

SENIOR LIFE SPECIAL SECTION, PG. 8-10

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# Mission Hill GAZETTE

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APRIL 6, 2023 — MAY 4, 2023



MHMS Volunteer Andrew Blonairz (middle right) along with the tour group dining at The Mission Bar & Grill. Read all about it in the What's Happening on Main Streets column on Page 2.

## Senator Liz Miranda is off to a quick start

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Massachusetts State Senator Liz Miranda is bringing “hope, heart and hustle” to her new position, as well as a great deal of advocacy experience and just plain smarts. In a recent interview with Senator Miranda, she outlined initiatives for her two year initial senatorial term, and shared some of her accomplishments, in advance of her first 100 days in office.

Miranda is accessible, both on Beacon Hill and in her District, the 2nd Suffolk, which services a

population of more than 180,000 in nine neighborhoods, each with their own distinct character: Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, New Mission, South End and Fenway. Since taking office in January, she has been inviting residents in the district to visit her office, and she is finding ways to honor her constituents’ drive and effort.

The Burke High School Boys Basketball team recently visited and was recognized during a legislative session for an incredible winning streak. Miranda

has also hosted some key events already, including: the first Annual Mindful +Melanated event, which brought many black and brown women from the district to the State House to advocate for policy that will advance their health concerns; and a Youth Justice Rally, where more than 200 kids came to the State House to advocate for increased funding for youth jobs. This is just the beginning, as the Senator’s goal is to have 1,000 people visit her office in the first year. While it

*Continued on page 7*

## CAMH opposes 32 Fisher Ave. project

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During the Community Alliance of Mission Hill’s (CAMH) monthly meeting on Wednesday, Mar. 15, residents voted against a project at 32 Fisher Avenue that would have converted a three-unit dwelling into a five-unit dwelling.

As part of this project, renovations were planned for both the basement and the attic to add more units. The proposed basement renovations would create a fourth unit with two bedrooms and a bathroom, while the attic renovations would create a fifth unit with one bedroom and one bathroom.

In addition to the renovations in the attic, the proponent of this project was also seeking to legalize the current conditions in the attic, which include a bathroom

and kitchen that pre-dated the current owner.

While the proposed basement unit would be leased out, Michael Barone Jr., the owner’s attorney, indicated that the owner would be living in the proposed attic unit.

“I think it’s important to note that this is not a space [the attic] he intends to lease out – as I mentioned the basement would be leased out – he [the owner] intends to occupy this attic space,” said Barone Jr.

Moreover, as part of the proposed project, there would not be any inclusion of off-street parking spaces, even with the two extra units.

“We, unfortunately, don’t have any place we even could put parking, even to add a few

*Continued on page 2*

## Kenzie Bok named incoming Administrator of BHA

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that Councilor Kenzie Bok will serve as the next Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), the public agency charged with providing affordable housing to more than 62,000 Boston residents. Bok will begin a transition period next month before current Administrator Kate Bennett steps down later this summer.

“The Boston Housing Authority has been a lifeline for generations of Boston families, and in

this moment of housing crisis, the BHA must be a model for housing as health, safety, opportunity, and community,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Kenzie brings a deep commitment to our BHA communities along with an expansive vision of how public



*Continued on page 2*

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# What's Happening on Main Streets

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Last week over 2,000 main street affiliated partners and staff descended upon Boston for the National Main Streets Conference. All 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Calgary, Canada were represented at the conference including our 20 local Boston Main Street Directors. Highlights included three days of insightful sessions, networking opportunities, and knowledge sharing across the Main Streets partners and the chance to show off our neighborhood and City to those from all over.

It was interesting to hear different nationwide perspectives,

particularly from those Main Streets not in urban environments. While the challenges they faced were unique due to their geography and population size, it was clear the pandemic was a unifying event amongst all Main Streets and downtowns as communities had to get creative to keep businesses open.

The Sunday prior to the conference's Monday kick-off, Mission Hill Main Streets took a group of 30 attendees from 7 different cities and states on a "Mission Hill Art and Gastronomy" tour. The first stop was the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), where Todd McNeel, MFA's Tourism and Marketing Manager, spoke about the museum's rebrand-

ing efforts to promote MFA as an accessible space and partner for non-profit organizations like Main Streets. Upon completion of the tour, the group split into three to visit three local businesses to learn about the ways each was resilient throughout the pandemic. I took a group to Penguin Pizza where Pam Carthy talked about the creativity and grit she and her staff demonstrated throughout the pandemic by creating at-home pizza kits and gift baskets which were delivered as far away as Braintree and Milton. MH Main Streets Board Treasurer Gary Walling took a group to Milkweed and MH Main Streets volunteer extraordinaire Andrew Bloniarz accompanied another group to

The Mission Bar & Grill, to learn about each and their resiliency tactics.

All of the inspiration and fuel to do more that the conference has given, comes at the perfect time as we move into April and springtime. For many of us, Spring has officially sprung with the Opening Day festivities at Fenway Park and the Red Sox. In Mission Hill, we will get to experience an Opening Day of our own when the Mission Hill Little League brings back their parade and Opening Day for the first time since before the pandemic! Mark your calendars for April 29th, and help welcome back our wonderful Little Leaguers and their coaches as they celebrate their 70th Anniversary. Please

keep an eye out for more specific event details as they are finalized in the coming weeks.

Another very exciting event happening this month will take place at Milkweed Cafe from 5-7 p.m. on April 10th. We will be showcasing the incredible and unique drone photography of Oleg Schapov. A neighbor of Mission Hill, he has had some of his recent shots of the Mission Church featured in local Boston news outlets. Tickets are free but must be reserved due to limited space - please check out MHMS' Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for the eventbrite link to secure your spot! Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available. We hope to see you there!

## CAMH

Continued from page 1

spots," said Barone Jr.

Barone Jr. mentioned that an alleyway between 32 Fisher Avenue and the neighboring property that is present now is "Insufficiently wide to allow any sort of vehicular traffic through."

He also mentioned that due to height discrepancies between Wensley Street and the rear yard of the Fisher Avenue property, they could not put any parking

off of Wensley Street.

Overall, there seemed to be quite a bit of concern about this project from several residents. One of the biggest concerns broached was regarding density by adding two more units to create a five-unit building.

"Given the many ways investors are identifying and increasing density in Mission Hill, I don't know if we should support a five-family unit at this location ... four units seems okay - five seems like a lot for that location," said Mary Ann Nelson.

Another resident, Luanne Witkowski, echoed Nelson's point saying, "It just seems like an awful lot of density for a space that's already over-occupied in terms of zoning."

The owner occupancy aspect of the project was also called into question, as Gary Walling identified how in the past, owners have taken advantage of being given the benefit of the doubt by claiming they will live at proposed developments as owner occupants but sometimes never do so.

However, Barone Jr. reinforced the idea that the owner is committed to living at the property in the proposed renovated attic, indicating that the owner has lived there for a few years.

"His [the owner's] intention, as I mentioned, is to stay here after permits and approvals, and the intention for that is frankly because he's a union electrician, he works primarily on Boston projects," said Barone Jr.

In the end, the concerns from residents were too much for the

proponents of 32 Fisher Avenue to overcome as the project was opposed by a vote of 13-5, with another five voters abstaining.

"Unfortunately, it's an opposed vote, but maybe it's helpful to keep those comments in mind for future consideration," said CAMH President Martin Beinborn.

Even with the opposition Barone Jr. thanked CAMH and mentioned to Beinborn that he would be in touch to explore the next steps in this process.

## Bok

Continued from page 1

housing should anchor our neighborhoods and city—I'm thrilled for her leadership and look forward to building on the strong foundation set under Kate's stewardship by the entire BHA team. We are all so grateful for Kate's decades of service to our residents and work to ensure a smooth transition over the coming months."

"Public housing is a public good, and all of Boston benefits

when our public housing communities are strong," said Kenzie Bok, incoming BHA Administrator. "I'm so excited to return to BHA to put our residents and voucher-holders at the heart of everything our City does, by providing safe high-quality housing for every family and by ensuring the best access to jobs, services, and all the opportunities Boston has to offer. To truly have a City for all, we have to boldly invest at the local, state, and federal levels in the BHA housing that continues to anchor so many of our communities. I was lucky to

learn from my predecessors in this role, Kate Bennett and Bill McGonagle, that residents come first at BHA, and I'm looking forward to working with Kate over the coming transition to continue that essential focus."

Prior to her election to represent District 8 on the City Council in 2019, Bok was the Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning at the BHA. In that role, she spearheaded the BHA's efforts to vary the subsidy amount of federal housing vouchers by ZIP code. Previously, all voucher recipients received the same subsidy regardless of where they were applying to live in the Greater Boston area. The change has allowed for significantly greater flexibility for voucher recipients in deciding where they want to live and continues to be an impactful program today.

In 2016, Bok helped lead the successful ballot initiative campaign to enact the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Boston, which has generated tens of

millions of dollars for affordable housing in the City. She has also held community leadership roles in various local organizations, including the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA). After graduating from Harvard College, Bok earned an M.Phil and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Cambridge in England as a Marshall Scholar, and formerly taught courses at Harvard on housing justice.

Bok will replace outgoing Administrator Kate Bennett, who was appointed to the role in 2020 after previously serving as Senior Deputy Administrator and various roles in the BHA since 1998. Bennett has helped oversee the capital improvements at the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments in Jamaica Plain, the Choice Neighborhoods revitalization at the Whittier Street public housing development in Roxbury, the redevelopment of Orient Heights in East Boston, and the Bunker Hill

redevelopment in Charlestown. Under Bennett's leadership, the BHA remains resident-centric and has cemented itself as a nationally recognized leader in innovation, environmental safety, and redevelopment work. Bennett has worked in affordable housing development, policy and planning for more than 25 years, with a particular focus on public housing revitalization. Prior to joining the BHA, she managed affordable housing programs for the City of Chelsea and the City of Newton.

"I am delighted that Councilor Bok will become the next Administrator at the BHA," said Kate Bennett, current BHA Administrator. "She is the right person to take BHA to the next level. She is passionate about the Authority and its mission, she knows our staff and residents, and she is a brilliant housing advocate."

A special election will be held later this year to fill District 8 seat left by Kenzie Bok.

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# Tufts Medical Center provides \$225,000 grant to SOS program

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Services Over Sentences, a program dedicated to presenting lower-level offenders with alternatives to traditional sentencing, has received a \$225,000 grant from Tufts Medical Center, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced today.

The grant, to be paid out over three years, will help the Suffolk district attorney's office and its SOS partner, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, to offer assistance in substance use disorder treatment, housing, employment, job training, therapy and other services to SOS participants, including those from the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard (Mass and Cass), where SOS expanded last year.

"Tufts Medical Center has played a critical public health

role in Boston for more than two centuries, and with this generous grant they are proving once again that their commitment to Boston's citizens goes beyond the top-notch medical services they provide day after day and year after year. This gift will help many lower-level offenders find a path out of addiction and all of its damaging personal and community impacts. We are deeply grateful for this wonderful and meaningful grant," Hayden said.

"We are proud to support this critically important program, which provides a compassionate and effective approach to addressing the behavioral health needs of high-risk individuals," said Michael Tarnoff, MD, CEO of Tufts Medical Center. "This program helps participants achieve long-term recovery and diverts people away from the criminal



Michael Tarnoff, CEO, Tufts Medical Center; Marc Tohme, Chief of the District and Municipal Courts, Suffolk DA's office; Caitlin Gillespie, SOS Coordinator, North Suffolk Community Services; Katie O'Leary, Director of Recovery, North Suffolk Community Services; Sherry Dong, Senior Director of Community Benefits and Health Equity, Tufts Medical Center; Diana Richardson, President, Tufts Medical Center.

justice system. We believe in the importance of community collaboration and are honored to be a

part of this vital effort."

Since June 2022, the SOS program has received 107 referrals,

73 of them from the Mass and Cass area. As of today the program has 32 active participants.

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# Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE "MOSSY" MARTIN

There was a joyous Mission Hill celebration at the Squealing Pig Restaurant last month to commemorate Jim Burke's 80th birthday.

Jim, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, is a good friend, and when I embraced him at the festivities, Jim summed up his feelings in three words: "I'm so happy," he said as he gazed at the massive gleeful crowd.

The Saucier family and Mission Hill lost a great woman March 23 upon the passing of Ellen Saucier (Cotrone).

Ellen, fondly referred to as "Big E" by her family, loved Mission Hill, and she fostered many extraordinary lifelong friendships. I enjoyed Ellen's company, and I would always seek her out at the Mission Hill social events for a hug and a brief chat. Ellen was blessed with five terrific kids, and she leaves seven grandchildren.

R.I.P., Ellen.

Condolences to the family of Catherine "Kaye" Bovaird, who passed away last month.

Kaye, a retired probation officer in Stoughton District Court, was living in Florida. Kaye had a

heart of gold and when she lived up the Hill on Iroquois Street, her door was always open.

My friend, Bob Ryan, recalled a story about Kaye from 1975, when Bob was in a perilous situation. Bob was orphaned after both his parents died at a young age, and soon thereafter, he was homeless.

"I was sleeping up the Ledge, when Kaye welcomed me into her home," said Bob,

God Bless Kaye.

For the second time in four months, the veterans memorial monuments at Brigham Circle have been defaced. My message to these knuckleheads is we'll get you on tape if you engage in this unfathomable vandalism again.

Congrats to the girls Mission Grammar School basketball team who finished in first place in the Middlesex Catholic Elementary School League. The team and the boys team are sponsored by the Mission Hill Post 327.

Our next Mission Hill Post meeting will be April 20, location not yet determined. The Post is always looking for more good men and women to join. Contact our Mission Hill Post Commander, Col. George Rollins at 703-209-2124.



1956 Mission Hill Little League team at Smith Street Playground.

A belated happy birthday (March 21) to Mimoza Solillari, a charming woman from Mike's Donuts, and thanks for serving me my coffee and muffin every morning with a smile.

I was sad to hear that Timmy McCarthy passed away last month. Timmy was a hard worker and a member of the Boston Plasterers and Cement Masons Union Local 534.

Timmy enjoyed playing soft-

ball, and he was a terrific player for the Owls Nest in the Mission Hill Softball League. He loved being softball teammates with his big brother, Mike McCarthy, and having a few beers with the boys at Curtin's Tavern after the games.

Timmy was a good guy.

The Mission Hill Little League will commence its 70th season on Saturday, April 29, up the Hill at Killilea Park.

Plans to rekindle the opening day parade have been scrapped, but league president Dan Welden is organizing a noontime cookout before the games, and perhaps there will be a celebrity or two among the old time Mission Hill Little Leaguers expected to attend.

I was sorry to hear of the unexpected death of Mark Molina last month. I occasionally stop in the Pleasant Cafe in Roslindale where Mark was the bartender for years, and we would chat.

It was only a few weeks ago when Mark and I were reminiscing about the Mission Hill B.N.B.L. (Boston Neighborhood Basketball League) games up the Hill when Mark played and I was a referee.

Mark, always cheerful, was a wonderful guy, and he'll be missed.

Good luck to outgoing Mission Hill Main Street Director, Ellen Walker, who did a splendid job for our neighborhood, and Mission Hill welcomes our new Main Street Director, Courtney Wright.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.



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## Wu announces Boston selected for cohort to reduce gun violence

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston applied for and was selected to be a part of a new cohort program aimed at reducing gun violence hosted by The University of Maryland's Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction, known as the Violence Reduction Center (VRC), for cities across the United States. The cohort brings together renowned experts and practitioners from across the country to participate in a cross-agency, technical-assistance-based, multi-day workshop centered around reducing homicides due to gun violence in a particular city. Mayor Wu made this announcement today alongside Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox, Senior Advisor for Community Safety Isaac Yablo, and community partners at the Tobin Community Center in Mission Hill. The program will continue through Friday, April 7, 2023. Participating stakehold-

ers include representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Boston Police Department (BPD), Boston Public Schools (BPS), the Human Services Cabinet, Office of Emergency Management, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, community partners, and faith leaders.

The Violence Reduction Center cohort's sessions are co-created by the Mayor's Office and the Violence Reduction Center. The cohort will help inform the City of Boston's community safety work moving forward. The cohort signifies Mayor Wu and the City's commitment to addressing gun violence holistically and to working with residents and families across Boston's neighborhoods to ensure community safety by bringing together various stakeholders in Boston and the region to comprehensively address violence.

Continued on page 5



## Cohort

Continued from page 4

“Boston is one of the safest large cities in the country, and a national model, but even with historic lows of public safety incidents, we are committed to eradicating violence in every neighborhood,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “We look forward to our public agencies and community partners building and deepening our violence prevention and intervention work together.”

Since the fall of 2022, the Mayor’s Office and the Boston Public Health Commission have led collaborative, impactful conversations with internal and external stakeholders on how to address, reduce, and prevent community violence. The City has determined there is a need for programming that focuses on a range of ages and building out a cohesive framework for addressing community violence for all our residents through a public health approach.

The Violence Reduction Center will support and build on the City’s anti-violence efforts by coordinating various departments and agencies; advising the development of programming, services, and infrastructure related to violence prevention and intervention; and bolster data collection and evaluation infrastructure across the City of Boston.

“Completing this cohort will serve as an additional step towards achieving Mayor Wu’s vision of building a multifaceted community violence prevention, intervention, and recovery ecosystem that serves our most historically marginalized communities,” said Isaac Yablo, Senior Advisor for Community Safety. “The cohort will help to uplift the experiences of direct providers while concurrently introducing new perspectives that will improve how we serve our constituents.”

The cohort’s sessions will bring together various stakeholders and foster collaboration on a multi-tiered gun violence reduction strategy for the City of Boston. The workshop will also ensure participants learn about various tools available to the City and better position them to implement evidence-informed, community-informed best practices from across the country into their ongoing work.

“We are excited at the opportunity to review and assess current strategies to reduce violence in our City. Boston has a long history of leading the way and creating many of the best prac-

tices the country has followed over the past thirty years. We’ve utilized strategic partnerships to divert youth and other vulnerable populations away from violence and crime. These programs came about because we shared real data with our partners and put our heads together to find innovative solutions. This is not just a police issue. Real community policing depends on partnerships,” said Commissioner Michael Cox, Boston Police Department. “The problems we face today deserve interventions with services and support from the City, our non-profit partners and the community behind them. Each of us has a key role to play if we are going to build trust and truly create lasting change. Thank you to Mayor Wu for her leadership in these efforts.”

“Boston Public Health Commission is committed to working within the community to address and prevent multiple forms of violence, including homicides due to gun violence,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of Boston Public Health Commission. “Boston becoming a Violence Reduction Center cohort is an important opportunity for the City as we work to eliminate gun violence. The program will allow us to bring greater expertise to the table and ensure the use of evidence-informed and community-informed practices.”

“Keeping our young people safe is our highest priority,” said Superintendent Mary Skipper. “Every child has the right to feel safe in their communities and in their schools. What happens to our youth traveling to and from school, in the after-school hours and evenings, and on the weekends and during the summer can be as impactful as what happens during the school day. We cannot express enough our appreciation for Mayor Wu and the Violence Reduction Center for their steadfast commitment to reducing gun violence and keeping our young people out of harm’s way.”

Sessions will provide a detailed examination of gun violence in Boston, street outreach interventions, evidence-informed



Mayor Michelle Wu speaks at the Tobin Community Center in Mission Hill while City officials look on.

policing strategies, and guidance on implementing Citywide anti-violence strategies. By the end of the workshop, the VRC will help the City of Boston lay a foundation to coordinate various stakeholders around pursuing and implementing proven strategies that our community and City have identified will stop violence in Boston.

Building off the City’s participation in the Violence Reduction Center’s cohort, the City today also announced a community-led Healing Tour will launch in the coming weeks. The tour will engage and empower communities most impacted by violence and convene residents and municipal leaders who need the most intervention to address long-standing issues centered on the root causes of violence. The healing tour is one step the City is taking to provide immediate support for residents impacted and guide and inform how the City approaches violence as we approach the summer months of 2023.

Sessions on the tour will also include a separate physical space for mental health clinicians, allowing individuals to begin and/or continue their healing coupled with quality-of-life resources. More information, including session dates and locations, will be available on boston.gov later this week.

The Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction, known as the Violence Reduction Center (VRC), provides solutions

by combining rigorous research with practical know-how. With an emphasis on community violence perpetrated with firearms, the VRC gathers the most rigorous research, synthesizes it, and then makes it available to all, free of charge and in accessible, easy-to-use formats. The VRC is part of the Department of Crimi-

nology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland. The department was established in 1969 and has been consistently ranked as the #1 criminology doctoral program in the United States (U.S. News and World Report, 2005, 2010, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

## Mission Hill Little League

### 70th Anniversary Season!!

#### 2023 Spring Registration

Saturday, April 8, 2023, 10am-12pm

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 5pm-7pm

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 10am-12pm

All at Killilea Field at

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# CBCU hosting children's book drive to honor 10th anniversary of marathon bombings

STAFF REPORT

The City of Boston Credit Union (CBCU) is hosting a children's book drive throughout April in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings and in the spirit of One Boston Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 15.

One Boston Day recognizes the resiliency, generosity, and strength demonstrated by the people of Boston and those around the world in response to the tragedy of April 15, 2013. To demonstrate the generosity of our great city, CBCU is asking for new and gently used

children's book donations to be dropped off at any of its branch locations throughout the month. At the end of April, CBCU will bring all book donations to the Boston Public Library to support the library's mission of reading, literacy, and continued education for all. For every 15

book donations received, with "15" recognizing April 15, CBCU will purchase an additional book to donate to a local youth running group. Our selected book for donation, "Girl Running," tells the story of Bobbi Gibb, a Massachusetts native who was the first woman to run and finish

the Boston Marathon. The book honors the history of the Boston Marathon and the recent Women's History Month.

Please join the City of Boston Credit Union as we come together with our communities for acts of kindness in recognition of our city's spirit of care for one another.

## Meet Boston to host Regional Career Fair April 11

Meet Boston, the official destination marketing and sales organization for the Greater Boston area, will host a second annual Regional Career Fair on April 11, at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Boston. The fair will connect over 200 students and job seekers with nearly 70 top hospitality employers in the region, providing a valuable opportunity to explore

exciting career options and connect with industry leaders.

As part of their post-pandemic recovery efforts, Meet Boston is committed to supporting the regional hospitality industry through initiatives like this career fair. Hotel occupancy numbers, which plummeted to 25% in Boston and Cambridge in 2020, reached 68% in 2022 and are

projected to exceed 74% in 2023. According to US Department of LaborJobs Reports for January and February, the US economy has gained over 800,000 jobs thus far in 2023 and nearly a third of them are in leisure and hospitality sector.

"As the hospitality industry continues to rebound, Meet Boston is thrilled to bring together members of our community to support its workforce and propel its growth," said Martha J. Sheridan, President & CEO of Meet Boston. "With new non-stop routes from Boston Logan International Airport to South America, Canada, Europe and Asia, we will see a surge in international visitation this summer as well. This is the perfect time for job seekers and employers to connect and explore the exciting career options available in this industry."

The April 11 event will be the second career fair that Meet Boston hosts in collaboration with Tourism Diversity Matters

(TDM). TDM is Meet Boston's strategic partner in pursuing and advancing diversity and inclusion goals for the travel and hospitality sector in Boston and beyond. Last year, the two organizations joined forces to present a Town Hall and Career Fair, while also launching an Apprenticeship Program that will diversify the travel and hospitality industry through robust workforce development initiatives that emphasize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in this industry.

"We're proud once again to collaborate with Tourism Diversity Matters on this important event," said Hilina D. Ajakaiye, Executive Vice President, Meet Boston. "We believe that our continued partnership will have a substantial impact on how we strategically think about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the tourism sector."

Meet Boston's Regional Career Fair will showcase a diverse range of career options within

the hospitality industry, with confirmed employers spanning hotels, restaurants, universities, attractions, event management companies, and more. The festivities begin with an invite-only reception the night before, bringing together diverse hospitality workers. Then on Tuesday morning, job seekers will have the opportunity to hear from notable speakers during the Business Leadership Workshop, which both Governor Maura Tracy Healey and Mayor Michelle Wu have been invited to attend.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to:

- Participate in professional development workshops
- Get a free headshots
- Network with industry professionals
- Schedule on-site job interviews and more

The career fair is free and open to the public. For more information and to register, please visit, [meetboston.com/career-fair](https://meetboston.com/career-fair).

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity  
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# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for mobility + Deaf/hard of hearing
**9	1-bedroom	550 SF	\$1,406	60% AMI	—	—
*2	2-bedroom	700 SF	30% HH income	30% AMI	—	—
1	2-bedroom	700 SF	\$1,381	50% AMI	—	—
15	2-bedroom	700 SF	\$1,681	60% AMI	—	1
*3	3-bedroom	1000 SF	30% HH income	30% AMI	—	—
10	3-bedroom	1000 SF	\$1,941	60% AMI	1	—

\* Five (5) Homeless Set-Aside (HSA) Units, (2) Two-Bedrooms, (3) Three-Bedrooms, will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhbsa>.

\*\* Two (2) 1-bedroom fully adaptable units at 60% AMI have a preference for households who have AHVP vouchers.

For more information about these referrals, please contact us at the email address or phone number below

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))				Maximum Incomes (set by funders + based on the household size + Area Median Income (AMI))			
# of bedrooms	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI	Household size	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI
1	\$0	—	\$44,400	1	\$29,450	\$49,100	\$58,920
				2	\$33,650	\$56,100	\$67,320
2	\$0	\$43,610	\$53,084	3	\$37,850	\$63,100	\$75,720
				4	\$42,050	\$70,100	\$84,120
3	\$0	—	\$61,295	5	\$45,450	\$75,750	\$90,900
				6	\$48,800	\$81,350	\$97,620

Minimum Incomes Apply. Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or applicants eligible for the units in this development, including a project-based voucher.

Applications are available during the application period for 46 days, from **April 3, 2023 to May 17, 2023**



To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit [www.onehalleck.com](http://www.onehalleck.com). To request a paper application be mailed to you, please call **617-209-5438**

We will be holding informational meetings via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 18, at 6:00 pm and on Saturday, May 6, at 11:00 am**. Join through the following link: [www.onehalleck.com](http://www.onehalleck.com)

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **May 17, 2023**. Mailed to: **Maloney Properties, One Gurney St, Mission Hill, MA 02120**

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call **617-209-5438** or email [onehalleck@maloneyproperties.com](mailto:onehalleck@maloneyproperties.com)





# Virtual Public Meeting

## Public Meeting: 500 Huntington Ave.

**May 02, 2023**

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3YSLNWX](https://bit.ly/3YSLNWX)

**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864

**Meeting ID:** 161 761 9658



**Project Description:**

The proposed Project involves (a) demolishing an existing parking lot, three small buildings and an artificial turf athletic field, and (b) constructing two new mixed-use buildings comprising approximately 640,000 square feet of life science, office, cultural, and retail/commercial uses along with below grade parking.

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，本會議的信息對您來說是至關重要的。可以提供翻譯服務以傳達本會議的內容，您無需承擔任何額外費用。如果您需要翻譯服務，請通過以下方式進行聯繫：(stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov) (617-918-4418) 會議定於2023年05月02日，請在會議前5天內申請口譯服務。

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，本會議的信息對您來說是至關重要的。可以提供翻譯服務以傳達本會議的內容，您無需承擔任何額外費用。如果您需要翻譯服務，請通過以下方式進行聯繫：(stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov) (617-918-4418) 會議定於2023年05月02日，請在會議前5天內申請口譯服務。

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4418  
email: [stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov](mailto:stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
5/19/2023

[BostonPlans.org](https://BostonPlans.org) |  @BostonPlans  
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



## Miranda

Continued from page 1

was this newspaper's first visit, Miranda suggested we visit on a regular basis for updates on her work. When you do visit, be sure to sign in at her door to be counted among the first 1,000.

When asked what her priorities are for this 2023-2024 session, Miranda highlighted that, while her priorities are still shaping up with a goal of ensuring they are unifying across the district, her focus is on: health equity; economic equality, working on mitigating poverty; education equity; environmental justice; and the confluence of equity and justice to lower mass incarceration. Miranda knows that, given the complex needs of her district, she cannot solely focus on one or two issues, and that change takes time, typically needing two to three Senate terms to pass legislature. However through her committee assignments,

her leadership roles in various caucuses, and getting her voice heard on larger issues that benefit the entire Commonwealth, Senator Miranda can make her voice heard, and elevate the conversation to the whole Senate and beyond.

The Senator was able to get all the Committee assignments that she requested, believing that the legislative leadership considered her work both as a former state representative, as well as her public advocacy experience. She is particularly pleased to serve as Chair of the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion. As the Senator said, "while she may be a freshman in the Senate, she has been a Black female all her life." Her additional roles are: Vice Chair of Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies; Senate Committee on Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice; Senate Committee on the Census; Senate Committee



Staff members for Senator Liz Miranda, from left to right, Rashelle Centeio, Director of Community Development and District Director; Kevin Higgins, Chief of Staff; and Maliha Khan, Legislative and Budget Director.

on Ways and Means; Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses; Joint Committee on Elder Affairs; Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight; and Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Some of her other responsibilities include: Co-Chair of Massachusetts Women's Legislative Caucus; Co-Chair of the METCO Caucus; Treasurer, Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus, and Member of the Housing Caucus, and Criminal Justice Reform Caucus.

To date, Miranda has filed 75 bills, with an additional 20 more co-led, while also taking

a significant portion of her time working on the Committee on Ways and Means, on the Governor's Fiscal Year 2024 budget process, requiring a tour of the Commonwealth with eight hearings having been completed, and a few more to finish.

Being a Senator is different in many ways from being a Representative. In the 5th Suffolk, Miranda was one of 160 Representatives in the House. "Although I loved my time as a Representative, I knew that I could make a bigger impact if I worked on moving up the ranks" she explained. "As one of 40 Senators, I was able to file three times as many

bills. I am able to serve on many committees." On the other hand, "being the Legislator for the 5th Suffolk District had made me no stranger to constituent casework and the 2nd Suffolk is no different. Throughout my time in the House, I was someone who understood that we needed to work within the building and within the system to deliver results, while also working on systemic long-term solutions to the inequities inherent within this building. I have already brought this lens and approach with me to the Senate."

In her spare time, Miranda will be in the district, as an example hosting a Senate tour visit in the coming weeks, bringing her Senate colleagues to the 2nd Suffolk to see firsthand the uniqueness of the area. She is aided by three staffers, Kevin, Maliha, and Rashelle, pictured above, who reside in the district themselves. Look for the Senator and her staffers walking the district, stop and chat, and make your own concerns known to her. She will listen.



courtesy photos

State Sen. Liz Miranda with Alicia Cooney, both hailing from Wellesley College, give a shout out to their alma mater.

## LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

### HARMON NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

Eve B. Harmon, of Mission Hill, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2022 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark Uni-

versity is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.



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## Sherrill House, providing exceptional care for more than one hundred years

Sherrill House is a not-for-profit skilled nursing facility in Jamaica Plain that provides long-term residential care to older adults and short-term care for adults who need rehabilitation after surgery or complex injuries. They support a diverse population of adults who come from communities across Boston and Greater Boston.

Sherrill House offers an on-site rehabilitation gym and a dedicated floor for adults who

have Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia. In addition to rehabilitation and recreational activities, Sherrill House prides itself with exceptional programs including Art Therapy, Music Therapy, and Spiritual Support. They are building 18 new private rooms and an on-site Sensory Room, both of which will be ready later this summer. In addition, Sherrill House launched Longwood Hospice in 2022 to provide dignified and compassionate

comfort and quality overall.

Led by Patrick Stapleton, CEO, Sherrill House ensures patients and residents experience the highest quality clinical and rehabilitative care, while also receiving social and emotional support, spiritual support, and expressive therapy to improve their happiness, quality of life, independence, and dignity.

For more information, call them at 617-731-2400 or visit [www.sherrillhouse.org](http://www.sherrillhouse.org).



A unique look at the main entrance.

## Ethos celebrates 50 years of supporting older adults in Boston

On March 27, 2023, Ethos, the Jamaica Plain-based nonprofit, will celebrate 50 years of providing vital services to older adults in the Boston community.

Founded in 1973 as Southwest Boston Senior Services, Ethos has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for seniors throughout Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Hyde Park, Mattapan, West Roxbury, and beyond. Over the past five decades, Ethos has grown from a small organization with a handful of volunteers to

a multifaceted agency that provides a wide range of services and programs to thousands of older adults each year.

Ethos has been an integral part of the southwest Boston community for 50 years, providing a range of services including Meals on Wheels for the entire city of Boston, home care, case management, health and wellness workshops, social activities, mental health counseling, and support for caregivers, to name a few. With the support of its

dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners, Ethos has been able to make a difference in the lives of countless older adults over the years.

In 2022 alone, Ethos served 2.5 million+ meals to approximately 10,000 older adults at home and across 40 community dining sites throughout every neighborhood in Boston. In addition, Ethos provided more than 650,000 hours of home health aide and homemaker services to more than 1300 older adults

in Boston. Ethos' nursing team completed 1000+ health screenings to determine eligibility for services. Additionally, Ethos assisted more than 3,000 disabled Boston residents through its Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program.

Nearly 1400 older adults attended 400 individual health and wellness classes and events throughout 2022, totaling 500 hours of programming. Ethos also hosts the largest Pride event for LGBTQ+ older adults in New England, attracting over 300 attendees from across the Commonwealth.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, Ethos will be hosting a series of events throughout the year to honor its history and the individuals who have made its work possible. These events will include a cornerstone event, hosting a 50th Anniversary Gala, "Where the Heart is" on September 28th, at the 521 Overlook at

Fenway Park, where supporters will come together to celebrate the achievements of Ethos and its contributions to the community. This year will also mark the return of their annual Senior Prom on Thursday, May 25th, at the Irish Social Club of Boston in West Roxbury, where older adults will dance, be treated to a special luncheon, and enjoy a special afternoon with their friends.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating 50 years of serving older and disabled adults in Boston and surrounding cities and towns," said Valerie Frias, CEO of Ethos. "We are proud of the work that we have done over the past five decades, and we are grateful to the individuals and organizations who have supported us along the way. As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of empowering older adults to age in community

Continued on page 9

## MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS FAVORITES

### Mission Hill Seniors!



Mary Burns



Maria Sanchez

#### Circle Members

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, City of Boston Credit Union, Dana Farber Cancer Center, MH Post 327, Needham Bank, New England Baptist Hospital, Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

#### Mission Hill Main Streets

1542 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02115

(617) 232 0182

[missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com](mailto:missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com)

[www.missionhillmainstreet.com](http://www.missionhillmainstreet.com)

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### Affordable Senior Apartment Living

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#### Unquity House

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Independent living in studio and one bedroom apartments. On site amenities. Activities and trips. Public transportation nearby.



Currently taking applications for the waitlist





# Mount Pleasant Home serving the community since 1901

Since 1901, Mount Pleasant Home on South Huntington Ave., has been offering the elderly a lovely, caring rest home to live out their golden years. Since its origin, the home's mission is to serve the low income and needy around the City of Boston. But a lot has changed since 1901.

The facility underwent a \$20M renovation in 2010 that increased the number of residents from 44 to 60 and was certified as a LEED-GOLD green building.

All residents have a private bedroom and bathroom. The home offers 24-hour personal care assistance, emergency response, medication administration by certified staff, 3 home-

style meals daily, complete housekeeping and laundry services, and a variety of interesting and fulfilling activities including outside trips.

Kathy Seaman, Executive Director at Mount Pleasant Home said, "We are very proud of the diversity that Mount Pleasant Home brings to the JP community," Seaman said, adding that they co-host a monthly dinner with Ethos for the outside LGBT senior community and their residents called "Out4Supper." About 10% of Mount Pleasant Home's resident population identifies as LGBT. The Home recently welcomed their first gay resident couple.



A look at the lobby of Mount Pleasant Home on South Huntington Ave.

One of the things that makes Mount Pleasant Home unique is staff longevity. According to Seaman, over 50% of their staff has worked for the facility for more than 10 years, with two recent-

ly celebrating 30 and 40 years at MPH. Seaman noted that they just recently lost their longest-residing resident who had called Mount Pleasant "Home" for 32 years. "This facility is very

much a family for our staff and residents," Seaman said. Please see their website, [www.mountpleasanthome.org](http://www.mountpleasanthome.org) or call 617-522-7600 for more information.

## MEDICAL MINUTE FROM THE MGH CHARLESTOWN HEALTHCARE CENTER

# National Nutrition Month: Fuel for the Future

Although March has come and gone, it is still a great time to focus on healthy and sustainable eating. For older adults, it's essential to make informed food choices and maintain healthful eating and physical activity habits. But no matter your age, good nutrition is important, and everyone can do more than they realize to create a healthier lifestyle while promoting a healthier planet.

This year's Nutrition Month theme is Fuel for the Future—reminding everyone to fuel their bodies at every age in a way that is also sustainable for the planet.

8 ways to incorporate the Fuel for the Future theme in your home:

### 1. Work on a backyard garden.

You can keep this as simple or ambitious as you like. Quickly create small gardens by choosing a container and packing it with your favorite blooms, or tackle a larger project such as

redesigning your backyard and opening up space for a vegetable garden. Gardening is one of the healthiest hobbies you can develop—for yourself and the planet! Research shows that working the soil improves land and air quality, and it is also classified as exercise by the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

### 2. Keep hydrated and swap sugary beverages for water.

By choosing water or zero calorie drinks like tea and coffee, you can avoid many health problems associated with high blood sugar, such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. Avoiding soda, which comes in cans or plastic bottles, reduces the waste produced by these products. Instead of buying highly sugary juices and soda, try investing in a reusable water bottle. Fewer pollutants and harmful chemicals will enter the ground and atmosphere, and you will save money and energy for more important things. Carrying a reusable wa-

ter bottle with you throughout the day is a great reminder to regularly hydrate, a healthy habit.

### 3. Visit local grocery stores and make sure you are in tune with what is in season.

This will help promote healthy food choices when grocery shopping. Buying in-season produce is not only more nutritious and delicious, but more sustainable for the environment and the economy. If you buy local, you will get nutrients that are richer

in vitamins. Just think about all the gas required for produce to travel across the country. By buying local in season foods, you can reduce the energy and

Continued on page 10

## Mount Pleasant Home



- 60 private bedrooms with private baths
- 24-hour personal care assistance
- Medication administration
- Scheduling of transportation to medical appointments
- 3 home-style meals daily
- Laundry and housekeeping
- Leisure and wellness activities
- Visiting volunteers, college interns, and preschool groups
- Light-filled atrium for socializing
- Computer center and WiFi
- Professional medical care available onsite

**Since 1901, we have been a haven for seniors 62+ who need just a little help and a place to call home!**

[www.MountPleasantHome.org](http://www.MountPleasantHome.org)

617-522-7600

[Info@MountPleasantHome.org](mailto:Info@MountPleasantHome.org)

301 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

## Ethos

Continued from page 8

with dignity and independence, having meaningful lives and engagement as a part of the tapestry of their communities."

For more information on Ethos and its 50th anniversary celebration, please contact Raymond Santos, Chief Development & Community Relations Officer at 617-477-6638, email [rsantos@ethocare.org](mailto:rsantos@ethocare.org), or visit [www.ethocare.org](http://www.ethocare.org).



## Dining

Continued from page 1

resources needed to transport the product from the farm to your supermarket, and you can support local farmers and food trade companies. The greater flavor and texture of fresh, local produce will be a great incentive to keep eating healthier, too.

#### 4. Eat as a family a few times each week.

Set a regular mealtime and turn off the TV and phones to encourage mealtime talk. Generally, when you eat as a family you are cooking at home and relaxing around your dining table. Family style meals also tend to be higher in fruits and vegetables. And, many times when we

buy takeout or eat on the go, we add to the food waste problem. It is not surprising that diet is one of the biggest sources of climate emissions, one reason why sustainable agriculture that includes fruits and vegetables is key not only for a healthy diet but also for a healthy planet.

#### 5. Eat seafood twice a week:

Seafood – fish and shellfish – contains a range of nutrients including healthy omega-3 fats. Salmon, trout, oysters and sardines are higher in omega-3s and lower in mercury. We've all heard that seafood has great benefits, but in recent reports there is increasing evidence that eating sustainable seafood can help support a thriving environment along with making a positive impact on public health. Seafood has one of the lowest negative environmental impacts of all the animal protein markets. Other types of seafood like oysters, clams, mussels, and seaweed can be harvested without negative effects on their ecosystems and habitats.

#### 6. Make an effort to reduce food waste:

Take inventory of foods you have on hand before your next trip to the grocery store. Plan meals based on leftovers, and only buy perishable foods you will use or freeze within a couple of days. Managing food resources at home can help save nutrients and money.

#### 7. Explore new foods and flavors:

You can add more nutrients when you expand your options. Next time you are at a store, select a fruit, vegetable or whole grain that you have never tried. This can increase the demand for different foods and promote a more diversified farming system. Smart nutrition tip: Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, especially those that are colorful, dark green, red and orange, for more nutrients. (Beans, peas and lentils are also a good choice!) If you choose to buy canned or frozen vegetables, make sure you choose "low salt" or "no salt" options.

#### 8. Always include a variety of foods, focusing on Vitamin B12 and calcium as you get older.

Look for fiber-rich cereals--they are fortified with vitamin B12, which is a nutrient that decreases in absorption as we age or due to some medications. Improve bone health by consuming more calcium. Older adults need more calcium and vitamin D to help keep bones healthy. Be sure to include three servings of fat-free or low-fat milk, yogurt or cheese each day.

Try putting these tips into practice, and you will see that healthy eating with the environment in mind is easy to implement in your daily routine! It can help keep food costs down and increase nutrient density in your diet.

To find out more about this year's Fuel For the Future Campaign visit: [https://www.eatright.org/-/media/files/campaigns/eatright/nnm-2023/english/tip-sheets-english/nnm\\_2023\\_20-health-tips.pdf](https://www.eatright.org/-/media/files/campaigns/eatright/nnm-2023/english/tip-sheets-english/nnm_2023_20-health-tips.pdf)



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## Sherrill House

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Our Return to Home™ program is designed to prepare patients to return to their homes as quickly as possible following a hospitalization. Exceptional short-term rehabilitation is delivered by our experienced in-house clinical team.

#### Program Provides:

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Sherrill House also provides long-term care, Alzheimer's and Dementia care, Longwood Hospice, and a Dialysis Den coming soon!

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Boston, MA 02130  
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[www.sherrillhouse.org](http://www.sherrillhouse.org)



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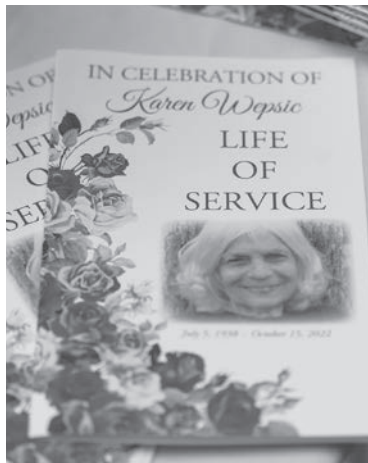
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# Residents gather to celebrate the life of Karen Wepsic

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Friends and family recently gathered at the Loring Greenough House to celebrate the Life and Service of long-time Jamaica Plain resident Karen Wepsic, who passed away on October 15, 2022.



The program from the service.

The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird of the First Baptist Church. Other speakers who spoke were from the Footlight Club, MIT Sailing, Fenway Garden Society, Peterborough Senior Center, the Jamaica Pond Association, and the Mission Hill

and Fenway/South End neighborhoods.

The following is taken from the memorial booklet that was available:

Karen Wepsic was born 1938, the only child of parents Nils Okland (sea captain) and Sofie Okland of Norway; Raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Elementary school PS104, Karen maintained a "Victory Garden" in Brooklyn, an activity she would carry with her to Boston. She moved, with her family to Elmont, Long Island and attended Sewanhaka High School.

Upon graduation she enrolled and matriculated from Cornell graduating with a degree in Chemistry. She had a long science-orientated career including as a lab assistant at Woods Hole Oceanographic in 1959. She obtained a Doctorate (PhD) from Yale in 1967 in BioPhysics. Her thesis, using radioactive thymidine, evidenced that chromosomal DNA could replicate while in circular form. Her thesis was published while attending the MGH School of Nursing, where she graduated as an RN in 1968. At MGH she worked in the recovery room. She continued working at MGH through the birth of her



Rev. Ashlee Wiest Laird, First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain and Franny Charles, MIT Sailing Master.

only child and son, Eric.

Karen was a Hospital Albert Schweitzer volunteer in Haiti in 1972. She was a staff member at Harvard Medical School's Department of Biochemistry from 1978-2012.

A fixture in Jamaica Plain and dedicated to community service, Karen served on a variety of local community organizations, including The Footlight Club; Arborway Committee, Jamaica Pond Association, MBTA Ridership Oversight Committee, Fenway Victory Garden, MIT Sailing, Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard and others. She loved her community and neighbors. Notwithstanding her tremendous intellect, she always served humbly, selflessly and faithfully. She touched many during her travels across the City of Boston. Her presence was felt in several neighborhoods including



Sam Johnson photos

Left to Right: Barbara Zighera (JP), Alison Pultinas (Mission Hill), and Sarah Freeman (JP).



Sarah Freeman (JP).



Alison Pultinas, Mission Hill.

Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, the Fenway, South Boston and Roxbury. The Galway House was a place where she held strategy and organizational meetings, broke bread with friends and enjoyed a Manhattan or Pint. She was an exceptional friend, colleague, committee member

and community activist. Karen will be remembered as warm and iconoclastic. She projected love and was loved by all whom she touched.

Karen is survived by Eric Wepsic, and her two grandchildren in New York City.



Left to Right: Kay Mathews, Jamaica Pond Association and Liz Bean, President - Footlight Club.

## HOME SERVICE GUIDE

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## Virtual Public Meeting

# 1558 Tremont Street

April 20, 2023

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/3U4ziqD](https://bit.ly/3U4ziqD)

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 229 7670



### Project Proponent:

Tremont & Pontiac, LLC

### Project Description:

Seeking to demolish the existing structures and erect a six (6) story mixed-use multi-family building with (95) units and (53) parking spaces for the church and residents.

mail to: **Daniel Polanco**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4460

email: [dan.polanco@boston.gov](mailto:dan.polanco@boston.gov)

website: [www.bit.ly/1558-tremont-street](https://www.bit.ly/1558-tremont-street)

**Close of Comment Period:**

11/14/2022

[BostonPlans.org](https://BostonPlans.org)



@BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



# Wu announces applications open for the 2023-2024 SPARK Boston Council

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu announced applications for the 2023-2024 SPARK Boston Council are now open and available online. The SPARK Boston Council is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council made up of 20 to 35 year olds charged with spearheading the City's efforts to engage Boston's young adult population. Applications are due Friday, May 26, 2023.

"The SPARK Boston Council helps serve as a direct line from what young people want to see change in our City, to the services of City government," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "SPARK Boston is a great opportunity

for young adults to connect with their neighborhoods, peers, and the possibilities of government. I've enjoyed getting to know this year's group of future Boston leaders and encourage all that are interested to apply."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director, the 2023-2024 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for young adults. Throughout the SPARK Boston Council term, participants hear from key members of the Mayor's staff, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education,

housing, and civic innovation.

"Recruitment is my favorite time of the year for our program," said SPARK Boston Director Audrey Seraphin. "I love being able to share our work with so many amazing young residents all across the City. I hope to see applications from every single neighborhood in Boston this year!"

Those looking to join the SPARK Boston Council can learn more about the program and application process by attending one of two Virtual Open Houses on either Tuesday, April 18 or Wednesday, May 10 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Those interested in attending can register at [bit.ly/SPARKinfosession2023](https://bit.ly/SPARKinfosession2023). Applicants can also reach out with questions to [sparkboston@boston.gov](mailto:sparkboston@boston.gov).

The 2022-2023 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term this August, but have already taken part in several opportunities, including attending Mayor Wu's first State of the City; meeting with Boston's Sister City delegation from Strausbourg, France during Mayor Jeanne

Barseghian's visit; and marching in the Allston-Brighton Parade with Mayor Wu. On-going programming includes participatory mapping project Boston You're My Home; public education series Back to School; a civic text Book Club; and greener living newsletter & lifestyle brand Sustainable Boston.

The 2022-2023 council has also continued legacy & signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, events designed to bring City Hall staff and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; Chief Chats, fireside discussions with cabinet leadership; and Pint with a Planner, an event series in partnership with the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members must also attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee meeting a month. Applicants must reside 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.

"SPARK Boston can ignite your confidence in civic engagement. It is a space where you can build your voice, involvement, and engagement in your neighborhood while understanding how the Mayor's Office serves the City of Boston," said 2022-2023 SPARK Boston Captain Ricky Meinke. "By applying to SPARK Boston, you are confirming that you want to be a future leader in your neighborhood, that you want to serve the City of Boston, and that you can make a difference in your community."

Boston is home to a large and diverse 20-35 year old population. SPARK Boston (formerly ONEin3) is a City of Boston initiative that aims to empower Generation Z and millennial generation to play a greater role in planning for the future of our city. For more information and the full SPARK Boston recruitment schedule, please visit the Spark Boston website at <https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/spark-boston>.

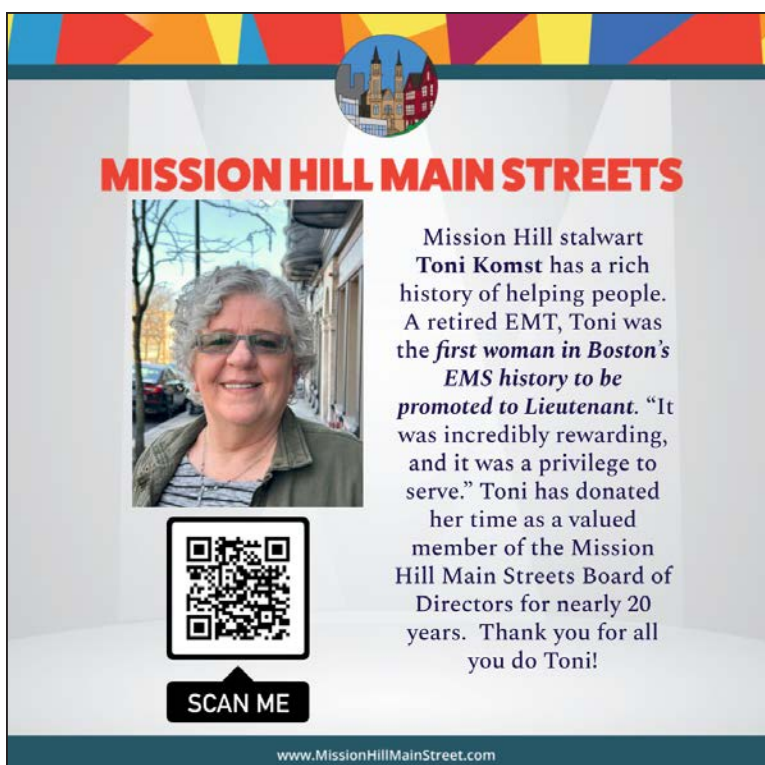


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**MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS**

Mission Hill stalwart **Toni Komst** has a rich history of helping people. A retired EMT, Toni was the **first woman in Boston's EMS history to be promoted to Lieutenant**. "It was incredibly rewarding, and it was a privilege to serve." Toni has donated her time as a valued member of the Mission Hill Main Streets Board of Directors for nearly 20 years. Thank you for all you do Toni!

SCAN ME

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## Virtual Public Meeting

### Wentworth 2023-2033 IMP

**April 18, 2023**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/Wentworth0418](https://bit.ly/Wentworth0418)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 630 5785

**Project Proponent:**  
Wentworth Institute of Technology

**Project Description:**  
The BPDA is hosting a virtual Task Force Meeting meeting for the proposed Institutional Master Plan ("IMP") filing for Wentworth Institute of Technology, a university located in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the IMP, and discuss the potential impacts and mitigation for the project. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the Task Force.

Wentworth is currently guided by its Institutional Master Plan approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency ("BPDA") in 2011, as amended and extended in 2020 for two years (the "Prior IMP"). With the Prior IMP set to expire in March 2023, Wentworth is has submit this Institutional Master Plan Notification Form ("IMPNF") to the BPDA to commence the review process for the upcoming Wentworth 2023-2033 Institutional Master Plan pursuant to Section 80D-8 and 80D-5(2) of the Boston Zoning Code (the "Code")

mail to: **Nick Carter**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.5303  
email: [nick.carter@boston.gov](mailto:nick.carter@boston.gov)  
website: [bit.ly/Bostonplans-Wentworth-IMP](https://bit.ly/Bostonplans-Wentworth-IMP)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
5/5/2023

[BostonPlans.org](https://BostonPlans.org) | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)  
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Visit [MissionHillGazette.com](http://MissionHillGazette.com)



# Encore Boston Harbor announces partnership with the Boston Red Sox

STAFF REPORT

Encore Boston Harbor announced a multi-year partnership with the nine-time World Series champions, the Boston Red Sox. With the newly formed collaboration, Encore Boston Harbor now has partnerships with all the region's professional sports teams, the Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, New England Patriots and New England Revolution.

"Boston is the city of champions and Encore Boston Harbor is proud to be a partner of all the city's major sports teams," said Jenny Holaday, president of Encore Boston Harbor. "We truly believe this makes us the premiere destination for all sports enthusiasts and entertainment seekers."

To celebrate the partnership, Encore Boston Harbor has made \$25,000 donations to the Red Sox Foundation, Shamrock Foundation, Boston Bruins Foundation,

and Patriots Foundation. The donations were commemorated by check presentations with Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday; Bekah Salwasser, Executive Vice President, Social Impact and Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation; Dave Hoffman, Senior Vice President of the Boston Celtics; Kerry Collins, Senior Director of Community Relations of the Boston Bruins, and Andre Tippett, Pro Football Hall of Fame and Executive Director of Community Affairs for the New England Patriots.

"The Red Sox are proud to partner with Encore Boston Harbor, an organization that is highly regarded as a staple to Boston locals and tourists alike and revered for playing an active role in the Greater Boston community," said Troup Parkinson, EVP, Partnerships, Boston Red Sox. "Through this partnership, Red Sox fans will have access to exclusive offers to enhance their gameday experience with Encore

Boston Harbor as a post-game destination."

This newest collaboration between two of Boston's most recognizable organizations demonstrates commitment to the fundamentals of what makes Boston special. Together, both the Boston Red Sox and Encore Boston Harbor will continue to invest in community organizations, build on Boston's passion for sports and offer top-level entertainment to Encore Boston Harbor guests and baseball fans alike.

Under the partnership, the organizations will jointly participate in marketing and co-branded program elements including:

- Complimentary shuttle service to Encore Boston Harbor from Fenway Park after each Red Sox home game.
- Red Sox Ticket and overnight stay packages
- Team-related events held at Encore Boston Harbor including watch parties, a Boston Red Sox take-over day, and Red Sox Foundation events.



Shown from left to right: Bekah Salwasser, Executive Vice President, Social Impact and Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation; Andre Tippett, Pro Football Hall of Fame and Executive Director of Community Affairs for the New England Patriots; Jenny Holaday, President of Encore Boston Harbor; Dave Hoffman, Senior Vice President of the Boston Celtics; Kerry Collins, Senior Director of Community Relations of the Boston Bruins.

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## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### 'CHIEF' & 'BLACKIE'

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## EDITORIAL

## Happy Ramadan, Easter, and Passover

One of the things that we take for granted as Americans is our freedom to worship -- or not to worship -- as we see fit.

What brings this thought to mind is the plethora of religious-oriented observances that are occurring this month: the Muslim holy month of Ramadan has been ongoing since March 22 and extends through April 20; the week-long Jewish celebration of Passover begins today (Wednesday); Easter Sunday, preceded by Good Friday, is this Sunday for Catholics and Protestant denominations; and the Orthodox Christian observance of Easter is set for next Sunday.

In addition, the Cambodian community will be celebrating the Cambodian New Year for three days from April 14-16.

This confluence of religious holidays serves as a reminder to all of us that the concept of freedom of religion began -- and still exists -- in America. Most of the Pilgrims, as well as many of the other early settlers of America, were religious separatists who had broken from the Church of England and who came to America in order to be free from persecution (though the Pilgrims, who were known as Puritans, were themselves intolerant of other religions),

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our readers of all religious preferences a happy and healthy holiday season.

## Good luck, Mr. Eng -- you'll need it

Governor Maura Healey last week announced the appointment of Phillip Eng as the next General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Eng is an engineer with nearly 40 years of experience in transportation, including serving as the President of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Long Island Rail Road and the Interim President of New York City Transit.

To say that Mr. Eng will be facing a number of significant and immediate challenges is not even an understatement.

His appointment comes on the heels of an announcement by the T a few weeks ago that speed restrictions between 10-25 miles per hour on the Red, Orange, Blue, and Green Lines -- in other words, the entire system -- were to go into effect immediately because of the decrepit condition of the rail beds on the T's tracks.

As we can attest after riding on the Red Line two weeks ago -- in which we crawled along at a snail's pace for almost the entire ride from South Station through Quincy -- the T's Rapid Transit system is anything but rapid and more aptly could be described as the Turtle Trolley.

In addition to unsafe tracks, the T also has to deal with the roving gangs of thugs on its trains who terrorize passengers with seeming impunity, as has been the case recently on the other end of the Red Line, where passengers were mugged during rush hour at Harvard Square station.

The T also has to address a serious shortfall of workers. According to news reports, the T is offering new employees a \$7500 cash signing bonus in order to make a dent in its present shortfall of 2800 workers. The manpower shortage already is having an effect on the frequency of bus routes. But given the low unemployment rate in the state, the T's prospects of getting the new workers it needs to function at anywhere near 100 percent optimization seem slim.

The T also is dealing with a huge decrease in ridership across all of its modes of transportation. We took the Hingham Ferry to Rowe's Wharf last week during rush hour. Before the pandemic, there would be a long line of commuters snaking along the waterfront from the Rowe's Wharf hotel to board the ferry back to Hingham.

Instead there were no more than 10 people waiting to get onto the boat -- and this was at 5:30 on a Friday evening, usually a prime-time rush hour boat that ordinarily would be packed with commuters. This decrease is not confined to the ferry. According to the T's own figures, there were 1.2 million daily riders of the T in February, 2019. However, in February 2023, the number was 702,000 -- a huge decline that is not expected to increase any time soon.

In addition, the T's ambitious plans to electrify its buses have encountered significant delays. In order to electrify its buses, the T needs to construct new garages that are capable of charging an electric bus fleet. However, the garages that already are under construction in Cambridge and Quincy are facing significant delays and the third garage on the Arborway in Jamaica Plain already is two years behind schedule. Plus, according to news reports, the T is facing delays in the delivery of the electric buses it has ordered.

It is clear that even with a significant infusion of cash from the legislature, the T will have difficulty bringing its system into the 21st century. Moreover, given the already-low ridership and the poor quality of service, the T will continue to lose riders who cannot afford to be late for work everyday because of decrepit infrastructure and a lack of workers.

The MBTA always has been a favorite target for criticism from the press and politicians. However, the many years of neglected maintenance, which are due entirely to underfunded budgets from the legislature, combined with the after-effects of the pandemic, have brought the T to the crisis situation it is facing today.

Mr. Eng may very well be a superb choice for the top job at the T, but no one should expect him to work miracles.

All of us should wish him the best of luck because a modern and efficient public transportation system is essential for the Boston Metropolitan area to thrive.



## LETTER

## Regarding my appointment to the Boston Housing Authority

Dear friends,

You may have seen my news, so I wanted to take a moment to write to you all.

I think of the neighborhoods of District 8 like beads on a string, a personal rosary I say to myself whenever I'm ticking through the list to make sure we've thought of each one on some city issue: Mission Hill, the Fenway, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the West End. Sometimes I break it into more pieces: Mission Main, Top of the Hill, Back of the Hill, Mission Park, the Triangle, Longwood, Audubon Circle, the West Fens, the East Fens, Charlesgate, Back Bay, the Flat of the Hill, the South Slope, the North Slope, Charles River Park, the Bulfinch Triangle. Either way, this string of places has been the orienting geography of my thoughts and work and passion for the past four years as your District 8 City Councilor.

In many ways, this District has been the orienting geography of my life for much longer. I was born at Brigham & Women's, nurtured at John Winthrop School and Trinity Church, went to friends' important religious ceremonies at Temple Israel and ISBCC, played soccer and softball on the Esplanade and in Boston Common, marveled at art at the Isabella Stewart Gardner and the MFA, first learned to love books at the Boston Public Library and the Athenaeum, and cheered on my sports teams at Fenway Park and the Garden. To me, District 8 is home to many of the places and institutions that make Boston such a wonderful city to live in and share together.

But when I think of the Boston that I especially love, there is also a second archipelago that rises to mind, one that is almost entirely outside my District: the city's public housing neighborhoods. The beads on that rosary have names like Mildred Hailey, Alice Taylor, Cathedral, Faneuil Gardens, West Broadway, Bunker Hill, Torre Unidad, and more. Before I ran for office, when I worked at the Boston Housing Authority, I spent all of my time thinking about these places and their residents: how to make the quality of BHA housing decent, safe, and pleasant despite state and federal disinvestment, and how to put BHA residents at the heart of all the rich opportunities and resources that the City of Boston can boast.

I think a lot about these two archipelagos, these two rosaries, and how they could be threaded on one common string. I want a kid who grows up in Boston's public housing to feel the same sense of ownership over our cultural riches here in Boston as I did growing up in Bay Village. I have a strong sense that Boston's greatest challenge over the next decade will not be prosperity: it will be shared prosperity, the question of how we become a city defined by public wealth, not private gain. As some of you know, I did my graduate school studies on the philosopher John Rawls, whose main insight was that you can judge the justice of a society by how it treats those who are least well off.

I'm telling you all this be-

*Continued on page 15*



# MBTA continues aggressive hiring campaign, offering \$7,500 sign-on bonus for multiple positions

STAFF REPORT

The MBTA today announced that, effective April 15, the MBTA will increase its sign-on bonus to \$7,500 for applicants applying to a number of eligible positions throughout the MBTA as part of its aggressive hiring campaign.

The list of positions eligible to receive the \$7,500 sign-on bonus has also been expanded and includes Bus Operators, Rail Repairers, Track Laborers, Streetcar Operators, Subway Train Operators, Service Technicians, and Fuelers. Previously, the MBTA's recruitment efforts included a \$4,500 sign-on bonus for new Bus Operators only.

Prospective candidates looking for a rewarding career where they can have a positive impact on the entire region should visit [mbta.com/careers](http://mbta.com/careers) for more information on open positions and to learn about the MBTA's many benefits and incentives. The MBTA continues to be part of area career fairs throughout the spring and summer months and beyond, and will also host several mobile recruitment events within various Boston-area neighborhoods. The MBTA continues to seek out opportunities to connect with the public on open positions at the T, and the mobile recruitment events will include a customized MBTA

bus outfitted with workstations and computers where applicants can meet with MBTA recruiters, discuss career opportunities, and apply for a job on the spot:

## **MBTA Recruitment Event:**

- In person on April 15 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Jubilee Christian Church, 1500 Blue Hill Avenue, in Mattapan.

## **UMass Dartmouth Career Fair:**

- In person on April 18 from noon to 3 PM at UMass Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, in Dartmouth.

## **MBTA Recruitment Event:**

- In person on April 22 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Wollaston Station Parking Lot, 90 Woodbine Street, in Quincy.

## **MBTA Recruitment Event:**

- In person on April 29 from 10 AM to 1 PM at North Shore Community College - Lynn Campus, 750 Washington Street, in Lynn.

## **Latino Career Expo:**

- In person on May 4 from 1 PM to 8:30 PM at the Marriott Courtyard Boston Downtown, 275 Tremont Street, in Boston.

## **MBTA Recruitment Event:**

- In person on May 6 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Wonderland Station Parking Lot, 1234 North Shore Road, in East Revere.

## **National Aviation Academy Career Fair Career Fair:**

- In person on July 13 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the National Aviation Academy, 130 Baker Avenue

Extension, in Concord.

## **National Aviation Academy Career Fair Career Fair:**

- In person on October 26 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the National Aviation Academy, 130 Baker Avenue Extension, in Concord.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has requested \$20 million in the Commonwealth's March supplemental budget for new resources that can enable the MBTA to better recruit and retain employees to meet its needs. This includes money that could be used for incentives such as hiring and retention bonuses, increased pay for Bus Operators, and a robust marketing campaign.

As a tight labor market impacts staffing at transit agencies across the country, the MBTA has streamlined and fast-tracked its hiring process through digitization, improving hiring cycle times, and doubling the size of its HR Recruiting team. The MBTA has also gone to many online and in-person career fairs across the region; collaborated with local partners like education centers, MassHire, and more regarding identifying eligible candidates; and continues to brainstorm innovative ideas to promote the MBTA's many benefits and incentives. Making steady progress on its recruitment efforts, the MBTA nearly doubled the number of new hires in the first half

of Fiscal Year 2023 (676 hires) when compared to the same period in Fiscal Year 2022 (344 hires). Employee retirement is cyclical and is incorporated into the MBTA's ongoing workforce planning and retention efforts.

The MBTA offers competitive salaries, extensive health-care benefits, free public transit, training programs, tuition assistance, employee assistance programs, and an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

MBTA employees also receive attractive retirement plans, paid vacation, holidays, and sick time, and flexible spending accounts. The MBTA also covers the cost of obtaining a Commercial Driver's License as part of the Bus Operator hiring and training process, which is an over \$10,000 value.

Members of the public can view open positions online and visit the MBTA website for more information on insurance and other benefits.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

Mission Hill Main Streets has an opening on its Board of Directors for a Mission Hill resident board member. This is a volunteer role. The board meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm, via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact [missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com](mailto:missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com) or call 617.232.0182 for more details.

### CLASSIFIED INFO

**Rate:** \$14 buys 10 words, including a bold heading: 25 cents for each additional word. **Deadline:** 3 PM on the Monday before publication date. Fax your ad to 617-524-3921 or mail it to Gazette Publications, Inc., PO. Box 301119, JP, MA 02130. Or e-mail it to [classifieds@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:classifieds@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). For more info. call 617-524-2626. Press 5, then press 3. The Gazette accepts all major credit cards.

## Letter

*Continued from page 15*

cause the Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, Kate Bennett, has announced her departure, and this week Mayor Michelle Wu has asked me to come lead the Authority as Kate's successor.

If I could freeze this opportunity in amber and come back to it after two, four, or six more years as your District 8 city councilor, I would. We have so much exciting work underway together, which I would love to continue. But this is a rare moment of alignment, in that we have a Mayor, a Governor, and a President who all support the mission of public housing and voucher subsidies to ensure that our communities have places for everyone to live, regardless of income. To rebuild America's social safety net, beginning at the BHA, will require city, state, and federal support. So I cannot freeze the frame; I

feel a strong call to this work, and I have accepted the Mayor's offer. Today I submitted my resignation from the City Council, effective April 28.

There will be more to say in the coming days about the process of electing my replacement, and how our District 8 office will continue to serve you in the interim. I will spend the rest of this month ensuring that every ball I have currently in the air gets another custodian, amongst city departments and my fellow elected officials, to keep moving it down the field. It has been the honor of my life that you have trusted me to represent you, and the beads of the District 8 rosary are still as precious to me as ever.

Moreover, I am not going far. In fact, it is a major goal of mine, as I have mentioned, to bring these two Boston archipelagos much closer together. No one knows better than I do the remarkable capacities of District 8's people and institutions, the

way you change both the local block and the global world for the better every day. And I also know the remarkable capacities of our BHA resident communities. Bridging these two Bostons so that each can unlock the full potential of the other is the sort of thing that I have tried to do at a small scale over my time on the Council with initiatives like our green jobs program PowerCorpsBOS. There will be much more of that work to come, and I will need your help.

If you've read to the end of this long missive, thank you – and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Boston City Councilor.

I am writing to you on the cusp of both Passover and Holy Week, in the midst of Ramadan, so I wish easy fasts and joyful community celebrations to all of you who are observing these holy seasons.

**Thank you and be well,  
Kenzie Bok**

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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# Wu announces \$626,000 in Boston Cultural Council grants

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Boston Cultural Council (BCC), last week announced 160 arts and cultural organizations have been awarded grants totaling \$626,000 through this year's Boston Cultural Council grant program. The Mission Hill Health Movement for multidisciplinary art was a recipient.

"Boston's arts and cultural organizations play a vital role in ensuring everyone in our city has access to opportunities for creative expression and cultural celebration," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This continued investment is an important step in building a sustainable and thriving arts ecosystem in Boston."

The Boston Cultural Council (BCC) works under the umbrella of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture to annually distribute funds allocated by the City of Boston and the Mass Cultural Council for local arts and cultural programming. The BCC

distributes grants for general operating support to organizations with budgets under \$2 million that offer arts or cultural programming in Boston, and helps to ensure that the City's grant-making responds to the needs of the cultural community. This year's total of \$626,000 in grant funding consisted of \$297,200 from Mass Cultural Council, \$250,300 from City funds, and an additional \$78,500 from the Boston Red Sox to support Fenway-based organizations.

"As a participatory grant-making body, the Boston Cultural Council believes that through supporting a vibrant and equitable arts ecosystem in the city, and committing to effecting positive change, we together can inspire the transformative arts landscape that our communities need and that artists can grow within," said Jennifer Falk, Chair of the Boston Cultural Council. "We celebrate all our awardees and their unwavering commitment to value artistic expression in all forms as a necessary language of the human condition."

Grantees receive \$2,000, \$3,500, or \$5,000 grants depending on the organization's budget size. In 2021, the BCC made the decision to shift the funding structure so that organizations with the lowest budgets receive the highest grant amounts. This funding strategy aims to better support emerging to medium-sized organizations who typically do not have scaled fundraising initiatives to support their programming.

"Nearly half of this year's BCC grantees fall under the smallest budget tier, and many are receiving grants from us for the first time," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "We're excited to continue expanding access to creativity and diverse arts and cultural programming across the city."

The BCC focused on small to mid-sized organizations that uniquely serve the City's arts ecosystem and prioritize cultural diversity, economic diversity, inclusion, and equity, through both their staffing and audiences served. Nonprofit cultural organizations whose missions or

programming are focused on music, film and video, traditional and folk art, visual art, theater, dance, humanities, literary arts, performing arts, social/civic practice, and multidisciplinary arts were eligible to apply as long as they were based in the City of Boston, or offered programming in Boston.

87% of grantees are based in Boston and 27% are receiving Boston Cultural Council grants for the first time. Nearly \$14 million of grantees' total operating budgets goes toward paying artists. The breakdown of grantee organizations by discipline is as follows:

- Music (28.8%)
  - Multidisciplinary Arts (21.9%)
  - Dance (12.5%)
  - Performing Arts (7.5%)
  - Visual Arts (6.3%)
  - Traditional and Folk Art (6.3%)
  - Social/Civic Practice (4.4%)
  - Theater (4.4%)
  - Film and Video (3.1%)
  - Literary Arts (2.5%)
  - Humanities (2.5%)
- "Artisans Asylum is thrilled

and thankful to have this financial support from the Boston Cultural Council," said Antonio Viva, Executive Director of Artisans Asylum. "We hope to inspire makers from all backgrounds to explore their creativity and bring their inspired ideas into form. As we welcome makers from around the greater Boston community, this grant will help us with our commitment to providing access to classes and programs."

"The Boston Cultural Council's grant to the International Women's Writing Guild provides extraordinary support for our young writers in Boston and our ability to support their literary goals," said Michelle Miller, Executive Director of International Women's Writing Guild. "These young poets and storytellers have written together about racial identity and social justice, providing inspiration and accompanying lesson plans for generations of students to come!"

The City of Boston will celebrate this year's grantees at a reception on Wednesday, May 10 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Artisans Asylum.

**N** Northeastern  
City and Community Engagement

## Community Grants Application

- Submissions are due by Monday, April 10, 2023, by 5 p.m. EST
- Any Boston-area community organization, NGO, or school that has connected with Northeastern University students, employees, or professors in the last three academic years is eligible to apply
- We will focus on funding Fenway, Mission Hill, Roxbury, and South End community organizations, nonprofits, and schools
- Organizations without CCE sponsorships in the 2022-23 academic year will be prioritized
- The Northeastern University Office of City and Community Engagement will provide grants of up to \$3,000 each

**\*Note:** If you have any questions regarding this application, please feel free to contact David Brade, Associate Director of Community Development Initiatives with CCE.

Email: [d.brade@northeastern.edu](mailto:d.brade@northeastern.edu)  
Phone: 617.373.7061

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