



OCTOBER 12, 2023



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

BHCA founders entering The Harvard Musical Association on Chestnut Street. See page 5 for more photos.

## BHCA – FOUNDERS RECEPTION

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) held a Founders Reception on October 5 at The Harvard Musical Association in appreciation of members' time and contributions to the organization. The Harvard Musical Association was founded in 1837 by Harvard University students, with the mis-

sion of advancing musical culture and literacy. Now the library and concert rooms are open to the public on weekdays free of charge for studying musicians and scholars.

During the celebration, internationally-renown pianist, Renana Gutman, performed French and Spanish inspired music by compo-

tures such as Claude Debussy and Frédéric Chopin.

"Something that unifies this program is the notion of nature in music – in particular, water; and how many ways water can be written into music," explained Gutman, an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and collaborative artist.

## BH Books celebrates first-year anniversary with Open House

Staff Report

Beacon Hill Books & Café celebrated its first year in business at 71 Charles St. at an Open House on Thursday, Oct. 5.

"We invited everyone from the architects and contractors who led the award-winning renovation of our five-story building, to our

booksellers, cafe staff, publishing reps and authors, to our most enthusiastic customers," wrote Melissa Fetter, the business owner, in an email. "We are grateful to everyone who has supported our first year and helped us to sell over 100,000 books, 5600 tote bags,

(BH BOOKS Pg. 12)



Melissa Fetter, owner, and Irene MacDonald, COO, of Beacon Hill Books.



Pictured, left to right, are Horatio Greenough, bookstore manager; Rachel Dillon, bookseller newsletter editor; and Koko Kumasaka, director of operations.

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Applications Open for the 2023 Beacon Hill Community Fund

In 2019, the Beacon Hill Civic Association decided that a special purpose fund – the Beacon Hill Community Fund - should be created within the BHCA for the

purpose of making annual grants to community-based Beacon Hill,

Cambridge Street and adjacent neighborhood non-profit organizations, community development corporations, and other civic groups dedicated to promoting and enhancing quality of life in

the community.

Now in its fifth year, the Community Fund is currently accepting applications at [bh civic.org/community-fund](http://bh civic.org/community-fund). The application deadline is November 1, 2023.

(BHCA Pg. 12)

# Wu announces \$11 million federal grant to enhance Boston's tree canopy

Special to the Times

Mayor Wu joined Senator Ed Markey last week to celebrate that the City of Boston has received \$11.4 million in funding from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant. This grant will bolster Boston's workforce development in urban and community forestry and reduce technical and financial barriers to growing Boston's tree canopy. This funding will support improving tree care and accessibility; supporting workforce development opportunities, administered through PowerCorps Boston; and expanding Boston's newly created Tree Alliance. The City has received this funding through the Inflation Reduction Act.

"Having access to tree coverage throughout our neighborhoods provides cool, green, healthy spaces for residents to thrive," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant for their generous support to grow our workforce and expand our canopy across Boston to increase the livability of our neighborhoods."

"We shook the money trees, and we got green for green," said Senator Edward J. Markey. "I am so proud to celebrate \$22 million

in federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for urban and community forestry and for equitable access to green spaces in Massachusetts. Extreme heat has been the deadliest symptom of climate change in this country to date, and frontline communities are feeling the burn without relief. This funding will help plant new seeds of environmental justice in communities that have been fighting for fresh air and fresh investments, and will create new green jobs and more resilient communities across our Commonwealth."

"This is the kind of green investment that we need to see more of. The return gets us jobs, cleaner air, and beautiful neighborhoods," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

## Improving tree care and accessibility

This funding will be used for improving tree care and accessibility on Boston's sidewalks. The City is initiating strategies to proactively maintain the existing tree canopy and find creative ways, such as using flexible and porous paving materials, to increase tree canopy while providing accessible walking surfaces for those with visual and mobility limitations. Throughout the grant period, the City will meet quarterly with accessibility advocates to give updates and receive

feedback to improve procedures and target future work.

## Supporting workforce development opportunities

In 2022, the City released the Urban Forest Plan (UFP) to equitably grow the urban forest and the Heat Resilience Solutions Plan to address the impacts of extreme heat driven by climate change. Together, the plans provide an approach to build safe, healthy, and resilient communities. This funding will facilitate three approaches to build inclusivity and increase access to trees and their benefits in historically marginalized communities. These approaches will ensure that our streets are accessible and support growth of urban street trees; build community resilience through workforce development opportunities for young people from Boston's environmental justice communities; and foster community with residents and community based organizations through tree planting and care.

As part of the City's commitment to equitably growing the urban forest, PowerCorps Boston provides training in climate resilience and the green industry for young adults from environmental justice communities. An "earn and learn" program, PowerCorps Boston pays members to participate



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Michelle Wu thanks the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant, while Senator Ed Markey (right) looks on.

in hands-on training that prepares them for living-wage careers. Over the course of a 6-month training program, PowerCorps Boston teaches Corps members a variety of transferable soft skills and technical forestry skills. PowerCorps Boston aims to promote workforce development for youth in growing industries and support environmental stewardship and City of Boston climate policies.

This grant will support the expansion of PowerCorps Bos-

ton so the program can run two cohorts a year with 50 participants each. These funds will also allow for increased stipends, program necessities and incentives, and two new positions to direct and manage the program.

## Expanding Boston's Tree Alliance

Lastly, this funding is aimed at expanding the community Tree Alliance Program. With over 60 percent of Boston's trees privately

(CANOPY Pg. 8)

## BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold its monthly public hearing on Thursday, October 19, at 5 p.m.

ATTENTION: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our Zoom Meeting or calling 1 (929) 205-6099 and entering meeting id #91233879645. You can also submit written comments or questions to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov.

The public can offer testimony. Discussion Topics

1. Design Review App # 24.0163 BH 14 Walnut Street

Proposed Work: Add wood paneling on ceiling to match existing door and casing. Replace flush mount light with 4" larger one. Replace existing security camera. Remove the existing doorbell buzzer. Remove faux paint, restore to original stone.

APP # 24.0254 BH 20 Louisburg Square

Proposed Work: At rear facade, reconfigure non-historic dormer, new service entry door and light fixture and front facade (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

APP # 24.0306 BH 45 Beacon

Street

Proposed Work: Replace wooden flag poles with metal option.

APP # 24.0346 BH 48 Chestnut Street:

Proposed Work: Replace rear dormer level windows with all wood, true divided light, 9 light casement windows, (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

APP # 24.0366 BH 161 Mount Vernon Street (Adjacent):

Proposed Work: Replace existing street light with "pendant style" light.

2. Advisory Review Advisory # 24.0342 BH 46 Beacon Street: Proposed new garage entryway facing Spruce Court, New windows facing 45 Beacon Street, alter, reconstruct and reclad several areas on the side and rear elevations, multiple new roof decks.

3. Administrative Review App # 24.0325 BH 29 Anderson Street: In kind fire escape repairs.

APP # 24.0326 BH 31 Anderson Street: In kind fire escape repairs.

APP # 24.0327 BH 35 Anderson Street: In kind fire escape repairs.

APP # 24.0328 BH 37 Ander-

son Street: In kind fire escape repairs.

APP # 24.0122 BH 40 Beacon Street: Install copper chimney cap.

APP # 24.0342 BH 29 BRIMMER STREET: In kind fire escape repairs.

APP # 24.0346 BH 48 Chestnut Street: Restore all front and rear window frames and sash, restore fire balconies, clean and repoint front facade, repaint rear elevation in kind, restore paladian window and entry door assembly in kind, replace garage door and rear access door in kind, restore ironwork at rear wall in kind, refurbish front entry door hardware, repoint and reset existing granite steps, restore existing handrails, replace existing shutters in kind (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 24.0262 BH 32 Grove Street: Restore front door.

APP # 24.0214 BH 57 Hancock Street: On the first floor, restore all existing historic windows within the purview of the Commission. Windows are 2 over 2, wood true divided lights with a rectangular muntin bar. At all remaining levels, replace (non-historic) windows in kind with all

wood, true divided lights, double hung, 2 over 2, with a dark spacer bar between the glass to match the frame. The muntin bars will match the historic rectangular profile of the historic windows seen at level one. Note that several windows at the mansard levels have a unique triangular shape, these replacement windows will be replaced with windows matching the dimensions of the existing windows.

APP # 24.0254 BH 20 Louisburg Square: Reset front granite steps, using existing granite (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 24.0258 BH 61 Mount Vernon Street: At front facade, unit 3, restore all three sash sets. Two are bowed and one is flat. We will fully restore with new chains, pulleys & weights. Remove all the glass except for one or two pieces we saw that will be saved & reused that have seeding & refraction. The restored sash will have period glass integrated into insulated glass units that will be set into the restored windows. The restored windows will also be painted "Briarwood" semi-gloss at the exterior to match the rest of the building

except those newer windows on the top floor.

APP # 24.0290 BH 2 Phillips Street: Fire escape repair.

APP # 24.0336 BH 1 Pinckney Street: Replace three total 8 over 12 windows on the first floor at 1 Pinckney Street. 1 window is at the front/Pinckney Street & two windows are on Joy Street, all first floor. The existing windows are simulated divided light, jamb liners. The new sash sets will be keeping the existing jambs, wood sills & exterior facing boards. The new sash sets will be mahogany, mortise & tenon, solid block wood. True divided light, 3/4" muntin/divider design to match the second floor sash more accurately. The new sash sets will be using clear glass, oil based glazed & painted semi-gloss black at the exterior. New sash will be true track & eliminate the side white plastic tracks. No clapboard or exterior millwork to be removed. New sash will be double hung.

4. Ratification Of September 14, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes

5. Staff Updates Commemoration Commission

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES SET TO SPEAK OCT. 12 AT WECA MEETING

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its next meeting in person on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Amy Lowell Apartments at 65 Martha Road.

Planned guest speakers are candidates for City Council in the Nov. 7 election.

Masks are encouraged.

## CONCERT HONORING LEGACY OF SUSAN PAUL SET FOR OCT. 15 AT MAAH

The Museum of African American History and the Beacon Hill Civic Association, in partnership with Crescendo Productions, present "Let the Children Sing! A Tribute to Susan Paul" on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m. in the African Meeting House at the Museum of African American History at 46 Joy St.

The program honors 19th-century educator and abolitionist Susan Paul who, in 1832, formed a juvenile choir that performed at anti-slavery meetings and held concerts to raise money for the cause. This jubilant concert celebrates Paul's profound work and the legacy of this meaningful his-

toric site where African American families worshipped, educated their children, debated issues of the day, organized politically, and changed the course of American history by advancing the cause of freedom.

The concert features joyous music by Boston's next generation of innovative artists through the celebration of music by youth enrichment groups City Strings, Hamilton-Garrett Youth Choir, and The Eastern Mass Children's Choir, as well as remarks from civic and community leaders, including literary performer and educator Regie Gibson.

General admission tickets cost \$25 plus a \$3.52 fee) each and can be purchased online at Eventbrite or crescendoproductions.com.

## 'SPIRIT OF JOY' ART EXHIBIT COMING TO THE STATE HOUSE

The "Spirit of Joy!" art exhibit, featuring works by John D. Caron Jr., runs from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. from Monday, Oct. 16, through Friday, Oct. 20, and from Monday, Oct. 23, through Friday, Oct. 27, at the State House, fourth floor, 24 Beacon St. Admission is free, and all are welcome. With special guest, John's mother, Margherita, this exhibit is dedicated to John's brother, Paul Caron.

John's artistic endeavors began as a student of Ms. Smith's at Phil-

lips Andover Academy, constructing cameras out of cardboard. He served as a sports correspondent for the Pulitzer Prize-winning Lawrence Eagle Tribune while at Andover reporting on varsity football games, including the historic Andover-Exeter contest - one of the oldest prep school rivalries in the country, for which he was honored to start on Special Teams. An award-winning photographer, John has been published, produced and exhibited in Miami, Fla., and throughout New England. In addition, John is a Cum Laude graduate of University of Massachusetts, Amherst, who earned a master's degree from Simmons University. He is also an extensive volunteer.

## UPCOMING HILL HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Hill House will hold its Hill in One Fall FUNdraiser on Friday, Oct. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 5 Iron Golf at 1 Washington St.

Also, Hill House will hold its annual Halloween Party on Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. at the Firehouse at 127 Mt. Vernon St., followed by a Halloween parade to the Myrtle Street Playground.

Looking ahead, Hill House will hold its annual Holiday Tree and Wreath Sale on Saturday, Dec. 2, from around 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Visit [hillhouseboston.org](http://hillhouseboston.org) for more information.

## REP. LIVINGSTONE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold office hours on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Flour Café & Bakery at 209 Cambridge St. in the West End; and on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Cobblestones Eatery at 30 Charles St. on Beacon Hill.

Additionally, Rep. Livingstone will hold virtual office hours via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 26, from 3 to 4 p.m.; email Cassidy.Trablicy@mahouse.gov to receive the link for virtual office hours.

## WEST END MUSEUM ADDS SECOND HALLOWEEN-THEMED TOUR ON OCT. 25

After the first event on Oct. 26 sold out, the West End Museum has added another "Murders & Mysteries: The West End's Haunted History" - a Halloween-themed tour of the neighborhood that unearths its hidden mysteries and haunted tales - on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

The tour, which will last approximately an hour and a half, begins at 5:30 p.m. at the museum at 150 Staniford St, Suite 7 (on Lomasney Way), located near where the infamous Leverett Street Jail once stood. The jail held public hangings, visible from the street

and surrounding apartments, and housed many notorious inmates, including John Webster, who was convicted and hanged for the 1849 murder of George Parkman; and Don Pedro Gilbert, the last pirate executed in Boston.

From there, the tour will wind through the neighborhood and along the way, uncover its many eerie tales, from morgues and murder to gravediggers and ghosts.

Tickets cost \$13 each, but space on the tour is limited; visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/murders-mysteries-the-west-ends-haunted-history-tickets-733825932117?aff=oddtcreator> to purchase tickets and for more information on the event.

## FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman ([artedeman@gmail.com](mailto:artedeman@gmail.com)) or Julia Forbes ([jmaforbes@gmail.com](mailto:jmaforbes@gmail.com)).

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627  
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911

#### Vandalism/Found Ballistics

10/06/23 - At 10:45 a.m., officers responded to Chestnut Street for a report of vandalism/found ballistics. Police observed a motor vehicle with a small hole in it and partially shattered glass. Inside the vehicle was a small chrome colored ball resembling a BB gun bullet. The owner stated that the vehicle was also parked on Beacon Street the day prior, and the damage could have also occurred at that location. Area Detectives were scheduled to further investigate the matter.

#### Robbery

10/04/23 - At around 5 p.m., police responded to the CVS Pharmacy located on Charles Street for a reported larceny. Upon arrival, the officers spoke with the victim/store clerk, who informed them that the suspect entered the store, filled a backpack with items, and when he attempted to leave, he pushed the store clerk who tried to intervene. The store clerk did not sustain any injuries. Area Detectives were scheduled to further investigate this matter.



## Open House

# Boston Design Vision Open House

**Friday, October 20** | **Saturday, October 21** | **Monday, October 23**  
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Civic Pavilion at City Hall Plaza

1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02203

#### Event Description:

Every Bostonian should see themselves represented in the buildings and outdoor spaces that define the city.

Join us to learn more and share your design ideas for how we can build a Boston for everyone.

The event is free and open to the public. Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin interpretation will be available. Addition Language Access services are available at no cost. If you require other languages, please contact [breeze.outlaw@boston.gov](mailto:breeze.outlaw@boston.gov).

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Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617-918-4293  
email: [breeze.outlaw@boston.gov](mailto:breeze.outlaw@boston.gov)

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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# EDITORIAL

## THE TRAGEDY IN ISRAEL

The incursion into Israel by terrorists from Gaza this past weekend, resulting in the indiscriminate and wilful slaughter of 900 innocent civilians, including young children, rates as one of the most heinous events in the world in this century.

The terrorists' actions had one and only one objective: To kill as many Israelis as possible and to capture dozens more to serve as hostages.

The terrorists' deeds could not have been accomplished without the support of the Iranian government, whose only objective on the world stage is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Both the terrorist thugs and Iran's leaders know fully well that the repercussions of their nefarious deeds will fall most heavily on the two million people of Gaza, of whom half are children, who are being used as pawns by the terrorists and the Iranians and whose land now will become the stage for a full-scale Israeli military assault that will be necessary to root out the terrorists and their leaders.

The sheer hatred exhibited by the Iranian-backed terrorists this weekend has shown to all the world that Iran and its proxies have no desire for peace with Israel. We trust that the perpetrators of this past weekend's horrors will be brought to justice -- and we can only hope that Iran's leaders somehow can be held to account for their role in this terrible event.

## DEMOCRATS SHARE IN THE BLAME FOR THE CHAOS IN THE HOUSE

There are many who are to blame for the complete breakdown in the operations of the U.S. House of Representatives, but a large share of that blame belongs to the Democrats, all of whom voted to oust former Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his post.

Yes, McCarthy is a Republican, but sometimes, SOMETIMES — politicians have to put the interests of the country above their party. And yes, Kevin McCarthy is a sniveling snake on so many levels, but he did do the right thing in June when he achieved a compromise with President Joe Biden to raise the debt ceiling and again recently to pass a budget to avert a shutdown.

Democrats complain that McCarthy could not be "trusted" and that he's a liar (all of which are true) — but really? All politicians are liars, from Joe Biden on down. Do they think the people don't know that?

So for a few weeks — or however long it takes for the GOP to choose a new speaker — the Democrats will have their chance to gloat over the dysfunction of the Republicans. But absent some grand strategy on their part, the country will fail to function, while also leaving aid to Ukraine and Israel twisting in the wind — and the only ones who truly will benefit from our chaos will be Putin, Donald Trump, and the terrorist organizations.

In addition, as odious as McCarthy may be (in the eyes of Democrats), his possible successors will be far worse. By siding with the loathsome Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz -- whose only goal is to bring anarchy to our government -- the Democrats not only have plunged Congress, the country, and the world into darkness, but they also have forgotten the cardinal rule of politics: The enemy of my enemy is my friend. Or, to put it another way, sometimes you have to choose the lesser of two evils — and the devil you know is better than the devil you don't.

*The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.*

## BWSC conducts annual tap water tests for lead

Special to the Times

In compliance with State and Federal regulations, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead. In the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from six properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 21 parts per billion. Due to the exceedance, the Commission is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

At the source of supply, Boston's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's water distribution mains contain lead. Lead can enter the drinking water when the property contains lead service pipes, lead solder used to connect pipes, and older brass faucets and fixtures. In addition, when water remains unused for long periods of time, lead contained in these fixtures

can dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

The Commission continues to work with all property owners and has worked to remove barriers which may discourage the removal of lead service lines. This year, the Commission is offering eligible customers the opportunity to replace the lead service line in their property free of charge. In the past year, the Commission has removed over 240 lead service lines. Through the No Cost Lead Incentive Replacement Program, we expect that number to increase substantially for the health and safety of our customers. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of lead service lines in the city of Boston.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials

containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead.

It is strongly recommended that all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead, flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989- 7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water.

Boston is home to New England's oldest and largest water, sewer, and storm water systems, which are owned, maintained, and operated by BWSC. Established in 1977, BWSC provides portable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of We Are All Connected, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston's waterways. For more information please visit: [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org).

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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases & photos to [deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# BHCA – FOUNDERS RECEPTION

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) held a Founders Reception on October 5 at The Harvard Musical Association in appreciation of members' time and contributions to the organization.



Pianist, Renana Gutman, performing Glaude DeBussy's "Reflections in the Water."



Deb Hanley, President of The Harvard Musical Association, Frank McGuire, and Meghan Awe, Chair.



Paul Greenfield, Suzanne Besser, and Sandy Steele.



Patricia Tully, Executive Director, and Meghan Awe, Chair.



Guests enjoying the performance by Renana Gutman.



Jeri Lardy, Betty Gaudreau, Thomas Townsend, Susan McWhinney-Morse, and Mary Fran Townsend.



Patrick Lee, Jim and Kristen Pluntze, and Genean Stec.

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# UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL FALL EVENT

Special to Times

This past Thursday evening (Oct. 5), Upstairs Downstairs Home presented and hosted its second Annual Fall Event/Artist Reception, featuring many local artists and their work combined with the dulcet tones of Beacon Hill's favorite Seven's bartender, the talented and beloved balladeer, John Everett Martin.

A large number of excited guests gathered to view and purchase the works of an amazing array of talented artists. Nine artists were in attendance and others sent samples of their work. In alphabetical order they included: William Cloutman, Marcia Corey, Kevin Doyle, Niki Farrell, Marti Foley, Andrea Guay, Elizabeth Hunter (representing Robert Douglas Hunter), Kate Hunter Kashem, Anne Kilguss, Nancy O'Hearn, Eleanor Score, Sitka, Caroline Walker, and John Young.

Their work as directed and curated by store owner, Laura Cousineau, was beautifully displayed throughout seven locations. Every room and every nook and cranny was a beautiful sight to the eye and each in its own way a separate art gallery unto itself.

Artist Cate Hunter Kashem commented: "I am so honored to be included among this gathering of creative and talented artists."

Nancy O'Hearn added, "It is wonderful to be here and to share my art with so many of my friends and neighbors."

And from John Young, who opened a Charles Street gallery back in 1991: "I've been a part, one way or another, of the Beacon Hill art scene for over 30 years



REGGIE ONORATI PHOTO

Owner Laura Cousineau prepares to welcome guests.

and delighted to be here this evening alongside so many great local artists."

Guests from all over enjoyed the waning days of autumn light, the festive atmosphere, meeting and greeting artists and friends, old and new.

Guest Ralph Hingson said, "Laura's events are always uplifting for the entire street."

And from owner Laura Cousineau: "Our second Annual Fall Event/Artist Reception was a large and wonderful gathering and fabulous mix of talented artists and treasured neighborhood friends and neighbors. We are always reminded of how we are so blessed and grateful to be a part of this community and always look to find ways to offer our thanks to each and everyone that enters our door. I might add that producing any of our large events and running a store year-round cannot be done without a talented, hardworking and dedicated staff that includes Robin, Joan, Reggie, Jennifer, Mark, Reign, Kaitlyn, my son, Quinn, and of course, the behind-the-scenes and anchor of it all, my wonderful husband, Bob."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Malcolm Chace and Brenda Rivera.



Upstairs Downstairs staff seen, left to right, are Jennifer Pimental, Reggie, Onorati, Mark Duffield, owner Laura Cousineau, Joan O'Brien, Kaitlyn Laurido, and Robin Jones.



Nancy O'Hearn is seen with Ralph Hingson.



Artist Cate Hunter Kashem is seen alongside one of her works.



Cate Hunter Kashem and Elizabeth Hunter.

**FABLED ANTIQUES**

Max Kuehne (1880-1968)  
Provincetown, oil on panel

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# UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL FALL EVENT



Jenny Wang and Rachel Sibley with dog Mac.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Pictured, left to right, are Upstairs Downstairs Home Owner Laura Cousineau, Nancy O'Hearn, Anne Kilguss, Robin Jones, Kaitlyn Laurido, John Everett Martin, John Young, Sitka, Mark Duffield, Marti Foley, and Joan O' Brien.



Pictured, left to right, are Scott, Rachele, Sitka, and Devon.

REGGIE ONORATI PHOTO



A crowded roomful of art enthusiasts.

REGGIE ONORATI PHOTO

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# South End Historical Society House Tour returns in person Saturday, Oct. 21

By Dan Murphy

After three years of going virtual amid the pandemic, the South End Historical Society's 55th annual South End House Tour will return as an in-person event on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tour features an inside look at five restored and renovated homes in the largest Victorian row-house district in the U.S., which spans 300 acres, said Jason Amos, executive director of the SEHS, and which he estimates comprises around 3,000 buildings.

"We think we have some really interesting houses, and we think people will be excited to see them," said Amos, who added he couldn't divulge the locations of the featured houses ahead of the tour out of respect for the privacy of the homeowners.

Tour-goers will receive each a guidebook, which includes descriptions of the private homes and a map so that they can design a tour at their own pace or follow the suggested route.

In addition to the five single-family homes included on the tour, this year will also feature the South End Burying Ground, located on Washington Street between East Con-



The South End Burying Ground.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

cord and East Newton streets, as one of the stops along the way. Its grounds will be open for the duration of the tour, while a talk about the Burying Ground will be offered at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

"When the South End Burying Ground was opened in 1810, it was located on the narrow strip of marshland, Roxbury Neck, which connected the peninsula of Boston to the mainland," according to a description of the Burying Ground available on the City of Boston's website (<https://www.boston.gov/cemeteries/south-end-burying-ground>).

"The gallows stood at the east edge of the burying ground, near the tidewaters of South Boston Bay, leading to the persistent myth that primarily hanged pirates and other criminal were buried here. In fact, it is difficult to know exactly who is buried here. In the nineteenth century, people of modest means had recorded, but unmarked graves. They could not afford elaborate headstones or other types of monumentation. While there are only 20 grave markers, records indicate that over 11,000 are buried at this site. Successive filling of

the marshy site permitted burials in several tiers. It has been reported that South End Burying Ground contains the graves of paupers from the Alms House and inmates from the House of Industry. Mostly, though, this site is known as a working man's burying ground, where families paid a small fee to the City for burials. Interments ceased in this graveyard in 1866."

While the Burying Ground has been featured before on the tour, the site wasn't actually open to the public then and instead only included a short description of its

history posted just outside the gate. This year, however, tour-goers will be able to actually access and enter the historic site instead.

"It will be exciting for people on the tour to go in and walk around, rather than just peering through the gate," said Amos.

And since this will mark the tour's first return as an in-person event after going virtual for three consecutive years between 2020 and last year due to the pandemic, Amos hopes the event will again be graced by favorable weather, as it often has been in years past. (The South End House Tour dates back to shortly after the formation of SEHS in 1966, but it went on hiatus for a few years in the '90s, said Amos.)

"We just hope people come back," he said. "We just want to see people are out walking around the neighborhood and learning about the history of the neighborhood. We just hope people have a good time."

Tickets for the tour are \$30 in advance and available at [www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour](http://www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour). Tickets will also be available on the day of the Tour for \$35 each at Sprogis & Neale Real Estate, 679 Tremont St.

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# Hotel Alexandra owner pledges continuing commitment to its redevelopment

By Dan Murphy

Despite the significant setbacks the project has endured, representatives for the former Hotel Alexandra on hand for the Sept. 18 virtual meeting of the South End Landmark District Commission pledged their continuing commitment to redeveloping the long-neglected building at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street.

“The building seems to have an economic cloud over it from time to time, and this seems to be one of those times, so let’s hope for clearer skies,” said Marc LaCasse, the attorney representing Alexandra Partners, LLC.

Alexandra Partners purchased the historic building at 1767-1796 Washington St. in 2018 from the Church of Scientology for \$11 million. The five-story, late Gothic building, with its sandstone façade and cast-iron details, was built in 1875 as a residential hotel by Caleb Walworth, one of the Walworth Brothers who founded The Walworth Manufacturing Company, which helped pioneer steam technology in the late 19th century.

When a new elevated electric train began running past its doors, the Hotel Alexandra’s slow decline throughout the 20th century began. The building had sat mostly vacant for more than 30 years (except for a longstanding retail tenant on the ground level) until 2008, when it was purchased, along with the historic brownstone next door known as the ‘Ivory Bean,’ for \$4.5 million by the Church of Scientology.

In March of 2019, a 10-story, 158-room boutique hotel, which would have far exceeded the 70-foot height limit for new construction in the South End Landmark District, was approved for

the site by the Boston Planning & Development Agency board, but that plan was scuttled shortly thereafter when the pandemic struck.

The developer subsequently considered selling the building after investors pulled out of the project, but instead it was reimagined as “Alexandra Residences,” a 13-story, mixed-use development with ground floor restaurant and café space, a rooftop level bar/restaurant, and around 70 condo units.

This iteration of the proposed project was approved by the South End Landmark District Commission on Dec. 6 of last year, but beginning in first quarter of 2022, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates 5.25 percent over a 14-month period, said LaCasse, “making construction financing extraordinarily expensive.”

The Alexandra project was neither the first, nor the only, project in Boston to be “put on hold” because of the difficulty of construction financing, coupled with increasing construction costs amid the rising interest rates, added LaCasse.

Given the current economic climate, lenders are now “skittish” to help finance large condo projects, said LaCasse, although there seems to be some indication that the Federal Reserve might move in the opposite direction with interest rates beginning in the first quarter of ’24.

In the spring of this year, Alexandra Partners put the building on the market without a “formal asking price” per Cushman & Wakefield, a Chicago-based global commercial real-estate development firm, in hopes of attracting a partner or investor who could self-finance the redevelopment project.

“It’s on the market, but we’re not been much interest on that

front,” said LaCasse.

Thomas Calus, who, together with Jas Bhogal, helms Alexandra Partners said while the summer was “very slow,” many interested parties had looked at the property then as other interested parties continue to tour the building now.

“We own the property...so we’re certainly not giving up on it,” he said. “We’d love to build this project. It’s been many years that we’ve been working on it.”

Added Calus: “We’re hoping activity will pick up. We’re open-minded, and we would totally entertain joint ventures with a partner that has a relationship with a bank, or a joint venture [where the investor buys the property outright and builds the building as approved].”

Calus said the project had faced an unfortunate streak of luck when first, the hotel market “tanked.” Then after the project transitioned to a condo building, the condo market collapsed amid high interest rates, he said.

“We still believe in it,” said Calus. “We love the design we worked on with you guys to get approved and everything we worked through. We’d love to find a way to build it, so we’re working on it.”

Commissioner John Freeman, who was on hand for the virtual hearing, along with Commissioners John Amodeo and Catherine Hunt, asked what could be done to secure the property for the winter regarding weatherproofing. Claus agreed to involve commission staff in this process per Commissioner Freeman’s request.

Meanwhile, representatives for Alexandra Partners had an onsite meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street with Sen. Nick Collins, Rep. John Moran and Yvonne Hao,



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The former Hotel Alexandra at Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street.

the Commonwealth’s secretary of economic development, to discuss the future of the project, as well as how it might potentially qualify for, and benefit from, state assistance or state programs.

Fortuitously, Hao was touring the neighborhood at the time, looking for projects that might benefit from state assistance, said LaCasse, when she was summoned to the site.

While surveying the property, Hao also reiterated Gov. Maura Healey’s “strong interest in creating housing everywhere in the

Commonwealth,” LaCasse told this reporter.

The meeting was “very productive” and encouraging, especially considering the high-level individuals involved, said LaCasse, and it resulted in “helpful ideas” about a path forward for the project.

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## CANOPY (from pg. 2)

owned, the City is working with the community to expand Boston’s urban forest. In May, the City of Boston launched the Community Tree Alliance Program to support growth and care of the urban forest on private lands, focused on under-canopied neighborhoods. Since the program launch, the Alliance has implemented a new microforest with over 90 trees, 200 shrubs, and perennial plants of over 30 species at the Boston Nature Center in Mattapan. The City initially allocated funding for the Tree Alliance for three years. The new federal funding will allow for increased planting and mainte-

nance, expanded public education and an outreach program, and bolstered program staff capacity through new and extended existing staff positions.

Boston’s urban forest is a critical part of the City’s fabric, culture, and character. As the largest city in the state, trees play an essential role in balancing the impacts of urbanization with green infrastructure. While Boston’s urban forest has remained stable overall in recent history at 27 percent coverage, the canopy disproportionately varies across neighborhoods. In environmental justice communities including Chinatown, Dorchester, East

Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury, tree canopy coverage is lower than other neighborhoods in Boston.

Through funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, the Forest Service has selected Boston as one of 385 grant proposals that are working to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces, and the many benefits they provide. All of the funding will benefit historically disinvested communities, and funded proposals are located in all 50 states, two U.S. territories, three U.S. affiliated Pacific islands, and in several tribal communities.

In 2022, Mayor Wu provided

funding for a new Urban Forestry Division within the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Since the creation of this division, the team has planted 1,226 new street trees, pruned 3,301 trees to help improve and preserve the existing canopy, and treated 1,165 mature ash trees to protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer. Additionally, the team has hired seven new team members including a Director of Urban Forestry, updated the Street Tree Inventory, and supported improved public access.

# Wu seeks project management firm to oversee Long Island Bridge reconstruction

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City's Public Works Department is moving to the next stage in the effort to rebuild the Long Island Bridge by seeking firms to provide construction oversight and contract assistance services for the bridge superstructure replacement project. The City aims to have an Outside Project Manager (OPM) in place by the time the City secures its final bridge replacement approvals so that construction work can begin immediately to restore access to the Long Island public health campus. Applications are due October 20, and the City will review and select a team before the end of the year.

"Families around the city and region deserve access to a comprehensive network of care as so many experience substance use and mental health challenges," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited to bring on a project management team to

begin taking action in rebuilding a public health campus and coordinate with provider partners to bring these critical services online as quickly as possible."

"I want to thank Mayor Wu for prioritizing the needs of our communities and moving this project forward," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "In the past there was a lot of innovative work happening on the Long Island campus. This new campus will be a hub for further innovation and create a supportive and stable environment for long-term recovery for generations of people."

The outside project manager will be crucial for supporting the City of Boston to rebuild the bridge. The City is awaiting its final two reviews required for the Long Island Bridge project: a federal consistency review by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and a bridge per-

mit from the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has previously issued favorable preliminary determinations on the navigational and historic preservation elements of the City's bridge design.

"The reconstruction of the Long Island Bridge is a top priority for the City of Boston," said Julia Campbell, Deputy Chief of Infrastructure & Design for the City's Streets Cabinet. "We are seeking and expecting thoughtful and innovative responses from firms looking to help lead this signature construction project. This is a rare opportunity to help build a single structure that will provide direct access to care that will improve many people's lives."

The City of Boston recently led a tour of the Long Island recovery campus with a group of healthcare providers. The purpose of the visit was to underscore the possibility of partnering with a variety of service providers to ensure a comprehensive continuum of care that

best meets the needs of individuals facing substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health challenges. As the City continues to plan for rebuilding the bridge and stabilizing the buildings on the island, the City of Boston will engage the many organizations already a part of the care spectrum.

"BHCHP is heartened to see this next step in Mayor Wu's plan to rebuild the bridge and reimagine and restore the critical health services on Long Island—services that will be transformational for individuals suffering from substance use disorder and other health issues. We look forward to working once again with the city of Boston to provide the much-needed, separate health care spaces for these medically vulnerable individuals, to promote healing for these individuals and for our Boston community at large," said Stephanie Sullivan, CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

"BHCHP is committed to the care of our patients, wherever they are, geographically or in their recovery journey, and continue to advocate for those who are impacted by the opioid crisis or homelessness."

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced that the City of Boston secured its Chapter 91 License from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to reconstruct the Long Island Bridge. With this long-awaited license in hand, the City announced its intent to move forward with pre-construction to rebuild the bridge and restore access to the 35-acre public health campus on Long Island. With \$81 million already available in the FY24 capital budget for the bridge, the City is accelerating progress on construction immediately and set a goal that in four years the bridge would be rebuilt to a campus with a first phase of buildings ready to reopen for programming.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### BHCA NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY FUND

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) has announced that the Beacon Hill Community Fund is now accepting grant applications for 2023. Interested parties have until Nov. 1 to apply.

The Beacon Hill Community Fund aims to support community-based organizations in Beacon Hill, Cambridge Street, and adjacent neighborhoods. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, community development corporations, and other civic groups committed to enhancing the quality of life within the community. The fund will provide small grants for projects and programs that cover a diverse range of areas, including but not limited to: Arts and Education; Youth Sports and Recreation; Day Care Centers and Playgrounds; Programs for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities; Community Gardens and Spaces; Affordable Housing; and

Social Services.

Now in its fifth year, the Beacon Hill Community Fund continues its legacy of community support. Testimonials from last year's grant recipients are available for viewing on the BHCA website. For details about the application process, grant rules, and timelines, visit [www.bhcivic.org/community-fund](http://www.bhcivic.org/community-fund). All applications must be submitted by the Nov. 1 deadline, with awards scheduled to be distributed in December 2023.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Beacon Hill Civic Association directly at [info@bhcivic.org](mailto:info@bhcivic.org).

### S.P.I.R.I.T.S. OF NEW ENGLAND GHOST LECTURE

S.P.I.R.I.T.S. of New England, in co-operation with the Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association (WIHA), will host a fundraiser for the historic Deane Winthrop House. The event will be held on Saturday, October

21st with tours of the House from 6-7pm and a Ghost Lecture in the Barn, 38 Shirley Street, Winthrop, MA at 7pm.

Hear from S.P.I.R.I.T.S. Paranormal Investigators who were featured on television shows such as "Paranormal Survivor", and "Haunted Case Files" as well as the investigations they have conducted on well-known landmarks such as the USS Constitution, the Mount Washington Hotel, and our own Deane Winthrop House.

The presenters for the evening will be S.P.I.R.I.T.S. Founder and WIHA Board Member, Ellen MacNeil, and S.P.I.R.I.T.S. team member, Jack Kenna. Both investigators have many stories to tell. A seasoned Paranormal Investigator, Ellen has appeared on television on episodes of the "Haunted Case Files" and "A Haunting Season" series.

Jack is a recognized Paranormal Investigator, Speaker, and Author. He has appeared on episodes of "Haunted Hospitals", "A Haunting", and "My Worst Nightmare." Jack has written several books which he can offer for purchase at the Lecture.

Light refreshments will be served. Tickets cost \$15 when purchased on Eventbrite or \$20 when purchased at the Door. Space in the Barn is limited to only 99 souls so don't get turned away at the Door!

Please direct any questions about the event to [bostonghostsldy@gmail.com](mailto:bostonghostsldy@gmail.com).

It'll be a spooktacular evening!

## OBITUARIES

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Chan, Alex	Luppi, Joseph J	42 E Springfield St #B	\$313,100
Chb Properties Inc	Are-Ma Region No 112 Own	421 Park Dr	\$172,534,038
Anuam Manglik RET	119 St Botolph LLC	119 Saint Botolph St #1	\$2,125,000
Arcy Gdns-Symphony 3 LLC	Paffendorf, Stephan	20 Symphony Rd #3	\$740,000
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## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The curved feature in the last clue is on Gerald M. Sherman's "Human Element" statue outside One Bulfinch Place. Thank you to Sarah Hutt, who told me it was installed in 1981 as a part of a Federal "Percentage for Arts" program.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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### BHCA (from pg. 1)

Testimonials of past Community Fund awardees are also available on our website. For any questions, please contact Patricia Tully at the BHCA at 617-227-1922.

Upcoming Paving on Beacon Hill

The BHCA has been working diligently with the City to get our streets attended to.

The Department of Public Works has said that the following ten streets will be paved in October and November:

Myrtle Street (Revere to Hancock)

Anderson Street (Pinckney to Cambridge)

West Cedar Street (Cambridge to Chestnut)

Garden Street (Myrtle to Cambridge)

Willow Street (Mt. Vernon to Chestnut)

Joy Street (complete)

Pinckney (Joy to Charles)

Grove Street (complete)  
Charles Street (Cambridge to Beacon)  
As soon as DPW shares their

work plan with us, we will notify members when this paving will begin.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

Young Friends - The Shindig - Friday, November 10, 7-10pm, UMass Club. Tickets available online at bhcvic.org.

Garlands & Greens - Wednes-

day, November 15, 6pm, Hampshire House. Tickets coming soon.

Holiday Decorating - Saturday/Sunday, December 2 and 3.

Contact the BHCA at info@bhcvic.org for details on any of these activities or to sign up as a volunteer.

# DOYLE

## Auctioneers & Appraisers



Grandma (Anna Mary Robertson) Moses Over the River to Grandma's House, on Thanksgiving, 1943. Est. \$50,000 - 80,000. Auction Nov 8.  
Daniel Christian Fueter New York Colonial Silver Teapot, circa 1762. Est. \$15,000 - 25,000. Auction Nov 9.

## Boston Consignment Day Tuesday, October 24

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### BH BOOKS (from pg. 1)

over 8,000 popovers, and 3,919 lattes from our little townhouse at 71 Charles Street.”

The bookstore opened on Sept. 30 of last year while its garden-level café debuted about six weeks later on Nov. 15.

Upon opening, Beacon Hill

Books quickly became a popular draw on Charles Street, with Bostonians and tourists alike flocking to the store to post photographs of themselves on social media, alongside the carved, wooden sign depicting Paige, its iconic squirrel mascot.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEACON HILL BOOKS

Pictured, left to right, are Holly Stafford, Sara Campbell, and Heather Campion.



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