

Happy Mothers Day to all our Boston Moms

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

55 line could see service expanded in second phase of Bus Network Redesign

By Dan Murphy

As a component of the MBTA's ongoing Bus Network Redesign program, the 55 line could see its hours of operation expanded, including during weekday peak hours, while connecting the West Fenway neighborhood to Copley Station.

The first phase of the BNRD changes began in December 2024 in Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Malden, Somerville, Cambridge, and East Boston. The next phase of changes, which is now being planned, will be implemented incrementally as bus operators and supporting infrastructure become available.

"The MBTA also continues to define bus schedules and capital investments for the necessary supporting infrastructure in collaboration with our municipal

partners," MBTA spokesperson Lisa Battiston wrote in an email. "Discussions are taking place now to confirm if the 55's changes will be implemented in the next upcoming BNRD phase or a future phase. We anticipate sharing more information on the next phase of BNRD changes in the coming months."

The MBTA suspended service on the 55 bus route when the pandemic hit. Service on the line was later restored in June 2021, although the daily hours were reduced to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from the previous hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The last stop on the line was also changed to Copley Square from Park Street at that time.

When and if extended hours for the 55 line are implemented

(55 BUS, PG. 2)

MASQUERADE FUNDRAISER AT GIBSON HOUSE



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUNJIAN

Laurie Thomas, Peter Der Manuelian, and Stephen Coit sporting their masquerade best during the Masquerade Benefit Party at The Chilton Club. Proceeds raised went towards the museum. See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

Fenway CDC holds 51st annual meeting at Simmons University

By Dan Murphy

Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) held its 52nd annual meeting on Tuesday, April 29, at Simmons University.

In his second keynote address, Steven Farrell, the group's executive director, noted how it was "a very different experience" from when he delivered his first address at the 51st annual meeting last April at the same location, after only a month on the job.

Farrell said his biggest takeaways from his first year at Fenway CDC were "lead with listening"; and "be prepared to act."

Moreover, Farrell added

(Fenway CDC, PG. 3)

STUDIO JAM AT FENWAY STUDIOS



Shown from left to right: Berklee student graduating this Spring Peyton Griffin preforms a piece that was inspired by the blue of Thomas Topper's painting; Sidewalk chalk signs point visitors to the gallery at Fenway Studios on Ipswich Street; Fenway Studios artist Pat Burson discusses her work and inspiration; A K-Pop group from BU's N Mix club pose for photos. See more photos on Page 4.

EDITORIAL

THE U.S. TODAY: FROM BRAIN GAIN TO BRAIN DRAIN

The founders of the greatest American companies (at least as measured by their stock-market caps) are Bill Gates of Microsoft, Jensen Huang of Nvidia, Elon Musk of Tesla and Space X, Mark Zuckerberg of Meta (Facebook), the late Steve Jobs of Apple, Sergey Brin of Alphabet (Google) and Jeff Bezos of Amazon.

All seven share one of two things in common: Six went to top U.S. universities (Harvard for Gates and Zuckerberg; Stanford for Huang and Brin; Princeton for Bezos; and Pennsylvania for Musk) and five either themselves are immigrants (Musk, Huang, and Brin) or they are first-generation immigrants (Jobs's father was a Syrian immigrant and Bezos's adoptive father was a Cuban immigrant).

This is nothing new. America always has relied upon its immigrants and its universities to lead the way for American supremacy. This was especially true during WWII when the U.S. developed the atomic bomb thanks to a team of scientists (most of whom were foreign-born and working at the University of Chicago) that was led by physicist Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer would have made the above list for two reasons: He was both Harvard-educated and the son of a German immigrant.

According to the Nobel Prize website, since 1901, there have been 148 prize recipients who were foreign-born individuals who either had immigrated permanently to the United States or were at a U.S. institution of higher learning at the time they received the award. These 148 individuals account for 16 percent of all Nobel Laureates.

Yet it is precisely these two great pillars of America's historic economic and technological strength -- our world-renowned universities and our immigrants -- that are on the verge of being destroyed. By attacking the former, we are discouraging the latter from coming to America.

The smartest and hardest-working individuals from across the globe -- who always have viewed America as the foremost country in the world where they could develop their ideas at the world's greatest scientific research institutions -- are either leaving or not coming because the welcome mat has been pulled from our doorstep.

Nations in Europe and Asia, whose leaders are mystified by our sudden ignorance and xenophobia, are rushing to fill the vacuum by offering grants and opportunities to world-class scientists that previously had been monopolized by the United States.

We are entering the equivalent of the Dark Ages -- and for the first time ever in our history, the United States is now facing the prospect of a brain drain, as opposed to being the beneficiary of a brain gain.

WILL WE HAVE FLU AND COVID VACCINES THIS FALL?

The actions reportedly being taken by Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to impede the development of the flu and COVID vaccines for this coming year call into question whether these life-saving vaccines will be available for Americans this fall.

Annual flu and COVID shots are the best protection for all Americans from these two diseases, especially for senior citizens and those with compromised immune systems. Approximately 40,000 Americans die each year from the flu, of whom about 80% are over the age of 65. It is estimated that the annual vaccines prevent about seven million illnesses, three million doctor visits, 100,000 hospital stays, and 7,000 deaths. A substantial percentage of those who die from the flu are unvaccinated.

As for COVID-19, there were 76,446 deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 in 2023, the vast majority among the elderly, the oldest of whom are 97 times more likely to die from a COVID-19 infection than a person under the age of 20. In addition, the lingering effects of COVID-19, known as long COVID, impact tens of thousands more Americans.

The flu vaccine is forward-looking. Scientists examine the data of the various strains floating around the world and then make a guess as to which ones will be most-prevalent in the coming winter season, and a vaccine is developed to target those strains.

However, the COVID vaccine looks only at the present, with the vaccines aiming to target the most prevalent variants at the time the vaccines are being developed. COVID always is mutating, so it is impossible to know what variant will come next. However, even though the COVID vaccines are outdated to some extent by the time most people receive them, the vaccine still offers substantial protection against the disease.

However, whether these life-saving vaccines, which must go through an approval process before the FDA, will be ready in time for the fall flu and COVID season is an open question given the gamesmanship being displayed by RFK Jr., who reportedly is creating new barriers in the approval process.

These vaccines literally are a matter of life and death for America's ever-aging population, but it would seem that those in charge these days could care less -- and that we are all just one big experiment for their dangerous and off-the-wall "theories."

NEWS IN BRIEF

DUCKLING DAY PARADE RETURNS TO THE COMMON ON SUNDAY, MAY 11

A beloved Mother's Day tradition continues when the Friends of the Public Garden's Duckling Day Parade returns to the Boston Common on Sunday, May 11.

For more than 30 years, the parade has been a celebration of family, community, and joy, stemming from the iconic children's book, 'Make Way for Ducklings' by Robert McCloskey.

Duckling Day is a family-friendly celebration held each year on Boston Common, featuring activity booths, lawn games, magic, and live music all at Parkman Bandstand. This year's Duckling Day activities include: Jump, hula-hoop, and run with Knucklebones; Jenny the Juggler; Bonaparte the Strolling Magician; live dance performances by students from Woo Ching White Crane School and City Boston Ballet Make Way for Ducklings Dancers from Tony Williams' 'Urban Nutcracker'; and a 'Make Way for Ducklings' reading station, where the children's classic is read aloud, accompanied by a creative movement

activity from City Boston Ballet; and a visit from a live marching band, among other activities.

The event ends with a parade retracing Mrs. Mallard's steps to the Make Way for Ducklings sculpture in the Public Garden.

Register at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/ducklingday/>.

FENWAY NIC TO MEET MAY 13 AT 1140 BOYLSTON ST.

The Fenway NIC (Neighborhood Improvement Committee) will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Steve Heck Room on the first floor of 1140 Boylston St. A virtual option will be offered as well via Zoom.

Besides community updates, Berklee President Jim Lucchese, who joined the institution as its fifth president in January, will join to share a few thoughts and meet neighbors. Refreshments will also be served.

R.S.V.P. to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbcFGFOxPbTVZ-caaQez-lux2-UVMrK1abKxkZ-TITMu8SnrQ/viewform>.

(NEWS BRIEFS, PG. 3)

55 BUS (from Page 1)

as part of the BNRD, they would reportedly run from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Jamie Culbertson, a Fenway CDC community organizer who facilitates the 55 Bus Route Coalition of residents and neighborhood partners, wrote in an email: "We're very thankful to the MBTA for recognizing

how important the 55 bus is to the Fenway community in their Bus Network Redesign process. We'd love to see longer 55 bus hours as part of the September set of bus route changes so Fenway residents can use this vital cross-neighborhood connector in the morning and evening as soon as possible."

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DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Pictured, left to right, are Cecilia Esteves, a Fenway CDC volunteer and Fenway resident; District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan; Alejandro Auffant, government and neighborhood affairs coordinator for the Boston Red Sox; Steven Farrell, executive director of Fenway CDC; City Councilor at-Large Henry Santana; and Maccon Bonner, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison to the Fenway.

FENWAY CDC (from Page 1)

that Fenway CDC's "physical house" is in very good shape, thanks to diligent work of the group's board of directors. He also credited staff for the organization's portfolio, which now comprises 554 safe, affordable housing units for more than 720 residents, along with 131 more units now under development, including 15 units on Beacon Hill's Hanock Street.

The group presented three Community Service Awards to Sen. Lydia Edwards, touted as a tireless champion of affordable housing; Boston Badminton and Tennis Club, a neighborhood organization that dates back to 1891 and has over the years, generously supported Fenway CDC and the neighborhood; and Tenant Organizers of Our Lady's Guild House, historically a "home to women looking for reasonable priced housing and a

sense of community."

The meeting also included the second of three Town Hall Community Vision Conversations to help guide the organization's Strategic Plan for the next four years.

A third and final Town Hall Community Vision Conversation is being planned for July or August, which will include feedback and next steps, as well as board approval of the Strategic Plan.



Pictured, left to right, are Our Lady's Guild House residents Priscilla Louie, Leigh Graham, Rosaria Salerno, and Siobhan O'Connor.



Pictured, left to right, are Parker Llewellyn of the Fenway Badminton and Tennis Club, as well as one of this year's Community Service Award recipients; Suneeth John, deputy director of Fenway CDC; Sheila Dillon, director of the Mayor's Office of Housing; and Mark Winkeller, a Fenway CDC board member.

News in Brief Continued from Page 2

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE TO HOLD GALA MAY 16 AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Women Lunch Place's annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, 'eat LUNCH give,' will take place on Friday, May 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental hotel.

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

Visit womenslunchplace.org/elg to view tickets and sponsorship information.

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR SET TO RETURN THIS SPRING

Mayor Michelle Wu will join the Office of Neighborhood Services and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the return of her annual Neighborhood Coffee Hours, including an event for the Beacon Hill and Back Bay communities on Thursday, May 15, from 10- 11 a.m. on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall (near the Arlington Street entrance); an event for the South End community on Wednesday, May 21, from 10-11 a.m. at Titus Sparrow Park, located at 75 West Rutland Square; and an event for Fenway/Kenmore voters on Wednesday, June 11, from 10-11 a.m. at the Back Bay Fens - Kelleher Rose Garden, located at 73 Park Drive.

The Mayor Neighborhood Coffee Hours, presented in partnership with Dunkin' and Star Market, offers Boston residents

the opportunity to speak directly with Mayor Wu and staff from city departments about city services and resident concerns. Leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet will attend each Coffee Hour, and attendees will have the opportunity to meet their neighborhood liaisons, who will deliver remarks focused on city improvements in each neighborhood.

In the event of rain, the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour for the Beacon Hill and Back Bay communities will take place on Thursday, May 15, from 10- 11 a.m. in the Central Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 700 Boylston St.; the event for the South End community will take place on Wednesday, May 21, from 10-11 a.m. at Union Combined Parish, located at 485 Columbus Ave.; and the event for Fenway/Kenmore voters on Wednesday, June 11, from 10-11 a.m. at the Fenway Community Center, located at 1282 Boylston St., #123.

Visit boston.gov/coffee-hours for more information and a complete schedule of Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hours.

FENWAY PORCHFEST SET TO RETURN SATURDAY, JUNE 21

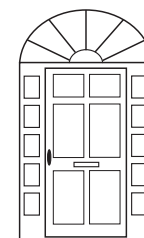
The sixth annual Fenway Porchfest is set to return from noon to 4 p.m., and will again transform open spaces throughout the neighborhood into impromptu concert stages for a range of genre-spanning performances.

Visit linktr.ee/fenwayporchfest for more information.

(NEWS BRIEFS, PG. 10)

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FENWAY STUDIOS HOSTS STUDIO JAM



Fenway Studios artist Ginny Zanger.



Fenway Studios artist Thomas Topper in explains his creative process.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

Fenway Studios held a Studio Jam event at their Gallery bringing Berklee students and artists at Fenway Studios together to display and combine their talents. Be sure to visit Fenway Studios June 7 for their upcoming Open Studio event.



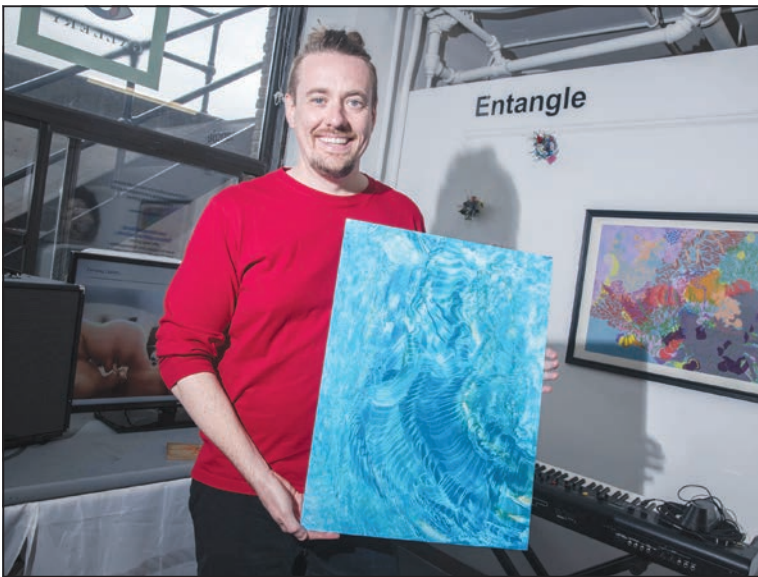
The Make Way For Ducklings sculpture was adorned with appropriate fashion for Spring.



Fenway Studios artist Pat Burson shows her work *Peaked Hills*, depicting a trail area near Provincetown.



Visitors enjoy the Make Way For Ducklings sculpture.



Fenway Studios artist Thomas Topper shows some of his work.



Visitors enjoy the historic Boston Public Garden.



Visitors take pictures in front of the dining display of color from the finely cultivated flowers and greenery of the Boston Public Garden.

LUNCH AND DINNER

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Associates of the Boston Public Library hosts 35th annual Literary Lights Dinner

Special to Sun

The Associates of the Boston Public Library hosted its 35th annual Literary Lights Dinner on April 27 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, raising more than half a million dollars to preserve and protect the BPL's Special Collections. Associates Board Chair Alyce Lee celebrated the 2025 honorees and announced that author of *Wicked*, Gregory Maguire, will deliver the keynote address at next year's April 26, 2026, Literary Lights Dinner.

This black-tie celebration honored critically acclaimed writers from the Northeast including David Grann (*Killers of the Flower Moon*), Elin Hilderbrand (*Swan Song*), Curtis Sittenfeld (*Prep*), Ilyon Woo (*Master Slave Husband Wife*), and Elizabeth Strout (*Olive Kitteridge*). Awards were presented by Nathaniel Philbrick, Meredith Goldstein, Tom Perrotta, Caleb Gayle, and Richard Russo, respectively. Each honoree spoke passionately about the critical importance of libraries, particularly in times like these—a sentiment the audience embraced with enthusiasm and heartfelt applause.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout delivered a moving keynote address, reminding guests of the urgent need to safeguard libraries as living, breathing institutions. She highlighted the importance of the Associates' work to "conserve and digitize the remarkable collection that is already present," ensuring public access to treasures like John Quincy Adams' library and abolitionist papers—vital pieces of our shared history and the enduring spirit of liberty.

President of the Boston Public



Elizabeth Strout's Keynote Address.

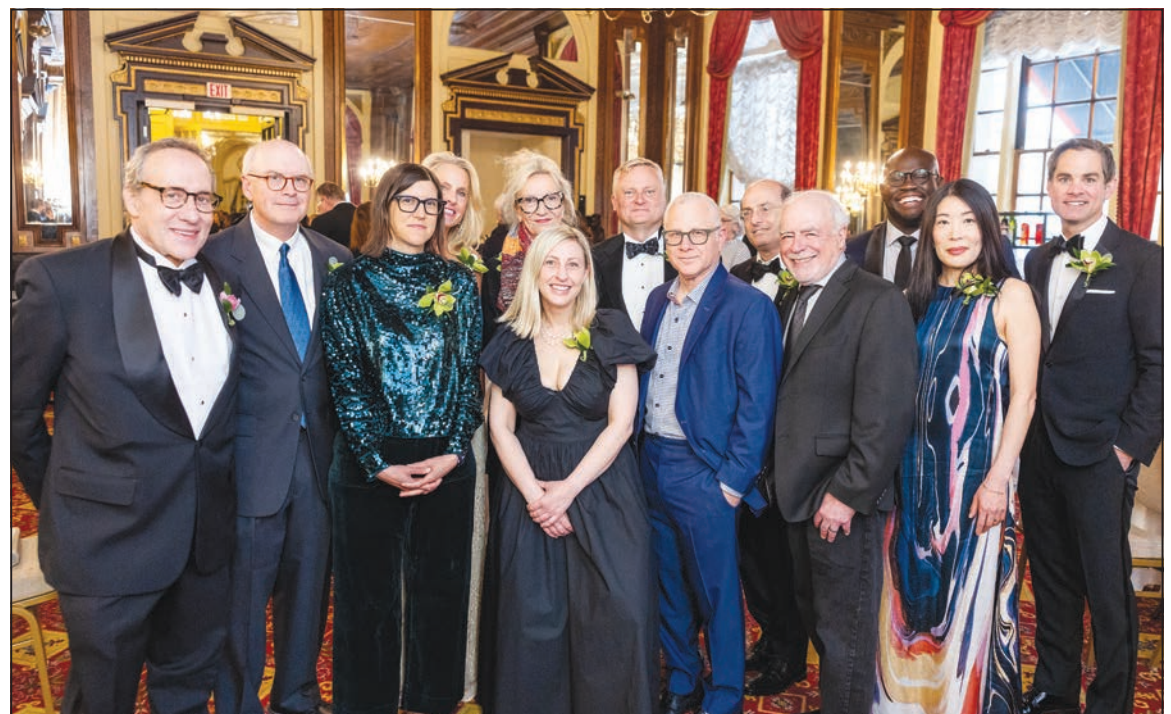
Library, David Leonard, reminded guests that Literary Lights not only celebrates contemporary authors and historic collections, but also underscores the urgent need to defend libraries as essential pillars of democracy, equity, and access to knowledge. Dinner Co-Chairs Natalie Lemle and Karen Osborn celebrated a sold-out evening, thanking sponsors and guests for their generous support. Emcee, Jared Bowen, GBH's Executive Arts Editor and Host of *The Culture Show*, engaged over 420 guests from Boston's business, literary, arts, and philanthropic communities.

Notable guests included Ray Liu, Chair of the BPL Trustees; Christian Westra and Joseph Berman, BPL Trustees; Executive Vice President and Head of Wealth Management at Cambridge Trust, a division of Eastern Bank, Jeffrey Smith; Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Trinity Financial, Patrick Lee; Peter R.V. Brown, Nutter partner and former Associates' Board Chair; and authors James Carroll, Megan Marshall, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Joseph Finder, along with former Muse-



Associates Board Chair Alyce Lee, former BPL Trustee Priscilla Douglas, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Sara Gifford, and Carole Simpson.

MICHAEL BLANCHARD PHOTO



Joseph Finder, Nathaniel Philbrick, Curtis Sittenfeld, Elin Hilderbrand, Elizabeth Strout, Meredith Goldstein, David Leonard, Tom Perrotta, David Grann, Richard Russo, Caleb Gayle, Ilyon Woo, and Jared Bowen.



Curtis Sittenfeld being honored by Tom Perrotta.



David Grann being honored by Nathaniel Philbrick.



Dinner Co-chairs Karen Osborn and Natalie Lemle.

um of Fine Arts Director, Matthew Teitelbaum, among others.

The Associates is an independent non-profit that raises funds to preserve, digitize, and promote the Boston Public Library's Special Collections and its historic, literary, and artistic treasures. Since its inception in 1972, the Associates has been the driving force and sponsor behind an extensive range of programs, including the Writer-in-Residence program, the Pierce Performance Series, and the Hundred-Year Book Debate. For more information, please visit www.AssociatesBPL.org or connect with us on Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

YES GALA RAISES \$800K FOR BOSTON YOUTH PROGRAMS



GINGER DESHANEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Nuha Futa, emcee of the Black Diamond Gala and YES alumni and volunteer, and her sister, Jan'nah Futa, a YES youth member, both of Dorchester.



Bryan Van Dorpe, executive director of Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and Kelly Brawn, PhD, Head of Programs and Community Engagement at Life Science Cares, receiving the 2025 YES Achievement Award on behalf of Life Science Cares.

Special to the Sun

Boston nonprofit Youth Enrichment Services (YES) held its 14th annual Black Diamond Gala on Thursday, April 24 at the Renaissance Boston Seaport. The fundraising event raised \$800,000 to support programming for hundreds of Boston youth, including snow sports, track and field, biking and rock climbing. Several world-class athletes attended the gala, including Olympic Gold medalist Jessie Diggins. The 2025 YES Achievement Award was presented to Life Science Cares, an organization that leverages the collective power and generosity of the life science industry to disrupt the cycle of poverty and inequality in communities. Founded

in 1968, YES serves more than 1,200 children and teens annually primarily from Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan and Jamaica Plain. The mission of YES is

to inspire Boston youth through outdoor experiences and leadership opportunities that build confidence and prepare them to summit life's challenges.



(From L to R) Phill Gross, co-founder and managing director of Adage Capital Management, Jessie Diggins, Olympic medalist and World Champion cross-country skier, and Bryan Van Dorpe, executive director of Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Gross also serves as vice president of YES' Board of Directors.



Richard Francis and Candace Burns, YES Board of Directors member and YES alumni.



(From L to R) Bryan Van Dorpe, executive director of Youth Enrichment Services (YES), Black Diamond Gala event co-chairs Marie Daniel of South Boston and Jim Stephenson.

Mayor Wu announces launch of Arts Action Consortium

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the Arts Action Consortium (AAC) launch, a new initiative to strengthen and sustain Boston's creative workforce. In collaboration with six Boston-based cultural organizations, this two-year program will offer crucial resources, including professional development, technical assistance, and career support for Boston's artists. This initiative reflects the City's deep commitment to fostering a vibrant arts community and building a more equitable, sustainable future for artists across the city.

"By providing artists with essential resources, opportunities for professional development, and continuous support, we are not only investing in their success but also ensuring Boston remains a cultural hub," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The

vibrant arts community contributes to what makes our city truly unique. I am proud to support artists of all mediums and ensure they have the resources needed to succeed."

AAC is comprised of six distinguished Boston-based partner organizations: Ágora Cultural Architects, Arts and Business Council, Assets for Artists, Bloom Arts Strategy, Dunamis, and Middy Movement Series. Each of these organizations brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the collective, forming a robust network of support for Boston's creative community. Supported by a \$700,000 investment through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the City, this initiative reflects the Mayor's commitment to building long-term sustainability for the creative workforce and addressing the structural barriers they face.

"Artists and creative workers are still navigating the long-term impacts of COVID, compounded by economic instability and the rising cost of living," said Samantha Rose Hale, Director of Grants and Programs at the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. "In a time of political uncertainty, it's essential to invest in the people whose creative labor helps us imagine and build more just systems. The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture believes artists and cultural workers play a vital role in shaping a healthy, vibrant, and just society—this initiative provides sustained, culturally responsive support that reflects that belief."

The Artist Pathways Project is the inaugural program of AAC and is designed to utilize each of the partner organizations' services to equip Boston artists with the skills, resources, and support needed to build a sustainable

career in the arts. This project offers free resources to Boston artists, including 1,000 hours of one-on-one consultations for artistic development, grant writing, business development, legal support, and financial literacy; 100+ workshops and three cohort opportunities covering essential career-building topics; access to rehearsal, performance, and convening space; and community building social events.

The project will provide artists with wrap-around services and sustained support over the two years that equip them with the business and artistic skills, networks, and confidence that they need to build a thriving professional artistic career in Boston. Beyond the direct support to artists, the Artist Pathways Project seeks to demonstrate how a collaborative model can provide a more effective and efficient approach to addressing a

community's needs by leveraging each partner's strengths to more comprehensively support a community member. The insights gained from this project will help the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) understand the changing needs of Boston's creative community, guiding future funding and policy decisions to better support local artists.

"The coalition's ability to provide a unified, multifaceted, and responsive service to artists over the next two years will have an extraordinary effect on the viability and sustainability of these artists' careers," said J. Cottle, Executive Director of Dunamis Boston. "This ecosystem we're building reflects a reality that lasting change and deep impact only work when we engage deeply and without ego; when we affirm abundance and

(ARTS ACTION CONSORTIUM, Pg. 7)

ARTS ACTION CONSORTIUM *(from Page 6)*

execute from an understanding that our diversity of thought and expertise is our greatest value.”

AAC will host a kickoff party on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at CROMA, Public Alley 438, in Downtown Boston. This free event is open to the public and welcomes artists of all mediums and art enthusiasts alike to celebrate the launch of this exciting collaboration serving Boston artists. Find the RSVP link here.

Boston's arts sector thrives when artists are empowered with the tools, funding, and networks needed to succeed. Through their collective efforts, AAC partners are dedicated to bridging gaps in access and opportunity, ensuring that Boston remains a hub for artistic innovation and cultural vibrancy.

Ágora Cultural Architects

Ágora's mission is to amplify the visibility and foster the development of Latin American (LATAM) arts and culture. We are committed to celebrating these communities' rich pluriverse and heritage, including those of the different LATAM diasporas. We believe in the power of arts as a tool for social change, and we strive to provide a platform for our voices to be heard, stories to be told, and identities to be honored.

Arts and Business Council

The Arts and Business Council empowers artists and organizations by providing the tools and services they need to grow their practices, gain influence, seek justice, and thrive. Art is an integral part of diverse communities, a healthy economy, and a rich educational environment. For communities to thrive, the artists and arts organizations within them must be sustainable, viable, safe, and supported. We believe deeply in the value of a thriving creative sector and the importance of investing in the creative workforce that powers it. From legal services and human resources support to real estate programs and creative place keeping, our initiatives are aimed at maintaining and bolstering the vibrancy and diversity of the region.

Assets for Artists

Assets for Artists is an artist-led and artist-centered organization that marshals resources and strategies for creatives to pursue self-determined careers while navigating an economic system that's stacked against us. We advance this mission by advocating for artists' needs, redistributing resources directly to artists, and creating opportunities for artists to be in the community, engage in peer learning, and obtain tools for navigating

the challenges of our current economic system while simultaneously shaping a more equitable one.

Bloom Arts Strategy

Bloom Arts Strategy provides fundraising, event planning, strategy, and project management support to arts organizations and artists, striving to empower institutions and individuals to build the resources, community, and skills needed to achieve their creative and strategic goals.

Dunamis

Dunamis ignites agency and transformative growth for emerging artists and arts managers of color by serving as a nexus for professional development, community-building, consulta-

tion, production, advocacy, and developing equitable pipelines for access and leadership in creative spaces. They give folks the support they need to grow into greater and more complete versions of themselves.

Midday Movement Series

Midday Movement Series is a BIPOC-led grassroots initiative cultivating a new generation of dance leaders, collectively transforming the dance sector by increasing visibility, equity, sustainability, and creative vibrancy. Using principles of eco-conservation, MIDDAY nurtures teacher-choreographers by using a “keystone species” approach, designing innovations that prioritize collective action, leverage untapped resources, and champion underserved, marginalized

artists.

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) is committed to fostering a thriving and inclusive arts ecosystem in Boston by supporting local artists, investing in cultural infrastructure, and promoting equitable access to the arts for all residents. Through funding, partnerships, and policy development, MOAC works to uplift Boston's diverse creative community, ensuring that artists have the resources and opportunities needed to succeed. As both a funder and key partner in the Arts Action Consortium and the Artist Pathways Project, MOAC continues its mission to champion innovation and sustainability within Boston's cultural landscape.

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GIBSON HOUSE HOLDS MASQUERADE BENEFIT PARTY



Janet Draksdorf, Meghan Holmes, Suri Xia, and Cathy Dahill.



George Earley, Mehran Spitmann, Catherine Rockett, Melissa Koester.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Gibson House held a Masquerade Benefit Party at The

Chilton Club. Attendees partied wearing masks while supporting Boston's unique museum that offers a time capsule view into household life in the Victorian Era.



Mehran Spitmann, Catherine and Mary Beth Rockett, William Charleton, Ali Foley, and Anne Swanson.



Attendees place raffle tickets to win items and experiences donated by local vendors.



Direct descendant of Charles Gibson, the last resident of Gibson House and founder of the museum, Annie Groves reacts after winning a raffle prize.



Jonathan Vantassel and Tyler Cavanagh.



Catharine and William Crawford.



Boston Preservation Alliance Matthew Dickey with Gibson House Board member Lynn Snilledge.



Adding to the evening's mystique were tarot card readings provided by Jill Anderson of Regina Russell's Readings in Quincy MA.

GIBSON HOUSE HOLDS MASQUERADE BENEFIT PARTY



Current and former board members Jack Glassman, Sam Duncan, Jack Mangan, and Bob Goodof.



Tracey Merrill with Gibson House Volunteer Faiza Shahzad selling raffle tickets.



Rob Davison, Andy Rubinson, Jim Hood, and Mark Schueppert



Andy Rubinson and Rob Davison.



Direct descendant of Charles Gibson, the last resident of Gibson House and founder of the museum, Annie Groves with her husband Richard.



Leha Edwards-Brownson and Christopher Amoroso.



Vivian And Isabela Connelly.



Gibson House supporters enjoyed the ambiance of The Chilton Club playing host to the evening's festivities.



George Earley and Melissa Koester.



Gibson House volunteer Gloria Chang with Evie Dykema.



Margaret Shepard and Ross Wood, wearing a Venetian leather mask made by Bertolini.

DELUCA'S MARKET

Celebrate
ALL
Moms



10% OFF WINE*
WITH PURCHASE
OF FLOWERS

THIS WEEKEND ONLY 5/9-5/11 *SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY
11 CHARLES ST & 239 NEWBURY ST
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Back Bay, Fenway-Kenmore, and South End projects awarded latest round of CPA funding

By Dan Murphy

A number of projects throughout the Back Bay, Fenway-Kenmore, and the South End were among the recipients to receive over \$38 million via the latest round of funding from the city's Community Preservation Act (CPA).

In the Back Bay, two historic preservation projects were selected to receive CPA funding, including awarding \$550,000 to Church of the Covenant to preserve the historic 1867 building at 67 Newbury St. by funding the partial replacement of its slate roof; and \$527,000 to rehabilitate the historic building at 351 Boylston St. by funding the repair of failed masonry.

In Fenway-Kenmore,

\$1,500,000 has been earmarked for an affordable housing project being spearheaded by the non-profit Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation), which will create a six-story building with 24 affordable rentals at 112 Queensberry St.

Steven Farrell, executive director of Fenway CDC, told this reporter: "The project will transform an under-utilized site into 24 units of affordable transit-oriented rental housing for individuals earning 30-60 percent of AMI (Area Median Income). We appreciate the city's commitment to affordable housing, especially in neighborhoods like the Fenway where housing costs have increased dramatically in the last decade. [The proposed project at] 112 Queensberry is current-

ly awaiting a funding decision from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), with a decision expected by June."

Ruggles Baptist Church, located at 874 Beacon St. in Audubon Circle, will also receive \$539,000 to rehabilitate its exterior envelope.

In the South End, three Open Space and Recreation projects have been selected for the latest round of CPA funding, including \$332,247 to complete the third phase of the construction on new Crite Park, which will memorialize the late Allan Rohan Crite, an internationally acclaimed African American artist and longtime neighborhood resident; \$982,649 to rehabilitate the Hurley K-8 Schoolyard; and \$172,304 to

rehabilitate the Dartmouth Green Pocket Park, with capital improvements comprising "the regrading of land, installation of new accessible pathways and seating, and planting of new trees, shrubs, and perennials while preserving the existing tree canopy," according to a press release from the city.

Mayor Michelle Wu added: "I am proud to continue to support and invest in our neighborhoods in partnership with the Community Preservation Committee in an effort to make our city a welcoming space for all. The investment in these projects emphasize our dedication to continue to listen and collaborate with our community members to keep Boston innovative and vibrant"

The Community Preservation

Fund was created following voters' passage and adoption of the Community Preservation Act in November 2016. It is funded by a 1 percent property tax-based surcharge on residential and business property tax bills, which took effect in July 2017, along with annual state funding from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund. The Mayor and Community Preservation Committee recommend funding use and the City Council vote to approve it.

From 2018 to 2025, the CPA Committee has recommended 397 projects and awarded over \$230 million in funding through eight CPA funding rounds. This year, 52 projects are being awarded funding for the 2025 funding round, totaling over \$38 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 3

WARD 4 DEMS OFFERS \$400 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

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.

Back Bay Architectural Commission to hold meeting on May 14

Special to the Sun

The Back Bay Architectural Commission will hold its next monthly public hearing virtually on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5 p.m.

ATTENTION: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our Zoom Meeting or calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting id # 978 8865 6033. You can also submit written comments or questions to Back-BayAC@boston.gov.

Public testimony begins at 5:00pm

Discussion Topics

1. Ratification of 4-9-2025 Public Hearing Minutes

2. Design Review APP # 25.0776 BB 204 BEACON STREET:

Proposed Work: At front garden remove existing pear tree.

APP # 25.0844 BB 131 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE:

Proposed Work: At roof relocate location of previously approved HVAC units to the west side of the roof and enclosing in a perforated copper screen.

3Administrative Review/Approval

APP # 25.0837 BB 209 BEACON STREET: At rear elevation replace previously approved arched window with oriel window.

APP # 25.0775 BB 235 BEACON STREET: At front facade repair existing fire escape.

APP # 25.0852 BB 306 BEACON STREET: At front facade replace three, fourth-story non-historic two-over-two windows with historically appropriate one-over-one wood windows.

APP # 25.0786 BB 405 BEACON STREET: At front facade repair existing fire balcony.

APP # 25.0860 BB 414 BEACON STREET: At front facade replace six one-over-one non-historic wood windows in-kind.

APP # 25.0830 BB 565 BOYLSTON STREET: At front facade replace restaurant signage and dining patio furnishings.

APP # 25.0759 BB 777 BOYLSTON STREET: At front facade install wall sign and window awning.

APP # 25.0729 BB 65 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At seventh floor replace 19 windows with historically appropriate wood windows.

APP # 25.0824 BB 116 COM-

MONWEALTH AVENUE: At roof replace black rubber membrane roofing in-kind.

APP # 25.0745 BB 207 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At rear elevation replace three lower level windows with historically appropriate wood windows.

APP # 25.0609 BB 216 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: Replace eight second-story windows with historically appropriate wood windows.

APP # 25.0822 BB 234 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At roof replace black rubber membrane roofing in-kind.

APP # 25.0839 BB 283 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At rear elevation replace two first-story two-over-two non-historic wood windows with two-over-two true divided lite wood windows.

APP # 25.0842 BB 286 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At roof install skylight, repair slate roof, replace copper gutters and flashing in-kind; repaint cornices and window surrounds; and replace non-historic windows and restore historic windows.

APP # 25.0777 BB 333 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At roof replace black rubber membrane roof and existing roof deck in-kind.

APP # 25.0838 BB 390 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: At front facade and rear elevation repair masonry.

APP # 25.0836 BB 29 FAIRFIELD STREET: Repaint windows to match existing color and reset one window lintel.

APP # 25.0843 BB 4 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At front facade replace existing sandstone entry stoop treads, risers and newel posts, and curbing with cast stone matching the dimensions, colors and details of the existing sandstone.

APP # 25.0753 BB 22 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At roof install previously approved roof deck.

APP # 25.0801 BB 118 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At roof replace black rubber membrane roofing in-kind; repaint wood trim and metalwork; and at rear elevation repair and repoint masonry.

APP # 25.0802 BB 120 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At roof replace black rubber membrane roofing in-kind.

APP # 25.0817 BB 140 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At rear yard plant crabapple tree.

APP # 25.0835 BB 140 MARLBOROUGH STREET: At roof install three heat pumps.

APP # 25.0814 BB 286 MARLBOROUGH STREET: Replace four third-story two-over-two wood windows in-kind.

APP # 25.0861 BB 30 NEWBURY STREET: At front facade upgrades to store front including replacement of door hardware, new masonry finish and new wall sign.

APP # 25.0754 BB 128-130 NEWBURY STREET: At front facade repair existing steps, handrails and concrete paving.

APP # 25.0833 BB 171 NEWBURY STREET: At front facade remove existing windows and stone lintels, replace steel lintels and flashing, and reinstall windows and stone lintels; and at front facade and rear elevation repoint masonry and replace window sealant.

APP # 25.0845 BB 208 NEWBURY STREET: At front facade replace existing storefront signage and install accessible door opener.

APP # 25.0743 BB 294 NEWBURY STREET: At front facade install wall sign.

APP # 25.0818 BB 321 NEWBURY STREET: Replace existing wall and window signage.

4. Staff Updates

5. Projected Adjournment - 6 p.m.

NABB Comm. hears proposal for installing ads inside Pru pedestrian skybridge

By Dan Murphy

A proposal to install removable, adhesive advertising decals on both sides of the pedestrian skybridge that connects Copley Place and the Prudential Mall came before the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Licensing and Building Use Committee at its May 5 virtual monthly meeting.

The translucent decals, spanning 60-feet wide by 8-feet high, would adorn only the inside of six panes of glass in the center portion on both sides of the three-section bridge, said Jeff Drago, an attorney for the applicant, while the upper skylight portions of the bridge would remain free from decals.

The advertising decals wouldn't require affixing any structural component to the skywalk, added Drago, and they would use only natural light for illumination, "so basically [advertising] would be designed for the daytime."



D. MURPHY

The pedestrian skybridge that connects Copley Place and the Prudential Mall.

Moreover, Drago noted that other advertising was already a fixture of the skywalk.

Sebastian Amara, director of real estate for New Tradition Media, said the company would enter into a 10-year agreement with Copley Place, landlord of the skyway, with a five-year option to renew.

The applicant expects that stores from within Copley Place, like Gucci and Louis Vuitton, would largely account for renting the proposed advertising space, said Amara, and although advertisers (none of which have signed on yet) could potentially change on a monthly basis, the goal is to lock them in for year-long leases.

While the applicant would typically avoid political advertisements, and tobacco ads are prohibited nationwide, ads for alcohol aren't entirely off the table.

"It could be for alcohol but most likely, it won't," added Amara.

For the project to move forward, however, it would require not only a zoning variance from the city's Inspectional Services Department but also the approval of the MassDOT (Massachusetts Department of Transportation) Office of Outdoor Advertising for content, as well as to ensure that ads adhere to state regulations, said Amara.

Despite the applicant's assurances that the removable advertising decals would cause no glare and have no impact below at the busy intersection where Huntington Avenue intersects with East Ring Road and Harcourt Street, Elliott Laffer, former committee chair and a long-time NABB member, expressed serious concerns with the proposal.

"This is a major thoroughfare," said Laffer. "It's a tough enough spot without people looking up at what any advertiser wants them to do, look at the ads."

Laffer added: "It sets a dangerous precedent for anywhere where there is a pedestrian bridge, and we have several of them around here."

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, noted, "This case is a little unusual for us. It's just on the border of NABB's jurisdiction."

In another matter, the committee heard about plans for Rosa y Marigold, a Peruvian restaurant proposed for Lyrik (the Parcel 12 development on Mass Ave across

Boston joins national lawsuit to save homelessness prevention funding

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston joined a lawsuit with cities and counties from across the United States to challenge the Trump Administration's move to cancel \$3.6 billion in grants for housing and homelessness prevention.

The suit challenges the move by the Trump Administration to withhold nearly \$48 million in previously-awarded funding for Boston to fight homelessness. The Administration's actions threaten billions in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (CoC) program, the single largest source of federal funding Boston and other cities use to address homelessness.

"The Trump Administration is threatening to hold up nearly \$48 million for Boston to tackle homelessness unless our City complies with unconstitutional Executive Orders," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are joining other cities and counties across the country to protect critical funding to prevent homelessness and house families in need. Boston will not back down on making our city a home for everyone."

The Continuum of Care program supports individuals experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless Boston residents with finding stable housing connected to health care, counseling, and other supportive services. Each year, the City of Boston works with local nonprofit organizations to assist more than 2,000 households experiencing homelessness — individuals, families, young adults, and veterans. These services are part of Boston's broader "housing first" strategy, which focuses on helping people move into stable housing as quickly as possible with supports to help them stay housed. The actions by the Trump Administration threaten these resources and the housing that the City and its partners are able to provide.

The new requirements from the federal government would force Boston and other cities to make legal promises that conflict with local laws, values, and long-standing efforts to support

residents and connect them with stable housing. These include conditions related to immigration enforcement, health care, DEI, and how cities support transgender and gender-diverse individuals. If Boston agreed to these terms and was later found to be out of compliance based on this federal administration's unfounded and unsupported interpretation of the laws, the City could be forced to pay back all the grant money—up to three times the original amount—leaving thousands of residents without housing support and putting the City in an unnecessary position financially.

Each year, the Continuum of Care program funds services in Boston such as permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities, rapid re-housing for those exiting homelessness, and transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence and others in crisis. More than 18 nonprofit organizations receive this funding annually to do their work, including Metro Housing | Boston, Pine Street Inn, Home-Start, and Casa Myrna. These groups also employ more than 125 people with this support.

"Our nonprofit partners work every day to make sure our most vulnerable residents have the housing and the support services that they need to stabilize their lives," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "The Continuum of Care federal funding is too important to be compromised by the federal administration's unrelated policy agenda."

"We cannot allow the federal government to abdicate our collective responsibility to provide housing for our homeless and neediest residents, including veterans and those struggling with mental health issues. Boston will continue to fight for critical funding to care for our residents and will protect their basic rights," said Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

Boston joins seven other jurisdictions in filing this lawsuit in the federal Western District of Washington, including King County, WA; the City of New York, NY; the City of Columbus, OH; the City and County of San Francisco, CA and Pierce County and Snohomish County, WA.



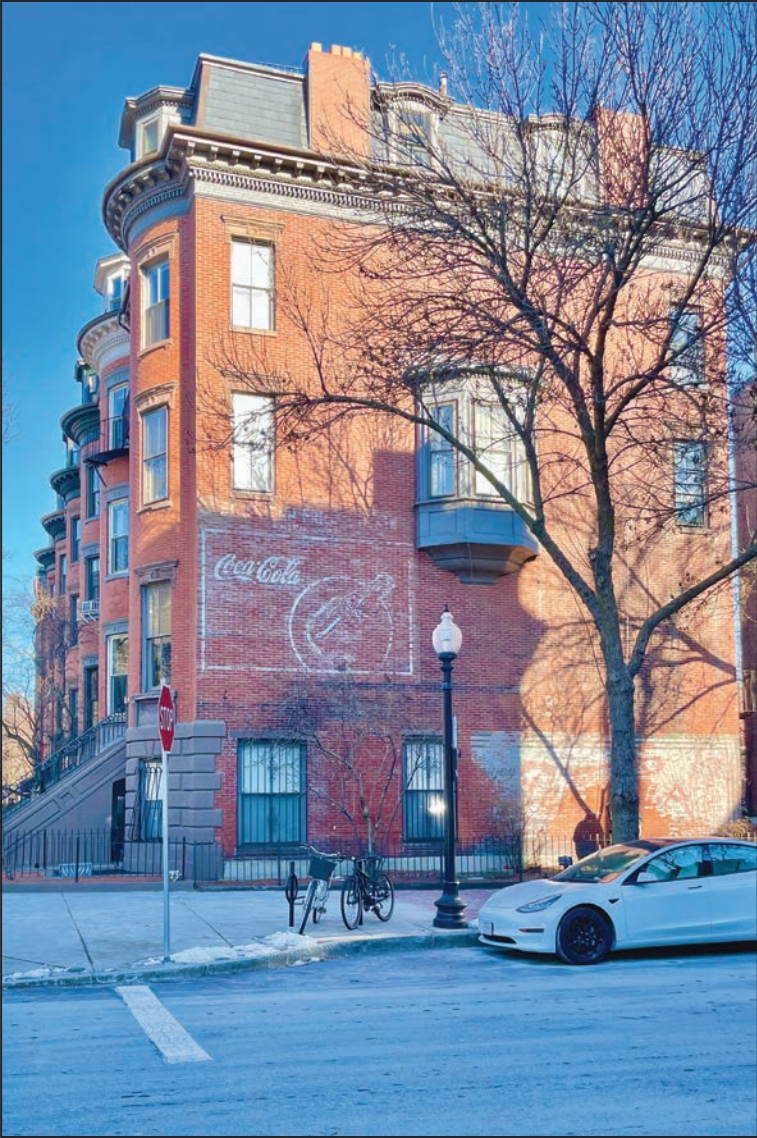
The proposed future home of Venchi Gelato at 123 Newbury St.

(NABB, Pg. 14)

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The fading white paint in the last clue is part of a Coca-Cola ghost sign on 488 Columbus Avenue. The Ephemera Society of America explains, “Old and fading advertising images painted on exterior building walls are known as ‘ghost signs’.” As you walk around the city, you could document those remaining with a photo.

You’ll find the next clue in the Back Bay.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BACK BAY

252 Marlborough St Nt	Fein-Zachary, Valerie J	252 Marlborough St #D	\$1,610,000
285 Marlborough Nt	Daffodil T	285 Marlborough St	\$11,750,000
Joyce, Madeline S	Joyce, Christopher P	35 Marlborough St #6	\$550,000
Snow Owl 33 T	Haley, Christopher K	74-76 Marlborough St #6	\$1,295,000
Chang, Fenyen	483-75 Beacon St LLC	483 Beacon St #75	\$815,000
Moresi, Michele G	386 Boston LLC	386 Commonwealth Ave #52	\$520,000
Habiger, Carolyn	Copley Jr, John	364 Marlborough St #6	\$622,000
Robinson, Sophie	Yang, Yuchen	183-185A Massachusetts Ave #201	\$1,105,000
Moon, Susan	Toder, Blake	31 Massachusetts Ave #1-1	\$713,000
Raibova, Anastasiia	18 Parkman St LLC	20 Parkman St #4	\$910,000
Armstrong, Lily D	Schlenzig, Moritz	45 Province St #905	\$1,325,000
Deissler, Mary A	Pearson, Steven	45 Province St #1808	\$1,205,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	328-330 Shawmut Ave	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	334 Shawmut Ave	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	401 Shawmut Ave	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	403-405 Shawmut Ave	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	628-630 Tremont St	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	10 Upton St	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	75 W Brookline St	\$16,858,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	79 W Brookline St	\$16,858,000
Woo, Jane	Niemiec, Steven	86 Worcester St #3	\$885,000

BEACON HILL

Higgins-Steele, Ariel	Jespen, Claus	24 Hancock St #7	\$1,222,500
Chung, Yu-An	Rapier, Donella M	34 Hancock St #7	\$1,475,000
Cosman, Glen W	Weinberg, Ido	2 Hawthorne Pl #12C	\$550,000
Dileo, Harry C	Morkunas, Matthew W	66 Mount Vernon St #1	\$2,900,000
Bhalla, Sumit	Lu, Qinchao	80-A W Cedar St #1	\$800,000
Baptiste, Matasha	Cooper, Casey M	88 Wareham St #305	\$204,283
Pogue, Robert	Jeffrey B Rosen Ft	90 Wareham St #413	\$610,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

85 Chandler St LLC	Tang, Stephen V	85 Chandler St	\$3,275,000
Cent Anni LLC	A& C Columbus LLC	429 Columbus Ave #1	\$850,000
Chong, Doris Y	Huynh, Nguyen	8 Garrison St #305	\$338,000
Stefanidou, Maria	Chong, Doris Y	8 Garrison St #305	\$460,000
Sax, Monica	Polins, Richard A	36 Lawrence St #9	\$725,000
Hourani, Bahij	Emara, Mohamed M	1 Melrose St #5	\$520,000
Wood 3rd, Arthur T	Cleary, Lisa	18 Yarmouth St #2	\$2,625,000
Casas Borinquen LLC	Inquilinos Boricus En Ac	2 Aguadilla St	\$16,858,000
Chanoux, Timothy D	Nasrallah, Wassim	5 Concord Sq #1	\$2,312,500
Piper, Brian	William M Cotter RET	34 Dwight St #2	\$3,325,000
Wang, Juan	Lorinsky, Michael	80-82 Fenwood Rd #806	\$654,000
Zarouri, Karim	Leoney, Anthony E	80-82 Fenwood Rd #711	\$642,000
Vassallo, Teresa	Richard L Kradin RET	6 Whittier Pl #14H	\$595,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Nedfprd Kingston Prop LLC	Hma Rt	100-106 Bedford St	\$2,600,000
Murphy, Rachel E	Tagliente, Joseph M	326-328 Commercial St #35	\$797,000
Ciucian, Adriana	Treat, Hilary	342 Commercial St #6	\$785,000
Zhang, Wei	Oak Hill Park LLC	4-8 Franklin St #203	\$843,800
Flike, Nolan P	Chute Janet M Est	57 Fulton St #57	\$730,000
Carpenter, Mitchell S	Alexander, Tyler	63 Fulton St #9	\$990,000
Nedfprd Kingston Prop LLC	Hma Rt	28-30 Kingston St	\$2,600,000
Martinez, Troy	Stella, Milo	744 Washington St #2	\$569,000
13 West St LLC	Eb Dtx Holdings LLC	13-15 West St	\$1,800,000

ST. CECILIA CHURCH HOLDS STREET FAIR



The family of chuch employee Lisa Pickering posts for a picture.



Parishioners socialized and had fun on a beautiful Spring Sunday morning after service.



Willow Bradford is excited to find her new balloon unicorn friend.



Berklee students “The Sax God” Damani with Betty Ding.



Food trucks behind St Cecilia offered visitors many options for delicious food.



Ayana Dahl enjoys a cannoli from Montillo’s.



Germaine Nicolas with Fr John Unni.



Hungry Nomads/ owners and operators Tony Springer and Princess Villesenda.



Leo Frausel makes friends with Church employee Mary McGaughey.



Church employees Ana Colebank, Ava Andrew, Taylor Gird, and Kaleb Holske combine their talents for entertaining the kids.



Parishioners Maryellen, Helen, Bill, Joe, and George catch up on their goings on.

NABB (from Page 11)

from the Hynes T stop), with a full liquor license.

Maria Rondeau, who together with her partner, JuanMa Calderón, own two other Peruvian restaurants, Celeste in Somerville and La Royal in Cambridge, said they're opening Rosa y Marigold with two new partners, one of the original employees of Celeste and the landlord of one of their restaurant spaces, respectively.

The new restaurant will occupy around 2,500 square feet "smack dab in the middle" of the taller office building, said Rondeau.

Besides 84 diners inside, including 24 seats at a horse-shoe-shaped bar, Rosa y Marigold will be able to accommodate another 16 patrons on a small outdoor patio on the side of the plaza, said Rondeau.

Proposed hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week, although Rondeau added the restaurant would like to open at 10 a.m., only on Saturdays and Sundays for brunch, and at 11 a.m., for lunch on the other days of the week.

Although Rosa y Marigold intends to serve alcohol, Rondeau said the restaurant has yet to secure an all-liquor license and hopes to receive one of the city's 'unrestricted' all-alcohol licenses via 225 new liquor licenses Gov. Maura Healey signed into law for Boston last fall.

"I understand it's probably a longshot," Rondeau acknowledged.

Otherwise, Laffer advised Rondeau that purchasing an existing all-alcohol license for the restaurant would likely cost them around \$500,000.

The space will contain a "small nook" on the northwest corner, said Rondeau, which the restaurant intends to turn into a small concert stage for a jazz trio, with the live music possible spilling out onto the patio in the summer.

Laffer advised the applicant that the entertainment portion of their proposal would need to go to the city for additional licens-

ing approvals.

Armstrong told Rondeau he would likely inform her of NABB's position on her proposal (i.e. to oppose or not oppose) at the end of the workweek.

The committee also heard about plans for Venchi Gelato, a small shop that would serve gelato, chocolate, and ice cream (as well as espresso), proposed for a street-level retail space at 123 Newbury St., which was previously home to a hair salon.

The shop, which would have no kitchen or on-site cooking, will offer seating for 15 inside and have no additional outdoor seating, said Attorney Dennis Quilty, and its proposed daily hours would be 9 a.m. to midnight, to start.

Mark Daniel Ellis, Chief Commercial Officer of Venchi, said the chocolates would be imported from Italy once every three weeks while gelato would be made daily from fresh, natural, locally sourced ingredients.

Deliveries would be made via a panel track to an accessible ramp, according to the applicant, while the trash generated, which is expected to be minimal, would be kept indoors and left out just prior to collection in accordance with the committee's directive.

"We will abide by what needs to be done," said Ellis, who added that Venchi wants to contribute to the Back Bay community. "We're committed to doing things the right way."

If approved, the Boston shop would be only the 17th location of the international, privately owned, Venti in the U.S, according to Ellis.

"We won't be ubiquitous," he said. "This isn't some massive rollout program."

Venchi's proposal would require zoning relief from the city's Inspectional Services Department, as well as a CV (Common Victualer) from the city, to move forward.

Armstrong told the applicant he would "hopefully" inform them of NABB's position on their proposal (i.e. to oppose or not oppose) by Friday.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Charles F. Hurley Building.

State to hold both in-person and virtual meetings on redevelopment of Hurley Building site

By Dan Murphy

With the potential redevelopment of the sprawling 5.5 acre site of the Erich Lindemann and Charles F. Hurley buildings in the West End moving forward, the state will hold an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at 6 p.m. at the West End Museum, followed by a virtual meeting the next day (Thursday, June 5) at 1 p.m.

The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), proposes offering the site of the buildings located at 19 and 21 Staniford St. for redevelopment by a private developer for a mixed-use

project.

DMH intends to continue to operate its residential treatment programs onsite, and the selected developer will be required to build new space onsite (or in very close proximity) to accommodate these programs as part of their development. In order to effectuate this transaction, DCAMM intends to offer a long-term lease (up to 99 years) to the selected development team.

Of this upcoming redevelopment opportunity, Rep. Jay Livingstone wrote: "I'm looking forward to the community process and working with Chair [Aaron] Michlewitz and Councilor [Sharon] Durkan and local stakeholders to secure the best

result for the community. I hope this process results in the actual redevelopment of the site and we secure needed housing."

In 2022, Leggat McCall Properties (LMP) was selected to redevelop the building site into a life-sciences building, renovated state offices, ground-floor retail, improved public open space, and 200 units of mixed-income housing. That project was eventually scrapped, however, amid a decreasing demand for local lab space, amid other factors.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lindemann-hurley-redevelopment> for more on the project, including registration information on the upcoming meetings.

BCBS of Massachusetts celebrates National Bike Month

Special to the Sun

In celebration of National Bike Month and National Mental Health Awareness Month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross"), the title sponsor of Greater Boston's municipally owned bike-sharing system, Bluebikes, will offer its largest-ever free credit - \$50.

Individuals can redeem the free \$50 credit by entering code BLUECROSSMABIKE in the "Rewards" section of the Bluebikes App. The credit is available while supplies last and can be used for both pedal and ebike trips across Bluebikes' 500 stations in 13 municipalities, including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Once redeemed, the credit will be added to the rid-

er's Bluebikes account and will remain valid through December 31, 2025.

Regular physical activity like biking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic conditions—including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers—and support improved sleep and reduced anxiety, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The initiative is fully funded by Blue Cross, reinforcing the health plan's commitment to expanding access to the health and wellness benefits of biking while advancing its broader goal of building healthier, more connected communities through sustainable transportation.

"We're proud to offer our largest-ever Bluebikes credit during National Bike Month—and Mental Health Awareness

Month—to help even more people discover the joy and benefits of cycling," said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. "Biking supports both physical and mental health, reduces carbon emissions, and strengthens community connections. We're continually inspired by the personal stories we hear from riders, and we hope this initiative empowers even more people to experience the power of a simple ride."

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 2018.



**EMERGENCY
ALL BLOOD
TYPES NEEDED.**

Give now.



Wu announces applications open for 2025-2026 Spark Boston Council

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that applications for the 2025-2026 SPARK Boston Council are now open. SPARK Boston is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council for Boston residents ages 20 to 35. This council is responsible for leading the City's initiatives aimed at engaging Boston's young adults. Applications are due by June 30, 2025.

"The SPARK Boston Council is vital to our ability to understand the needs of Boston's young adult community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited to announce that applications for the 2025-2026 council are now open and I encourage our emerging civic leaders to apply to see the impact of their voices heard in the community."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough, the 2025-2026 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for everyone. Throughout the SPARK Boston Council term, participants hear from key members of the

Mayor's administration, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education, housing, nightlife, and civic innovation.

"After what has been a fun and exciting year of programming to engage Boston's 20-35 year old residents, it only creates further momentum to recruit a collaborative and motivated SPARK Council for our 2025-2026 cohort," said SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough. "SPARK Boston creates space for young civic leaders to become better engaged at the local level and feel able to advocate for what they hope to see out of our city. SPARK Boston is also an opportunity to build a network and foster connections with young civic leaders across Boston."

Past council members have come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, media, higher education, and scientific research. The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members are encouraged to attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee

meeting a month. Applicants must live in Boston, and be willing to commit 15 hours monthly to the SPARK Boston program. SPARK Boston and its previous iteration ONEin3 have now been serving young adults and the City of Boston for over 18 years.

"Every year, our SPARK Boston Council gets stronger thanks to the amazing involvement of community leaders in Boston. Whether it's volunteering at our annual Civic Summit or discussing ways to improve personal credit, SPARK is all about making our neighborhoods better places to live," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "This year, we want council members from every corner of our city to join us! If you're a young adult looking to make a positive impact in your community, we'd love for you to apply to be a part of the 2025-2026 SPARK Boston Council!"

The 2025-2026 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term in August, and have already taken part in several opportunities including attending Mayor Wu's State of the City, volunteering during the Mayor's Office of

Civic Organizing's Civic Summit, and organizing thousands of toys for Toys for Tots. The 2024-2025 council has continued legacy and signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, which are events designed to bring City staff and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; cultural mixers; and Chief Chats, fireside discussions with cabinet leadership.

"SPARK Boston has encouraged me to embrace new experiences. As a council member, I have participated in various engagements, from assisting Bostonians with mailing their voter registration forms to collaborating with the community to host a panel discussion on period poverty and menstrual innovation," said Sayyida Jean-Charles, current SPARK Boston Council Member. "If you are looking to get more involved in Boston, it doesn't matter whether you are new to the city or were born and raised here, because as a council member, you will become more civically engaged, expand your network, and most importantly, connect with community members, advocates, and leaders. All you have to do is submit your application!"

"Membership on the SPARK Council is a phenomenal experience for Boston's young citizens who want to better connect with and help support the City and the neighborhoods they love. In my own experience, SPARK provided me with an in-depth look at how the City is running smoothly day-to-day, month-to-month, and year-to-year, and highlighted the multitude of opportunities for civic engagement with every facet of City governance," said John Ferraro, current SPARK Boston Council Member. "Because of my time on SPARK, I've been able to develop a better sense of how to identify key quality-of-life issues in my neighborhood, build coalitions to address them, and encourage others to do the same. What I'll treasure most of all, however, are the instantaneous friendships made with other members of the SPARK Council; it was an absolute privilege to be able to a part of a community of people who have so much love for the City of Boston and are dedicated with every fiber of their being to ensuring that Boston lives up to its mission as a City for everyone."

Associates of BPL hosting call for applications for Writer-in-Residence

Special to the Sun

The Associates of the Boston Public Library is posting a call for applications for our 2025-26 Writer-in-Residence program. Now in its twenty-first year, the year-long residency provides an emerging writer with the financial support, editorial assistance, and office space in the Boston Public Library to complete one literary work for children or young adults. The program stipend has been increased from \$50,000 (formerly

\$23,000) to \$70,000 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous investor dedicated to writers having a living wage.

In addition to the stipend, the winner will receive additional funds for editorial assistance or coaching, and an office in the Boston Public Library's Central Branch from October 2025 to



APPLY TO BE THE 2025-26
ASSOCIATES OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE
 for emerging children or
 young adult writers
www.writer-in-residence.org

September 2026. Projects eligible for this program include fiction, non-fiction, a script, poetry works, or graphic novels intended for children or young adults. The program guidelines and application form are available at <https://associatesofthebostonpubliclibrary.submittable.com/submit>. Submissions are due by June 6, 2025, at 11:59 PM.

The winner will be selected via a blind judging process. To learn more about the program visit www.writer-in-residence.org.

The Associates' Writer-in-Residence program has made a profound difference in the lives of emerging authors, helping to launch the careers of a number of acclaimed children's and young adult writers. To date,

alumni have published or have forthcoming more than eighty books.

"Not only did I apply to the Writer-in-Residence program with the opening pages of this novel, it was because of this prestigious residency that I garnered the attention of my literary agent, completed a draft of the novel, and sold it as part of a

two-book deal! I feel so grateful for the support I received from the Associates of the Boston Public Library," said 2023-24 recipient Rhonda DeChambeau, whose novel, written during her residency, is set to be published on June 10, 2025.

The Associates is an independent non-profit that raises funds to preserve, digitize, and promote the Boston Public Library's Special Collections and its historic, literary, and artistic treasures. Since its inception in 1972, the Associates has been the driving force and sponsor behind many programs, including the Pierce Performance Series, the Hundred-Year Book Debate, and Literary Lights. For more information, please visit www.AssociatesBPL.org or connect with us on Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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The Boston Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be e-mailed to deb@thebostonsun.com.

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