



THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## ‘The Embrace’ memorial unveiled on the Common ahead of MLK Day

By Sun staff

Just ahead of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, “The Embrace” - the long-awaited memorial to the civil rights leader and his wife, Coretta Scott King - was unveiled during a ceremony on Friday, Jan. 13, on the Boston Common.

Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, the Boston Art Commission (BAC), and Embrace Boston for the unveiling of The Embrace and the 1965 Freedom Plaza by artist Hank Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group on the Boston Common. The memorial was initiated via a partnership between the City of Boston and Embrace Boston and “aims to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. and Coretta Scott King, celebrate their history in Boston, and spark a public conversation on advancing racial and social justice in Boston today,” according to a press release from the city.

In her remarks, Mayor Wu said: “The Embrace will be a revolutionary space in our country’s oldest public park for conversation, education, and reflection on the Kings’ impact in Boston and the ideals that continue to shape the fabric of our city. The recognition of Coretta Scott King shows that we are a city that will take on the full legacy of Kings and challenge injustice everywhere from a place of love. As we continue our work to ensure Boston is a city for everyone, this memorial is a powerful call to embrace each other more, embrace our nation’s history and



MAYOR’S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

“The Embrace” memorial on the Boston Common was unveiled on Friday, Jan. 13.

embrace what’s possible when we center community.”

Also on hand for the event was Martin Luther King, III, the oldest son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King,

who said: “My parents’ time in Boston is often a forgotten part of their history – and the history of the movement they helped inspire. The Embrace is a commemoration of their relationship

and journey and represents the meaningful role Boston served in our history. This is more than just a sculpture, this historic

(THE EMBRACE Pg. 6)

## Frost Fit winter fitness series returns Jan. 28 to Esplanade

By Dan Murphy



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

A scene from past Frost Fit fitness events with November Project on the Esplanade.

Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and again presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, gets started with a three-hour event on Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fiedler Field.

The day’s activities will include a Morning Walk with the 261 Fearless Club New England – a nonprofit organization dedicated

(FROST FIT Pg. 4)

## Proposed redevelopment of Villa Victoria Center for the Arts site discussed

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency held its third virtual public meeting on Monday, Jan. 9, regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts site in the South End.

IBA (Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción), a South End-based nonprofit community development corporation, has proposed a single-phase project comprising a 26,000 square-foot, four-story

building that will be home to a new multi-purpose community arts center. It will include a performance and events multipurpose space; art exhibition space; practice rooms and classrooms; meeting and community rooms; and offices for IBA administration, resident services, youth programming and other arts and services, as well as a management office for the IBA housing properties.

The site at 85 West Newton St.

(VILLA VICTORIA Pg. 7)



# EDITORIAL

## SO FAR, WE'VE DODGED THE ENERGY BULLET

The winter season can be viewed in two ways.

Meteorological winter is considered to be the three months of December, January, and February. Astronomical winter runs from December 22, the date of the winter solstice, to March 21, the date of the vernal or spring equinox.

So, ever the optimists that we are, we'll take the former version of the winter season, which means that as of this week, we've crossed the midpoint of this winter.

With the war in Ukraine disrupting world energy supplies, government policy-makers and energy experts across the globe analyzed the approaching winter season with trepidation. A harsh winter had the potential to leave Europe with severe energy shortages and America with sky-high prices for oil and natural gas, with some even predicting rolling blackouts in New England in the event of a cold winter because of a lack of energy supplies to power our electrical grid.

However, the winter of 2022-23 has been exceptionally mild in the Northern Hemisphere, reducing world demand for energy. Here in New England, other than a brief cold snap at Christmas-time, we have been fortunate to have experienced a warmer-than-normal weather pattern that has extended from the beginning of November through all of January.

A colder-than-normal winter could have had a devastating impact on the pocketbooks of New Englanders. The inability to construct a natural gas pipeline from the Marcellus Shale in nearby Pennsylvania (which is estimated to have the second-largest natural gas reserves in the world), coupled with the outdated Jones Act (which essentially means that we cannot transport liquefied natural gas via ship from our own Gulf of Mexico), has left us vulnerable to the wild swings of the global energy market and an unnecessary reliance on dirtier-burning oil.

There has been a large, negative impact to the environment because of our shortsightedness in assuring access to our domestic natural gas supplies here in the U.S.: We have had to use so much oil to power our electric grid -- which normally relies on natural gas -- that we have negated many of the gains of recent years in reducing our carbon emissions. Coupled with the increase in the use of coal for electricity generation in Europe (which they have used to replace their natural gas shortfalls because of the cutoff of supply by the Russians), the climate has been made far dirtier this year.

The warm winter thus far has been a good news/bad news situation: Our energy supplies have been sufficient to keep us warm at manageable (though still-high) prices, but it has come at a great cost to the environment.

And beyond the immediate aspect of this winter, that we are having such a mild winter in the first place is just further evidence that climate change is here to stay.

## THE HUSBAND ALWAYS IS THE PRIME SUSPECT

The disappearance of a Cohasset mother of three who has been missing since January 1, once again has highlighted the tragic, but undeniable, reality that a woman in the United States is more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by a random stranger or anyone else in her life.

We realize that her husband, who presently is under arrest for misleading police in their investigation into her disappearance, is presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, we would note that the circumstantial evidence at this point that has been reported in the press points overwhelmingly to her cold-blooded murder by a man with a sociopathic personality.

(The husband is awaiting sentencing in federal district court on felony charges stemming from his theft of artwork from a college roommate's family and subsequent forging of that artwork that duped buyers. In addition, according to news reports, he also allegedly bilked his father out of a substantial sum of money and then, when his father cut him out of his will, took items from his father's estate.)

A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the U.S., totaling more than five million incidents of domestic violence among U.S. women aged 18 and older every year, resulting in nearly 1300 deaths and two million injuries, in communities both rich and poor.

To put it another way, more than three women are killed by their husbands/boyfriends (or ex-es) every single day in America.

This incident also has highlighted that domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic levels. It was another incident in 1978 in Cohasset, the small and extremely wealthy community on the South Shore, when a woman was shot by her husband, who in turn shot their three young children (all of whom survived) before turning the gun on himself, that led to the law that allows a victim of domestic violence to obtain a restraining order (commonly-known as a 209A order) to keep her abuser away from her.

This sad incident further highlights that women are most at risk to violence during separation from their intimate partner -- and that was the case for the Cohasset woman, who had bought a home in Washington, D.C., where she had taken a job and planned to move with her three boys, while the husband awaits a lengthy federal prison sentence for his financial crimes.

We will reiterate that the husband is presumed innocent until proven guilty in this matter.

However, regardless of how this sad and tragic incident plays out, it has shone the spotlight on the scourge of domestic violence -- now known as Intimate Partner Violence -- that still pervades our culture despite decades of awareness and changes in the law at the state and federal levels.



## GUEST OP-ED

### Renting or buying, which is best for you?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

A retired minister and his wife had never owned a house. They had spent all their married lives living in housing provided by churches. At age 65 they bought a house and financed it for 15 years. They had been frugal and had saved a good down payment. They paid for the house by age 80. The value of the house increased over the years and at age 83 they sold the house and received a very nice check. The money from the sale was enough to help them fund their next ten years in a nice assisted living apartment. While taking on a mortgage at 65 appeared crazy to some it afforded them financial security further down the road.

Many years ago, I bought a modest new house that cost \$151,000. I barely scraped together the nearly \$30,000 down payment. The house was financed for 15 years. I began the laborious journey of writing a monthly check to the bank. After about eight years, I needed money to pay medical bills and was able to borrow \$30,000 against my equity. It was nice that I had the equity because at that time I really needed the cash. Looking back, I would never do that again because it made the actual cost

of my house increase to \$181,000. For a couple of years, I had two payments to make to the bank. A couple of years later my wife passed. If I had needed to borrow \$10,000 against my house, I could have done so to pay for funeral expenses. Fortunately, we had both taken out small insurance policies that covered that cost. Eventually I refinanced and consolidated the mortgages. By the grace of God I still paid for the house in 15 years.

I don't like monthly payments or paying rent. For most of us, at some point in our lives there will be a monthly payment of some kind. I've lived in apartments on several occasions and even houses furnished to me by congregations I served. I didn't care for either one. I'm not saying I wouldn't do it again but my preference is to live in a place that is actually mine for as long as possible.

Renting a house or an apartment works for many at different stages of life. Buying a house is tough because it is a major financial commitment. You normally have to come up with 20% of the price to pay down as well as have the income to make the payments. That's not always easy.

New houses in a nearby neighbor-

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ALL ABOUT HEAT PUMPS--WEBINAR  
FEBRUARY 1

Dear Editor,

Heat pumps have been getting a lot of buzz—and a lot of questions. This free webinar, Wednesday February 1 from 7-8 pm, is your chance to learn. It's worth learning even if you think heat pumps don't apply to your housing situation.

The Downtown Chapter of Mothers Out Front, a non-profit mobilizing for a livable future, is presenting Loie Hayes of the Green Energy Consumers, a non-profit that harnesses consumer power to speed the transition to a low-carbon future.

Why Should I Care About Heat Pumps? They are a necessary part of our future. We must move away from fossil fuels to mitigate climate change and meet our city and state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings in Boston account for a whopping 70% of the City's emissions.

What Are Heat Pumps? Heat pumps can transfer heat into your home from air, water, or the ground outside your home. The webinar will focus on air-source heat pumps, which have a compressor unit outside connected to either a system of heating/cooling ducts or to one or more ductless air handlers or "heads".

Do They Really Work in New England? Yes! They work in low

temperatures—and provide cooling in summer as well!

Really-- a Heat Pump Could Replace My Air Conditioner? Absolutely. Some suggest they should be called "heat and cool pumps".

Aren't They Expensive? The webinar will note a variety of subsidies, credits, and tax incentives that help with the initial investment, as well as the savings over time.

Do they work in small apartments, or only in single family homes? Heat pumps can be effective in a great variety of settings, including a single room or office, a single-family home, or a multi-unit building. Configurations vary. Ductless systems can work for a single room or apartment, with a "mini-split" fixture mounted on the floor or wall or ceiling. Buildings with a central duct system for a furnace or air conditioning can often use those duct systems.

How Do I Figure Out Whether Heat Pumps Make Sense for My Apartment or Building? The webinar is a great first step. It will address these and many other questions and invite you to ask your own.

To join the webinar, you can sign up at [https://www.mothersoutfront.org/events/boston\\_ma\\_20230201/](https://www.mothersoutfront.org/events/boston_ma_20230201/).

Betsy Peterson,  
Mothers Out Front  
Downtown Boston

## BTD officials outline plans for traffic-calming measures in East Fenway

By Dan Murphy

Boston Transportation Department officials were on hand for the Tuesday, Jan. 17, virtual meeting of the Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Committee to discuss the city's planned traffic-calming measures for the East Fenway, including the installation of a contraflow bike lane on a swath of Hemenway Street.

The bike lane would sit next to the parking lane and only extend the section of Hemenway Street between Westland Avenue and Boylston Street, where north-bound traffic is situated next to the parking lane, said Hannah Fong, a BTD planner.

Striping would be used to delineate the bike lane from the adjacent travel lane, said Fong, while "speed humps" could be installed approximately 150 to 200 feet apart to encourage drivers to adhere to the 20 mph posted speed limit.

(Raised crosswalks typically measure about 6 inches high, said John Monacelli, BTD senior engineer, while speed bumps, which he described as "pillows of asphalt" that can be installed quickly and easily, usually stand around 3 inches high.)

Accessible curb ramps could be added to improve visibility by pushing parking back a space so drivers can see pedestrians stepping into the crosswalk, said Fong.

Neighbors will be notified of the planned project via postcards and fliers, she said, while com-

munity events are also planned to solicit feedback from the public on the best locations for speed bumps as part of an "ongoing conversation."

Charlotte Fleetwood, a senior planner with the BTD, added that they would return to the community with new locations for the sidewalk and ramp upgrades proposed for the project area.

The city's goal is to start construction on the project later this year, according to Fong.

Rich Giordano, director of policy and planning for the Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) and a member of the Fenway NIC steering committee, as well as a bicyclist, asked if the placement of bike lane and the parking lane could be switched, so that the bike lane would directly abut the curb.

Monacelli responded that this

isn't an option, given the physical restraints of the roadway and the need to provide adequate space for fire vehicles, as well as to provide enough room at the curb for Public Works' trash sweepers and snowplows to navigate.

Fleetwood added that another option that hadn't been presented is to remove parking on one side of the street.

For more information on the city's plans for traffic calming in the East Fenway, visit [boston.gov/departments/transportation/east-fenway-traffic-calming](https://boston.gov/departments/transportation/east-fenway-traffic-calming).

The Fenway NIC is an all-volunteer group of neighborhood residents, organizations, and businesses, which is facilitated by Berklee College of Music in an effort to encourage shared stewardship of the Fenway neighborhood. The group meets on an approximately quarterly basis.

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Property Preview:  
Friday, January 27  
(11am-1pm)

**CORRECTION:** Due to a reporter's error, the headline on last week's front-page story on the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's work to petition the city to adopt a citywide "shadow prevention policy" erroneously identified the group as the Charles River Conservancy.

## OP-ED (from pg. 2)

hood are presently selling for \$400,000. Most of them are modest three to four-bedroom houses. Having enough money to make the down payment and monthly payments is a lot for any person or family.

However, rent is expensive. Depending on where you live you may be paying \$800 to \$3,000 a month for a small apartment. You don't have maintenance or property taxes but you'll also never see that money again. A friend of mine sold her house at age 70 and moved into an apartment complex for people over age 55. She pays rent but she says the landlord treats her well and is timely with upkeep. A land-

lord who is very untimely with upkeep is very frustrating.

There are pros and cons to owning and renting. Choosing depends on your situation and personal preferences. A landlord can raise your rent and have rules pertaining to pets, painting, and more. However, it may be just exactly what you need. Typically, you don't want to sink your money into property if you are going to move in three or four years. You might come out ahead if you buy a fixer upper and have the time and money to improve the property. You don't want to make a bad buy. Buying property that you can't resell is a bad idea, unless you love it and plan to live

there a long time.

Keep in mind that a big chunk of most American's wealth is in the house they own. If you pay for it and maintain it you can normally sell it to someone and recoup a lot of your money. You might even make a nice profit.

*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.*

## OBITUARIES

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# Your Property Matters

By Diana Coldren

Did you know that qualified taxpayers can apply to effectively save up \$3,456.50 on their real estate tax-bill for fiscal year 2023!

If the residential exemption does not appear on your Fiscal Year 2023 third quarter tax bill (recently mailed and due Feb. 1), you may still file an application by April 3 for the fiscal year 2023 exemption.

It is not too late to save on your Fiscal Year 2023 Boston Real Estate Taxes! The City of Boston operates on a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30. For Fiscal Year 2023, the maximum portion exempt from taxation is \$321,834.26. At a rate of \$10.74 per thousand, this translates to a potential savings in real estate taxes of \$3,456.50.

According to the City's Residential Exemption application, "Every taxpayer in the City of Boston who owns residential property as of January 1, 2022 and uses that property as his or her principal residence for their calendar year 2021 for Massachusetts income taxes, may be eligible for the Fiscal Year 2023 residential exemption. In certain circumstances, you may be eligible if you obtained your principal residence between January 1 and July 1, 2022."

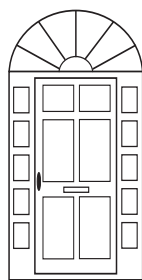
The printable online application is now available and the deadline for submission is Monday April 3, 2023. Even if you have received the exemption in the past, you may want to double check to see if the exemption is in still in effect for your property. It is important to review your tax bill every year to make sure the exemption is in force.

## Example:

If you qualify, and the total taxable valuation of your home is \$2 million you will owe approximately \$21,480 (\$2,000,000 x tax rate of \$10.74 per thousand) without the residential exemption. With the exemption, your taxable valuation may be \$2 million minus the fiscal year 2023 residential tax exemption of \$321,834 resulting in a total taxable valuation of \$1,678,166. The tax owed would be \$18,023.50

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(\$1,678,166 x \$10.74 per thousand) resulting in a tax savings of \$3,456.50. Please note that this example does not include the Community Preservation Tax or other factors that may impact your individual situation.

**How can I apply for the exemption or see if the exemption has been applied for my property?**

Visit the City of Boston assessing site at <https://www.cityofboston.gov/assessing/search/>.

Or use the QR code below to



take you to the site with the link to the application. Type in your address, click on the "details"

link, and if eligible, click on the link to the application in the abatements/exemptions section. You can also verify if it has already been applied.

**Applications need to be mailed to:**

Assessing Department  
1 City Hall Square, Room 301  
Boston, MA 02201-2011

or submitted in person at City Hall by the Monday April 3, 2023, deadline. You may have

(PROPERTY Pg. 5)

## FROST FIT (from pg. 1)

to "female-specific running" – from 10:15-10:45 a.m., followed by a midday workout session with Lynx Fitness Club – a Back Bay-based, self-described "forward-thinking, luxury fitness club" – from 11 a.m. to noon. Complimentary hot chocolate will be available to guests between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-launch-event-tickets-507619833587> to reserve your spot for this free event.

Other free Frost Fit offerings will include Monday Workouts with November Project every Monday from Jan. 30 to Feb. 27, between 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Fiedler Field. Instructors from November Project – a Boston-based, free "fitness movement" for the winter months – will be on hand to lead guests through running loops, bodyweight exercises, and other ener-

getic activities. Register for Monday Workouts with November Project at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-monday-workouts-with-november-project-tickets-506606532777?aff=odcleo-eventsincollection/>.

Also, Winter Walks: 261 Fearless Club New England take place on Tuesdays between Jan. 31 and Feb. 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. on the Hatch Shell lawn. Each walk, led by certified 261 coaches, will be 45 minutes in length and include various speeds of walking to elevate the heart rate for optimal fitness. Register for Winter Walks with 261 Fearless Club New England at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-261-fearless-club-new-england-tuesday-walks-tickets-506661426967?aff=odcleo-eventsincollection/>.

The Frost Fit series will also include Lynx Saturday Workouts on Saturdays between Feb. 4 and March 4 from 11 a.m. to noon at Fielder Field. Instructors from Lynx Fitness Club will lead participants through "45-minute high-intensity interval training (HIIT) classes that incorporate bodyweight strength training with high-intensity cardio bursts for maximum calorie-burning effect, set to fun and upbeat music," according to the Esplanade Association. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-saturday-workouts-with-lynx-tickets-506646452177?aff=odcleo-eventsincollection/> to register for Lynx Saturday Workouts.

For additional information on the Frost Fit winter fitness series, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/frost-fit-2023-1531439>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

A scene from past Frost Fit fitness events with November Project on the Esplanade.



## FRESH & LOCAL

# Home Economics

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Home economics is commonly defined as “cooking and other aspects of household management, especially as taught at school.” From the early 1900s, this subject was promoted for females. In the 1960s, the women’s rights movement objected to the traditional stereotype that girls should be taught cooking and homemaking and boys woodworking and mechanical skills.

Today, in places where this subject is taught, it’s referred to as “family and consumer sciences” (FCS) and is open to all students. In a recent interview, Ben Mervis, author of “The British Cookbook,” related that his interest in food came from an assignment in his “home economics” class.

His exposure to household management resulted in a career path. It might provide the skills needed to be a great single parent, partner, caregiver, or healthier human for a different person.

### Vital Life Skills

Feeding yourself and your family food that is healthy, nutritious, safe, and within your budget takes more education than you can obtain by watching a few TikTok videos or following food influencers on Instagram. Training in these vital life skills could result in better decisions about how we spend our food dollars, differentiate between good nutritional information and puffery, and minimize food waste. These topics are essential

to our personal well-being, economy, and environment.

Going back to that definition of home economics, we like the idea of teaching anyone who wants to learn how to be the CEO and CFO of an organization called a household. In addition to classes held in schools, community-based continuing education could make it possible for anyone suddenly responsible for feeding themselves and others to learn how to do it well. This might include young people on their own for the first time, seniors who need to adapt to cooking for one, or those who become single parents and need to feed a family.

### So Much To Learn

WBUR reported on the diminished availability of home economics classes and teachers. In that article, they quoted Carol Werhan, an FCS educator and member of the board of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The article’s author, Tove Danovich wrote, “...cooking taught through FCS courses is more about having the confidence to experiment in the kitchen than becoming a trained chef. ‘People don’t need to have perfection — you have to know what are the failures that are OK.’ ‘Burnt edges can be cut off. Overcooked meat can still be served.’ Werhan said.”

### Valuable Lessons

Learning that you must practice a skill to master it and that failure along the way is to be expected is a valuable lesson. The



*This photo of a home economics class was taken circa 1900–1919 when it was thought that only women needed the skills to manage a home.*

WBUR article also talked about students seeing the relevance of what they were doing and learning in FCS classes. At first, they may not realize they are using mathematics, chemistry, resource management, financial acumen, and organizational skills to follow a recipe or set up a menu. Still, before long, they see the connection.

Once, these skills were passed from generation to generation as they shared space in multi-generational households and large connected families. However, now we also hear of cases where the young are teaching their older family members to make better choices for the family and the environment. Any knowledge we can provide through FCS education at school or in the community can help ensure we have a new

generation of home-ec teachers, young and old.

*Do you have a question or*

*topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.*

### PROPERTY (from pg. 4)

to note the date your deed was recorded. You can find this date online at <https://www.masslandrecords.com/suffolk/> or by calling the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds office at (617) 788-8575.

### When will I receive the Exemption?

The third Quarter tax bill is the earliest that a resident can confirm that they are receiving a

residential exemption. Once an application is approved, you will receive a credit toward your fiscal 2023 taxes. If taxes have already been paid in full, the amount of overpayment will be refunded to the homeowner. You are encouraged to call the taxpayer and Referral Assistance Center to check the status of your application. See contact info below.

### Questions?

Please contact the city of Boston taxpayer and Referral Assistance Center at (617) 635 4287. Please have your ward and parcel number available to help the staff member access your information. This number is located on your tax bill.

*Diana Coldren is a real estate agent with Compass and a long-time resident of Beacon Hill.*

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# THE EMBRACE *(from pg. 1)*

monument is a symbol of the enduring power of love and beacon of hope for so many people across the globe see my parents life's work as a calling to make this world a better place. I hope it will inspire the next generation of Martin Luther and Coretta Scott Kings as we continue the fight for peace, justice, and equity for all."

Described as "a bronze figural abstraction" based on a photo of an embrace between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King after he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the Embrace measures 20 feet tall and 25 feet wide. It was the result of a public-private partnership initiated by entrepreneur Paul English, who established the fund at the Boston Foundation

and co-chaired the project with Rev. Liz Walker and Rev. Jeffrey Brown. The City of Boston and Embrace Boston convened an Art Committee comprising many of Boston's cultural leaders to begin the artist selection and design process for the memorial. The Committee was co-chaired by Barry Gaither, Director and Curator of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists and Special Consultant at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Karin Goodfellow, Director of Public Art for the City of Boston. The Boston Art Commission voted to approve the final design of the memorial in the spring of 2021.

The memorial sculpture, which will be voted into the city's public arts collection, sits within



Mayor Michelle Wu offers her remarks during the unveiling ceremony for "The Embrace."

the 1965 Freedom Plaza, which is emblazoned with a quotation attributed to Coretta Scott King. It's located adjacent to the Parkman Bandstand, where Dr. King spoke in 1965.

Said the artist, Hank Willis Thomas: "There are so many monuments that are memorials, but this is intended to really celebrate not only the Kings, but also their legacy and how their legacy plays out in our lives. I really wanted to make the work a call to action. A reminder that each of us has in us the capacity to be either of those two people or actually something inspired by and more influential. Through embracing another person our opportunities grow. I wanted to highlight the power and beauty of coming together with another person to manifest our shared goals. I am honored to be a part of the team that has built this centerpiece and gathering place in the historic city of Boston, and the location where the Kings met."

In addition to Thomas, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Martin Luther King, III, offers remarks, flanked by his wife, Arndrea Waters, and their daughter, Yolanda Renee King.

Wu, and members of the King Family, the unveiling program also included remarks from Gov. Maura Healey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and former Gov. Deval Patrick, as well as performances by local artists.

Gov. Maura Healey said: "This is a historic year for Boston and Massachusetts. The

Embrace's presence on the Boston Common, the nation's oldest public park, will forever serve as a reminder to all of us of the progress we've made and all that is still possible."

In her remarks, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley said: "The Embrace memorial commemorates the Kings' sacrifice, radical dream, and radical love, and what a source of pride that their story together began right here in the city of Boston. This historic tribute is also a symbol of their vision for radical, revolutionary change, and a reminder of the work that remains in Boston and beyond to build a world that centers justice, equity, and our collective liberation. I was honored to participate in such a groundbreaking event today."

The Embrace is expected open fully to the public in February, according to the city.

To learn more about the project, visit [www.embraceboston.org](http://www.embraceboston.org).



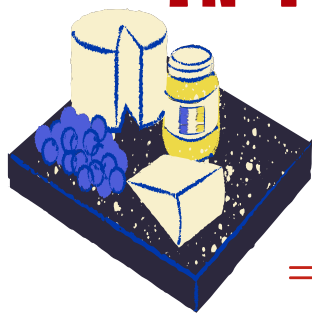
Gov. Maura Healey speaks at "The Embrace" unveiling ceremony on the Boston Common.



Elected officials and other dignitaries on hand for the Jan. 13 unveiling ceremony for "The Embrace" memorial on the Boston Common.

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BEACON HILL & BACK BAY





COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the redevelopment project proposed for the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts site in the South End.

## VILLA VICTORIA (from pg. 1)

sits adjacent to the city's O'Day Playground at 75 West Newton St., and "the proposed project is designed to have a relationship to West Newton Street, the park, and its neighbors," according to a description found on the BPDA's website for the project.

The German Gothic-style building that previously occupied the 9,301 square-foot site, with frontage on West Newton Street, was originally built as All Saints' Lutheran Church in 1898, and it had been home to IBA for more than 30 years. The building was demolished in 2020 after it was condemned by the city and subsequently deemed to be too expensive to repair by IBA.

Dr. Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, CEO of IBA, said the project would consolidate all of the organization's programming under one roof while being an "expression of Latinx culture" that would feature "progressive and vibrant architecture." The new building will allow IBA to expand its programming and better serve the community and residents, she added.

Besides the multi-purpose room, other "key program areas" would include community services, administrative offices, and education facilities, said Calderon-Rosado, while site improvement will be made to sidewalks, trees, lighting, and the alley.

Ann Beha, a project architect, said the new building would be composed of two parts, with the terraced multi-purpose room sitting below the rest of the four-story building, which faces the street.

The interior of the new building would be "very open," offering views of the park, and "full of natural light," said Beha.

The multi-purpose room would include retractable seats, as well as removable seats at the bottom, which could be cleared out to create a "completely flat-floor open space" for dance, music, and theatre events, said Beha.

Both the multi-purpose room and the foyer would be designed with hardwood floors and lined with hardwood panels in an effort "to be acoustically modest to control sound," said Beha.

Natasha Espada, founder and principal of the Needham architectural and design firm, Studio ENÉE, said in addition to the multi-purpose room, the building's first floor would contain lobby space, as well as bike storage and parking. (Stained-glass from the church has been preserved and could be "repurposed" for use in the lower lobby, she said.)

The gallery space will extend from the first floor to the second floor, said Espada, where classrooms will be located.

The project also presents the opportunity for a large door on the side of the building that would "open up to create a larger context for the multi-purpose room," said Espada.

The façade of the building's first level would comprise granite and gray metal elements, said Espada, while the facades of the levels above would be made of terracotta, with earth or brick hues, and brick.

The BPDA board is expected to vote on this proposal at its March meeting, said Calderon-Rosado, before the developer seeks final approvals from the Boston Landmarks Commission.

Construction documents are then expected to be worked on through the end of the summer in time to break ground on the project this fall. Construction is expected to then last between 18 and 20 months, she said, with the project wrapping up sometime in 2025.

Public comments can be submitted on the BPDA's project website (<https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/85-west-newton-street>), or emailed directly to Tyler Ross, BPDA project manager, at

Tyler.c.ross@boston.gov.

Meanwhile, the Boston Parks Department is planning its next meeting for March 1 or 2 to discuss the future of O'Day Playground, said Mayra I. Negrón-Roche, IBA's Chief Operating Officer.

This meeting is part of the com-

munity outreach process for the city's planned, estimated \$2.63 million reconstruction of the playground, which will upgrade the basketball and multi-use court; create an inclusive children's play area with poured-in-place safety surfacing; and add a water play area, along with exercise equip-

ment, benches, and game tables. The project will also provide a shade pavilion, new trees, and other plantings, according to the city.

The city was scheduled to hold its first design meeting for the project as an in-person event on Nov. 5 of last year at the playground.

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THE BEACON HILL WOMEN’S FORUM WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER CHERI MCCUTCHEN

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Cheri McCutchen, Founder of The Blessing Barn and Director of Operations for Compassion New England, believes in the power of taking initiative and acts of kindness. The Beacon Hill Women’s Forum (BHWF) featured speaker shared stories about the charitable organizations during her January 10 presentation, “Do Something... How Every Little Bit Adds Up To Hope and Help...It’s The Story of Compassion New England.”

“I came to be the person who believes in doing something from my mom and dad,” explained McCutchen, whose 91-year-old parents were public school teachers. “They were united in the idea that part of why we come into this world is to be part of a community. There is an opportunity to make a difference.”

The Blessing Barn Thrift Store & Sharing Centers in Mendon, Beacon Hill, and Mattapan sell donated clothes and household items to raise funds for those in need. Profits from sales sponsor crisis programs operated by Compassion New England.

“The Blessing Barn is a beautiful facility with a simple plan: local need/local aid,” continued McCutchen. “We will invest our best energy and resources.

The 35,000 square foot space at the main Mendon location has curated vignettes and a comfortable community room for guests to gather around a fireplace on comfortable couches, free of charge.

“Our store is not your typical thrift store,” boasted McCutchen. “Our team makes sure that the product that comes into us is presented in the most honorable way. If you come, you will never see the same thing. We change our displays every 15 days because everything sells.”



Co-President Wendy Oleksiak, Neighborhood Narratives speaker, Kristin Jenkins, Owner of 1928 Beacon Hill, and Programs Co-Director Cindy Sullivan.

The Mendon and Mattapan Blessing Barns also offer crisis centers for individuals to share their hardships in dignified, cozy spaces.

“If anyone was in need, they could come in and take it for free; but we required them to tell us their stories,” said McCutchen. “Within a few years, we partnered with different organizations like the police, WIC, and shelters. We do our best to create an environment where people are able to share their stories as though they are at an appointment with a physician or counselor; not begging for something.”

Seasonal items sold at the Beacon Hill Blessing Barn supplement Room in the City: free, short-term housing for families of patients seeking medical attention in Boston hospitals. When McCutchen’s grandson suffered a brain bleed 14 years ago, she remembered witnessing exhausted parents sleeping in the Boston Children’s Hospital lobby. She launched Room in the City in November 2020 to offer a comforting space for guests to focus on their loved ones’ recovery.

“Room in the City is a wonderful place that has helped many

families,” added McCutchen, a mother of three, and grandmother. “The first couple of days we were in Beacon Hill, people kept coming by. People know and love each other. The community of Beacon Hill has been amazing to be a part of.”

Compassion New England also has a special needs program for students and adults who have aged out of the public school system. The Happy Place serves 195 members and offers free opportunities for families and caregivers. Friendships are formed and vocational skills are learned in a sensory space, club house, and apparel store.

Blessing Barn Books and Happy Eats food truck, provided by The Happy Place, will be opening in February at the Mendon Blessing Barn to offer career opportunities for adults with special needs.

Visit The Blessing Barn at 122 Charles Street, Beacon Hill, Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, call (508) 634-2276, or visit [www.TheBlessingBarn.com](http://www.TheBlessingBarn.com) to donate seasonal items, learn more about contributing, or pay for a one-night stay at Room in the City.

“I encourage you to get to know yourself, and what you want to engage in,” said



Featured speaker, Cheri McCutchen, Founder of The Blessing Barn



Programs Co-Director Cindy Sullivan speaking with members during cocktail hour.



Regina Fuertes, Public Relations Jayne Damesek, new member Cynthia Kelley, Stacie D'Eramo-Burns, and Maura Harty.

McCutchen. “Your happiness is tied to other people’s happiness. You can bring joy to people by being a person who does something. When we’re serving each other, we are creating an opportunity for softness in our culture.”



Co-President Shaili Gupta and Secretary Michelle Burian.



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# Wu announces launch of \$10 million Cultural Investment Grant Program

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) announced the launch of the City of Boston's Cultural Investment Grant, a \$10 million multi-year investment in transformative growth opportunities for an equitable arts sector in Boston. The Cultural Investment Grant is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as part of the City of Boston's recovery efforts. The grant responds to the overlapping, devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sector and on communities of color across Boston.

"This unprecedented City investment will help growing arts and cultural organizations strengthen their roots in our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This program will elevate and scale arts and culture organizations, particularly in underserved communities, and make transformative, new investments that will deepen the connection to arts for all our residents."

The grant will direct funds to build capacity for arts and cultural organizations working in partnership with communities in Boston most impacted by the pandemic, particularly communities of color. Grant amounts will be between \$600,000 and \$3 million. Distributed over four years, the grants will provide investments in the cultural sector that will give organizations a path to thrive and sustain in Boston, create long term opportunities for all of Boston's communities to have access to the arts, and strengthen the local arts ecosystem with new and unprecedented investments.

Boston-based arts and cultural organizations that have both budgets under \$3 million and

501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship can apply. Priority will be given to organizations located within or working with communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations will also be evaluated on their demonstrated commitment to equity, the representation of the communities with which they work in their visions, missions, and programming, and their active partnerships within their communities.

The funding structure of the Cultural Investment Grant is divided into three tiers to include a range of arts and cultural organizations for which these funds will be transformative. The amount of funding allocated to each tier is informed by an organization's operating budget:

- At least three grassroots organizations with operating budgets under \$500,000 will each receive up to \$600,000 over four years.

- Up to two organizations with operating budgets between \$500,000 and \$2 million will each receive \$1 million over four years.

- Up to two organizations with budgets between \$2 million and \$3 million will each receive \$3 million over four years.

"Creativity is vital to a healthy, equitable, and thriving community, and investing in increased access to the arts and creative expression throughout the city is crucial," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "We hope this transformative funding enables cultural organizations to anchor themselves in their communities and build sustainable futures for lasting impact."

"This grant opportunity will amplify and empower grassroots organizations, creatives, and cultural leaders who continuously keep Boston's rich, diverse

history front and center," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "This is the first step in creating sustainable solutions for celebrating and preserving local arts and culture."

"This grant for Boston's arts and culture organizations is both a pivotal moment and a necessary direction for our city," said Catherine Morris, Director of Arts and Culture at the Boston Foundation and Founder and Artistic Director of BAMS Fest. "Our local organizations are not only the backbone of our neighborhoods but are vital lifelines to ensuring that programs are accessible, available and affordable; and that the next generation of cultural workers, artists, leaders and the like have pathways to economic freedom, space, career development, and creative autonomy. We, at the Boston Foundation hope that this type of grant opportunity inspires people to see the value and contribution that local organizations provide, and invest in the people within the arts and culture ecosystem, so that it remains sustainable, strong, and deeply connected."

"It is wonderful to start this year with an announcement like this," said Elsa Mosquera, Principal and Co-Founder of Agora Cultural Architects. "This is an absolutely extraordinary initiative because it acknowledges the transformative value that arts and cultural organizations have in their communities. This type of support represents an enormous opportunity for these organizations to have the economic stability they need to carry out their mission in an organized way, with well-paid cultural resources, while simultaneously amplifying the work they carry out in their communities."

"Boston needs to invest in organizations and artists that have been working to provide high quality and culturally responsive programming the BIPOC community for a long time, like Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), which serves more than 200 Latinx artists in the city and provides them with a venue and paid opportunities to showcase their talent," said Veronica Robles, Executive Director of Veronica Robles Cultural Center. "We are very excited about the transformative investment in Boston's cultural sector through this \$10 million multi-year funding opportunity."

"Across the City of Boston in the last few years, creativity and culture have been instrumental in strengthening bonds and providing connection and healing," said Cynthia Woo, Director of Pao Arts Center. "Art is embedded everywhere in our lives, in places we may not expect or take for granted. The arts have the power to bring people together for important conversations and to share joyful experiences. You'll find arts, culture, and creativity as crucial components of programs at community centers,

in religious spaces, and in public spaces and parks. The City's new investment in communities of color is a much needed start to supporting work that has been vital to the wellbeing of our neighborhoods, including Pao Arts Center's own Chinatown neighborhood, as we move forward to visioning a Boston that is not merely surviving, but thriving."

Interested organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) by February 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

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# EBNHC introducing the Office of the Patient Advocate

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Equity is one of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's (EBNHC) biggest focuses this year in all facets. With equity in mind and to improve patient service, the EBNHC is creating the Office of the Patient Advocate.

In a press release, Greg Wilmot, EBNHC's President and CEO, said the office will "provide patients, a significant number of whom are immigrants and non-English speakers, with an additional access point to address and resolve any concern that may arise."

Elida Acuña-Martínez, EBNHC's Senior Director of Interpreter Services, who will lead the office, described what its creation means for over 100,000 patients that the health center serves.

"By creating this office, we send a clear message to our patients and empower them to advocate for themselves and their families. Our team is here to support them in doing just that," said Acuña-Martínez in the same press release.

The creation of this office will undoubtedly be massive in the health center's emphasis on equity in that it will serve patients that may face barriers in the

healthcare realm. For example, according to statistics provided by EBNHC, 71% of its patients are below 200% of the federal poverty level, and 70% of patients are served best in a language that is not English.

Along with creating the Office of the Patient Advocate, the EBNHC has been hard at work in other areas to promote equity in its care.

The health center has created a diversified staff to better understand and serve its patients, with 50% of its 1,500 staff members being from its service area, 32%

(EBNHC Pg. 11)



EBNHC's President and CEO, Greg Wilmot (left) looks on as Vice President of Health Center Operations Jeffery Schuster speaks during a recent tour of facilities.

## EBNHC opens applications for nurse practitioner residency training program

Staff Report

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its third cohort of residents to join its Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Residency Program. This residency program aims to expand the pool of primary care providers who are well-prepared and committed to serving underserved populations.

EBNHC was one of five health care organizations in the

Commonwealth selected to participate in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) Statewide Investments Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program in 2021. Since then, the program has shown to be invaluable in

the training of new Family Nurse Practitioners.

The residency is a highly structured year of intensive clinical training that provides mentorship in a high-performance model of care. Training includes primary care sessions with a preceptor in a community health center setting, specialty rotations, didactic sessions, and quality improvement training. By the end of the program, residents will have gained the competence, mastery and confidence needed to be a NP primary care provider that serves culturally diverse and clinically complex patients.

"We are thrilled to continue our Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program," said Jackie Fantes, MD, FAAFP Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. "Our goal is to bridge the gap between academia and practice for new FNPs so that they feel competent and confident to hit the ground running as they enter the fast-paced world of health care. We want every patient to have a provider who empowers their decision making and respects their language, culture, race or ethnicity, and health care preferences."

The goal of the FNP training program is to ensure every new provider is prepared, supported, and satisfied with their career in primary care. "When I started at EBNHC 14 years ago as a new NP, the support, training and mentorship I received shaped me as a clinician and has driven me to want to do the same for the next generation of providers," said Residency Program Director

Katherine O'Brien, MSN, FNP-C. "This individualized residency, with an abundance of hands-on teaching, feedback and clinical mentoring, does just that."

Based at EBNHC sites in the South End, East Boston and Winthrop, the program will run from September 2023 to August 2024. The residency is a full-time, 12-month salaried position. Three slots are available. New Family Nurse Practitioners graduating in May 2023 or within the previous 18 months are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates preferred. Visit Family Nurse Practitioner Residency: Overview — EBNHC 2022 for more information and an online application.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston's South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit [www.ebnhc.org](http://www.ebnhc.org).

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Richards, Blake	Northern Standard Lt	25 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,292,500
Noureddine, Mohsen	Cuadra, Ruy A	497 Beacon St #7	\$510,000
Fandino, Carola	Charlesview 904 Rt	534 Beacon St #904	\$575,000
Jatoba LLC	Shs Holdings LLC	16 Marlborough St	\$16,286,000
Bozdemir, Ozgur	Pmc Marlborough Rt	298 Marlborough St #5	\$1,150,000
Wajk LLC	Devitre, Rustam K	390 Commonwealth Ave #102	\$1,200,000

### BEACON HILL

Petsko, Gregory A	Ladybug Boylston Prop LL	70 Brimmer St #330	\$500,000
Sarasin, Thomas J	Rebecca Ann Greven RET	51 Hancock St #12	\$415,000
Doane, Alec	Oleksiak, Stephen	40 Phillips St #1	\$775,000
Lasson, James R	Remo, Lawrence J	93 Pinckney St #1	\$495,000

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Zhang, Celia M	Fgp Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #207	\$665,000
Dwight Realty LLC 58	Five Twenty Tremont Rt	520-522 Tremont St	\$3,900,000
Cespedes-Yaffar, Larissa N	Gospel LLC	11 Cumston St	\$2,185,000
Pozzi, Jonathan L	Schwartz Mark N Est	12 Stoneholm St #318	\$400,000
Beerman, Adam	Pease, Danielle K	110 Union Park St #4	\$925,000
Mei Sheng Duh 2010 RET	Peng, Yanhua	43 Westland Ave #204	\$1,215,000
Galvez, Miguel A	Engstrand, Ian	9-11 Worcester St #4	\$740,000

### WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #1A	\$3,160,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Beha, Ann M	31-33 Kingston St #1B	\$65,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #1C	\$3,160,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #2	\$3,160,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #3	\$3,160,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #4	\$3,160,000
Suffolk&Bedford LLC	Radloff, Robert A	31-33 Kingston St #6	\$3,160,000
Ren, Jie	Reisa Ann Bunick T	151 Tremont St #8F	\$1,085,000

### EBNHC (from pg. 10)

speaking Spanish, and 45% being Latinx.

EBNHC has also done tremendous work with its Interpreter Services Department, offering interpretation in-person, over the phone, and via video. EBNHC statistics revealed that the health

center provided over 205,000 interpretations to patients in its last fiscal year with these services – a figure comparable to Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

As a new year gets underway, it is evident that with the cre-

ation of the Office of the Patient Advocate, the EBNHC is taking significant steps to provide the best and most equitable care to its patients.

"I know that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is not just a medical provider, but a trusted-community-based organization that provides our neighbors with hope, care, and critical resources," said Acuña-Martínez in the press release.

"We want our community to know that there are people in every corner of our organization who are here to advocate for them and help them achieve the best health care for themselves and their families," said Wilmot in the press release.

ity. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 2/8/2023 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Gina E Camillo unit #3002; Lisa M. Bazin unit #3052; Junior Mota unit #3118; James Suarez

unit #3120. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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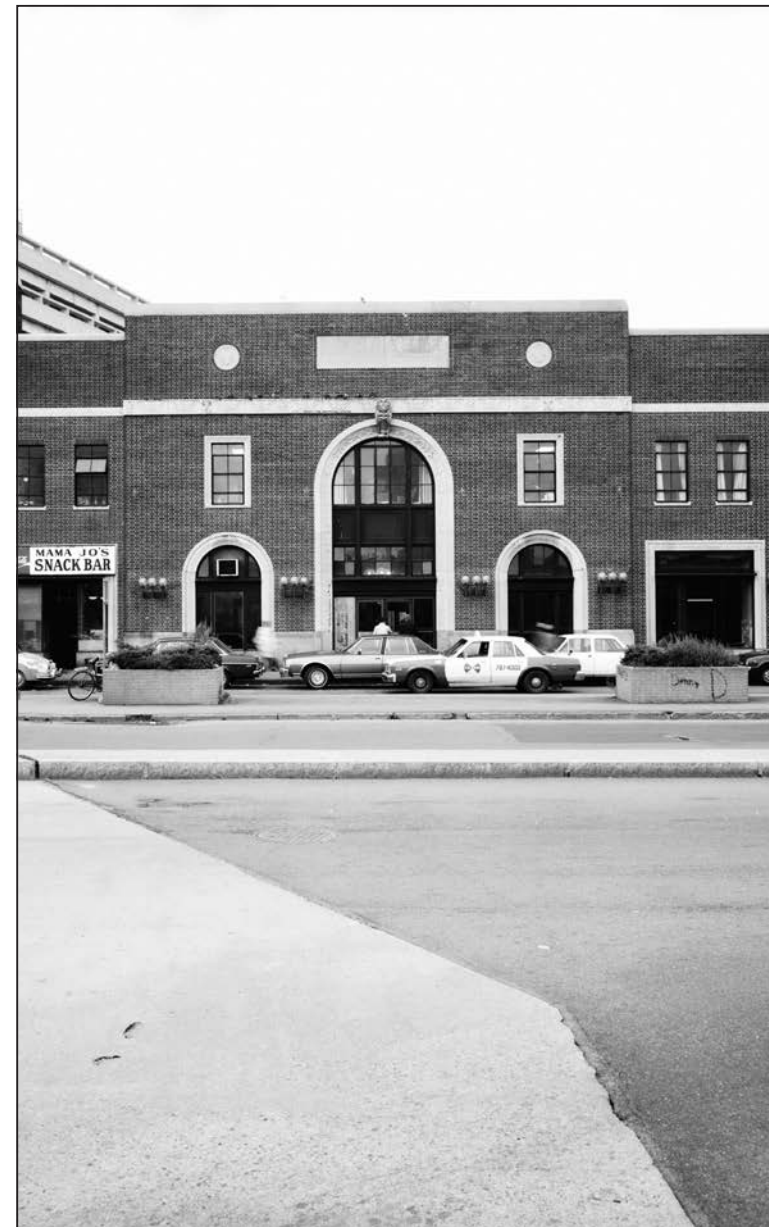
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## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The arches in the last clue are on Back Bay Station, as it looks now. Today's answer is a photo from the Library of Congress' "Historic American Buildings Survey." The collection notes that this location, "... has been the site of a major passenger station since 1899."

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay. 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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