL DRAWS 200-PLUS SUPPORTERS



PHOTO: DEREK KOVUNMIJA



The Fenway CDC hosted the Fenway Ball at Fenway Park on July 16. More than 220 people attended the fundraiser, which featured food, dancing, a live auction, and speakers from the CDC and its partners.

KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying together celebrating 50 years

Concert: The Formosa Duo
Chi-Chen Wu, pianist & Sam Ou, cellist
 PROGRAM INCLUDING DEBUSSY, STILL, FAURÉ, & STRAUSS
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7 | 7 PM

Solo Exhibition: Gary Tucker
"My Backyard—The Muddy River"
 RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST:
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | 7 PM

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 KAJI ASO STUDIO, 40 ST. STEPHEN STREET
 RSVP to administrator@kajiasostudio.com

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS



The Arts

LAST CALL

- **Dress Up/ends Sep. 2/MFA.** Fashion as self-curated identity; 100-plus items of clothes and jewelry and some big names, from Chanel to Alexander McQueen.
- **Songs for Modern Japan: Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900–1950/ends Sep 2/MFA.** More than 100 sheet-music designs show critical changes in Japan's culture.
- **On Christopher Street: Transgender Portraits by Mark Seliger/ends Sep. 8/Gardner Museum.** Seliger's three-year collaboration with trans people to create sympathetic portraits.
- **Portraits From Boston With Love/ends Sep. 8/Gardner Museum.** Boston-area artists turn "gender-expansive" lenses on themselves and their families.

Studios Without Walls Celebrates the Brave World of Public Outdoor Art

BY LESLIE POND

This is ART" is the 25th annual exhibition from Studios Without Walls, a Brookline-based artists' collaborative founded by Bette Ann Libby. Located along Riverway Park, on the Brookline side of the Muddy River, the free "museum" features 16 sculptures on the ground and in the trees.

Libby, a mixed-media artist and the driving force behind Studios Without Walls, has a deep passion and inherent knack for bringing artists together for exhibitions, not only in Massachusetts, but in other places she's lived, including American Samoa and Vermont. Studios Without Walls started in 1999 with four artists exhibiting at Allendale Farm in conjunction with Brookline Open Studios. The number of artists and visitors and the exhibition lengths have grown from there. This is the group's 18th exhibition at Riverway Park.

"I love working with the artists," Libby says. "And I love bringing the art to people." In addition to Studios Without Walls, Libby works with communities to foster connections through mosaic mural projects, some of which upcycle broken pottery shards to create a new whole. That sense of healing and well-being is also important for Studios Without Walls: "It is an oasis of art in the midst of the city, a peaceful place to get exposure to sculpture and put aside the stress of daily life," says Libby.

This year's theme called for artists to create their definition of "What is art?" True to the collaborative's purpose of educating audiences, this theme also encourages visitors to explore the site-responsive sculptures and create their own definitions. At the opening reception in May, dancers from the Karen Bray Performance Project exemplified this idea with improvised movement among and with the sculptures.

Sculpture proposals were evaluated in a "blind jury" process (the artists' names were redacted), with a small curatorial team reviewing more than 30 proposals. Community building is part of the process: the selected artists then gathered to discuss their works with curators.

Some sculptures are in dialogue with both the outdoor environment and visitors alike, taking on pressing social issues in engaging ways.

"Air Dry," Mary McCusker's installation of life-size clothespins, playfully evokes the nostalgia of air-drying laundry and invites visitors to interact with the pieces and consider reviving the practice as one way to soften our environmental impact. Dan Rocha's "Olie" is also playful and interactive, offering a space to reflect on our environment and our place in it.

PHOTO: BETTE ANN LIBBY



Emergent Palette by Liz Helfer

Libby's "DNA: Discrimination Not Allowed" embodies the idea that "we are all created equal," with spirals of used MRI film representing the more than 99 percent of DNA sequences that all humans have in common. Rachel Shatil's "Wall of Visibility" gently invites visitors to put themselves in the places of people segregated behind walls.

Many sculptures contain items that otherwise would have ended up in landfills—polluting the earth and contributing to global warming—or were used by the artists in previous works. (With our current level of consumerism, artists are all but guaranteed a glut of materials!) In addition to being eco-friendly, repurposing is budget-friendly, as the cost of supplies has increased dramatically in recent years.

A few examples of upcycling: Adrienne Shishko + Suzanne Moseley created "There is no AWAY" with synthetic, single-use trade show fabric, highlighting the impacts of creating and (trying to) discard fossil fuel-based materials on our environment. For "Woven Hubcaps," Worcester artist Chris King collected roadside hubcaps and worked with sixth grade students to weave upcycled polyester rope between the spokes. Allen Spivack's "Cathedral of

28 Secrets" and Gail Bos's "Memorials" incorporate a multitude of household objects that help jog our own memories. Silvina Mizrahi brilliantly remodels an abandoned tree house into "Transform, Repurpose, Rejoice," a reflection on the immigrant experience.

For this milestone exhibition, Libby initiated a special collaboration with Vinfen's Gateway Arts, a longstanding Brookline nonprofit whose mission is to advance the careers of artists with disabilities. (Libby's aunt was a founder of Vinfen, a nonprofit human services agency.) Using discarded and donated paint, several artists created original paintings on the Studios Without Walls banners, which now line Brookline's main streets.

The exhibition represents a major artistic and logistics feat. The group works closely with the Brookline Parks and Open Spaces Department, which hosts the exhibition, to ensure the sculptures are installed stably and according to Parks rules; center visitor safety; and have a reasonable chance of withstanding the elements and potential pranks. To help mitigate the risks of public outdoor art, the artists must have liability insurance coverage. Ongoing spot checks during the exhibition help to maintain the sculptures, but "once you install your work, you have to let it go," says Libby.

Another challenge is annual fundraising. Libby is adamant about paying honorariums so the artists can offer public art without feeling pressure to make a sale from this exhibition. The Brookline Community Foundation is the largest funder of the modest stipends, which also went to the artists who painted the banners. Multiple local organizations and businesses provide additional financial and in-kind support.

Libby says thousands of visitors have stopped by and about 1,000 have taken the free art treasure hunt maps from the onsite info boxes. The map has rhyming clues, written by the artists (or, in the case of at least one artist, by artificial intelligence), that visitors can use to find the artwork.

The sculptures will remain in place through Monday, Sept. 2.

Visit studioswithoutwalls.org for a list of sculptures and artists' statements, treasure hunt map (QR code and printouts available on-site), photos of previous exhibitions, sponsors, reviews, and more.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

PHOTO: BETTE ANN LIBBY



"Wall of Visibility" by Rachel Shatil

August

SENIOR EVENTS

For more information, view the calendar at operationpeaceboston.org or drop by between 11am to 3pm for a paper calendar. Call 617 536-7154 to get added to the mailing list. Unless otherwise noted, events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center.

- Wed, Aug 7, 2:30pm: Conversations with first year HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS
- Thu, Aug 8, 12pm: ART RECEPTION OF WATERCOLOR ART from Senior Center Watercolor Artists
- Thu, Aug 15, 12pm: CPR with the American Red Cross
- Thu, Aug 22, 12pm: Operation PEACE SUMMER BBQ
- Thu, Aug 29, 12pm: Your ELECTRICITY BILL AND CLIMATE CHANGE with community organizer Cassie White and Climable in Ramler Park
- Wednesdays at 1pm: TECH CAFE with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Now ⇨ 8/31

HEAVEN AND EARTH: THE BLUE MAPS OF CHINA showcases two series of large-format 19th-century maps, one terrestrial and one celestial, and both considered unique in the global history of mapmaking. TLeventhal Map & Education Center at BPL Copley Square. Info at leventhalmap.org/exhibitions

Fri, 8/2

“VESSELS OF BELONGING” at the Piano Craft Gallery creates space for reflection and connection around questions like what it means to belong within our bodies, souls, communities, and the earth. The exhibition grows out of a collaboration between participants in the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts’ Artists in Residence Program and community participants. Opening reception, 6–8pm. RSVP at pianocraftgallery.com/piano-craft-gallery-2022-23/vessels-of-belongingnbsp. Closing reception, Sat, 8/17, 6–8pm. Exhibition through Sun, 8/18. FREE

Sat, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, & 8/24

FREE MOVIES in the Prudential Center’s

South Garden.Live DJ at 6pm followed by movies at dusk. The schedules: 8/3, *The Princess and the Frog*; 8/10, *National Treasure*; 8/17, *Migration*; 8/24, *The Little Mermaid*. FREE

Sun, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, & 8/25

- The Muddy Water Initiative hosts a **FARMERS MARKET AT CHARLESGATE PARK** with nearly 30 vendors from farms, bakers, chefs, and other local food businesses. 11am–2pm beneath the Bowker Overpass at Comm. Ave. FREE
- **TONE & CHILL WITH COOLIDGE YOGA** on the grass in front of Time Out Market (401 Park Drive) for an outdoor morning flow. 8–9am. Registration required at coolidgeyoga.union.site. FREE
- **NOCHE LATINA** at Time Out Market. DJ Snax spins Latin beats at salsa and bachata dance parties. 6–10pm. reservations at thefenway.com/events/noche-latina. FREE

Tue, 8/6 ⇨ Sat, 8/10

SILKROAD PRESENTS: GLOBAL MUSICIAN WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL. Over five nights, 80 musicians from 30 countries perform at New England Conservatory’s iconic Jordan Hall. Blending traditional and contemporary styles, the concerts will hopscotch the world from Lebanon to China to Mali to the US to India. 8pm; tickets from \$15. Details at <https://necmusic.edu/on-campus/performances-events/> or contact gmw@silkroad.org for more information.

Thu, 8/8

MAAM HOSTS ART ON THE PLAZA: SUMMER SERENADE. The iconic Veronica Robles All-Women Mariachi Band makes a festive return to the MassArt Art Museum. Live music and hands-on fun for all ages, inside and out. Complementary ice cream novelties, sweet treats, and mocktails. 6:30–9pm. Details at maam.massart.edu/

event/art-plaza-summer-serenade. 621 Huntington Ave. FREE

Thu, 8/8, 8/15, & 8/22

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD return to the MFA. Doors at 6pm; music at 7:30pm. Tickets at mfa.org/series/concerts-in-the-courtyard. \$24 members/\$30 general public. 465 Huntington Ave.

- 8/8—**American Patchwork Quartet** mixes timeless folk songs with jazz sophistication, country twang, West African hypnotics, and East Asian ornamentation.
- 8/15—folk singer-songwriter **Patty Larkin**, a longtime audience favorite.
- 8/22—**Jake Blount**, renowned interpreter of Black folk music joins celebrated composer, bassist and vocalist **Mali Obomsawin**.
- 8/22—**Session Americana**.

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

CHAIR YOGA WITH MICHELLE offers a modified, gentle yoga class focused on breathing and tuning into your body. Designed for those who don’t want to practice on the floor and prefer not to stand for long periods. Improve strength and flexibility with this accessible class. 10am, Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Rd. Details and registration at boston.gov/calendar/parks-fitness-bcbs-chair-yoga-michelle. FREE

Sat, 8/10 & 8/24

The **MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL** presents music, arts, and conversation. This year’s theme, “Elements,” encourages a relational approach to our planet. On 8/10, **Ivanna Cuesta** plays modern jazz and **Abria Smith** presents “Pale Blue Dot,” a poem by Carl Sagan. On 8/24, **Yağmur Soydemir** plays jazz fusion and world music and **David Graham** presents photo poetry. Both dates presented in collaboration with Celebrity Series of Boston. 6pm, the Yard at the Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is open six days a week. Visit fenwaycommunitycenter.org for details.

- Fri, August 16, 12pm: **COFFEE WITH OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES LIAISON, MACCON BONNER**
- Tu, Aug 20, 6pm: **TEXTILE WORKSHOP, and INTRO TO HAND SEWING** (supported by the MHFNT)
- Thu, Aug 22, 5pm: **ART RECEPTION WITH ELI PORTMAN**
- Wed, Aug 28, 6pm: **CENTER CINEMA PLAYS “CASABLANCA”**

St. Tiered pricing; 12 and under—free. Learn more and buy tickets at mhartsfest.org. FREE

Mon, 8/12, 8/19, & 8/26

MOVIE MONDAYS on the lawn at 401 Park. *Finding Nemo*, 8/12; *The Parent Trap*, 8/19; *The Sandlot*, 8/26. Free popcorn 7:45–8:45pm; film at 8pm. Bring a blanket. Tickets at thefenway.com/events. FREE

Sat, 8/17

Join neighbors and local organizations for **FENWAY COMMUNITY DAY**, an afternoon of fun, games, healthy eats and delicious ice cream. 12–2pm: **FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER’S COMMUNITY FEST**; 2–4pm: **BOSTON WORD 4 DEMS’ ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL** with Mayor Michelle Wu. Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road. Rain date: 8/18. FREE

Tue, 8/20

The MFA hosts **SUNSET CINEMA**, free movie screening on the Huntington Ave. lawn of *Bob Marley: One Love*, a biopic of the charismatic reggae musician. Presented in partnership with the Roxbury International Film Festival. Snacks and nonalcoholic drinks available for purchase until 9pm. 465 Huntington Ave. Movie at 8pm. Details at <https://www.mfa.org/programs/film>. FREE

Fri, 8/23

RYAN HORTON “EGO & INSECURITIES” offers an intimate journey into the depths of the human psyche. Horton states, “I create surreal and jarring compositions that channel and challenge my identity and expressions as a Black man in America and the stereotypes that come with it. By doing so, I aim to combat the pressures to conform and the tendency to compare myself to who I am supposed to be, in hopes to allow myself to embrace both the ego and insecurities that make me.” Opening reception, 6–8pm. Artist talk, Sun 8/25, 3–4pm. Closing reception, Sun 9/8, 3–5pm. Piano Craft Gallery, 793 Tremont St. Details at pianocraftgallery.com/piano-craft-gallery-2022-23/ryan-horton-ego-and-insecurities. FREE

Fri, 8/30

THADDEUS HOGARTH, Berklee faculty member and two-time winner of the Independent Music Award for R&B/Blues, performs at the Verb Hotel. 1271 Boylston, 6–9pm.

Flashy New Bus Stop Opens



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

On July 22, the T’s #1 bus began using the new, modern bus shelter on Mass. Ave. across from Hynes Station. To accommodate development of Air Rights Parcel 12, the T set up a temporary shelter one block south that became a magnet for litter. The new stop is a community benefit built by Samuels & Associates, developer of Parcel 12’s CarGurus office building and Lyrik Back Bay, the new hotel, park, and retail center. The bus stop features live bus and Hynes Station Green Line arrival schedules but includes no seating; passengers have been using retaining walls on the edge of the development.

Farmers Markets

As summer reaches its peak, shop for corn on the cob, berries, melons, salad greens, leeks, summer squash, peppers, and peas.	ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)	Tuesday & Friday	11am–7pm
	COPLEY SQUARE	Tuesday & Friday	11am–6pm
	BRIGHAM CIRCLE	Thursday	11am–6pm
	SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	Sunday	10am–4pm

TimeOut MARKET

EAT, DRINK, ENJOY!

15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS. ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON

SOX BOX	
FRI, 8/9 7:10PM	SAT, 8/10 4:10PM
SUN, 8/11 1:35PM	MON, 8/12 7:10PM
TUE, 8/13 7:10PM	WED, 8/14 6:10PM
FRI, 8/23 7:10PM	SAT, 8/24 4:10PM
SUN, 8/25 1:35PM	MON, 8/26 7:10PM
TUE, 8/27 7:10PM	WED, 8/28 7:10PM
THU, 8/29 7:10PM	—