

THE BOSTON GUARDIAN

April 17, 2026

Vol. 11 Issue 1

City Fumbles Funding For Boylston Intersection



By Jules Roscoe

The city's Streets Cabinet has lost \$8.15 million of federal funding after failing to develop a plan for a project to improve a

deadly intersection on Boylston Street in the Fenway.

The loss, first reported by *StreetsblogMass*, was decided in a meeting of the Boston Metropolitan Planning

Organization in March, when the board voted to strike the project from its five-year regional transportation improvement plan.

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Boston May Get \$8 Million For Recovery Programs

By Jules Roscoe

The State House of Representatives committed \$4 million last week to help fund Boston's fight against outdoor drug use. According to one member of the group leading that fight, the city itself is also investing just as much money, just not all in one place.

Last Thursday, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, who serves the Downtown and is chair of the Ways and Means committee that sets the state budget, announced that the House would pledge \$4 million to various groups in the city combating drug use and addiction.

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Let's Celebrate!

We love birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones.

With this issue, *The Boston Guardian* marks our eleventh year of publishing and there is much to celebrate and feel grateful for. We continue to grow and

contribute to Boston's downtown neighborhoods.

Our greatest appreciation is to our advertisers whose foreign aid keeps us in domestic service and to our readers who welcome us into their homes and lives.

30,000 Marathoners Expected on Monday



By Daniel Larlham Jr.

Thousands will take to the streets on April 20 for the 130th Boston Marathon. Local police departments and first responders will be out in full force beside them to ensure the event is as secure as

possible.

"We all watch the news, of course, we know what's going on all over the world and we would be remiss to say that the Boston Marathon is not a highly watched special event all over the world," says Lauren

Proshan, chief of race operations and production. "So, with that said we are taking all the necessary precautions to make sure that our event is the most protected event that we can absolutely make sure that it is."

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GEOTHERMAL NETWORKS

A PATH TO FOSSIL FUEL FREEDOM

An Earth Day 2026 Forum

Hosted by the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay's Green Committee

Wednesday, April 22 | 5 to 7:30pm

Rabb Hall at the Boston Public Library, Copley Square

Demonstrations, Speakers, Q&A

Register: bpl.libcal.com/event/16320952



GEOTHERMAL NETWORKS
A PATH TO FOSSIL FUEL FREEDOM

Recovery Programs

Continued from Page 1

"I'd say there's probably about an equivalent amount from the city that is actually used as part of their budget," said Steve Fox, a neighborhood leader in the South End and one of the members of the South End/Roxbury/Newmarket Working Group on Addiction and Recovery that has spearheaded the planning efforts around fixing the city's drug problem for the past ten years.

"That's police personnel, Coordinated Response Team personnel. So, figure that the total budget for us doing this is actually \$8 million."

The Working Group has been leading efforts on addiction for the past decade. After last summer, which Fox said was "the worst that anyone can remember" for prolific drug use, the group spent the rest of the year putting together and testing a framework for getting people off the street and into treatment. It focused on public health and public safety, and putting aside harm reduction strategies in favor of moving people into recovery.

That framework has so far been successful. Fox said that in the first five months of implementing and testing the group's recommendations, the Coordinated Response Team and the police-based Neighborhood Engagement Safety Team had helped 550 people get into recovery. It's that framework that the state wants to fund. And it's on those teams that the city is spending its money, even though there's no dedicated funding package for them.

"What we've asked for is the number of personnel that are needed in order to meet the ongoing requirements. We're grabbing people from a bunch of different locations

based upon the qualities that we need, and putting them together into a team," Fox said. "The NEST team came about as a result of the reassignment of existing officers from other locations. Look at the big picture. The city is funding this, whether it comes out of [police district] A-1's budget or D-4's budget."

The state's funding, in contrast, must be approved by the State Senate and the governor before it actually goes into effect. Michlewitz said at a press conference on Thursday that the goal would be July, when the new fiscal year begins.

From that state funding, the city itself would receive \$2.24 million to give as grants to supportive recovery housing projects, \$650,000 for clinical support staff, like nurse practitioners and addiction specialists, and \$500,000 for the District Attorney's office to design a "pre-arrest diversionary session" which would guide users towards recovery pathways instead of funneling them into the justice system.

There would also be \$460,000 to the Boston Public Health Commission, for an additional 30 beds, and \$150,000 to the Coordinated Response Team to begin operating a mobile response center.

There's no guarantee that this funding would be repeated year after year if approved. "We're going to take this one step at a time, one year at a time, one season at a time, in essence," Michlewitz said at the conference. "We'll hopefully get this through for July, and then we'll see where we are, and reevaluate and see how it worked. Hopefully it could be something that we do on a regular basis, if the funding allows it to be."

Fox said members of the Working Group had already begun talking to senators to gather support for getting the \$4 million passed.

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Friends Prepare for A High Traffic Year



By Brandon Hill

With Boston bracing for a surge of visitors this summer, the Friends of the Public Garden said they are already “off and running” to prepare the city’s most iconic green spaces for heavier than usual use.

“Everything is ramping up right now, because everybody is expecting a really

busy summer in terms of visitation to the city,” said Liza Meyer, the organization’s president, ahead of its annual meeting this week. “Some of our focus is going to be on the visitor experience this summer and making sure that we’re providing the kind of information that people need to have a great experience in the parks.”

Continued on Page 8

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Boston Village Is At a Quarter Century

By Brendan Cassidy

Prioritizing the importance of the human connection and impacts of isolation, Boston Village has offered programming and activities for older adults and seniors for the last quarter century.

Earlier this year, the organization rebranded from its longtime name of Beacon Hill Village to Boston Village.

“The main thing that we heard is that older adults in Boston thought they had to live in Beacon Hill to be eligible,” said Boston Village Executive Director Melissa Interest. “We really wanted everyone to feel welcomed.”

The group is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a series of events over the course of 2026, including member meetings and a speaker series.

Membership is open to adults ages 50, who reside in 12 of Boston’s neighborhoods and are living in their own homes.

Interest said that in the few months since the name change, there has already been a spike in membership.

Celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the group kicked off this week with a member meeting honoring the founders of Boston Village, many of whom are still

members themselves. “It’s monumental, and it’s wonderful to celebrate,” said Interest.

The main objective of Boston Village is to help adults who are still living independently age healthily, to provide members with any services they need and offer social connection.

The model of the group has sparked a movement across the nation, Interest said.

Over the years, some aspects of the group have stayed the status quo, but there have been shifts and changes in programming, especially since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A transition to offering more online programming was needed at the time. These offerings have continued since. Interest said members may have problems with mobility or transportation, and having widespread online offerings allow members to have additional options.

“Our population that we serve is aging just as our organization is,” said Interest. “We are continually faced with the issue of how to continue to serve folks who have needs and challenges.”

Along with wellness programs, events like author talks and trips out to lunch, Boston Village offers cultural activities, outdoor excursions and more.

PULL, BABY, PULL

No, the duck on The Common last week did not need a tow. It was there as part of the Boston Parks Department’s second annual Duck Boat Challenge. Eight teams pulled ducks to raise money for The Common with Curry College winning for the second straight year.



READ US ON THE GO 11 August 25, 2023

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PATRIOTS' DAY



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APRIL 20, 2026

The Boston Athletic Association, organizer of the 130th Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America, would like to thank residents of the City of Boston for their patience and cooperation as we work with many partners to plan this year's race. This Patriots' Day will be a historic event for the Greater Boston area and our sport as a whole. For more event information, please visit www.baa.org.

Race Week Events

BOSTON MARATHON FAN FEST PRESENTED BY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS

Located in Boston City Hall Plaza near Faneuil Hall, Fan Fest is the place to soak in the race-week atmosphere and have fun as you gear up for the big day. Enjoy sponsor experiences, live music, a food pavilion, photo-ops, and more. Visit Fan Fest from Friday, April 17 to Sunday, April 19.

BANK OF AMERICA BOSTON MARATHON EXPO

Visit the Hynes Convention Center to experience the Bank of America Boston Marathon Expo and shop from race sponsors and exhibitors. The Expo is where runners receive their bib numbers, and is home to the largest Boston Marathon adidas shop in all of Boston. The Expo is open Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19.

BOSTON 5K PRESENTED BY MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM CANCER INSTITUTE

Starting at Boston Common at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 10,000 entrants will take part in the 2026 Boston 5K, a scenic tour through Back Bay which finishes at the Boston Marathon finish line. The Boston 5K will be run on Charles St., Arlington St., Commonwealth Ave., Hereford St. and Boylston St.

B.A.A. INVITATIONAL MILE & B.A.A. YOUTH MILE | SAT. APR 18

Some of the world's fastest runners will compete in a one-mile race starting and finishing on Boylston Street. Scholastic athletes from the eight cities and towns of the Boston Marathon course will also take part in one-mile and 1,000 meter races. Then, the inaugural B.A.A. Youth Mile presented by Boston Children's Hospital will kick off at 1:00 p.m.

130th Boston Marathon[®] presented by Bank Of America

30,000 entrants will participate in the 130th Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America, starting the 26.2-mile route from Main Street in Hopkinton to Boylston Street at Copley Square near the Boston Public Library.

Race day road closures will be in effect on roads in the vicinity of Kenmore Square, Copley, Boston Common, and other areas in the Back Bay. Please visit www.cityofboston.gov for more information as closures become available.

As always, keeping the course clear is essential to supporting every athlete in having a great day. Spectators are not allowed to enter the course, run alongside athletes, or impede athletes in any manner. Any person on the course without an official race bib or accreditation will be directed to leave the course immediately.

Taking public transportation is strongly encouraged. The following nearby MBTA stations will be open:

- > Hynes Convention Center Station (MBTA Green Line)
- > Prudential Station (MBTA Green Line)
- > Back Bay Station (MBTA Orange Line / Commuter Rail)
- > Arlington Station (MBTA Green Line)

Please note, Copley Station (MBTA Green Line) will be closed for the entire day on race day. For more information on MBTA service, please visit www.mbta.com/events.

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ONE MILE TO GO



ARCK Opens Creativity Lab



By Brandon Hill

A new creative hub for Boston youth has opened its doors in the Fenway. ARCK Boston, the Art Resource Collaborative for Kids, has moved into a space at 109 Brookline Avenue designed to give young people hands-on opportunities to explore art, entrepreneurship and social emotional learning outside of traditional classrooms.

The new lab marks a shift for the nonprofit, which for years primarily delivered programming inside schools. Now, with a dedicated space of its own, ARCK aims to create what founder and CEO Sara Mraish-Demeter describes as “a space where you can invite teenagers to come as a hub, be

themselves, come up with their own ideas, think about who they are, their purpose, their community and, ultimately, socially innovate.”

ARCK celebrated the new space with a public ribbon cutting on April 16, co-hosted by the Boston Red Sox, with local officials and community partners.

The Creativity Lab will host structured programs, including after school sessions, summer cohorts and paid internships for teens. Students in the after school programming work on capstone projects, often centered on the intersection of creativity and business.

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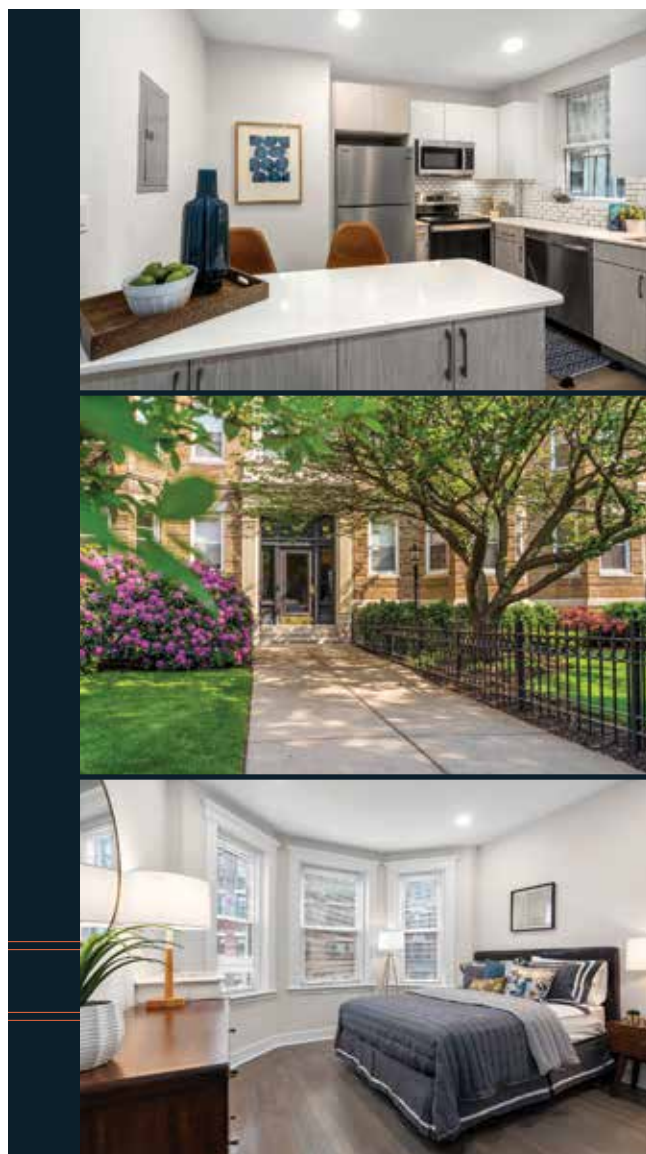
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Facebook Site Tops 20,000

By Brendan Cassidy

A popular local Facebook group's community has grown enough to fill the entirety of TD Garden.

In 2015 the South End Community Forum (SECF) created a Facebook group meant to provide a platform for the then 20 different neighborhood associations in the area to share common issues and discuss initiatives.

Over time, the group has grown in both membership and content. Today one might find political news coming from Washington D.C. in the South End Community Board, or someone searching for a missing cat.

"We needed a vehicle to communicate with one another to share common interests and deal with political issues," said Steve Fox of why the group was created in 2015. "Very quickly, it became a vehicle for people to talk about things for sale, what was going on around the South End and so much more."

Recently the group surpassed 20,000 members. South End Community Forum (SECF) member Fox, who helped found and manage the group over the years, said the group is focused on the people of the neighborhood, and anything that might concern residents, from nearby to far and wide, is welcomed.

Fox believes that one of the reasons the group has grown to what it is today is the

wide range of content that one can see in the group. If they don't like something they are seeing, they can simply scroll down onto something else.

"We want news reports," said Fox. "We want personal views. We allow advertising. I think the reason it continues to grow is because we are embracing of everything."

Fox has heard from members of the group who say it is one of their main sources for news and happenings in the entire city of Boston.

"There's something for everybody," said Fox.

Despite being a group of over 20,000 people that has been posted in 450 times in the last month, members have been mostly respectful of certain guidelines that call for respect and courtesy.

"We wanted to create a group where people feel comfortable posting, where they wouldn't get attacked online," said Fox. "With a couple exceptions, we haven't had a lot of disruption or people looking to create chaos on the board."

The main principle of the group has been to talk about the merits of issues being discussed, rather than attacking the people posting and commenting.

"That's not what this board is for, people yelling at people," said Fox.

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Florist in Bloom for 123 Years

By Hailey Johnson

Graduations. Funerals. Getting back together with an ex. For Joe Bernstein, co-owner of Olympia Flowers, bouquets are always needed.

Located on Washington Street, the family-owned store, which is the oldest operating flower shop in Boston, has been the neighborhood's premier destination for all of their flower needs. On a recent afternoon, a variety of bouquets, houseplants, and terracotta pots filled the store. Near the register, bundles of golden and pink chrysanthemums had just been set out.

Though the store has weathered significant challenges over the years, from World Wars to the Great Depression and COVID, it has remained a permanent fixture in the community, much like the neighborhood's ubiquitous brownstones. Open seven days a week, the storefront only closes on Christmas and New Year's Day.

In 1903, Bernstein's grandfather began selling flowers on the streets of Boston. Gradually, demand grew, and Bernstein rented the current space on Washington. The Bernstein family now owns the building. Generations of the family rotated in and out of the store, with some 20 members often working at the same time. But, as Bernstein relayed, flowers aren't for everyone. Some relatives went off out of state or to pursue

their passions. By the '70s, all but Joe and his brother, Larry, were left to manage the store. It didn't take long for the brothers to get the hang of things. In the late '70s, they opened a second location in Cleveland Circle. The location has since closed.

"We've had a lot of customers over the years," Bernstein said. "Many of them keep coming back."

Bernstein credits COVID as a major peak in business. Though the brothers had to close the store, due to the city's "nonessential" business regulations, they didn't let it stop them from selling flowers. Customers could place an order, and the brothers would deliver it to their home. "People were housebound," Bernstein said. "There were lot of funerals, so they needed flowers. But having flowers also cheered people up."

Bernstein notices similar flower buying patterns today. An unstable economy, fluctuating world conflicts and general morose have increased the need for the simple joys in life. For Bernstein's customers, roses usually do the trick. "They've always been the most popular," he said.

Does he have his own favorite flower? Bernstein wouldn't say. Though he wouldn't describe himself as a "flower fan" either, he enjoys working as a florist.

"It's a business like anything else, you know? It's a way to make a living. But I'll say there are worse ways to make a living."

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Marathoners

Continued from Page 1

Proshan said that so far preparations ahead of the race are going as planned.

30,000 athletes are expected to be running the marathon as well as another 10,000 5k runners on Saturday. With extended forecasts expecting the day of the race to be quite clear, half a million spectators are expected to come out and cheer on the runners across the 26.2-mile course.

Spectators should expect a heavy presence of public safety personnel along the route, which stretches from Hopkinton to Boston.

“You will see public safety officers. You will also not see public safety officers who are dressed as civilians. You will go through security checkpoints,” Proshan said. “You will come against security barricades on our course and even as far as a couple of blocks away from our course to make sure that vehicles cannot approach our course.”

“So you will see lots of additional security precautions everywhere you go,” she added.

Due to marathon-related road closures, Proshan said that spectators should consider taking public transit rather than driving. Additional information on road closures can be found on baa.org or

through the B.A.A. Racing App. Spectators should also consider leaving any bags at home, using clear bags or be open to have them searched.

Most importantly, spectators are asked that if they see something out of the ordinary during the race, they should alert a member of public safety.

“As law enforcement, we need the public’s help that if they see something that doesn’t look right,” said Boston College Chief of Police William Evans. “You know, that old saying, see something, say something. I think they, the public, has to be our eyes and ears out there.”

In addition to staying vigilant, Evans said that, for the safety of the runners, it’s crucial for spectators to stay off the course.

Evans, who himself was a part of manhunt following the 2013 attack on the Boston Marathon said that while it was one of the worst things to happen to the city of Boston, it also brought the city together.

“I’ve run London, I’ve run Berlin, Quebec,” said Evans, who has run the race 24 times. “I’ve been all over the place and all you see is Boston jackets, Boston shirts. That’s the highest tribute a runner can wear, is gear from the Boston Marathon.”

Intersection

Continued from Page 1

“This project is being removed from the FFYs 2026 program as it is not likely to advertise [be ready for construction] in FFY 2026,” a document of the amendments made to the plan reads.

The document lists two other project delays across the state, both for environmental permitting reasons. It does not include a reason for the Boylston Street project delay, and neither the Streets Cabinet nor the mayor’s office responded to requests asking for one.

This isn’t the only Streets Cabinet project that has stalled. In early March Councilor

Enrique Pepén wrote to the Cabinet that streets projects throughout the city “have been on pause for some time and are facing the end of their respective contracts. Yet, over the past year without a stated cause or reason, most of these projects were put on their own moratorium without an end date.”

On March 16 a filing made for a City Council hearing stated, “In recent months, the city’s participation in numerous transportation projects has been indefinitely paused and the Streets Cabinet and BTM have yet to advance many key transportation projects. The potential loss of a significant amount of federal and state funding, and the jeopardization of future funding opportunities for scheduled Boston transportation project, must be thoroughly examined.”

That hearing has been referred to the council committee on transportation, and has not yet been held. City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who both represents the Fenway and heads up that committee, did not respond to multiple requests for comment about the loss of funding.

The Boylston Street project focuses on the stretch of Boylston Street between Ipswich Street and the five-way intersection with Park Drive and Brookline Avenue. The entire stretch is identified on the city’s High Crash Network, and the intersection itself is particularly dangerous, with poor visibility and long pedestrian crossings. There were 14 crashes at the intersection alone between 2019 and 2021, according to state data. One of them was fatal.

The project has been in the works since

2011 and has also been planned for funding this year since that time, according to state Department of Transportation records. It is additionally part of Boston’s citywide “Go Boston 2030” transportation improvement plan, and a city webpage about the project states, “Boylston Street was identified as a priority bike corridor in Go Boston 2030.”

However, the project will be delayed to Federal Fiscal Year 2031, which starts on October 1, 2030. It’s unclear how the project will be a part of the transportation plan if it begins funding on this date.

In the meantime, the \$8.15 million of federal funding previously allocated to this project will be freed up for other projects throughout the state to make use of.

High Traffic

Continued from Page 3

The annual meeting served as a look back at the group’s work over the past year, while also offering a preview of some projects that residents can expect to see across the Boston Common, the Boston Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall in the months ahead.

Meyer said the city currently has six capital projects in the works within the three parks stewarded by the Friends.

“The Kenmore block on Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the very first or last block of the mall, is going to be renovated and that construction is somewhat imminent,” Meyer said, providing a few examples of the larger capital projects. “And after the busy season has passed, the tadpole playground

on the Boston Common will also undergo renovation and that will be expanded and upgraded.”

The Friends regularly work closely with the city in an advisory capacity on capital projects, serving as a bridge between the city and community interests. Meyer, beginning her second year as the organization’s president, is deeply knowledgeable on how projects get approved, funded and executed. This is due to her previous 16 years of experience with the city Parks and Recreation Department, including chief landscape architect and interim parks commissioner.

Much of the Friends work happens behind the scenes. Meyer said that about 70 percent of the organization’s funding goes directly into parks care, including, “soil enhancements, taking care of the lawns across all of the parks, fountain operations, tree planting and pruning, and irrigation programs.”

She pointed out that Boston is particularly reliant on organizations like the Friends for maintaining its green spaces. The 2025 ParkScore Index, completed by the Trust for Public Land, reported that 25 percent of Boston’s parks funding is provided by private organizations, much higher than the 6 percent national average.

Meyer highlighted how this work will be even more vital this year, due to events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and Sail Boston bringing even more foot traffic to the parks than usual.

“Parks care work is always about mitigating impacts and making sure that the parks are able to bounce back and be as resilient as possible,” she said. “In the fall, we’ll come and do a more intensive restoration course of work. I imagine it’ll be all the more important this year to do that.” At the annual meeting, the Friends also celebrated the community

that makes their work possible.

The Friends gave out 10 grants as part of the second year of the Henry Lee Fund, a program honoring the organization’s late founder by funding public space projects across the city.

“These grants go to community green space organizations, or just volunteers. We want to see community groups in other parts of the city also be able to support projects that are a priority of theirs,” Meyer said.

This year, many of the recipients’ projects focus on pollinator plantings and native plantings within parks from Dorchester to the South End.

The Friends also recognized the work of Sherley Gardner Smith with the Parks Champion Award. Meyer said Smith was recognized for her decade of volunteer work leading a group that maintains the public garden’s border beds.

Creativity Lab

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On one Thursday afternoon, a small group of students in the Creativity Lab sketched an arrangement of tomatoes, jalapenos, onions and cilantro, paying careful attention to the shading of the vegetables from their unique perspective. ARCK doesn’t teach theory or technique, but process and intentionality.

Following the exercise, they enjoyed a fresh salsa while students met with their one-on-one mentors to discuss their capstones.

A particularly proud student showed off

the logo she made for her friend’s baking business, a gentle pastel cherry blossom pattern that brings red velvet to the tip of the tongue. She said that ARCK showed her that creativity can be more than a hobby. It can open doors to the future.

Students will present their projects at a May 15 showcase, open to the public.

“When you’re doing a business, you need to learn how to observe how people use your service, how they might eat your cookie. Attention to details, that’s the practice.” Mraish-Demeter said. “We’re not teaching art for art’s sake. It’s about the process. A

lot of our framework is actually built on trauma-informed teaching.”

The new space in the Fenway will allow ARCK to build longer term relationships with students and families, something that was more difficult under the previous model where the organization was limited by the time it spent in school classrooms.

With the new Creativity Lab as a home base, ARCK is looking forward to a future where it can expand its footprint in the community. Residents can volunteer as mentors, attend public painting events and speaker series, or support the nonprofit

through donations. Families interested in enrolling their children can apply through ARCK’s website for a variety of programs. Applications for the summer program are open now for children ages 12 to 18. Summer studio sessions cover subjects from climate change to AI literacy and more. The organization uses a sliding scale financial aid model for attendees that looks to build a mixed socioeconomic environment.

Mraish-Demeter encouraged curious community members to stop by and visit the space, envisioning the Creativity Lab as a communal support system for students.

To Protect the Waterfront Pass the Mass Ready Act



By Senator Nick Collins

Few neighborhoods in Boston have changed as quickly as the Seaport. What was once wide open is now one of the city's most sought after places to live and visit, a transformation I've seen firsthand over more than a decade representing this

neighborhood.

With that growth comes a new responsibility. The Seaport now has a clear identity, shaped by residents working to define its character. But that effort will fall short if we do not address rising sea levels and the growing impacts of climate change.

Continued on Page 10

100 YEARS AGO

Fan Yard Pier along Northern Avenue looked slightly different in 1926. Seen are a wfireboat, bridge tender's house, and Commonwealth Piers 2 through 5.



Leslie Jones photograph, courtesy of the Boston Public Library.

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Continued from Page 7

It takes some daily maintenance for the forum to manage the group, from accepting or declining requests to join and weeding through posts. Around 80% of requests to join the group are declined, ensuring that the

entirety of the membership has relation to the South End.

The success and growth of the group, in Fox's eyes, is all due to the unique nature of the area.

"We have a molecular level of association activism here," said Fox. "That's not true anywhere else in the city. Back Bay and other

parts of the city have one neighborhood association with a huge board. We're talking about our issues across many associations."

Rather than people keeping to their own neighborhood association, of which there are at least ten, the board allows people to share issues that may be affecting people from more than one association.

"The success of the board is the dialogue," said Fox. "To be able to get a feel for how neighbors are reacting to something. People don't have to feel so alone with their issues. That was the whole point of creating it. Let's hope we can keep it going for the next 20,000."

Waterfront

Continued from Page 9

These discussions are thoughtful and detailed but planning without action is not enough.

One of the biggest challenges is not identifying what needs to be done, but how long it takes to do it.

Climate resilience projects in dense coastal areas often face a maze of permitting

requirements that can delay progress for years. These efforts cross property lines, jurisdictions and agencies. Yet our system was not built to move them forward quickly or at scale.

That is why, in the State Senate, we advanced the Mass Ready Act, a \$3.64 billion environmental bond bill that protects infrastructure from climate change and severe weather, safeguards drinking water, and advances environmental protection, including limits on single-use plastics.

As part of that effort, I filed an amendment to establish a commission on resilient urban coasts to identify barriers that delay climate resilience projects and streamline permitting so communities can act more quickly.

That includes large-scale solutions that protect entire neighborhoods, not just individual properties, and projects that cross municipal boundaries and public and private land.

Just as importantly, the commission brings together state officials, environmental experts, and local stakeholders to align priorities and cut through the fragmentation that often delays progress.

This is about turning plans into action on a timeline that matches the risks we face.

At the same time, the bill makes targeted investments in coastal communities across Boston.

That includes funding for nature-based solutions and real time monitoring along our waterfront and harbor, helping us better understand and respond to changing conditions.

It also supports major capital improvements to the Boston Harbor Islands, protecting one of our region's most important natural and recreational resources.

Closer to home, the bill invests in resilience upgrades at the Boston Children's Museum and along the Fort Point Channel, safeguarding key cultural and economic assets in the Seaport.

It also advances critical planning and engineering work in Dorchester, from Davenport Creek to the Dorchester Bay Basin and nearby parks.

Together, these investments strengthen flood protection and reflect a more comprehensive approach to climate resilience.

This is not about one project or one neighborhood, but about protecting our city's entire coastline.

Passing the Mass Ready Act moves us beyond planning and ensures we build the infrastructure it takes to be a resilient Boston.

Nick Collins represents the Seaport/South Boston, South End and parts of Dorchester.

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