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THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Fenway CDC's proposed Beacon Hill project discussed during virtual community meeting

By Dan Murphy

The Fenway CDC's proposed project that would bring much-needed affordable-housing ownership opportunities to Beacon Hill was discussed during a virtual community meeting sponsored by the city's Planning Department on Wednesday, March 26.

Per its agreement with developer JDMD, the nonprofit Fenway CDC (Community Development Center) will redevelop two adjacent properties located at 27-29 Hancock St. on Beacon Hill into 15 units at 80-100 percent AMI (Area Median Income) for new homeowners. None of the units will be SROs (Single Room Occupancy units), and JDMD has also agreed to donate up to \$300,000 for any possible cost overruns that the project might incur.

JDMD, which developed The Archer Residences – a luxury condo building on Temple Street - purchased 27-29 Hancock St. in 2018, with plans to gift the buildings to another developer for the creation of off-site affordable housing units to satisfy its IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy) with the city for the Archer project.

Attorney Jennifer Schultz said JDMD purchased the pair of Hancock Street buildings, which had historically served as rooming houses, with small rooms and a communal space, about seven years ago.

Since that time, the project has undergone three different iterations, said Schultz, with the first being a project comprising 39 rental SROs, which met largely with an unfavorable community response.

A second iteration of the project

also proposed rental SROs while working with a permanent supportive housing operator for significantly underserved and low-income communities, added Schultz, but that proposal was also roundly rejected by the community.

The third iteration came in response to extensive collaboration between the Mayor's Office of Housing and other stakeholders, including Rep. Jay Livingstone, District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, the Beacon Hill Civic Association, and Homes on Hancock – a grass-roots group which has continually advocated for the creation of adequate affordable housing at 27-29 Hancock St., noted Schultz.

"We found a way that, for all intents and purposes, served everyone's needs, without

(FENWAY CDC, Pg. 3)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Two adjacent properties at 27-29 Hancock St., which are poised to be redeveloped into 15 affordable homeownership units.



COURTESY OF THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Robert B. Dimmick, Janet Dracksdorf, and Stephanie Fletcher are seen enjoying the Gibson House Museum annual benefit in 2003 at the St. Botolph Club. (Dimmick will return again this year as the event emcee.)

Gibson House Museum's Victorian Masquerade benefit set for April 24 at Chilton Club

By Dan Murphy

In keeping with this year's Victorian Masquerade Party theme, guests in attendance at this year's 28th annual benefit for the Gibson House Museum on Thursday, April 24, at the Chilton Club will be encouraged to don masks, especially face coverings of the "amusing, artistic kind."

"People are invited to dress up, even though it's an early evening, and to wear masks," said Susan Ashbrook, a museum board member and benefit com-

mittee member who has been involved with the event every year since its inception.

This year, guests will enjoy with creative cocktails, a variety of hors d'oeuvres, and piano music, along with a few surprises, in an event meant to evoke the spirit of a 19th-century Masquerade.

The event will also offer a benefit raffle, which is now live online and includes a tour of the Beauport, the Sleeper-McCann House, a National Historic Landmark in Gloucester, a

Boston Athenaeum membership; two tickets to a performance of the musical, 'The Light in the Piazza,' at the Huntington Theatre; a food bundle from Eatly containing cocktail ingredients; an 'Instant Wine Cellar,' with a variety of six bottles of curated wine; and dinner at a variety of area restaurants, including at Mistral in the South End and at La Padrona - Chef Jody Adams new Italian restaurant at Raffles hotel, among other items. (You

(MASQUERADE PARTY, Pg. 2)

EDITORIAL

PLASTICS: IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

We recently wrote about the pervasiveness of plastics not only in our environment, but also in our bodies.

However, as ominous as we thought things were at the time we wrote those words, more-recent revelations by scientists across the globe have revealed that nano-plastics are coursing not only through every tissue and organ in our bodies, but in every living thing on the planet.

Plastics have been found in even the remotest, most pristine areas of the globe -- and are increasing in their concentration year-by-year.

Plastics, which are derived from petroleum, are used in just about everything that we take for granted in modern life. The air we breathe in our homes contains six times more plastic particles than the outside air thanks to the use of chemical plastic products in our clothing, furniture, and rugs.

In short, everything we eat, drink, or use contains plastics.

Some of the recent findings by scientists include the revelation that human brain tissues have been found to have the equivalent of a plastic-spoon's worth of plastic in them, with newer samples containing far more plastic than those from 20 years ago.

In addition, plastics have been found in the human reproductive organs and in breast milk, which means that every child born today is laden with plastic right from birth.

Having plastics in our bodies is bad enough, but it is estimated that the plastics industry uses thousands of chemicals to make its plastic products -- which means that the nanoplastics lodged in our bodies are leaching these chemicals into us as they break down inside us.

Thanks to the vast scope of the problem, no study yet has been able to establish a definitive link between plastics in our bodies and the increase in health issues that have confounded health experts, including the increases in colon cancer in young persons, higher rates of lung cancer among non-smokers, decreased fertility in both men and women, and the increase in auto-immune diseases.

However, given that many of the chemical compounds that are used to make plastics have been found to adversely affect human health, it is not a stretch to believe that the build-up of plastics in our bodies is a major contributor to the health issues that have arisen in recent years.

But here's the really bad news: Plastics in our environment are increasing every year -- and there is nothing any of us can do to decrease our exposure.

BCBS to provide free Bluebikes credit for riders affected by 2025 MBTA closures

Special to Sun

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross," BCBS), the title sponsor of Greater Boston's municipally owned bike-sharing system, Bluebikes, is offering a free \$20 Bluebikes credit to help commuters affected by MBTA service disruptions in 2025. With planned MBTA maintenance work impacting service throughout the year, this initiative provides an additional mobility option for residents across Greater Boston. Fully funded by Blue Cross, this offer underscores its commitment to supporting community access and wellbeing and complements the City of Boston's free unlocks offer tied to select MBTA closures, ensuring riders have flex-

ible, reliable options, including access to ebikes.

Starting March 31, riders can redeem the free \$20 Bluebikes credit by entering code BLUECROSSMAMBT in the "Rewards" section of the Bluebikes App. The credit applies to both pedal and ebike trips and can be used across Bluebikes' 500 stations across 13 municipalities, including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Credits are available while supplies last and must be used by Dec. 31, 2025.

"At Blue Cross, we are committed to providing communities with reliable and flexible trans-

portation options," Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross, said in a press release. "As the title sponsor of Bluebikes, we're proud to provide this free credit to help commuters navigate MBTA closures, while supporting active mobility and wellbeing for our communities."

Bluebikes is municipally owned by 13 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts and jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Somerville, and the Town of Brookline. The system is operated by Lyft and has been supported by Blue Cross as the title sponsor since May of 2018.

For more information on Bluebikes, visit bluebikes.com.

Meet Boston President and CEO Martha Sheridan receives Icon Award

Special to the Sun

Meet Boston President and CEO Martha J. Sheridan of the South End, who was presented with the annual ICON award by the Boston University School of Hospitality Administration (BU SHA) at the School of Hospitality's marquee event, the Hospitality Leadership Summit. The Summit took place at BU's Duan Family Center for Computing &

Data Sciences (665 Comm Avenue) on April 3.

The ICON recognizes an "Experience Innovator" each year who creates new and transformative paradigms in hospitality. BU SHA deemed that Martha J. Sheridan has reimaged Boston's tourism landscape since assuming her role at Meet Boston in 2019.

(MARTHA SHERIDAN, PG. 3)



Martha J. Sheridan

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MASQUERADE PARTY (from Page 1)

don't need to be present at the benefit to win raffle items.)

The annual benefit is the Gibson House Museum's biggest fundraiser each year. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Gibson House Museum - the Back Bay's only house museum, as well as the only authentic house museum in the City of Boston, "in that it was lived there by three generations of the same family and never used for any other purpose," noted Ashbrook.

"All the contents are authentic to the family, so it's a time capsule into a way of life among a certain wealthy class of Bostonians," added Ashbrook. "We also highlight the lives of the servants who worked for the family, and the house still has its orig-

inal kitchen and service areas."

The Gibson House Museum offers a range of different tours, including 'Charlie Gibson's Queer Boston,' which draws inspiration from the museum's founder, Charles Hammond Gibson, Jr., who was a writer, a preservationist, and a gay man.

For Pride Month in June, the museum is planning a number of events and activities based on the Gibson House's rich LGBTQ+ history, said Ashbrook.

Meanwhile, the Gibson House Museum's annual fundraiser originally began as a Sunday tea at the Four Seasons, and about five years later, it became an evening event with wine.

Although the Chilton Club has served as the event venue before, the annual benefit, which

has a different theme each time, was held at the St. Botolph Club the past few years.

"It's a bit of a departure," said Ashbrook of the event's return to the Chilton Club this year.

As for what guests can expect this year, Ashbrook said, "It's just going to be a fun evening. There aren't going to be any speakers. It's just a fun party with good food and creative cocktails."

A Victorian Masquerade Party - the Gibson House Museum's 28th annual benefit - will take place on Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Chilton Club, 152 Commonwealth Ave.

For more information on the event, and to purchase benefit and raffle tickets, visit <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit>.

One Boston Day 2025

City calls for service and good deeds to honor spirit of resilience

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston released the annual call to action for community-based organizations, businesses, and city of Boston residents to come together for volunteer events and acts of kindness in recognition of our City's spirit of care for one another in response to the tragic events of April 15, 2013. One Boston Day, observed on April 15, honors the victims, survivors, and first responders of the 2013 Boston Marathon. Mayor Wu is encouraging acts of kindness on Tuesday, April 15, and for people to take part in volunteer opportunities throughout the week.

"On One Boston Day, we remember the victims, survivors, families, and first responders of 2013, and center what unites our great city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "One of our darkest moments has become a call to carry out acts of kindness,

volunteer, and make a difference for our residents and our neighborhoods. I encourage everyone to reflect on this day and join in making a positive change in our communities."

City of Boston departments and workers will again this year be hosting service projects for people to give back to their communities on April 15 and throughout the week leading up to Marathon Monday, April 21. The Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing is facilitating a neighborhood cleanup for youth and families on Saturday, April 19, 2025, starting at 8:45 a.m. at Franklin Park Playstead. Interested volunteers are asked to register for the annual cleanup here.

"This April 15th, we join with people from across the city in remembering Martin, Krystle, Lingzi, Sean and Dennis," said Bill Richard, co-founder of the Martin Richard Foundation. "Our family continues to be humbled and grateful to all Bos-

tonians who wish to carry on the generous spirit of One Boston Day. Choose kindness in your words and actions, volunteer, or give to your favorite charity. We are proud to call Boston home."

"One Boston Day is a powerful reminder that even in the face of tragedy, kindness and courage can shine through. After my family and I survived the Boston Marathon bombings, we learned that trauma is the leading cause of death for those 44 and younger—a reality that inspired us to create The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation," said Audrey Epstein Reny, founder of The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "Through our center's work, we honor the resilience and generosity of the Boston community, turning heartbreak into hope and advancing trauma care to build brighter, healthier futures for all."

The Stepping Strong Center is

partnering with the City of Boston to promote acts of kindness through a life-saving blood drive. This Marathon Monday they will host a blood drive to benefit patients at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital who are in need of lifesaving transfusions due to traumatic injuries and other serious health conditions. The Stepping Strong Center Blood Drive will take place in Kenmore Square on April 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as part of the "One-Mile-To-Go Block Party". For more information and to schedule an appointment, please visit the Stepping Strong Center's website.

As the city marks 12 years since 2013, the City of Boston and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) will honor the day with a wreath laying in the Back Bay the morning of Tuesday, April 15. More details will become available in the coming

weeks.

"One Boston Day is always a special day for the City and our sport of running because we are reminded of the power and importance of uniting, recognizing, honoring, and serving," said Jack Fleming, President and CEO of the Boston Athletic Association. "The 129th Boston Marathon, presented by Bank of America, will take place in 2025 one week after April 15, and marks the 250th Anniversary of Patriots' Day. However, One Boston Day is forever connected to our Marathon and has become the day we reflect AND take action in that we acknowledge the selfless spirit and resilience shown by Bostonians."

More information about One Boston Day, including the 2025 Acts of Kindness Checklist is available on boston.gov/one-boston to provide inspiration and ideas on how individuals can get involved.

MARTHA SHERIDAN (from Page 2)

As a seasoned tourism leader, she now guides a 1,000-plus partnership organization dedicated to fostering a robust and equitable visitor economy in the region. Her leadership has been pivotal in securing major events, including seven FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at Gillette Stadium and the historic hosting of the 2023 Army-Navy Game in New England. Since taking the reins, Sheridan has quadrupled the operating budget of Meet Boston, an organization she rebranded from the Greater

Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau in 2022.

"I'm incredibly honored to receive the ICON Award. I share this recognition with my Meet Boston colleagues and all of the industry partners who enrich our work and make it possible," said Sheridan. "Boston's sports and entertainment scene is a vital vertical within the travel sector, helping to drive the regional economy while shining a light on Greater Boston as a world-class destination. These major events bring residents and visitors

together in a unifying spirit that benefits everyone."

The Hospitality Leadership Summit brings together students and faculty with hospitality industry colleagues for a day-long conference of inspiration and networking. For 2025, the Summit's theme focuses on hospitality in Sports and Entertainment—creating unforgettable fan experiences. The full Summit speaker line-up and registration information is available here.

"We are proud to recognize Martha J. Sheridan with the prestigious ICON Award," stated Arun Upneja, Ph.D., Dean of BU SHA, who will join Sheridan for a fireside chat conversation at the Summit. "Through her visionary leadership, Martha has redefined what it means to create truly memorable experiences. Her seamless integration of sports, entertainment, and hospitality has not only reimagined our region's tourism landscape but also serves as an inspiration to our students—especially as our School prepares to launch a new graduate program in Sports and Entertainment."

Sheridan will also moderate the morning panel of the Summit,

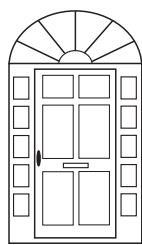
"Winning Experiences: Hospitality's Game-Changing Impact on the Fan Journey at Sports & Entertainment Events."

Past School of Hospitality ICON awardees include Padma Lakshmi, an Emmy-nominated producer, television host, food expert, and a New York Times best-selling author, as well as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People (2023); Niki Leondakis, CEO of CorePower Yoga; the co-founders of Airbnb Nathan Blecharczyk,

Brian Chesky, and Joe Gebbia; restaurant pioneer Danny Meyer, Founder and CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group and Shake Shack; and Richard L. Friedman, President and CEO of Carpenter & Company Inc., credited, among a long list of accolades, for reshaping the Boston skyline with The Four Seasons Hotel & Private Residences at One Dalton. For a list of ICON awardees, visit: ICON Award Winners.

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FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AT FENWAY PARK'S THE 521 OVERLOOK

The Fenway Civic Association held its 63rd annual meeting on Thursday, March 27, at The 521 Overlook at Fenway Park.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Rep. Jay Livingstone and Mayor Michelle Wu, with her newborn daughter, Mira Wu Pewarski.



Liza Meyer, Interim Parks Commissioner and Chief Landscape Architect for the City of Boston, as well as the incoming new president of the Friends of the Public Garden, who delivered a presentation on 'Understanding Shadow Impacts on Parkland.'



City Councilor at-Large Henry Santana.



District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



D. MURPHY PHOTO
Shown left, Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association board of directors.

Task force launched to address public safety in Downtown Boston

Special to Sun

A cross-sector coalition of city and state officials, law enforcement, shelters and churches, institutional partners, business and trade associations, and civic organizations last week officially launched the One Downtown Task Force - a strategic initiative aimed at improving public safety, reducing crime and homelessness, and enhancing the overall experience and quality of life for all who live, work, visit, and do business in Downtown Boston and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Task Force was created as a follow-up to the Downtown Boston Public Safety Summit, which included participation from 92 stakeholders representing 45 organizations and agencies.

The 10-member Task Force is charged with driving measurable outcomes by coordinating efforts and aligning resources across several agencies and organizations. Focus areas include congregating drug use, criminal activity (including retail theft), and homelessness.

Task Force Co-Chairs include Mayor Michelle Wu, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, City Councilor Ed Flynn, and Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association Co-Founder, Rishi Shukla.

Task Force Members include Kellie Young, Director of the Coordinated Response Team for the City of Boston; Karen LaFrazia, President and CEO of St. Francis House; Capt. Richard Driscoll of Boston Police's District A-1; Leslie Adam, Chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board; and Michael Nichols, President of the Downtown Boston Alliance.

Embedded within the Task Force is the Joint Strategic Action Team (JSAT) - a cross-functional group composed of public officials, city and state agencies, law enforcement, shelter and outreach leaders, and civic organizations. Leveraging the group's collective expertise, perspective, and resources, JSAT will work closely with Task Force leadership to deliver coordinated, area-wide solutions.

Additionally, specialized Working Groups will focus on four high-priority areas and develop actionable recommendations in coordination with the Task Force and JSAT, including Boston Common; Winter Street; streets and sidewalks; and business, hospitality and tourism.

The Task Force is expected to remain active through fall 2025, providing a full spring, summer, and fall cycle to implement targeted strategies, make adjustments, and measure impact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WARD 4 DEMS OFFERS \$400 SCHOLARSHIP FOR NINTH AND 10TH GRADERS

Do you know a ninth or 10th grader who lives in or attends school in Ward 4 and might be interested in a \$400 scholarship, courtesy of the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee? If your answer is 'Yes,' then tell them to apply.

The schools include the Melvin H. King South End Academy, Boston Latin School, and Winsor School. The scholarship is also available to ninth and 10th graders who do not attend one of those schools but live in Ward 4.

All applications are due by May 15. Students can apply online at bostonward4dems.org/scholarship-program, or they can email any questions to scholarship@bostonward4dems.org.

WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SET FOR APRIL 5 AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

On Saturday, April 5, beginning at 9 a.m. sharp, the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

will host the 2025 Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus to elect delegates and alternates for the 2025 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the MassMutual Center I Springfield.

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus will take place at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., in Copley Square. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and you must register in person to participate in the Caucus by no later than 9 a.m.

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus is open to the public. However, only those persons who reside in Boston Ward 5 and have previously registered to vote as Democrats, or are 16 years of age by Saturday March 29, and have pre-registered to vote as Democrats, will be eligible to participate and vote and be elected as delegates, or alternates, during the Caucus.

Boston Ward 5 includes Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, Fenway and parts of Chinatown and the South End. You can check your voter registration status (and whether you live

(NEWS BRIEFS, PG. 6)

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FRESH & LOCAL

Responsible vs. Scofflaw Guardians

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

As the snow and ice melted away, the evidence of the scofflaws with dogs appeared. Some dog guardians seem to think you don't have to pick up after your dog if no one is watching or the snow will cover it. Wrong! If you have a dog, you are responsible for removing all your dog's waste, regardless of the weather or how far you would have to go to find a trash barrel.

Proper Disposal of Dog Waste

First, you should know the legal grounds for a complaint to authorities about dog waste disposal. Check your municipality. In Boston, the webpage on the topic is (www.cityofboston.gov/animals/) under regulations it says, "You're required by law to remove and dispose of your dog's waste. This applies to waste on sidewalks, streets and parks, and neighbors' yards. You must be prepared to clean up after your dog when walking them, either with a bag or some other means. The law also states that you must dispose of the waste either in a toilet or trash can."

Leash Laws

Massachusetts has a statewide leash law prohibiting dogs from being off-leash in public areas. Additionally, Section 173 grants cities and towns the authority to establish local animal control laws. Many municipalities in Massachusetts enforce leash laws within their city limits.

There are dozens of reasons to keep your dog close to you in the city. We lead them around broken glass and keep them from rolling in goose poop or some creature's remains. Even those of us who carefully watch our canine companions have had to pull some prize out of their mouths at one time or another.

Protect Pet-Friendly Buildings

If you live in a multi-family, pet-friendly building, your day-

to-day behavior can help keep it that way. Be the kind of neighbor you'd want to have. People who oppose pets in buildings are concerned about the annoyance of dogs barking inside homes and common areas.

Buildings that allow animals usually have rules. Ask what they are and follow them to the letter of the law. Commonly, dogs are not permitted off-leash anywhere outside your home, and you are responsible for picking up after your animal. Simple enough, but we often see these broken in our community.

If your animal ever relieves itself inside your common areas because it is ill or you were late bringing it outside, clean it up yourself. Then, self-report the incident to management so they can deep-clean the area, preventing other dogs from marking over the spot.

Here's a tip that might catch a mess. Keep a waterproof puppy pad near your dog's leash. Then if you know something might happen on the way out, you can scoot that under your dog in time to save the cleanup. These pads are also an excellent way to dry any spill in your home, making it worth keeping a small supply on hand.

Your Dog Can't Vote

Finally, you can be a spokesperson for responsible guardians. We need representatives who consider the needs of dog lovers. When someone asks for your vote, question their position on animal issues. For the interests of dog lovers to become important to community leaders, they must hear both sides of the story, not just complaints from those who would ban dogs from the parks, sidewalks, and the city if they could.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



Responsible dog guardians keep their dogs on leash and pick up after them.

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NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 4

in Ward 5) on the Secretary of State's website at: www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.

DUCK BOAT PULL TO BENEFIT YOUTH SPORTS SET FOR APRIL 12 AT COMMON

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's first annual Duck Boat Pull is set to take place on Saturday, April 12, at Boston Common.

This one-of-a-kind fundraiser, hosted in partnership with Boston Duck Tours, will challenge teams of 10 to race against the clock as they pull a 21,000-pound duck boat across a designated course on Boston Common—all in support of Boston's free youth sports and fitness programs.

Teams of 10 participants ages 16 and up will compete to pull one of Boston's iconic duck boats across the finish line in the fastest time. In order to participate, each team is required to make a \$1,000 donation, \$100 per person, which will go directly toward funding Boston Parks and Recreation's free youth sports programs. These programs include leagues, tournaments, and fitness initiatives that foster healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for young people to stay active. In 2024, these free programs served over 20,000 young people in Boston.

Award-winning WCVB Channel 5 sports reporter and producer Alexis Beckett will emcee the event.

To register your team, select a Team Captain and visit boston.gov/duck-boat-pull. The registration deadline is March 26, and teams are encouraged to sign up early to guarantee their spot.

Businesses and organizations can also get involved by sponsoring the event. Sponsors who sign up by March 21 will have their logos prominently displayed in event materials and signage. For more information or sponsorship inquiries, contact Tiffany Clark at Tiffany.Clark@boston.gov or (617) 233-2305.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join its email list, and follow its social channels @boston-parksdept on X, Facebook, Instagram, and now Bluesky.

FENWAY CDC'S SECOND TOWN HALL AND ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 29 AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) will hold its 52nd Annual Meeting, together with its second of three planned Town Hall meetings to help guide the organization's Strategic Plan for the next four years, on Tuesday, April 29, from 5:45-8 p.m. at Simmons University, 300 The Fenway.

Dinner and daycare will be provided for guests at no charge. Contact sfarrell@fenwaycdc.org, or call 781-277-0148 with any questions.

Family history attraction to open in Boston

The Family Heritage Experience opens to the public this month in Boston's Back Bay

Special to the Sun

The Family Heritage Experience, a state-of-the-art exhibition designed to inspire visitors to reflect on their family history and cultural heritage, opens to the public on April 25 in a newly renovated building at 97 Newbury Street in Boston, Massachusetts. A self-guided tour of interactive exhibits, unique family history artifacts, and original artworks, the Family Heritage Experience invites visitors to ponder questions about their own family's origins, journeys, and cultural traditions, and to learn ways to discover more about their ancestry.

Doors open to the public on Friday, April 25, at 10 a.m., after which the Family Heritage Experience will be open every Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children up to age 11. Designed to spark curiosity in adults, teens, and school-aged children, the Family Heritage Experience is especially suited to multi-generational family groups. Visit fhe.americanancestors.org for more information.

The Family Heritage Experience is located at 97 Newbury Street, two blocks from the



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE VAIL/AMERICAN ANCESTORS

Inside the exhibit entrance, visitors ponder the purpose of their visit, and drop pins in the interactive 15' wide world map.

Boston Public Garden and close to Copley Square, in the heart of Boston's historic Back Bay neighborhood. The exhibition takes up the entire first floor of the American Ancestors building complex, which is home to seven other floors dedicated to family history, including an archive and research library that is open to the public.

"Most people are interested in knowing their family's story, but recent studies show that nearly half of adult Americans can't name all their grandparents. Our hope is that a visit to the Family Heritage Experience will inspire people to learn their origin story—ask who their ancestors were, what kind of lives they led, and what events and circumstances influenced their lives. This is quite unlike other museums or attractions

because this permanent exhibit sparks a deeply personal journey that's also universal," said Ryan Woods, President and CEO of American Ancestors, the 180-year-old nonprofit organization behind the Family Heritage Experience.

The multi-structure building complex that houses the Family Heritage Experience will be named after American philanthropist and preservationist Thomas Bailey Hagen and Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Gates has made family history research familiar to millions of Americans through his popular PBS show "Finding Your Roots," which features celebrities learning dramatic accounts of their ancestry. American Ancestors has worked with "Finding Your Roots" since it first aired in 2012.

"Researching family trees has been a passion in my life since I was nine years old, and I am thrilled to know the desire to learn about the past through the roots and branches of one's own ancestry will now be greatly facilitated through the Family Heritage Experience in Boston," said Dr. Gates. "It is difficult to imagine a greater honor in my career and I look forward to the luminous discoveries that will be made at this landmark visitor center in the city I love and where I have lived and taught for over half of my professional life. May the joys of genealogy seeded here continue to flower



The entrance to the Family Heritage Experience is at American Ancestors' headquarters, on Back Bay's historic Newbury Street in Boston.

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MBTA announces spring schedules, increases subway and bus service frequency

Special to the Sun

The MBTA announced improvements this spring to bus and subway schedules, which go into effect on April 6, 2025. Among the changes, the MBTA will improve subway frequency as well as bus frequency and schedule reliability in order to address growing traffic congestion. This includes increased frequencies for Routes 57 and 77, along with additional resources to help routes on some of the region's most congested streets meet their existing schedules. More information on upcoming spring changes is available at mbta.com/ServiceChanges.

"The Healey-Driscoll administration is fully committed to making the MBTA safer, more reliable, and more responsive to the needs of riders," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "We're seeing the results of targeted investments in both our workforce and infrastructure—more efficient service across buses, subways, and Commuter Rail, driven by the completion of critical repairs and smarter capital planning. With more frequent service and more dependable schedules, we're building trust with riders and encouraging more people to choose the MBTA for their daily trips."

"We're pleased to roll out these upcoming schedule enhancements this spring, which include a number of improvements for riders," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Our seasonal schedule revisions give us a regular opportunity to improve service, make upgrades, and incorporate feedback from our riders and stakeholders. The improvements to Routes 57 and 77, for example, are an important Bus Network Redesign milestone as we continue to improve service for riders who depend on it most."

Subway Frequency

Improvements This Spring

Beginning April 6, frequency and reliability improvements are planned on the Red, Orange, Blue, and Green lines. Shorter four-car Red Line trains will also continue to be added to the schedule this spring during weekday rush hour. More information is available at mbta.com/

ServiceChanges.

Bus Service Improvements

Beginning April 6, many bus routes are shifting trip times to improve service frequency and reliability. Riders are encouraged to use the MBTA's Trip Planner to plan their trips and check out the full list of upcoming bus service changes at mbta.com/ServiceChanges.

Notable frequency increases this spring include Bus Routes 57 and 77:

Increased Frequency for Route 57: Watertown Yard – Kenmore Station

Service frequency will improve from every 15-20 minutes to every 10 minutes for Route 57 riders in Newton and Watertown next month during weekday morning and evening rush hour periods. The route will also be simplified to create a more consistent service pattern and more consistent trip spacing between Oak Square and Kenmore.

This increase in service supports the MBTA's collaboration with the City of Boston on the future Route 57 Transit Priority Corridor, which will use strategies like dedicated bus lanes and transit signal priority to help buses move more efficiently. Data shows these lanes and signals will improve travel times for more than 8,500 daily riders.

Increased Frequency for Route 77: Arlington Heights – Harvard Station

Route 77 will also become more frequent beginning April 6. Route 77 will operate every 10 minutes or better during rush hour periods beginning this spring, an increase from the current 15-20 minutes on weekdays. On Saturdays, frequencies will improve to every 12-14 minutes from every 20 minutes. Sunday service will be upgraded from every 20-25 minutes to every 15 minutes or better, except during early morning and late-night service hours.

"Reliable and frequent MBTA service is essential for thousands of Cambridge residents and employees who rely on public transit daily," said Cambridge City Manager Yi-An Huang. "These service enhancements will make a real difference, and we're grateful to the MBTA for

their continued focus on improving transit access. This progress supports Cambridge's broader efforts to reduce congestion and encourage sustainable transportation across Greater Boston."

This investment in increased service on Route 77 aligns with the City of Cambridge's commitment to existing bus lanes on Massachusetts Avenue north of Porter Square and into Arlington, which helps to keep bus riders moving safely and reliably. These lanes have proven to save more than 4,300 daily riders three to four minutes each way, which amplifies the MBTA's investment in increased service.

These frequency improvements for Routes 57 and 77 are another step as part of Bus Network Redesign, the MBTA's strategy to better align the bus network with today's travel patterns and offer more frequent bus service in busy neighborhoods. The MBTA plans for these routes to become Frequent Bus Routes with service every 15 minutes or better all day, every day in the future.

Accounting for Increased Travel Times

Rising traffic congestion in the Boston area affects bus operations by increasing the travel time for each trip, which can result in buses running behind schedule. To address this challenge, the MBTA will allocate more buses and operators to several routes that have experienced rising traffic congestion: Routes 1, 22, 23, 32, 66, 111, and SL4. These additional resources aim to improve reliability and will allow these routes to meet their existing schedules amidst increased travel delays. More than half of the additional bus operators available this spring will be dedicated to addressing traffic congestion on these routes. These changes do not expand service or increase frequencies beyond the existing schedule.

More information on the updated schedules for all affected bus routes are available at mbta.com/ServiceChanges.

Spring 2025 Commuter Rail Schedules

Passengers can find current spring 2025 Commuter Rail

schedules, which went into effect on March 24, at mbta.com/ServiceChanges and at [mbta.com/Commuter Rail](https://mbta.com/CommuterRail).

2025 Ferry Service Schedules

Seasonal 2025 ferry schedules are now available at mbta.com/ServiceChanges and mbta.com/ferry. As previously announced:

Winthrop and Quincy Ferry Information

Weekday Service:

Winthrop and Quincy Ferry weekday service will begin on Monday, April 28, 2025.

To better serve ferry passengers, weekday trips will be divided into two separate routes: the Winthrop Ferry operating directly between Winthrop and Boston and the Quincy Ferry operating directly between Quincy and Boston. With two separate ferry routes serving Winthrop and Quincy, the MBTA is more than doubling trips to these destinations on weekdays. Two separate routes also allow the MBTA to improve trip times from Winthrop to Boston by about 30 minutes (last year, a weekday trip from Winthrop to Boston or the Seaport took about 50 minutes; this season, these trips will take about 20 minutes). Both ferry routes will continue to serve Logan Airport, the Seaport, and Central Wharf / Aquarium.

Weekend Service:

Winthrop and Quincy Ferry weekend service will begin on Saturday, May 24, 2025, to coincide with Memorial Day weekend.

On weekends, the MBTA will continue to operate a combined Winthrop and Quincy Ferry route serving all destinations.

A one-way fare on the Winthrop and Quincy Ferry is \$6.50 (or \$3.25 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 1 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

Lynn Ferry Information

Lynn Ferry weekday service will begin on Monday, March 31, 2025. Lynn Ferry weekend service will begin on Saturday, May 24, 2025, to coincide with Memorial Day weekend.

A one-way fare on the Lynn Ferry is \$7 (or \$3.50 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 2 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

Hingham/Hull Ferry Information

Hingham/Hull Ferry weekday service continues to operate year-round. Hingham/Hull Ferry weekend service will begin on Saturday, May 24, 2025, to coincide with Memorial Day weekend.

A one-way fare on the Hingham/Hull Ferry is \$9.75 (or \$4.85 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat passes or Commuter Rail Zone 6 (or higher) passes are also accepted.

East Boston Ferry Information

East Boston Ferry weekday and weekend service will begin Monday, March 31, 2025.

A one-way fare on the East Boston Ferry is \$2.40 (or \$1.10 for Reduced Fare riders), which is the same as taking the subway. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted.

Charlestown Ferry Information

Charlestown Ferry weekday and weekend service continues to operate year-round.

A one-way fare on the Charlestown Ferry is \$3.70 (or \$1.85 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat passes or Commuter Rail Zone 1A (or higher) passes are also accepted.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/alerts. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

POP-UP ART GALLERY AT 212 STUART STREET



The Bunker Hill Monument is visible through residential skyscrapers across the Charles River. The penthouse on the 18th floor at 212 Stuart Street offers such views.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

A pop-up art gallery was held in the 18th floor penthouse unit at 212 Stuart Street. This

three-bedroom, 2,135 square foot unit showcased the work of artist and designer Markus Sebastiano and 3-D artist Eric Steeves of Plum Island Drift. The

unit featured beautiful views of the city, generous space, and 2 parking spaces for the cost of \$22,500 a month.



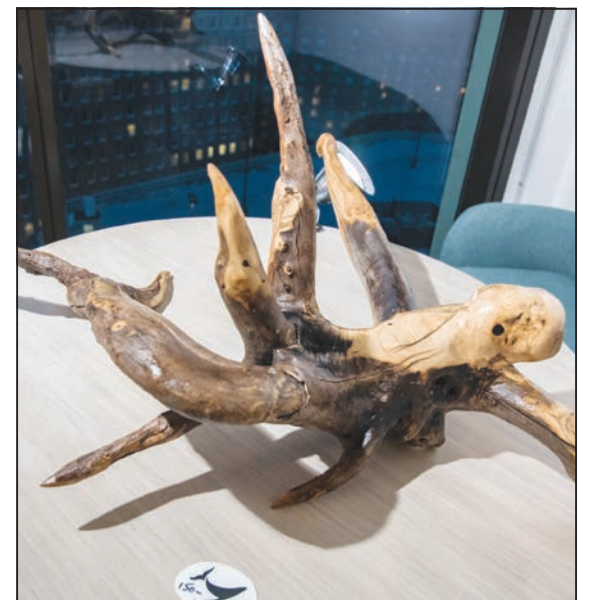
An interested viewer relaxes in the furnished living room with a spectacular view of the Boston skyline behind her.



Artist Eric Steeves of Plum Island Drift stands by a collection of his work on display. He collects wood from the beach and repurposes it as sculptural art.



A view of the kitchen from the dining/living room.



An Octopus was made by Eric Steeves of Plum Island Drift from a unique piece of wood he found on the beach.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588



The master bedroom in the 18th floor penthouse at 212 Stuart Street.



POP UP ART GALLERY AT 212 STUART STREET



Artist Markus Sebastiano stands next to some of his work.



Taylor Greeley looking at art made by Markus Sebastiano.



Upstairs on the 19th floor is a communal space for entertaining available to ask residents at 212 Stuart Street.

FENWAY CDC *(from Page 1)*

becoming a concern to everyone,” said Schultz, who added that per the current arrangement, JDMD would donate the two buildings, together worth north of \$10 million, to Fenway CDC, which would in turn become the owner and operator of these properties.

The unit mix for the project would comprise two studios, seven one-bedrooms, and six two-bedrooms, said Suneeth John, Fenway CDC’s deputy director and head of real estate.

Expected unit costs would range from \$188,032 at 80-percent AMI, or \$248,560 at 100-percent AMI for a studio; \$228,280 at 80-percent AMI, or \$298,896 at 100-percent AMI for a one-bedroom; or \$268,840 at 80-percent AMI, or \$348,088 at 100-percent AMI for a two-bedroom.

The city’s Boston Home Center would market the units to first-time home buyers, said Eddie Quinn, project manager for the Fenway CDC, with those units expected to hit the market in the fall of 2027.

Steve Farrell, executive director of the Fenway CDC, pledged his group would work with the neighborhood to come up with

a construction management plan to help mitigate the project’s impact on neighbors.

“We always make a point of working with stakeholders to find out what their priorities are,” added Farrell.

Rep. Livingstone commended everyone involved in this “great collaborative effort.”

In response to concerns regarding funding for the project, especially in light of the uncertainty now surrounding some federal funding sources, Rep. Livingstone said this project would be financed by “capital dollars, so this is much more secure.”

Councilor Durkan thanked Rep. Livingstone for successfully “getting everyone to the table” and also noted the project was made possible in part via a \$1 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant she helped secure as Chair of the Council’s COVID-19 Recovery Committee.

Harold Brink, president of Homes on Hancock, said his group is strongly in support of the latest proposal. He extended his gratitude to “everyone involved in the project for the past few years who came up with

a plan we’re very excited about.”

Brink added, “I’m really pleased everyone was willing to listen, and that now, we have a high-quality plan.”

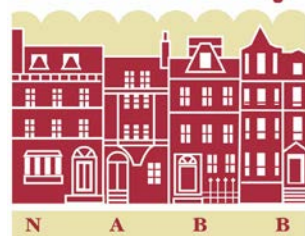
Also during public testimony, Patricia Tully, executive director of the Civic Association, read a statement from Joshua Leffler, chair of the group’s board of directors.

“We have emphasized the importance of larger, multi-room units that can serve low- and moderate-income families, rather than SROs for PSH purposes,” Leffler wrote in part. “The BHCA believes that this project, is not only consistent with the IDP but is also a meaningful step forward for Beacon Hill and the City of Boston.”

Leffler expressed the Civic Association’s gratitude to Rep. Livingstone, Councilor Durkan, Sheila Dillon and Adam Goldstein from the Mayor’s Office of Housing, JDMD, and Homes on Hancock “for advocating for and being receptive to the desires of the community.”

“We look forward to welcoming Fenway CDC and our new neighbors,” added Leffler on behalf of the BHCA.

Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay



We Invite Your Nominations for NABB’s COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) works to enhance the quality of residential life in the community and our volunteer members serve as advocates on neighborhood issues. Each year we recognize individuals or groups who have shown exceptional dedication to that mission through two Community Service Awards. Please send us your nominations.

Name of Nominee:

Please print name of the individual, group, committee, institution, or organization you are nominating: _____

Award (please select one):

_____ **Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award**

Criteria: Recipient selection will be based on important and sustained leadership in promoting residential interests in the Back Bay.

_____ **Mary Natale Citizenship Award**

Criteria: Recipient selection will be based on significant and sustained dedication and service to the residential interests of the Back Bay. This award honors unselfish and unheralded commitment to the Back Bay residential neighborhood.

Nominating Party Contact Information:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

For more information and a list of past recipients visit: nabbonline.org/About
 Send this form with a description of the work and contribution of the nominee to:
 NABB, 160 Commonwealth Ave L8 Boston, MA 02116-2749

Or Email: info@nabbonline.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: May 1, 2025

Applications for Boston's Youth Summer Jobs Program are now open

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity (YEO) announced that paid youth job applications are open for summer 2025. Boston youth and young adults ages 14 - 24 can apply now at futureBOS. The platform is a centralized hub for all youth employment opportunities in Boston, including opportunities from SuccessLink, the City's long-standing flagship youth jobs program. This announcement builds on Mayor Wu's work to make Boston a home for everyone and ensure Boston's young people are connected to opportunity across neighborhoods.

"Our city's youth deserve every opportunity to grow both personally and professionally," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By investing in youth summer jobs, we are investing in our community's future and empowering our young leaders. We will continue to engage every sector across the city in supporting our young people and families."

Led by the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, futureBOS recruits and hires Boston youth in engaging and meaningful employment experiences that advance their professional and personal develop-

ment. The City's youth summer jobs program continues to experience record highs with 10,427 youth being hired last summer - the highest in the program's history. Youth job participants have also expressed satisfaction with the summer youth jobs program. Out of all youth job participants, ninety-four percent feel better prepared to enter the workforce, 90% left the program with references for future employment, 83% feel prepared to achieve future educational and career goals, and 97.3% would recommend the program to a friend. Research from Northeastern University also demonstrates that the City's youth employment program positively impacts a range of economic, academic, and criminal justice outcomes for youth.

"Our office is thrilled to once again offer employment opportunities to our young people this summer to help shape their career journeys and instill in them a strong work ethic," said Adeola Ebekozen, Deputy Director of the Office of Youth Employment & Opportunity. "The youth jobs employment program has a positive, tangible impact on the lives of these teens and their families. We are grateful to our employment partners who remain committed to making the program a success."

Last summer, Mayor Michelle Wu deepened her commitment to employing youth through the Mayor's Youth Job Guarantee (MYJG), a pledge that any eligible Boston Public Schools (BPS) student who wants a summer job can get one. To further this goal, the City strengthened its partnership with BPS and as a result, over 50% of the summer 2024 youth jobs participants were BPS students. YEO will continue to prioritize BPS students this summer through strategic outreach initiatives, including Pop-Up Career Fairs at BPS schools.

"Access to summer employment opportunities is crucial for so many of our students and I am excited that we continue to provide opportunities and remove barriers to access," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "The launch of the 2025 Summer Youth Employment Application reaffirms the shared commitment between BPS and our city and community partners to ensure that our students have the opportunity to gain real-world working experience and explore careers and professions that they are passionate about during the summer recess."

Recognizing the importance of coordination and alignment across Boston's youth employment providers, YEO partners with over 200 organizations each year to offer high-quality employment opportunities to youth. This summer, the office

will support 156 programs and 82 City agencies. To ensure that disadvantaged youth have equitable access to jobs, the City is supporting organizations that prioritize proven at-risk youth populations in partnership with the State's Commonwealth Corporation YouthWorks.

"At Madison Park Development Corporation (MPDC), we believe that investing in our young people is investing in the future of our communities. Boston's summer youth jobs program provides invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth, equipping our youth with the skills and confidence they need to thrive," said Dr. Ingrid Tucker, Madison Park Development Corporation Acting CEO. "We are proud to continue our partnership with the City to ensure that every young person—especially those in Roxbury and surrounding neighborhoods—has access to meaningful employment that fosters success beyond the summer months."

"At the Sasaki Foundation, we are incredibly grateful for the partnership and resources that the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity has provided us," said Estefany Benitez, Program Manager, Hideo Sasaki Foundation. "Thanks to their strong financial support, we have been able to quadruple the number of Boston students introduced to the fields of architecture, landscape architecture,

and urban planning through our paid internships: the Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) and Designing Environmental and Social Impact (DESI). We are excited for our continued collaboration and know that together we will continue to uplift the future design professionals of the City of Boston."

In addition to employment opportunities, YEO partners with Bank On Boston to provide youth with financial education and banking opportunities. Throughout the summer, Bank On Boston provides free financial workshops on various topics, including credit building and banking basics, to futureBOS youth. Their workshop schedule will be posted here. In addition, three local banks - Citizens Bank, M&T Bank, and Metro Credit Union - will again provide non-custodial, no-fee options that will make it easier for our youth to open safe, non-predatory bank accounts, facilitating access to their summer earnings and instilling good financial habits.

The summer youth employment program starts on June 23 and ends August 29, 2025. Job applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but youth are encouraged to apply early. There is a step-by-step guide available online to help youth navigate the application process. Youth can also visit the office in person, Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 1483 Tremont Street in Roxbury, or call 617-635-4202 for additional assistance. For more information, visit boston.gov/futureBOS.

Senior Robotic Perception Engineer F/T, perm. position in Boston, MA (Suffolk County). Integrate 3D sensors into the s/ware stack & create voxel maps from the depth cameras. Dvlp & implmt algorithms to detect packages & determine whether they are placed in accordance to a build plan. Analyze & track the accuracy of the sensing platform over time. Benchmark image processing pipelines measuring the performance of the perception system. Write s/ware code. Formulate solutions for object tracking & state estimation in real-world scenarios. Scale algorithms across multiplesensor platforms. Perform mathematical analysis of perception uncertainty. Build test suites for s/ware verification & validation. Dsgn & implmt network APIs for the perception system. Collaborate w/other teams to ensure qlty of system dsgn & integration. Remotely support tests on physical h/ware incl debugging & assisting w/verification & validation performed by field support engineers at the clients' sites. Min. reqs: Master's deg in Robotics Engg. Must have advanced level proficiency in all of the following tools: C++, Python, OpenCV, TCP protocol, 3D sensor RealSense. \$130,000/yr +std co. benefits package incl medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, and short-term and long-term disability insurance. Variable annual performance-based bonus of up to \$15,000 in addition to salary. Submit resume by mail to Joy Ramsbotham, Dir., HR, Realtime Robotics, Inc., 27 Wormwood St., Ste 110, Boston, MA 02210; or via e-mail to joy@rtr.ai

HELP WANTED

Job Title: Assistant Manager (Bilingual – English/Spanish)

Location: Kirie, Inc d/b/a Shays Pub @ Wine Bar, Cambridge, MA

Type: Full-Time | Reports to: General Manager

Summary: Seeking a bilingual Assistant Manager to support daily restaurant operations, staff supervision, and customer satisfaction.

Responsibilities: Assist with daily operations, staffing, and scheduling

- Monitor inventory and supply orders
- Enforce health and safety compliance
- Handle customer issues and cash transactions
- Promote team morale and marketing initiatives

Qualifications: 6+ years in hospitality mgmt

- Fluent in English and Spanish

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THE FAMILY HERITAGE *(from Page 6)*

throughout the generations.”

From the moment they walk in the door, visitors engage with exhibits that explore themes of personal identity, the creation of family lore, and the almost universal desire to leave a record of one's existence. An early highlight of the self-guided tour is the “Wall of Questions,” which encourages visitors to ponder their ancestors' life experiences by selecting cards printed with common family history-related queries such as “How did my grandparents meet?” “What kind of clothes did my ancestor wear?” and “I heard a family legend—is it true?”

On display are objects that various cultures and individuals have used to preserve family history, such as an intricate shell-beaded belt from the local Wampanoag nation, a patchwork quilt depicting scenes from African American family experiences over centuries, photographs and items that document Jewish traditions, and artistic renditions of Anglo-American family trees from the 19th century. Other exhibits allow visitors to explore events that took place the year they were born, learn how DNA test results shed light on genealogy, and listen to the family history research journeys of people from diverse backgrounds.

Woven into the exhibition are several original artworks that were commissioned for the space, which echo themes of memory, reflection, and individuality by a diverse group of local and national artists, including Yuko Okabe, Pamela Hersch, Sisters In Stitches Joined By The Cloth, and Fred H.C. Liang.

“The Family Heritage Experience really showcases why fami-



Guests explore the Family Treasures exhibit vault room, an eclectic collection of historic objects that document family history.

ly history is interesting and fun. This is a no-pressure space. You don't need to know the details of your family tree or anything about your family's origins to enjoy your visit. You will leave knowing how to find out more as you start your adventure of looking into your past,” said Jennifer Zanolli, Family Heritage Experience manager.

Toward the end of the self-guided tour, visitors can learn more about ways to begin researching their own ancestors using vital records and other family history documents. A spacious rotunda welcomes visitors to relax on sofas and chairs and reflect on their past while viewing artistic interpretations of ancestral images via a colorful ceiling projection.

“After four years of planning, and two years of almost non-stop construction, we are delighted to welcome the public into the Family Heritage Experience and our new facilities this spring,” said David Trebing, American Ancestors' Board chair. “American Ancestors has been helping



A visitor takes a closer look at a family tree artifact in the Family Heritage Experience's Family Treasures collection.

people uncover their family history for 180 years, but the Family Heritage Experience marks a new phase in our evolution by creating a modern, dynamic, inviting space where people can enjoy learning about the one thing we all have in common: family.”

Exhibit Highlights

Who in the World Are You?

Visitors use iPads to place digital pins in an interactive 15-foot world map indicating where their ancestors originated, creating a compelling visual of journeys and migrations, accumulating as each guest passes through.

Wall of Questions

This exhibit features rows of 90 colorful cards with curious questions about family history. Visitors can choose one or more cards that resonate with them and scan the QR code on the back to find out how to answer the questions at an answer station kiosk.

Family Treasures Vault

Step into this brightly lit chamber displaying an eclectic collection of historic objects that document family history, representing diverse cultures, traditions, and spanning many different time periods.

Your Name, Your Year

An interactive, screen-based exhibit that lists the popular films, songs, sporting events, and trivia for the year visitors were born, and ranks popularity of a visitor's surname.

Story Station

A dedicated space in which visitors can listen to audio recordings by people of all backgrounds narrating their family



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE VAIL/AMERICAN ANCESTORS

The Wall of Questions is the first phase of a two-part exhibit featuring 90 card disks posing curious questions about family history. Visitors scan cards at the answer station kiosk to continue their learning adventure.

history discoveries.

Research & Records

An interactive, educational exhibit that teaches visitors how to find the answers to their family history questions using vital records and other documents.

Other Spaces at American Ancestors

In addition to the Family Heritage Experience, American Ancestors is home to several other public spaces dedicated to the preservation and study of genealogy, history, heritage, and culture, including:

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center preserves New England Jewish history and heritage and advances the understanding of the American Jewish experience through archives, educational programs, scholarship, and public events.

The Brim-DeForest Library, made possible through the generosity of Brady Brim-DeForest and his family, is a historic space where members and the public can explore their family heritage through an extensive collection of books, maps, manuscripts, and digital resources.

The Brue Family Learning Center is dedicated to introducing family and local history to national and international audiences. Founded by Nord and Suzanne Brue, the Center supports the creation of programming aimed at helping anyone start or advance their family history journey.

Supported by a gift from Judy Avery and her family, the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections is one of the world's leading collections of family history materials, containing more than one million manuscripts, photo-

graphs, handwritten and typed family histories and charts, material with vital statistic data (such as town, church, and cemetery records), genealogical papers, family association collections, and original primary source documents.

Project and Donor Support

The newly redesigned space, which connects the interiors of two historic buildings at 97 Newbury Street, was designed by architects Schwartz & Silver and built by Shawmut Design and Construction, with exhibition design by the Experience Alchemists.

American Ancestors is indebted to the donors whose contributions made the Family Heritage Experience possible, including Thomas Hagen, Brenda Johnson, Jonathan Treat, Kathleen & Peter Van Demark, Joan & Ernst Berndt, Helen Condon Powell, Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund, Cheryl L. Edwards, Beverly H. Hamilton, and the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund.

American Ancestors also thanks the many donors, members, and volunteers whose everyday contributions and dedication make its mission-based work possible.

Visitation and FAQ

The Family Heritage Experience and the gift shop on the first floor of American Ancestors at 97 Newbury Street, Boston, MA, will be open weekly Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The facility is located near Copley Square and the Arlington and Copley Green line T stations. For more information, including accessibility and amenities, please visit the.americanancestors.org.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Honeycrisp LLC	Peck, Joshua R	20 Appleton St	\$2,425,000
Goldstein, Kimberly	Mayo Lt	293 Beacon St #6	\$790,000
Millares, Sophia	Arba B LLC	75 Clarendon St #304	\$1,000,000
Fox, Simon	Cre Back Bay LLC	216 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$1,510,000
Henderson Jr, Edward	Clarissa A Nigro Ft	273 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$1,050,000
46 Fayette LLC	Wright, Elda	46 Fayette St	\$1,400,000
Schwiebert, Kea	Hunter, William	203 W Newton St #2	\$2,000,000
Hewes, Lemuel B	David J Valacer Lt	7 Warren Ave #18	\$2,450,000
Jill J Avery 2024 T	Bond Ten LLC	10 Bond St	\$3,700,000
Sheth, Armaan	Purdy, Ian	12 Stoneholm St #522	\$565,000
Patel Symphony LLC	26 Symphony Road Rt	26 Symphony Rd	\$3,400,000
120 W Newton LLC	Birmingham, Nesson	120 W Newton St	\$5,550,000
BEACON HILL			
Evenden, Philip R	Hao, Zhiqian	50 Pinckney St #2	\$795,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Cheng, Wing W	Avery 22f Nt	2 Avery St #22F	\$975,000
Codreanu, Sorin	Dumitru, George	142 Commercial St #504	\$995,000
Hutchins, Rory A	Di Si, Pablo	65 E India Row #26D	\$655,000
Frngos, Cassandra	Faro A Joseph Est	20 Rowes Wharf #308	\$2,475,000

Van Gogh: The Roulin Family portraits exhibition opens at the MFA - A chosen family affair

Special to the Sun

The new exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is a touching collaboration between the MFA and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. When the two respective curators, Katie Hanson, of William and Ann Elfers Curator of Paintings, Art of Europe of the MFA and Nienke Bakker, Senior Curator at the Van Gogh Museum, realized that each museum had two of Van Gogh's portraits of the Roulin family members, it only seemed right to plan a family reunion. After several years in the making, the museums have mounted a modestly sized, but tightly woven together collection of Vincent Van Gogh's portraits of his new friends when he moved to Arles in 1888. The exhibition showcases 23 works by Van Gogh, including 14 of the Roulin portraits as well as others works of art.

As Van Gogh had come to realize that he was not likely to become the husband and father he sorely wanted to be, he became close first to Joseph Roulin, the town postmaster, and then his whole family, wife Augustine, and three children, Armand, Camille, and Marcelle. In the exhibit, the family portraits are beautifully displayed, some juxtaposed with Dutch portraits.

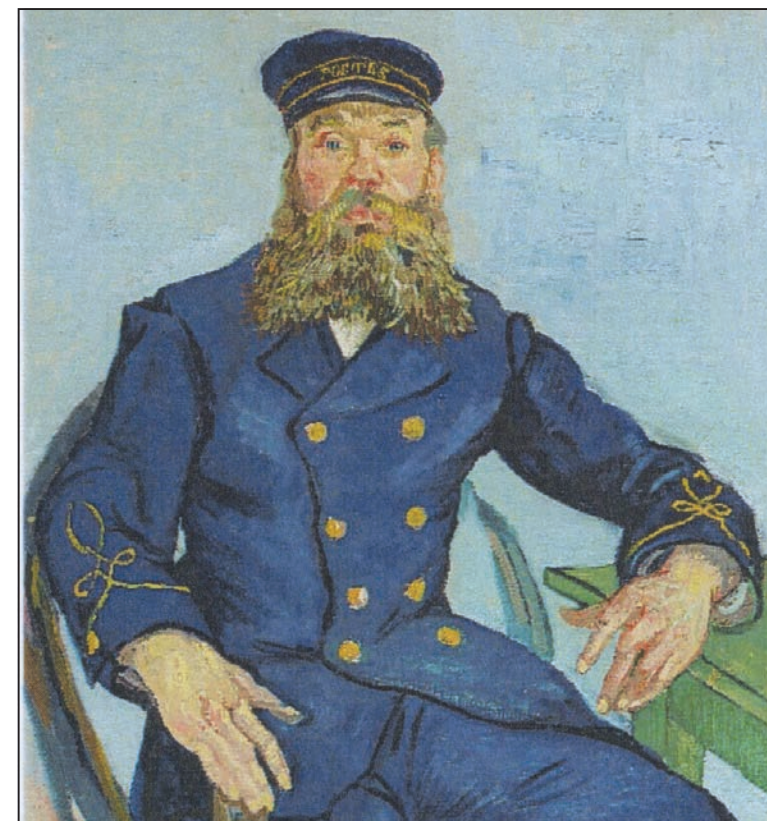


Portrait of Joseph Roulin, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1889

While Van Gogh is thought of as a French painter, his Dutch roots drew him to the style of that country's classical portraiture. The exhibit also features other art connected with Van Gogh's time in Arles, including Paul Gauguin's renditions of the Roulins, as Gauguin was sharing Van Gogh's studio at that time.

Japanese wood blocks are displayed both as examples of the art Van Gogh collected to decorate his yellow house and as inspiration for backgrounds in some of his works. One understands how close his chosen family had become to their friend as the exhibit displays ten letters written to Van Gogh's own

(MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, PG. 13)



Postman Joseph Roulin, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

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Scan to view more details about the property online

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS (from Page 12)

family when Van Gogh became ill, updating them on his volatile health condition.

It was said that Roulin visited his friend in the hospital nearly every day. Although Van Gogh

moved to Saint-Remy for permanent care and his friend Joseph Roulin transferred for work to Marseille, the friends remained in touch through letters and Van Gogh's sending landscape paintings of Saint-Remy to the Roulin family.

The final section of the exhibit shares Van Gogh's last self portrait and famous watercolor of his bedroom in the yellow house, painted in Saint-Remy, reminiscing of his time in Arles. Photographs of the Roulins later in their lives close the circle of the exhibit.

The Roulin family, after Joseph retired, sold their portraits, two landscapes and a still life in 1900 to a Paris art dealer for 450 Francs. After a 125 year journey, these family portraits have been reunited in Boston.

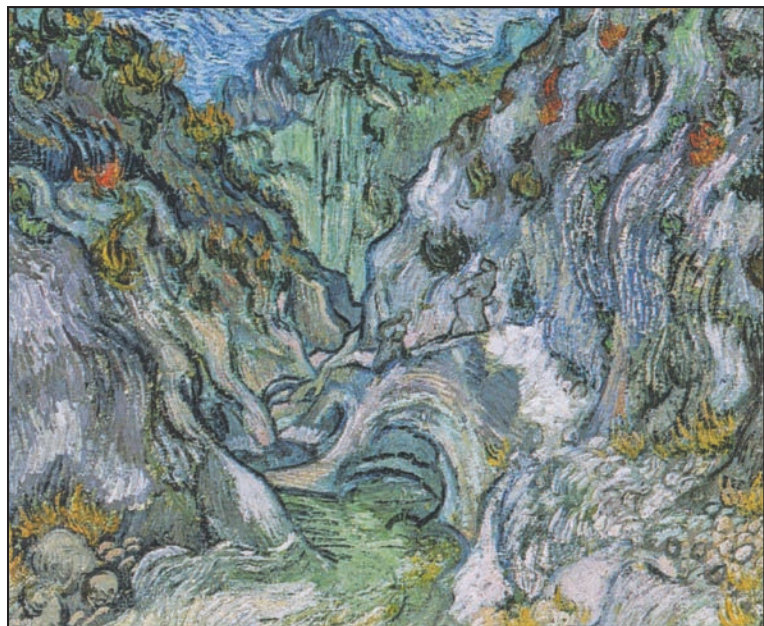
The exhibit, sponsored by Bank of America, taps multiple international collections beyond that of the Van Gogh Museum, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, Philadelphia Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, Saint Louis Art Museum, The J. Paul Getty Museum, an Asian private collector, and local philanthropists Rose-Marie and Eijk Van Otterloo, among others.

The exhibit is on view through September 7.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Yellow House (The Street), by Vincent Van Gogh, 1888



Ravine, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1889



The Bedroom, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1889



Enclosed Field with Ploughman, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1889

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The roofline in the last clue is on 424 Marlborough Street. It was designed by architect Samuel Kelley and built in 1889 as part of a four-building set that wraps around the corner onto Massachusetts Avenue. The fascinating history of this building's transition into a small market is detailed on www.BackBayHouses.org.

You'll find the next clue in The Fenway.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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Ritz Carlton	10 Avery St.	Jersey Street Liquors	48 Queens Berry St.
Sami Cleaners		College Pizza	50 Queens Berry St.
Antua Nua Bar	834 Beacon St.	Guitar Center	1255 Boylston St.
Boston Public Library	700 Boylston St.	The Verb Hotel	127 Boylston St.
Citizens Bank		Red Mango	300 Longwood Ave.
Teriyaki House	1110 Boylston St.	Supreme Pizza	313 Old Colony Ave.
A Little Stevie's Pizza	1114 Boylston St.	Fenway Studios	301 Ipswitch St.
Pad Thai	1116 Boylston St.	Fenway Health	1340 Boylston St.
Crazy Dough	8 Park Plaza	Fenway Community Center	1340 Boylston St.
Tasty Burger	145 Dartmouth St.	Development Corporation	70 Burbank Rd
Cask and Flagon	62 Brookline Ave.	Wahlburger	Brookline Fenway
Back Bay Bicycles	362 Comm. Ave.	Starmarket	Boylston St.
Sheraton Hotel	39 Dalton St.	Blaze Pizza	Fenway/ Boylston
Hilton Boston	40 Dalton St.	Neighborhood Coffee	96 Peterborough St.
Copley Square Hotel	47 Hunnington Ave.	Bennets Sandwich	86 Peterborough St.
The Green House	150 Hunnington Ave.	Thortons Fenway Grill	98 Peterborough St.
B Good	955 Washington St.	Tapestry	69 Kilmarnock St.
Bangkok City Restaurant	167 Mass. Ave.	Tasty Burger	1301 Boylston St.
Tomodachi Sushi	201 Mass. Ave.	Elliot Hotel	370 Comm. Ave.
City Hair Thai Body	333 Mass. Ave.	B good	137 Mass. Ave.
Snappy Sushi	108 Newbury St.	Starbucks	145 Mass. Ave.
Laurens Nails	164 Newbury St.	Guitar Center	59 Mass. Ave.
Fairfield Reality	219 Newbury St.	Supreme Pizza	79 Mass. Ave.
Newbury Guest House	261 Newbury St.	Choice Wine and Spirits	181 Mass. Ave.
Starbucks	165 Newbury St.	CVS	249 Mass. Ave.
Ben and Jerrys	174 Newbury St.		
Hem Pest	301 Newbury St.		
Bush Cleaners	219 Newbury St.		
Back Bay Ace Hardware	221 Newbury St.		
Delucas Market	239 Newbury St.		
Boloco	569 Boylston st'		
Town Nail Salon	336 Newbury St.		
Pavement Coffee	286 Newbury St.		
Berry Line	303 Newbury St.		
Back Bay Hair Design	291 Newbury St.		
Bauer Wines and Spirits	330 Newbury St.		
Newbury Comics	332 Newbury St.		
Trident Book Sellers	338 Newbury St.		
Converse	348 Newbury St.		
Capital One Coffee	795 Boylston St.		
Starbucks	755 Boylston St.		
Bank of America	699 Boylston St.		
Citizens Bank	607 Boylston St.		
CVS	587 Boylston St.		
Clarendon wine	563 Boylston St.		

BEACON HILL

Boston City Hall State St/Cambridge St.

KENMORE SQUARE

Above all burger	636 Beacon St.
Hotel Buckminster	646 Beacon St.
Cornwall's	654 Beacon St.
Blue Moon Smoke Shop	470 Comm. Ave.
Lower Depth Tap Room	476 Comm. Ave.
India Quality	484 Comm. Ave.
Peterborough Senior Center	42 Peterborough St.
Hotel Commonwealth	
7Eleven	Beacon St.
Bank of America	Beacon St.
East Boston Savings Bank	
Quality Market	Mass. Ave/ Beacon St.
Barnes and Noble	660 Beacon St.

FENWAY

Uppercrust	683 Tremont St.
Fenway Community Center	1282 Boylston St.
Boston Laundry	115 Jersey St.
Hidyan Café	80 Kilmarnock St.
Blick Art Supply	333 Massachusetts Ave.
Canestaras	16 Peterborough St.
El Pelon Taqueria	92 Peterborough St.

Jersey Street Liquors	48 Queens Berry St.
College Pizza	50 Queens Berry St.
Guitar Center	1255 Boylston St.
The Verb Hotel	127 Boylston St.
Red Mango	300 Longwood Ave.
Supreme Pizza	313 Old Colony Ave.
Fenway Studios	301 Ipswitch St.
Fenway Health	1340 Boylston St.
Fenway Community Center	1340 Boylston St.
Development Corporation	70 Burbank Rd
Wahlburger	Brookline Fenway
Starmarket	Boylston St.
Blaze Pizza	Fenway/ Boylston
Neighborhood Coffee	96 Peterborough St.
Bennets Sandwich	86 Peterborough St.
Thortons Fenway Grill	98 Peterborough St.
Tapestry	69 Kilmarnock St.
Tasty Burger	1301 Boylston St.
Elliot Hotel	370 Comm. Ave.
B good	137 Mass. Ave.
Starbucks	145 Mass. Ave.
Guitar Center	59 Mass. Ave.
Supreme Pizza	79 Mass. Ave.
Choice Wine and Spirits	181 Mass. Ave.
CVS	249 Mass. Ave.

SYMPHONY

Symphony Liquors	301 Hunnington Ave.
Boston House of Pizza	305 Hunnington Ave.
Boston Shawarma	315 Hunnington Ave.
Hunnington YMCA	316 Hunnington Ave.
Marino Center Neu	360 Hunnington Ave.
Rubys Nail salon	333 Hunnington Ave.
starbucks	275 Hunnington Ave.
College Convience	281 Hunnington Ave.
Safonia Market	291 Hunnington Ave.
Cappy's	82 Westland
Fern Exotic Flowers	255 Mass. Ave.
Wholefoods	15 westland
mid town hotel	Hinntington Ave.
Cappys Convience	

SOUTH END

Mings super market	1102 Washington St.
Dunkin	1138 Washington St.
Foodies urban market	1421 Washington St.
South end community health	Washington St.
Mikes city diner	Washington St.
Post office	Washington St.
Jaho caffe& tea	1651 Washington St.
7/11 store	51 Berkeley St.
Perk caffe	69 Berkeley St.
Club café	209 Columbus Ave.
Charlie's sandwich	429 Columbus Ave.
Giorgiana's	429 Columbus Ave.
the Wine Emporium	474 Columbus Ave.
Petit Robert bistro	480 Columbus Ave.
South end food emporium	469 Columbus Ave.
Sarni cleaner	668 Tremont St.
One stop store	664 Tremont St.
Café Nero	560 Tremont St.
Food basket	532 Tremont St.
Muscarellas market	570 Tremont St.
Tremont market	148 Tremont St.
Boston Pocket & Deli	682 A Tremont St.
South End House of Pizza	772 Tremont St.
Tremont drug	610 Tremont St.
Charlie's sandwich	111 Dartmouth St.
City convenience	130 Dartmouth St.
Tent city	130 Dartmouth St.
Whole foods Market	40 Fay St.
Walgreens	1603 Washington St.

HISTORIC DAY FOR THE EMERSON COLONIAL THEATRE AND BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

Special to the Sun

On March 27, the City of Boston presented a Certificate of Recognition to both the Boston Lyric Opera and the Emerson Colonial Theatre as they commemorate the 80th anniversary of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Carouse' pre-Broadway run in the same theatre eighty years ago to the day.

The certificate was presented in the iconic lobby of the theater by Kenny Mascary, Interim Chief of Arts and Culture for Boston. Celebratory comments were provided by Lee Pelton, President of The Boston Foundation, who was very engaged in the reopening of the Emerson Colonial Theatre in 2018 as the President of Emerson College at that time.

In another historic twist, Pelton will be playing a small part in the upcoming Carousel production by the BLO as the Starkeeper.

Catherine Peterson, Executive Director of ArtsBoston, joined the observance, noting that the Colonial Theatre has a storied past, as it was often the venue for shows in their pre-Broadway runs, which included, not only Carousel, but Oklahoma, Porgy and Bess, and Annie Get Your Gun, among others.

Peterson also shared that

March 27 was World Theatre Day, and in recognition of the Carousel anniversary and of theatre overall, ArtsBoston would be discounting sales of Carousel tickets at BosTix starting from last Thursday for four days to \$19.45, representing the year of its first opening, as well as offering a 20% additional discount for various other local theatrical events, again through March 30.

The recognition award was accepted on behalf of both entities by Bradley Vernatter, General Director of the Boston Lyric Opera, along with Joey Riddle of Ambassador Theatre Group, manager of the theatre, both of whom shared more history of the theatre, which opened in 1900 and is the oldest continuously operating theater in Boston.

The event closed with Nina Yoshida Nelson, Artistic Director of the BLO and accomplished professional mezzo-soprano, leading the crowd in an enthusiastic rendition of one of Carousel's signature songs, "You'll Never Walk Alone" accompanied on the keyboard by David Angus, the BLO Music Director and conductor for the upcoming Carousel.

Carousel will be performed at the Emerson Colonial on April 4, 6, 11 and 13. Tickets are available at www.blo.org.



Shown are (Seated) David Angus. Standing (left to right) are Carousel Stage Director Anne Bogart, Lee Pelton, Joey Riddle, Kenny Mascary, Catherine Peterson, Nina Yoshida Nelson, and Brad Vernatter.

City of Boston announces \$1 million investment to expand digital literacy across city

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) last week announced a \$1 million investment to expand the City's Digital Literacy (DigLit) Initiative, a critical initiative that helps workforce development programs address digital literacy gaps. This investment will fund the next phase of the initiative, DigLit 2.0, and equip 20 Boston-based job readiness and occupational training programs with the infrastructure and capacity to deliver the digital skills necessary for residents to succeed in today's evolving job market. This expansion is funded by a Community Project Funding grant secured by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Phase 2 of the Digital Literacy Initiative, DigLit 2.0, is fully funded by FY2023 Community Project Funding totaling \$1 million (100%) from the U.S. Department of Labor with 0% (\$0.00) financed from non-federal sources. This announcement was made at the East Boston YMCA, a committed adult basic education and job training provider.

"Closing the digital literacy gap is critical in our work to make Boston a city for everyone," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Every resident across our neighborhoods deserves to be equipped with the digital skills they need to access resources, secure good jobs in an evolving economy and be connected to more opportunities. I'm grateful to Congresswoman Pressley for securing this vital funding and look forward to coordinating with all of our partners to advance this important work forward."

"I am proud to deliver \$1 million in direct federal funds that we secured for Boston's adult digital literacy initiative, which will expand access to digital skills, close gaps in our workforce development programs, and open doors for our workers to grow and thrive," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. "I'm grateful to Mayor Wu and our local leaders for their partnership in bringing much-deserved digital literacy opportuni-

ties to our city."

This announcement builds on the City's efforts to better connect residents with job training and educational opportunities while working to close digital literacy gaps. In 2022, the Office of Workforce Development, led by the Worker Empowerment Cabinet, piloted the Digital Literacy Initiative ("DigLit") in partnership with World Education to address digital access gaps identified through extensive community-engaged research. The pilot, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, supported 25 Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs that collectively serve 3,500 students annually. The pilot also yielded successful results for the participating programs, including the increased use of digital tools, instructional software, communication tools, and technology used for instruction. A pivotal outcome of this initiative was the Boston EdTech Routine Library, a repository that contains 70+ remedial education instructional routines that integrate digital skills.

"We believe that all residents need intentional and comprehensive access to quality education, and skills and job training to thrive in Boston," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. "This expansion reflects our commitment to increasing these opportunities and our collaborative approach to meeting employer demand while tapping into Boston's talent pool. Digital literacy is no longer optional—it is critical to accessing job opportunities and economic mobility. Ensuring access to digital skills training is essential to building an inclusive economy where everyone has a fair shot at success. We are incredibly grateful to Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley whose leadership and advocacy made this investment possible. Thank you to the participating organizations whose commitment to enhancing their programming will undoubtedly result in lasting positive outcomes for our residents."

Last week's launch event featured a panel featuring employers from Eversource, Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber, and life sciences alongside training providers from Just-A-Start,

FCIT, and YMCA of Greater Boston. The panel was moderated by Priyanka Sharma, Director of World Education, and brought together voices from across Boston's workforce ecosystem to explore how technology is transforming middle-skill roles, shifting skill demands, and how partnerships can better align training programs with employer needs, especially amid rapid technological shifts driven by AI.

"Digital literacy is no longer optional—it is critical to accessing job opportunities and economic mobility."

— *Trinh Nguyen,*
Chief of Worker Empowerment

"The YMCA of Greater Boston is deeply grateful for the City of Boston's continued investment in digital literacy through its DigLit funding," said David Shapiro, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "We are also grateful for the national leadership of Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who garnered federal investment in this effort. It is an honor to host the DigLit 2.0 Launch event at the East Boston Y, the site of our very own culinary training program with the New England Center for Arts and Training. The event is a powerful reflection of the multi-sector commitment necessary to foster job preparation, skills, and supported career pathways. It also reflects the powerful efforts to advance digital literacy skills while strengthening the very foundation of our community - its people. Together, we will continue to uplift each other with the knowledge, skills, and pathways critical to a more inclusive, competitive, and dynamic economy and City."

"At World Education, we recognize that digital skills are essential for unlocking oppor-

tunities in today's tech-driven workforce," said Priyanka Sharma, Director of World Education. "We are proud to collaborate with the City of Boston and our partners to advance a shared vision for a stronger, more resilient workforce—one where every adult has the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving economy. Through the DigLit project, we are activating digital skills programming into training programs, expanding career pathways, and empowering Boston's communities with greater economic mobility."

Following the pandemic, digital literacy skills have proven to be crucial for workplace success. A report from the National Skills Coalition emphasizes the critical importance of digital literacy for employment, revealing that, despite 92% of jobs requiring digital skills, one-third of workers lack the foundational digital skills necessary for success in today's job market. Recognizing this gap, the City has worked closely with various partners and employers to offer skills-based classes and opportunities for residents to be connected to digital literacy support. OWD continues to engage in field-building and capacity-building efforts to align training programs with employer needs so Boston residents gain the skills necessary to access family-sustaining, quality jobs.

"Digital Literacy has become an important skill and ever more necessary in today's workforce, it is not just the access to technology but the reliance on so many different systems and platforms," said Macy Reed, Director of Workforce Development at Boston Medical Center (BMC). "As an employer, BMC continues to offer various skills-based classes to employees to help improve performance and career growth."

Building on this initiative's success, DigLit is expanding to support 20 additional Boston-based organizations:

- Asian American Civic Association
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Breaktime United, Inc.
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters

- Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston, Inc.; El Centro Adult Education Program

- Community Work Services
- Digital Ready
- Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

- Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc.

- International Institute of New England

- Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program

- Julie's Family Learning Program

- The Loop Lab

- Maverick Landing Community Services

- Mothers for Justice and Equality

- New England Center for Arts & Technology

- Operation ABLE of Greater Boston, Inc.

- Somali Development Center

- St. Stephen's Youth Programs

- The YMCA of Greater Boston

These programs will receive technical assistance provided by World Education and funds to address their digital literacy needs, allowing them to deliver effective digital literacy training and help bridge the digital equity gaps faced by their training participants.

"Digital literacy will equip our graduates with the ability to learn more quickly and adapt to new technologies, a crucial trait for career advancement," said Christopher Hope, Executive Director of the Loop Lab. "Their enhanced proficiency in digital tools will likely lead to greater efficiency and productivity, making them much more valuable members to their employers."

"The DigLit Initiative will help to directly address these barriers, enhancing participants' employability, job retention, and opportunities for career advancement," said Ben Hires, CEO of Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. "For many, the job search process, application submissions, and interviews have moved online, making basic computer skills a necessity."

For more information on the Digital Literacy Initiative, visit boston.gov/DigLit.

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