

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## EBNA hears updates on Mass/Cass, restaurants, and life science proposal

By Lauren Bennett

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) had a packed agenda for its April 5 virtual meeting—speakers included Boston Police D4 Capt. Steven Sweeney, Rockland Trust Bank, Jeff Gates of SoWa Hospitality Group, Senior Advisor to Mayor Wu Dr. Monica Bharel, and Aimee Coolidge from Pine Street Inn.

### BPD NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

D4 Capt. Steven Sweeney spoke about crime rates, saying that there has been an increase

in property crime compared with this time last year, and auto theft is up 36 percent. He also said that larceny from motor vehicles is up, with 90 so far this year compared with 61 this time last year.

Residential burglaries, however, are down from this time last year—there have been 10 compared with 28 last year. Additionally, he said that there has been a “little increase in commercial breaks district-wide,” and non-domestic aggravated assaults like stabbings have also been up.

(EBNA Pg. 7)

## Public gets another update on proposed Fenway Corners project

By Dan Murphy

The public got a look at the latest plans for Fenway Corners - a proposed, approximately 2 million square-foot project that would transform the blocks around the ballpark into several new buildings containing office/research, retail, and residential space - at another city-sponsored virtual meeting on March 30.

WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC - a partnership made up of the Fenway Sports Group, which owns the Red Sox; the D’Angelo family, who own the 47 sports apparel and memorabilia company; and Newton-based WS Development, which led the redevelopment effort in the Seaport - intend to redevelop 13 parcels located

(FENWAY CORNERS Pg. 5)

## Neighborhood’s weekly COVID positive test rate increases to over 6%

BPHC recommends second COVID booster vaccine

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released its recommendations for residents to receive a second COVID booster vaccine as Back Bay’s weekly COVID positive test rate increases dramatically.

Last week, 1,119 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West

End and Downtown residents were tested for the virus last week and 6.5 percent were positive--this was a 41 percent increase from the 4.6 percent that tested positive as reported by the BPHC on March 28.

Seventy three additional residents contracted the virus between March 28 and April 4 and there are now 9,472 confirmed cases in the neighborhood

(COVID Pg. 3)

## SPRING ARRIVES AT THE COMMON, PUBLIC GARDEN



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

An impromptu birthday party takes advantage of the good weather to compliment the good friends enjoying their celebration. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.



PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

The first mock-up of an electrified gaslight in-stalled in the area of 212 Stuart St., which was set in the 2,500 Kelvin range.

## Public gets another look at mockups of electrified street-lights on Stuart Street

By Dan Murphy

The Bay Village Historic District Commission held its second public meeting on Wednesday, March 30, to view mock-ups of two streetlights in the area of 212 Stuart St., which could become the standard for replacing Colonial gas streetlights with new LED electric light fixtures

throughout the rest of that neighborhood, as well as in Beacon Hill and on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay.

Besides the light fixture set in the range of 2,500 Kelvin previously on display for the first meeting on March 14, which emitted an orange light, a newly installed second mockup set at 3,000 Kelvin, which emitted a

whiter light, was also on display this time. Both lights were set at a target consumption level of 680 Lumens at 35 percent, according to city officials on hand for the March 30 meeting.

Asked why the second light wasn’t set in the range of 2,700 Kelvin, Mike Donaghy, associate electrical engineer with the city’s Public Works Department, said 3,000 Kelvin is more in line with existing gaslights, which, according to a recent study conducted by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Architectural Committee, fall in the range of 3,100 Kelvin.

Donaghy also assured those in attendance that the city “unequivocally” doesn’t plan to dig up the streets as part of this plan, although it’s still unclear whether the city would tackle the project one block at a time or on a larger scale.

Donaghy also said the project would “cost north of \$30 million” in providing a rough projection of its comprehensive

(STREET LAMPS Pg. 3)



# EDITORIAL

## WE'RE ALL BACK IN THE USSR, INDEFINITELY

Ever since the 1950s, we Americans have prided ourselves on the success of our capitalist system, which has provided material wealth for generations.

Back in the days of the Cold War (from the end of WWII until the fall of the Soviet empire in the early 1990s), the success of the American economy stood in stark contrast to the economies of the Soviet Union and its Communist allies behind the Iron Curtain.

The shelves in our supermarkets always were full and there never were shortages of goods of any kind. The post-World War II era brought us a cornucopia of products. In addition, the nation's housing needs largely were met as we expanded into the suburbs.

In the Soviet-bloc countries however, their inefficient economies, lacking competition, provided fewer and inferior goods. A paucity of housing in those nations resulted in generations of families living together in small apartments in drab, high-rise housing complexes.

What brought to mind the Communist economies of that era was our recent visit to a department store chain (Macy's) at the end of February when we ordered a new couch and chair. We were told that we could expect our items to arrive in May, but just this past week, we received an email telling us that the expected delivery date now is late July.

This past weekend a family member was set to return from Florida (on Jet Blue), but his flight was canceled -- along with hundreds of others across the country. That was bad enough, but trying to rebook the flight via the phone or the internet proved nearly-impossible. The wait time on the phone was 241 minutes and the Jet Blue internet site was overwhelmed and kept knocking us off the site.

On top of that, we now have rampant inflation -- with no sign of it cooling off. In addition, we have been forewarned that the computer chip shortage is not ending anytime soon (so new cars will still be at a premium) and food shortages caused by the war in Ukraine will mean higher prices on just about everything.

The predicament in which we find ourselves is almost entirely self-inflicted thanks to a combination of trends of the past 40 years, most especially the offshoring of manufacturing jobs, "just in time" inventory controls, and overly-stringent government regulations for new infrastructure projects.

Today we are facing massive housing shortages (just as millennials are setting out on their own), food shortages, and chip shortages with no quick remedies in sight.

In many respects, our economy more closely resembles the 1970s-era USSR than the 1970s USA -- and it seems we will be stuck here for a long time to come.

## AMERICANS ALSO ARE ON THE FRONT LINES

Although we may feel relief that the horrific images from Ukraine of the genocidal actions of Putin's army against the civilian population are half a world away, every American literally is on the front lines of this terrible conflict thanks to the interconnectedness that is the hallmark of the age in which we live.

It is estimated that 80% of America's critical infrastructure is controlled by the private sector, all but making a concerted national defense of our electrical grid, water systems, hospitals, and energy supplies nearly impossible.

Moreover, because almost all of these companies have abided by a penny-wise and pound-foolish business model which has precluded investment in defense against cyberattacks, almost every aspect of our life is vulnerable to disruptions by a determined cyberattacker.

So while it may be true that we are safe from a physical attack by bombs (unless Putin goes fully-nuclear), every American must be prepared for the inevitable cyber warfare that will be waged by Putin and other actors that could affect every aspect of our daily lives.

## GUEST OP-ED

## Bad Jokes and Slapping People

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

In a civil, polite society we shouldn't run around slapping comedians, politicians, radio or television personalities, or musical performers. The list goes on and includes everyone. Will Smith's stunt of slapping comedian Chri Rock at the 2022 Oscars was a bad idea. It was only by the grace of God and mainly the grace of Chris Rock that Smith was not arrested or sued. Before this is all over, Rock could still take him to court. At this point in time, it doesn't seem likely.

On the other hand, it was a bad idea for Chris Rock to use Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, in a joke that highlighted alopecia, the disease that has been tormenting her. Diseases and disabilities are issues with which people struggle. The joke angered Will Smith. His feelings got totally out of control as he bounded on stage to slap Chris Rock. While many people understand how Smith must

have felt and may have thought Rock deserved it, we still have to restrain ourselves.

I suspect there are people who probably have wanted to slap a politician or two. You can't do that because you would go to jail. Furthermore, that is the wrong way to conduct our behavior. What about Vladimir Putin? You couldn't get by with that in Russia. Regardless of how evil and heinous an individual is, if you slapped him while walking down Broadway in New York City, a policeman would most likely arrest you. This is a far-fetched scenario even though most of the free world is ready for Putin to be totally removed.

If you have been working on your list of people to slap you might as well put it away. It won't work. You will eventually end up in jail, in court, or both.

We do have free speech in America. People can hurl words freer than hurling punches. Words can and do hurt. There are repercussions if you slan-

der, malign or use your speech against others in a way that "hurts" them. However, television, radio, and political events frequently allow the rhetoric to go way out of bounds.

An idea for us all is to control our tongues and our actions. Most of us have spoken before we thought. We may have reacted in a way without seriously considering the action. Too often a fast mouth or quick action may have brought regret.

There are lessons to be learned from this year's Academy Awards. Mainly, don't act like those people.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist -- American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

## WLP Annual eat LUNCH give fundraiser set for April 14

Staff Report

On Thursday, April 14th, Women's Lunch Place will celebrate its 11th annual eat LUNCH give fundraiser. Join us as we elevate the voices of resilient women in our community and commit to walking along-

side them as they work towards a brighter future.

This special luncheon will include a delicious meal, exciting raffle, and the opportunity to hear about the great work and mission of WLP from some of Boston's brightest women leaders!

Women's Lunch Place recommends purchasing at tickets [womenslunchplace.org/elig](https://www.womenslunchplace.org/elig) before April 8.

If you cannot make it to the event but would still like to make a donation, visit [womenslunchplace.org/donate-elig-donation](https://www.womenslunchplace.org/donate-elig-donation).



*An in-person WLP event from years past. WLP said they are excited to host an in-person fundraiser once again this spring.*

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY (STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM) MARKETING DIR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIR: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

THE BOSTON SUN

REPORTERS: LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM, DAN MURPHY, DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM, JOHN LYNDY, JOHN@EASTIETIMES.COM

# SELDC approves replacement of four light poles with small cell antennae

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on April 5, where it approved the replacement of several light poles with small cell antenna equipment. The Back Bay has also seen a number of these proposals in recent months, and discussion is ongoing about consistency of these poles within the district.

Keenan Brinn of ExteNet Systems presented proposals for new light poles at four locations in the South End: 789 Harrison Ave., 750 Albany St., 660 Tremont St., and 61-63 Berkeley St. He said these locations have been approved by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services as well as the city's street lighting division, but he was now before the SELDC to receive their approval.

Brinn explained that small cells are "ways that the [cell phone] carriers can supplement their service to the city," and are best placed on light poles rather than on rooftops. The equipment on the pole usually includes a base, an equipment shroud, and an antenna.

Commissioner John Amodeo asked, "if this street were to be upgraded with light poles that were more consistent with the district," whether ExteNet would be willing to replace it with the more consistent one. The pole proposed for 789 Harrison Ave. was a black steel pole, a change from the existing concrete pole.

"The reason we go to Boston Street Light first," Brinn said, is that "they will tell us whether or not a pole needs to be changed and the type of pole it is."

He also said that the technology changes about every three years or so, so the equipment will need to be swapped out.

Commissioner John Freeman said that "if we know that they are going to change" the equipment within a relatively short period of time, "I think we can allow this the way it is."

For 789 Harrison Ave., the Commission voted to approve the application as submitted, provided that a black metal pole is used instead of a concrete one, and "any future changes to the equipment or technology should come back to the Commission," even if it is just removal of equipment.

At 750 Albany St., the proposal was to replace an existing double acorn light with another double acorn light that will feature the small cell antenna and equipment. That one was also

accepted as submitted.

At 660 Tremont St., Brinn said that the existing pole is what he describes as a "short Arietta design;" a "pole with a very short light pole on it."

He said that Boston Street Light had asked ExteNet to "replace what they call a boulevard pendant," as changes are being made on Tremont St.

"I think that the light pole replacements on this street are part of a larger upgrade of Tremont St. that's also going to include new bike lanes that we've seen come before us earlier," Amodeo said.

Brinn said that the pole at this location will be similar in height to the existing pole—about 25 feet, and "the pole itself becomes a little more robust just because these need to have a little extra structural engineering done to

them." This pole will also be a steel pole painted black and will feature the equipment and antenna that will sit about two and a half feet off the top of the pole.

The Commission voted to approve this location as submitted.

Finally, at 61-63 Berkeley St., Brinn said this is also an "Arietta design...these are probably the most common design I've seen up until now." He said this one will be around 28 feet when replaced, which is similar to what is existing, though it will be "a little bit bigger to support additional weight." The existing concrete pole will again be replaced with a steel one that will be painted black with the equipment on the pole and the antenna on the top.

The Commission voted to approve this as submitted as well.

## STREET LAMPS (from pg. 1)

design, construction, and installation costs.

Dr. Alison Brizius, commissioner of the city's Environment Department, said in the next couple of months, as part of the Renew Boston Trust – an initiative involving the city's Environmental Department, the Public Facilities Department, and the Budget Office that conducts energy audits and makes energy conservation recommendations in regard to city-owned property – the city would undertake a citywide audit of all of its streetlights, including the existing electric fixtures, to determine which ones need to be upgraded. Afterward this study has been completed, the city is expected to have a better idea of the estimated cost for the proposed streetlight-conversion project, she said.

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the city's chief of streets, said the city had come to the March 30 meeting with "samples for what we think is possible" to solicit public feedback on design, historical context, and lighting level before bringing these results to Renew Boston Trust.

(The Renew Boston Trust Process is expected to begin in the next few months, although the city has yet to determine the work included in each phase of the multi-phased project.)

"We don't know what it'll look like, and that's by design," said Franklin-Hodge, adding the city would be soliciting input from each neighborhood included in and affected by the proposed gaslight replacement project.

In addition to the more than 1,100 existing gas streetlights on Beacon Hill, there are 209 of

them can be found on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay and another 160 in Bay Village, according to the city.

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who grew up in Bay Village and was also on hand for the March 14 meeting, said, "This is an area where we have to get it right."

Councilor Bok said this project is of particular interest to her, given both her extensive background in historic preservation, as well as on account of the city's current commitment of transforming Boston into a "Green New Deal City."

Sue Prindle, chair of the NABB's Architectural Committee who was also on hand for the first meeting, urged city officials to make sure that connections to the converted streetlights are sealed at the gas main, rather

than sealed at the individual "stub-offs," which connect to homes, gas streetlights, and other outputs, to reduce the potential for gas leaks.

Despite this concern, Prindle said the light from the latest 3,000 Kelvin mock-up is "pretty close" to the light emitted by nearby existing gaslights, especially since "the brightness could be moderated."

Likewise, Thomas Perkins, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association board of directors, also applauded the city on the latest mockup.

Perkins said while most people he had spoken with were already pleased with the earlier mockup, he thinks the new 3,000 Kelvin prototype should sufficiently address any concerns they still might have about the brightness and color of the light.

Ania Camargo, a resident of

Temple Street on Beacon Hill and coordinator of the Downtown Mothers Out Front team, was also encouraged by what she saw at the March 30 meeting.

"We are impressed with the two LED retrofit lamps that the City put up in Bay Village that show it's possible to keep the look of our beautiful lamps while using a cleaner, more efficient energy source," Camargo wrote in an email. "'Natural gas' is primarily methane, which is a fossil fuel that harms our climate, causes air pollution and respiratory illness, is explosive, and when it leaks in the soil, suffocates our trees."

"In contrast, electricity will become greener over time as the state shifts to meet our statewide climate goals, and ramps up renewable energy sources, such as offshore wind, to green the electric grid," added Camargo.

## COVID (from pg. 1)

since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week. According to the BPHC 13,847 residents were tested citywide last week and 4.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 53 percent increase from the 3 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on March 28.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood.

It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.84 percent last week and went from 168,260 cases to 169,673 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were five additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,444.

Last week, the BPHC announced it is recommending a second COVID-19 booster dose

for residents aged 50 and older at least four months after their initial booster dose, as well as those over the age of 12 that are moderately to severely immunocompromised. The Commission's recommendations are aligned with recommendations issued earlier last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

A second booster dose is recommended for these groups due to their increased risk of severe

illness that can result in hospitalization and death. Boston and much of the Northeast has seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases recently. At the same time, there have been declines in weekly vaccination rates and waning vaccine immunity.

"Boosters are essential for preventing severe illness from COVID-19," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "I urge all residents to stay up to date on their vaccination

tions by getting boosted as soon as possible, and to receive a second booster dose if eligible. Vaccine immunity wanes over time, and boosters are critical to maintaining a strong defense against COVID-19."

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, including second booster doses for those who are eligible, are available at vaccination clinics across the city. To find a vaccine or booster near you, visit [boston.gov/covid19-vaccine](https://boston.gov/covid19-vaccine) or call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.



# Festival and guest speaker programs return to the MFA in person for first time since 2019

Staff Report

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), celebrates the return of spring with its 46th annual Art in Bloom festival (April 29–May 1, 2022), a celebration that pairs art from across

the collection with floral interpretations created by 50 New England-area designers. Program highlights of the 2022 on-site festival include a lecture and demonstration by celebrated floral designer Michael Putnam of New York-based Putnam & Put-

nam and a series of master classes with internationally renowned florist Françoise Weeks, who specializes in textural woodlands and botanical haute couture. Ahead of on-site programming, virtual offerings will be available to enjoy on mfa.org, including

both interactive private group tours (April 6–13) and recorded guided tours (April 6–27).

Art in Bloom launches at the Museum with a special preview of freshly installed arrangements on Thursday, April 28, from noon to 5 pm. Private guid-

ed group tours and self-guided group tours kick off on Thursday afternoon, and advance registration is required. Beginning on Friday, daily events include guided tours of arrangements

(MFA Pg. 5)

## FENWAY CORNERS (from pg. 1)

south of the Massachusetts Turnpike near Fenway Park on four major blocks along Jersey Street, Brookline Avenue, Van Ness Street, and Lansdowne Street, respectively, which collectively total around 5.32 acres.

Changes to the project from what was first proposed by the developer last June include creating the Fenway Family Center, which would provide daycare for 100-plus children; reducing the project's Gross Floor Area (GFA) by 50,000 square feet (all commercial uses); reducing the height of the Brookline Avenue building by 40-plus feet; adjusting the massing of other buildings to improve corridor views and views of the skydome; and creating new public open space at corner of Jersey Street and Arthur's Alley, according to Yanni Tsipis, senior vice president of WS Development.

(Tsipis had previously announced these changes, which are outlined in the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) the developer filed with the city in February, at another virtual meeting on the project sponsored by the Boston Planning & Development Agency on March 14.)

In response to concerns previously raised by neighbors about the developer's plan to close Jersey Street to vehicular traffic during the day to make it a pedestrian-only street, Rebecca Lee, real estate attorney with the Boston firm Mintz Levin, said Jersey Street would become like the section of Washington Street between Temple Place and Milk Street in Downtown Crossing, where trucks are allowed to make deliveries to retail businesses early in the day before it becomes a public way only accessible to pedestrians.

As part of this plan, the city would remain the steward of Jersey Street while authorizing the developer to make street improvements, such as installing outdoor tables and chairs. The developer would be responsible for the upkeep of any street improvements they make on Jer-

sey Street, said Lee.

To make this plan for Jersey Street a reality, the developer would first need to secure a license from the city's Public Improvement Commission as part of a process, which would entail a preliminary public meeting, as well as an additional advertised public hearing on the matter, Lee added.

"There would be no transfer of property rights to my client – it's just a written agreement between the applicant and the city," said Lee.

Similarly, Tsipis said the developer's intention isn't to privatize Jersey Street, but instead it's "simply a reimagining of how the street works and a reprioritization of how it works."

The project also proposes myriad bike amenities, including new short-term bike racks throughout the site; two new BlueBike stations; a Bike Hub on Richard B. Ross Way, with approximately 100-plus spaces; secure indoor parking within each building comprising approximately 940 spaces; and an opportunity for a full-time bike valet to get bikes into parking facilities for visitors to the area.

Sean Manning, transportation consultant from the Boston civil engineering firm, VHB, said that a seemingly "short and inconspicuous" connection being created from Ross Way to Brookline Avenue and Van Ness Street as part of the project would become a "real game-changer" in terms of how motorists arrive at and depart from the area.

Among the \$40 million in community benefits from the project, the developer is now pledging to designate 75 percent of its \$1 million commitment for public art to Boston-based and local artists, said Tsipis, giving preference to Fenway artists, as well as artists from Boston and the Boston area, rather than "bringing in artists from out of market."

There will be many opportunities for permanent, long-term, and short-term art installations



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the proposed Fenway Corners project.

on site as well, including for weekend or multi-month installations, on a variety of different "canvasses" throughout the project site, he said.

Additionally, the developer is committed to creating opportunities for small businesses in "clusters" of 600-foot, 800-foot, and 1,000-foot retail spaces throughout the site, said Tsipis, "to help fill in voids in the urban fabric both at a macro scale and at a micro scale."

Likewise, the developer intends to create "low-barrier" spaces to facilitate easy entry for small and minority-owned businesses, including online brands that want to expand into a brick-and-mortar operation. So rather than committing to a multi-year lease, businesses would have the opportunity to sign on a two- or four-month basis, or to stage a weekend pop-up or take part in a "makers market," to test the waters first, said Tsipis.

At the proposed second-floor public space called the "Jersey Street Porch," the developer also intends to identify a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) operator for the café, who would be charged below-market rent, said Tsipis.

Moreover, the developer has committed to exploring on-site opportunities for "naming of an

important public place after a female figure of prominence in the Fenway neighborhood," said Tsipis.

Mallory Rohrig, a Fenway Corners Citizens Advisory Committee and program director for Operation P.E.A.C.E., which provides educational programs for low-income families from the Fenway, said she has long lamented the lack of affordable child-care options in the Fenway and eagerly awaits the opening of the Early Education Center.

"I'm thrilled that you're going to meet that need and keep families in the neighborhood," said Rohrig, adding that she was also pleased to hear about the project's opportunities for local artists, as well as for affordable and diverse food-and-beverage options.

Marie Fukuda, a longtime resident of the Fenway, said while she too looks forward to the Early Education Center opening in the neighborhood, she expressed concern that the developer has yet to specify exactly where on the site it would be located.

Fukuda also urged the developer to deliver the proposed mitigation in a holistic manner, rather than incrementally with each phase of the project, as the developer has proposed. (Tsipis responded this was merely an

idea under consideration.)

Fukuda said she was pleased that the public comment period for the project had been extended by two weeks until April 15 in response to concerns raised previously by her and others that the original April 1 date would've come only one day after a March 31 public meeting on the project sponsored by the BPDA.

But Fukuda implored the BPDA and the project team to extend the duration for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to give them ample time to consider newly released studies on traffic and other potential impacts.

Another longtime Fenway resident, John Bookston, expressed his deep concerns regarding potential traffic and other impacts on the neighborhood from a project he believes is seemingly at odds with what the public desires for the site.

"The Red Sox and the development company want to impose something on the Fenway, and they should start with what the public needs and what the public doesn't want," said Bookston.

Public comments on the proposed Fenway Corners project can be submitted through April 15 via email to Aisling Kerr of the BPDA at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov.



**MFA** (from pg. 4)

throughout the galleries (free with Museum admission); snacks and lunch available for purchase in the Art in Bloom Café in addition to regular dining offerings; and a curated selection of unique gifts and treasures to browse at the MFA Art in Bloom Market and Garden Cart. Throughout the weekend, visitors are encouraged to share their best floral photos on social media using #mfaInBloom.

Art in Bloom is sponsored by the Arbella Insurance Foundation. Additional support from Yellow Wood Partners, Island Creek Oysters and The 'Quin House Impact Fund.

Tickets and reservations for group tours, in person and online, are available March 2, 2022; tickets and reservations for online recorded guided tours and on-site ticketed programs are available April 6, 2022. The festival, hosted at the Museum for more than 40 years, is presented by the MFA Associates, a group of dedicated volunteers who lead gallery tours and create flower arrangements throughout the year.

**Virtual Art in Bloom**

Interactive Private Group  
Tours (Virtual)  
April 6–13

Livestreamed private interactive tours conducted via Zoom will provide Art in Bloom supporters the chance to convene a group to enjoy a one-hour presentation with MFA Associate art and floral guides. Private interactive tours accommodating up to 97 participants are priced at \$400 and will be available to reserve on mfa.org beginning March 2, 2022. Tours will take place from April 6–13.

Recorded Guided Tours (Virtual)  
April 6–27

Led by a team of MFA Associate art and floral guides, two recorded guided tours invite online visitors to experience Art in Bloom from anywhere in the world. Available to purchase and enjoy on mfa.org beginning April 6 through April 27—\$10 each for members and \$15 for non-members—these 45-minute videos feature eight works from the MFA's collection alongside the floral arrangements inspired by the art.

**Art in Bloom**

Thursday Preview  
April 28, 12–5 pm

Maps of the 50 arrangements are available on Thursday beginning at noon, giving visitors their first opportunity to discover this year's art and arrangement pairings. Private guided tours for groups of up to 15 and self-guided tours for groups of up to 25 launch on Thursday at 2 pm and are available to reserve on mfa.org beginning March 2, 2022 (\$450).

Daily Activities  
April 29–May 1

Free guided tours of floral arrangements, included with Museum admission (\$27 for adults beginning March 1; \$10 for youths ages 7–17; and free for 6 and under) are offered each day (10:30 am–8:30 pm on Friday; 10:30 am–4 pm on Saturday and Sunday). In addition to musical entertainment throughout the weekend, the MFA Art in Bloom Market (10 am–10 pm on Friday; 10 am–5 pm on Saturday and Sunday) will feature 10 specially curated vendors located in the Museum's Shapiro Family



The Garden Club of the Back Bay's Donna Morrison (left) and Diana Govern arrange MFA decorations.

Courtyard, inviting visitors to shop for unique gifts and treasures. The Garden Cart, known for its fresh flower-filled teacups, will include additional flower, home- and garden-related items. In the Koch Gallery, the Art in Bloom Café (10 am–8 pm on Friday; 10 am–4 pm on Saturday and Sunday) will offer light fare for purchase.

**Featured Speaker Events**

April 30, 10:30 am–12:30 pm,  
2–4 pm; and May 1, 1–3 pm  
On Saturday, master classes

with Françoise Weeks (10:30 am–12:30 pm; and 2–4 pm) offer hands-on flower design instruction (\$250 for members, \$280 for non-members). During Sunday's lecture and demonstration, Michael Putnam showcases creative techniques for using color to inspire breathtaking, romantic floral arrangements (\$40 for members, \$50 for nonmembers). Tickets for on-site ticketed programs are available to reserve on mfa.org beginning April 6, 2022.

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# SPRING ARRIVES AT THE COMMON, PUBLIC GARDEN

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

April 2nd was a sunny and relatively warm Spring day and the two green jewels of the parks of Boston, the Public Garden

and Boston Common, saw many visitors looking to enjoy them. It was another sign of life returning to the City Of Boston after 2 long years of the Covid Pandemic.



Shown above and right, Visitors to the Public Garden enjoy the pleasant Spring day by the Lagoon, still drained before warmer days bring back the water, birds, and Swan Boats.



Visitors to the Public Garden enjoy the views from the Lagoon Bridge.



A bustling throng of visitors to the Public Garden cross the Lagoon Bridge on their way to the Boston Common.



The Make Way For Ducklings Sculpture was adorned with the colors of the Ukrainian flag showing solidarity to the war-torn nation.



## SPRING ARRIVES AT THE COMMON, PUBLIC GARDEN



Visitors take in the Victorian splendor of an awakening Public Garden.

### EBNA (from pg. 1)

#### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: ROCKLAND TRUST BANK

Jonathan Towslee, who manages the nearby Rockland Trust Bank branch, was on hand to present information about the bank along with Dan Johnson as well as address comments and questions from residents.

He said that the bank is “very involved with the community and they like to support organizations.” Last year, Rockland Trust donated more than \$3 million to different charities, he added.

Towslee said that something Rockland Trust is proud to offer is a fixed rate home equity line of credit, along with the variable rate line of credit as well. People can apply for the line of credit online and securely upload any required documents, so they don’t even have to leave home.

Johnson said that Rockland Trust is a “full service community bank” that boasts about 125 locations, and is the 16 largest investment advisor in the state of Massachusetts as well as was voted the number one bank in Forbes Magazine last year.

“We are very much a local bank who works with local efforts,” Johnson said. The bank also handles things like investment management, estate planning, retirement planning, and more. For more information, visit [rocklandtrust.com](http://rocklandtrust.com).

#### RESTAURANT UPDATE

Jeff Gates of SoWa Hospitality Group came before the EBNA to talk about the reconstruction of the former Cinquecento restaurant that was located at 500 Harrison Ave. He said that construction has begun on the new

restaurant, which will be called Roma.

He said that despite many challenges with the supply chain and “getting people in to do construction work,” the restaurant is on track to open this summer.

He said that Brasserie, which he also operates, is “going great; we had a great winter.” He said that the vaccination requirement might have put a slight damper on things like business meals, but “everybody was very supportive” in general.

Overall, Gates said that the “wage story for our community is very good,” and spoke about the challenges that some restaurants faced when it came to receiving money from the government during the pandemic.

#### MASS/CASS UPDATE

Dr. Monica Bharel, Senior Advisor to Mayor Michelle Wu, spoke about some of the work the city has been doing to address the opioid and homelessness crisis at Mass Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd.

She said that beginning in December, the city conducted a survey of folks living in encampments in the area and then set up several low threshold shelters and places to stay at 112 Southamptton, Woods Mullen, and other places like the EnVision Hotel and the Shattuck in Jamaica Plain.

“People can come in or out if they need to,” Bharel said, and are offered things like mental health and addiction services as well as “enhanced care” and “enhanced harm reduction” services.

She said that currently, 183 people are living in those sites



Shown above, Boston Common had a good share of visitors as well enjoying a beautiful Spring day.

Shown right, Spring love was afoot as life returns to the Public Garden.

Shown left, Spring was bringing life back to the Public Garden with a pleasant if not brisk day.



and there is also a waitlist.

Since Jan. 12, Bharel said that there have been “some individuals putting up structures or tents in a scattered way across the city,” but “many of them have moved along,” finding other places to go or finding shelter. She said outreach work will continue throughout the spring and the summer, as will “daily meetings and coordination at the city level to ensure there are no more tents or encampments.” The city will also continue to work with all its partners to provide shelter, housing, and services to those who need it.

#### PINE STREET INN PROGRAM UPDATE

Aimee Coolidge, Vice President of Community & Government Relations at Pine Street Inn (PSI), provided an update on the organization’s efforts during the pandemic. She said that PSI has also been helping with the situation at Mass/Cass, and has been “tremendously challenged by COVID.”

Coolidge said that about 35 percent of the people PSI serves caught the virus, and “people needed a place to isolate and recover,” so several college dorms and hotels were leased out to give sick people a place to get

better. She said that because of this, there have been less people at PSI’s Harrison Ave. location.

“What we’ve decided is we’d very much like to keep it that way,” as it’s “nice for the staff; nice for the guests.”

She said that PSI remains committed to getting as many people into housing as possible and has been “working very, very closely with the City of Boston” on this effort. PSI has a goal of creating about 1000 units of housing, which she said they are “on track to surpass” with projects like the one in Jamaica Plain that’s being developed in conjunction with The Community Builders.

South End resident Jen Grella praised PSI staff for keeping their property on Harrison Ave. clean, and asked if they will be taking volunteers again, since they had stopped during the pandemic for safety reasons.

Coolidge said that it’s on the table, though with cases rising, that is to be determined. “We would very much like to,” she said.

**65 WAREHAM STREET:  
LIFE SCIENCE  
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**  
Attorney Marc LaCasse came

before the EBNA to discuss a very preliminary proposal for a life science building at 675 Wareham St.

“We are in the very preliminary stages of this project,” LaCasse said, and “have yet to file a Letter of Intent with the Boston Planning and Development Agency to initiate the Article 80 process.” He said the goal right now is to meet with community groups and organizations prior to filing so people are aware of the project.

He said that the new building will occupy the footprint of the group of existing buildings on the site, including the three facades on Wareham St. The project proponents are in discussion with the South End Landmark District Commission about preserving the historic nature of the buildings, LaCasse said. The building will also feature below grade parking and will have tenants with biosafety levels of one or two only, as anything beyond that would require more regulation.

More information on this proposal is forthcoming as the city and community process continues.



# Sen. Edwards uses Crown Act to deliver powerful maiden speech

By John Lynds

Last week the Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act. The bill prohibits discrimination, which largely impacts Black residents, based on natural and protective hairstyles in places of work and school-related organizations.

Prior to Sene's passage of the legislation, Sen. Lydia Edwards rose to speak on the bill and delivered her maiden address.

"When I think about this particular law, I'm in a unique position to not only pass a law but to be one of the primary subjects

of the beneficiaries of that law," Edwards began. "To stand here with my colleagues, who I know will stand with me in solidarity and vote for this law, we're looking at the result of natural hair, you're looking at the results of the work that you were about to do. We have what I believe is the first African American senator with beautiful long dreadlocks. This is natural hair. It took me so long, so long to ever say that my hair is long. That it is beautiful. That it is natural. What you're voting on today is not just prohibiting harm. It is a statement that black women have needed to hear for so long, "Who you are and how you present your-

self in this world is beautiful, is necessary, is political, is powerful and we will not demand that you be anything less than that anymore."

Edwards said in the state, in the country and in schools across the nation we have failed to do that.

"I'm embarrassed to say how much money I've spent doing everything I could to put in fake hair and hair chemicals to cover up what naturally grew out of my head," said Edwards. "You must understand what systemic racism does is not just prohibit economic opportunity and prohibit access to housing—it diminishes the soul, it diminishes yourself and who you are, because there's something you cannot control."

Edwards said for so many years she was taught that her natural hair was "unprofessional" or "unsightly" or "nappy" or "disgusting".

"But today's celebration of our hair," said Edwards. "Now, my friends and my colleagues are saying, "The systemic ways in which we have attacked people of color, one of which is through their hair, will end". I don't even know how to explain the amount of painful years I went through. Whether it was a hot comb and getting burned trying to straighten my hair. Whether it was losing



Sen. Lydia Edwards delivers her maiden speech with powerful words about the state's Crown Act.

hair because of braids that were so tight. Spending hundreds of dollars on weaves all of which to cover up who I am but could be seen as more professional. "

Edwards continued, "This is a health care issue. An economic issue. This is an issue of dealing with internalized self hatred of which I had and unfortunately many black women (have)."

Edwards said when she finally cut her hair and started to grow it out more naturally emerged more self confident.

"I said I will be myself and nobody else," she said. "And if my hair grows out this way, and

if it is kinky or curly, then it shall be the most beautiful hair that grows because I grew it."

Edwards said the bill proves she and her colleagues are part of the right movement and on the right side of history.

"This is personal for me because you are doing something for the Commonwealth and for the future," Edwards told her colleagues. "This (bill) is for future economic opportunities, for self worth, for the ability for black women to be empowered. We are sending a message to be unafraid to be your beautiful black self."

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## Holy Week at Saint Cecilia

**Palm Sunday**  
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
*Mass of the Lord's Passion* [9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed]

**THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday**  
 7:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer*—Livestreamed to Facebook  
 7:30 p.m. *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper*—In-person & YouTube livestreamed  
 10:00 p.m. *Night Prayer*—In-person following adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Good Friday**  
 7:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer*—Livestreamed to Facebook  
 3:00 p.m. *Stations of the Cross*—In-person & YouTube  
 7:30 p.m. *Commemoration of the Lord's Passion*—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

**Holy Saturday**  
 9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer*—Livestreamed to Facebook  
 8:00 p.m. *The Great Vigil of Easter*—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

**Easter Sunday**  
 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. *Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord*  
 [9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed]  
 7:00 p.m. *Paschal Vespers*—Facebook

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# Zoning Board of Appeals approves several projects

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) granted variances to projects at 142 St. Botolph St. and 593-595 Albany St., as well as clarified an issue with the approval of the proposed cannabis dispensary at 48-62 Brookline Ave.

## 48-62 BROOKLINE AVE.

Attorney Dennis Quilty represented the applicant, a recreational cannabis dispensary that is looking to open a location at 48-62 Brookline Ave for a board final arbiter decision. He said that the “board granted relief subject to a one year sunset, if you will.” He said that the facility has not been able to operate as of yet, because the applicant had not yet received the state license.

The ZBA had asked the applicant to return one year after opening to see how things are going at the location. Quilty said that they are “asking for relief so we can get back to you after we’ve opened.”

ZBA Chair Christine Araujo asked what the reasons were for the need for the review. Quilty said that “I’m pretty sure...there

were concerns raised by Fenway Park,” as this location is nearby, and that they “wanted to make sure the operation was consistent with good business practices.”

The ZBA clarified that the applicant needs to return before the ZBA one year from the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

## 142 SAINT BOTOLPH ST.

Attorney Marc LaCasse spoke on behalf of Abhayjit Bedi, the applicant who is proposing to add a partial fourth floor to his existing unit, which will add about 650 additional square feet of living space.

He said that this proposal will also require Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) design review.

Molly Griffin of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that an abutters meeting was held on Feb. 2, where one neighbor had a concern. She said that “I believe the applicant worked with them” Additionally, Griffin said that the Mayor’s Office has received a letter in support from another tenant living at 142 St. Botolph St.

The ZBA voted to approve the proposal as presented.

## 593-595 ALBANY ST.

The proposal at 591-595 Albany St. was heard as a re-discussion as this project came before the board in Feb.

“...there was a request to change the unit count from nine to 10 as a good faith gesture,” said attorney Marc LaCasse. “That has been done,” he added, saying that the “building itself is largely the same.”

The building will feature two one bedroom units, four two bedroom units, three three bedroom units, and one four bedroom unit, all for home ownership. One unit will be an affordable unit under the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy.

“We have universal support for this project,” LaCasse said. There will also be street level retail space that will “wrap around the corner of the building.”

The building will also feature one public and one private roof deck.

“Each of the units have small balconies or some measure of

usable outdoor space,” LaCasse said.

He added that the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) has issued a demolition order for the existing building since the last time the ZBA heard this proposal. He said that “ISD has determined that the temporary shoring is insufficient,” and the proponents will continue their work with the Landmarks Commission as they have been doing for the new building, which will have a height of 69 feet, “consistent” with the maximum of 70 feet in the district.

ZBA member Eric Robinson said that the “proposed height is fairly consistent with Albany St.”

Kim Crucioli of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that an abutters meeting was held in Sept. of last year, and the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association is in support. She also said that the Mayor’s Office has received “multiple letters of support” from other abutters. “This would be a great addition and bring liveliness to the area,” Crucioli said.

The project is located within

the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD), which requires letters certifying that no harm will be done to the water table, which Christian Simonelli of the Boston Groundwater Trust said had been received. The ZBA confirmed that they had also received them.

City Councilor Ed Flynn is also in support of the project, and requested that the proponent continue to work with abutters during construction.

Bob D’Amico of the Boston Transportation Department expressed concern with Thorn St., the private way that was mentioned in the proposal. He said that he wants to ensure maneuverability in the area.

“Thorn St. indeed is a new through street connection connecting the two blocks,” LaCasse said. He said that at 20 feet wide, it is “designated as a private way.” He said that abutters have rights to the street and the public also has the right to use it “because it connects to public streets.”

The ZBA voted to approve the proposal as presented with BPDA design review.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### WU ANNOUNCES 2022 OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the return of the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program, a collaboration of the Licensing Board, Boston Fire Department, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Transportation Department, Public Improvement Commission, Disabilities Commission, Public Works, Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services. The Outdoor Dining Program is a citywide initiative that allows restaurants the use of expanded public spaces for outdoor dining. The applications for the 2022 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program are now open. Those interested can apply here. Visit [boston.gov/outdoordining](https://boston.gov/outdoordining) for more information and ongoing updates about the 2022 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program. Questions and concerns about the program can be sent to [outdoordining@boston.gov](mailto:outdoordining@boston.gov).

### ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AT THE ANNUAL MUDDY RIVER CLEANUP

Registration for the 2022 Muddy River Cleanup is now live! Each year since 2009, the Conservancy’s largest annual volunteer event has brought hundreds together to pick up litter, remove invasive plants and assist with park maintenance throughout all 1,100 acres of the Emerald Necklace. This year’s cleanup takes place Saturday, April 23 in each park of the Necklace, from Franklin Park to Charlesgate Park. The Muddy River Cleanup is part of the larger Charles River Cleanup, which was recognized nationally from 2016-2019 by American Rivers for the Most Pounds of Trash Collected and Most Volunteers Mobilized. Register at <https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/mrc2022/>

126TH BOSTON MARATHON—MONDAY, APRIL 18

30,000 entrants will participate in the 126th Boston Marathon, starting the 26.2-mile route

from Main Street in Hopkinton to Boylston Street at Copley Square near the Boston Public Library. Race day road closures will be in effect on roads in the vicinity of Kenmore Square, Copley Square, Boston Common, and other areas in the Back Bay. Please visit [www.cityofboston.gov](https://www.cityofboston.gov) for more information as closures become available.

Crowd barriers will be set up along Boylston Street and areas of the course within the City of Boston. Spectators are asked for their cooperation in following reasonable and common sense guidelines that will help ensure the safety and security of participants, volunteers, and spectators. For more information, please visit [www.baa.org](https://www.baa.org).

Taking public transportation is strongly encouraged. The following nearby MBTA stations will be open:

- Hynes Convention Center Station (MBTA Green Line)
- Prudential Station (MBTA Green Line)
- Back Bay Station (MBTA Orange Line / Commuter Rail)

- Arlington Station (MBTA Green Line)

Please note, Copley Station (MBTA Green Line) will be closed for the entire day on race day. For more information on MBTA service, please visit [www.mbta.com/events](https://www.mbta.com/events).

### BPLCONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD APPLICATIONS OPEN

Musicians! Apply to be a part of the BPL’s Concerts in the Courtyard 2022 season and get a chance to play live in our spectacular courtyard at the Central Library in Copley Square. All genres are encouraged. The deadline is April 4. Learn more and apply at [bit.ly/BPLCITC2022](https://bit.ly/BPLCITC2022).

### ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION AT CLARENDON STREET PLAYGROUND

Ring in Spring at the Clarendon Street Playground on Saturday, April 9, 10 AM - 12PM. Children and families are invited to delight in seasonal games

and crafts, complimentary beverages and snacks and balloon art at their favorite neighborhood playground. Donations will be accepted and directed to UNICEF to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please email [playground@nabbonline.com](mailto:playground@nabbonline.com).

### WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE SPRING FUNDRAISER

The Women’s Lunch Place will host their spring fundraiser “Eat, Lunch, Give” on Thursday, April 14, at the Park Plaza Hotel. Learn more at [womenslunchplace.org](https://womenslunchplace.org).

### FENWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION’S 49TH ANNUAL MEETING

Attend and celebrate the Fenway CDC’s accomplishments, hear keynote speech, and celebrate our community awardees



# South End Historical Society awarded grant from the American Historical Association

Staff Report

The South End Historical Society has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from the American Historical Association's Grants to Sustain and Advance the Work of Historical Organizations Program, which provides relief to institutions adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity was made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"The South End Historical Society is delighted and grateful to receive this substantial support and recognition for its ongoing project to document and understand the recent history of the neighborhood," said Paul M. Wright, Society Board member and coordinator of the project. "It will build on a successful

2018-2019 pilot project focusing on the South End's innovative Bancroft School, which is archived at the University of Massachusetts Boston, a partner in the project."

The South End, Boston, Oral History Project is an ongoing effort to capture the oral history of Boston's historic South End during a period of rapid social and cultural change, often characterized as "gentrification," from the 1960s through 1980s. The South End is the largest extant area of Victorian rowhousing in the country. Constructed originally as middle-class housing it has over the past 170 years welcomed successive "waves" of racial, ethnic, social, and economic groups. This study, covering the dynamic latter part of the twentieth century, will include those displaced as well as "newcomers." AHA-NEH funding will support com-

munity outreach and publicity, interviewer training, interview recording equipment, transcriptions, archiving, and community reports and followup. All of which, including fundraising, has been delayed and frustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

The South End Historical Society is one of fifty grant recipients (and one of only two in Massachusetts), which include site-based organizations, membership associations, and history departments at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Awardees will implement short-term projects that explore new ideas or build on experiments initiated during the pandemic—from online programming or publications to using new technologies or expanding audiences and accessibility.

"The past two years have been challenging for small

history organizations," said James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association. "Our awardees have made compelling cases for their status as essential resources, making vital contributions to public culture. The American Historical Association (AHA) is pleased to provide funding for our colleagues to promote historical work, historical thinking, and the presence of history in public life."

"NEH is grateful to the American Historical Association for administering American Rescue Plan funding to help history organizations around the country recover from the pandemic," said NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo). "Small museums, historical societies, college history departments, historic sites, and community archives are essential to keeping and telling America's story. These ARP awards will

allow these institutions to develop new programs and resources that will expand access to this important history."

About the South End Historical Society: Founded in 1966 by interested citizens who recognized the significant architectural quality and rich cultural and social history of the South End, the Society engages in historical research, collects and preserves data and real and personal property that may have value for the future, encourages historical research, protects and promotes interest in historical buildings and social and cultural groups, conducts educational and other events, through outreach, advocacy, intervention, publications, and special projects. To learn more about the South End Historical Society please visit: <https://www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/>

# Esplanade Association releases 2021 Annual Report

By Dan Murphy

On the heels of its annual meeting on Monday, April 4, which returned as an in-person event at the Westin Copley Place Hotel (and was also held via Zoom), the Esplanade Association (EA) also released its 2021 Annual Report this week.

With the nonprofit celebrating 20 years of its continuing partnership with the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in '21,

EA marked this milestone with several special events highlighted in its Annual Report, including notably, "Hatched: Breaking through the Silence" – an original 15-minute visual performance led by Boston-based creative Maria Finkelmeier of MF Dynamics, which was specifically designed for the then-80-year-old DCR Hatch Shell. The free program ran from Jan. 22 through Feb. 22 of last year, with multiple showings each night.

May 7 was a particularly

memorable day on the Esplanade, when former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski visited the park to announce his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to EA for a complete renovation of the Charlesbank Playground, which will be renamed "Gronk Playground."

September also brought more big news for the park, with EA announcing its \$20 million commitment to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to fund Charlesbank Landing, a two-acre riverfront park proposed for the now-vacant lot where the Lee Pool complex once stood.

And on Dec. 18, the lights at the top of the Prudential Center again turned green to honor EA when the group was selected for the second year in a row by the Prudential Center and Boston Properties for inclusion in the Prudential Center's annual 31 Nights of Light, which celebrates a different nonprofit each night of December with its rotating light display.

EA renewed its commitments to Climate Action, as well as to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in 2021, while last year also marked the third year for Esplanade Arbor Fund (L.E.A.F.) initiative, which was established in fall 2019 to help build a stronger and healthier

tree canopy for the Esplanade.

2021 also marked the return of several popular programs to the park sponsored by EA, along with the introduction of several new ones, including Frost Fit Winter Series and Summer Fit Winter Fitness Series; new music and movement sessions with the Boston Music Project called "Saturdays at Stoneman"; and the first-ever Esplanade Community Day on Sunday, Aug. 29, which kicked off with the Esplanade 5K Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and also featured a music and movement session led by the Boston Music Project, and a special Ground-Beat Music Concert curated by BAMS Fest.

Volunteers also continued to make a huge difference in the upkeep of the Esplanade in 2021, putting in a total of 1,400 hours in the park over the course of the year. Between March and November of last year, 700 volunteers joined EA to remove 800 bags of trash, and to paint 72 park benches.

EA was also again selected last year by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) as an official charity team of the 125<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon, and on Oct. 11, Team Esplanade, which comprised 11 runners, went on to participate in the footrace to raise more than \$100,000 for the Esplanade.

The Esplanade was the venue for several festive events sponsored by EA last year, including Moondance En Plein Air on Sept. 18 – an open-air Moondance Gala at the DCR Hatch Shell, which drew more than 300 guests and went on to raise more than \$1 million for the park.

Nearly 300 guests were also on hand for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Dock Party on Thursday, July 22, at the Community Boating Docks.

Meanwhile, EA made \$275,000 in improvements to the Miriam & Sidney Stoneman Playground last year and also received a \$50,000 DCR Partnership Matching Grant, which will allow EA and DCR to design and install "more music play, educational panels, and the first spinning equipment" in the playground.

EA has also "reengaged" artist Mitch Reyerson to create a new wood piece for the playground in 2022 to replace his original wood sculpture, which was removed in the winter of 2021 due to decay.

Also in 2022, EA will partner with DCR and the Boston landscape design firm, Stoss and the Boston transportation planning firm, Nelson/Nygaard, to develop strategic proposals for Phase 1 design modifications to improve pathway safety at key intersections of the Esplanade.

## NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 9

on Thursday, April 7, 6PM – 7:15PM. For more information and to register for the virtual meeting, visit [fenwaycdc.org](https://fenwaycdc.org). Questions? Please contact Hang Le at [hle@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:hle@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 865-9915.

## INDOOR/OUTDOOR 2022 SPRING OPEN STUDIOS

Please join the artists of the Fenway Studios at 30 Ipswich Street, Boston, MA 02215 for a springtime weekend celebration on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 11AM – 5PM. Learn more at [fenwayartstudios.org](https://fenwayartstudios.org).

## FENWAY CARES FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Fenway Cares distributes free food boxes every other Wednesday at the following locations:

- West Fenway: Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. (pickups at Jersey St. entrance).
- East Fenway: Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Rd. (in case of inclement weather pickup is under the breezeway next to Whole Foods and across from Caffè Nero).

Upcoming distribution dates:

- Wednesday, April 13, 27, 3:30PM - 4:30PM
- Wednesday, May 11, 25, 3:30PM - 4:30PM
- Wednesday, June 8, 22, 3:30PM - 4:30PM



## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Biega, Alexandra	Webster, Marie P	109 Beacon St #2	\$1,200,000
Anagnos LT	Tucker, Harry S	167 Beacon St #7	\$655,000
Enaud RT	Bell, Jill M	285 Beacon St #2A	\$1,850,000
Kamyab, Sajedeh	Roselyn Frank RET	354 Beacon St #5	\$635,000
Squires, James	Anderson, Howard M	300 Boylston St #603	\$4,450,000
Enaud RT	Bell, Jill M	285 Beacon St #2A	\$1,850,000
Choi, Jeonghoon	Tsai, Richard T	636-638 Beacon St #405	\$517,000
Pospischil, Martin R	Dima, Liliana	466 Commonwealth Ave #302	\$585,000
Gary Jr, Jason W	Lee, Jungmin	139 E Berkeley St #401	\$840,000

### BEACON HILL

97 Charles LLC	Unit 1 Pinckney St RT	97 Charles St #97	\$1,150,000
Chouraqui, Fabrice	Hanley FT	121 Charles St #3	\$1,055,000
Colonese, Courtney R	Sambucci, John	21 Revere St #1	\$490,000
Hirsch, Joshua A	Kronish, Daniel P	66 Revere St	\$2,187,500

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Bushnell, Robert	Powell, Catherine M	15 Cazenove St #3	\$710,000
Garey, William	6 Fayette Street LLC	6 Fayette St	\$1,605,000
Portal, John-Luke G	Comer, Michael J	16 Gray St #2	\$920,000
27 Isabella St Unit 5 NT	Aird, Carlton	27 Isabella St #5	\$3,550,000
Leslie, Benjamin J	Lets Go Realty LLC	180 Marlborough St #2	\$2,225,000
Choi, Philip	Krop, Ian	201 W Brookline St #102	\$3,295,000
Rojas, Elizabeth	Chattopadhyay, Kajal K	63 Burbank St #11	\$453,000
Wang, Xinyu	Peerless, James	52 Charlesgate E #155	\$515,000
Zhang, Yue	56 Charlesgate E 146 RT	56 Charlesgate E #146	\$540,000
Mccarthy, Barbara A	Mortazavi, Ruby	30-34 E Concord St #8	\$670,000
128 Botolph LLC	Mohawk Sisters LLC	128 Saint Botolph St	\$2,800,000
Kogan, Howard	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #1102	\$2,324,900
Jaber, Maha J	761 Harrison Church LLC	40 Traveler St #603	\$1,300,000
Lau, Lai	Potsidis, George	122 Union Park St	\$2,565,000
Velde, Jeannette A	Nicol, Frederic	112 W Concord St #2	\$930,000
Daher, John	Coe, Arthur	1180-1200 Washington St #202	\$900,000
Marrero, Trevor	1950 Wa Street LLC	1948-1950 Washington St #4D	\$860,000
Levin, Boaz N	11 Worcester Sq Unit 4	9-11 Worcester Sq #4	\$1,850,000
Lee Ding FT	Ken&Leona Chan FT	41 Worcester Sq #6	\$460,000
Niessen, Isabella C	Gaulin, Mathieu	82 Worcester St #3	\$2,950,000

### WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Koconis, Christos	Raymond, Robert	8 Battery St #6	\$440,000
Young, Cissy	Lohmar FT	110 Broad St #502	\$1,975,000
Liu, Sheng-Yi	Lamb, J Dayne	1 Franklin St #2101	\$1,360,000
PDS Property LLC	DLC LLC	170 Tremont St #1203	\$1,168,000
Harik, Mario	Blank, Michael	580 Washington St #PH7	\$1,499,000

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

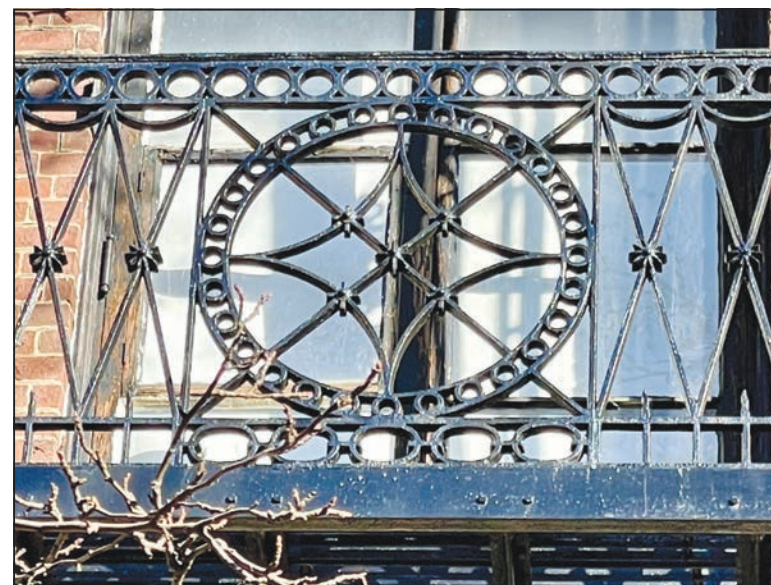


The carved wooden detail in the last clue is over the door on 299 Beacon Street built circa 1870. The website [www.backbayhouses.org](http://www.backbayhouses.org) notes that it was built as, "... one of four contiguous houses (299 Beacon and 1-3-5 Exeter) which form a single unit between Beacon Street and Public Alley 417."

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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