



HOSTED BY BOSTON'S
MAIN STREETS ORGANIZATIONS

## Boston Main Streets Mayoral Forum

Tuesday, August 10th, 5-7 pm Blair Municipal Lot 1127 Harrison St, Roxbury

LIMITED IN-PERSON SEATING
BROADCASTED LIVE ON ZOOM

Moderated by Bob Seay

Presented by Boston's 20 Independant Main Streets Organizations Sponsored by Boston Main Streets Foundation

Main Street's Districts Host Mayoral Forum focused on Improving Boston's Neighborhoods

On August 10, 2021 the coalition of 20 independent nonprofits that make up Boston's Main Streets districts will convene a Mayoral Candidate Forum to ask tough questions and hear how each candidate plans to support, sustain and advance healthy commercial districts throughout Boston's neighborhoods via the Main Street's program.

"As a collective, we want the businesses, residents and community organizations that make up each Main Street district to know where the candidates for Mayor stand on issues impacting the revitalization and quality of life in their neighborhoods." says Jeanne Dasaro, Greater Ashmont Main Street's executive director and board member to the Boston Main Streets Foundation.

How do each of the candidates plan to further the work Main Streets together?

The Boston Main Streets Mayoral Forum is set to take place on **Tuesday August 10, 2021** (with a rain date of Wednesday August 25, 2021). This two hour event will run from 5:00-7:00PM. Limited in-person seating is available in a covid safe environment at the Blair Lot of Nubian Square, 1127 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02119. The Forum will also be live broadcast on Zoom. Bob Seay of WGBH will be the moderator for this event.

Boston Main Streets started in 1983, when then City Councilor Thomas M. Menino brought Main Street to Roslindale. Ten neighborhood commercial districts were designated as Boston Main Street programs in 1995 following a citywide competition. Ten more districts were designated over the next 10 years. The final district was designated in 2016. The network of 20 independent nonprofit Main Streets organizations exists across Boston. Main Streets use a comprehensive revitalization approach to create, build, and sustain healthy commercial districts.

For further information on the Mayoral Forum <u>contact your local Main Street Director</u> or Jeanne Dasaro at <u>exec@greaterashmont.org</u>

Special thank you to the Boston Main Street Foundation for sponsoring this event.

## Update on the MBTA's Fall Service Changes

This fall, we're continuing to add back service across the system to support increased travel across the region.

We are implementing service changes to:

- Continue to preserve access and quality of service for transit critical communities;
- Provide sufficient service for returning riders and increased travel;
- Accommodate riders who are returning to in-person school or work;
- Support new travel patterns and behaviors.

Subway and Bus service changes will be effective on August 29, 2021, and schedules will

be posted in mid-August.

To share more information about these service changes, we will be holding a public meeting about the Fall 2021 service changes on **August 5, 2021 at 6:00pm**. You can <u>register for the meeting here</u>.

For more information about the Fall Service Changes, please visit: www.mbta.com/servicechanges.



### **WARREN ST & MALCOLM X BLVD SURVEY**

## Warren St & Malcolm X Blvd Survey

The Boston Transportation Department wants to make it **safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable** for you to travel along Warren Street and Malcolm X Boulevard. The first step is for us to hear your ideas and learn about your priorities for these corridors.

We call these corridor projects because we aren't just looking at the road. We are also looking at crosswalks, lighting, bus stops, street trees, and more.

We want to look at everything you experience when you travel or gather along these streets to see how we can make them better. We also want to make sure you feel safe traveling along these streets no matter how you choose to get around.

### TAKE OUR 5-MINUTE SURVEY & MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

### Visit

www.boston.gov/roxbury-transportation-corridors

to take the online survey and learn more

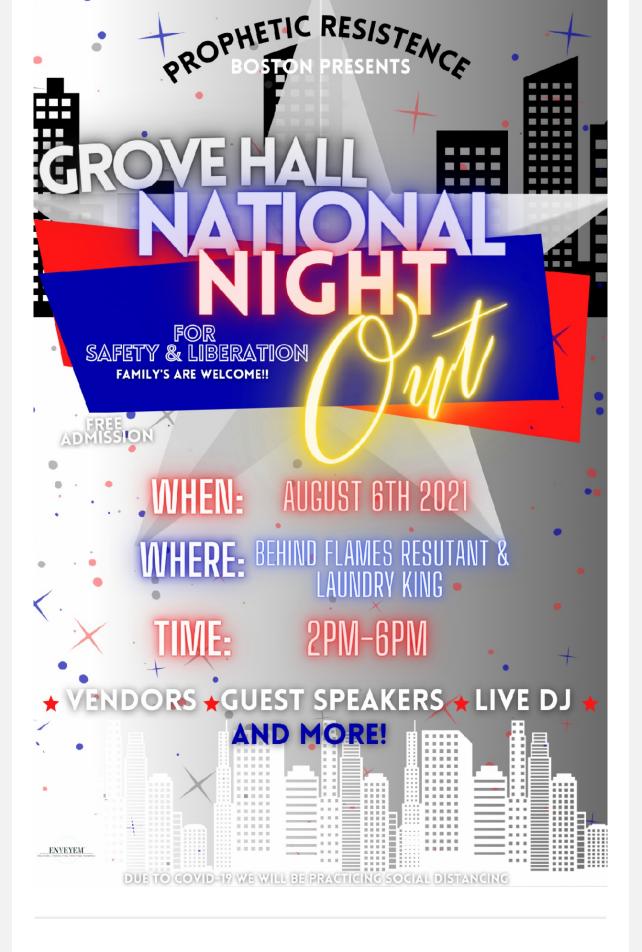
#### Call

617-635-3944

to leave comments or request a paper survey

Questions? Contact Kirstie Hostetter at kirstie.hostetter@boston.gov

Click Here to View Flyers (Additional Languages)





## Bicycle Film Festival Boston

The virtual 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour of Bicycle Film Festival comes to Boston, August 6 – 15

BFF Select Shorts appeal to a wide audience from film connoisseurs to avid cyclists and everything in between.

The curated collection of select short films will take you on a journey around the world, covering such topics as:

- Cycling as a response to knife crime epidemic in London
- Access to education is opened up to young female students in Kenya after receiving bicycles
- The struggle of a young woman and her bike in Iran
- A father (actor, Timothy Spall) copes with the loss of his son through cycling
- Cycle sport as relief from genocide
- The story of Julian Molina, the beloved, full-throttle one-legged cyclist
- Two women who bring a town together around mountain biking and their pizza shop
- A bird's-eye view of a BLM bicycle protest ride from New York to DC
- A love between a father and his young BMX-rider son (produced by Lebron James)
- New York City through the lens of female bike messengers
- And more!

**Get Tickets**: <a href="https://btt.boldtypetickets.com/events/112785260/bicycle-film-festival-boston?">https://btt.boldtypetickets.com/events/112785260/bicycle-film-festival-boston?</a>
<a href="ref=nws">ref=nws</a>

### How does the virtual Bicycle Film Festival Boston work?

A ticket allows you to view the 90 minute short film format from August 6, 6:00PM EDT through August 15, 11:59PM EDT streamed to your computer, tablet, or smart TV by simply clicking on the link provided by email 15 minutes before the opening date and time.

Ticket prices are "sliding scale" \$10, \$15, \$20 so all ticket prices entitle you to the same content. You may view BFF in one sitting, or as you will, from the comfort and safety of your home.

#### About BFF

Bicycle Film Festival has been celebrating bicycles through art, film and music the last 20 years.

The physical BFF spanned the world over 90 cities worldwide to an audience of over one

million people. The festival has an incredible history of working with the most important artists, filmmakers, venues, and institutions around the world.



## 3rd Annual Community Day Event

Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association cordially invites you, our members, neighbors, and friends to join us for a fun-filled, family friendly day celebrating 43 years of community empowerment and betterment

### Laviscount Park

(Corners of Humboldt Ave,/Townsend St.)

Sunday, August 8, 2021

2:00-5:00pm

RSVP: bit.ly/3khq22G

INFO: garrisontrotter@gmail.com

FREE FOOD!
ICE CREAM!
GAMES & PRIZES!

Click Here to View Flyer

## It's Deeper Than Words:

A poetry workshop series for teens

The Fields Corner branch invites teens to join us on Zoom this August. In four sessions, we will create, perform, explore, and share under the leadership of Skoot Mosby and Stratusfier, local poets and performers. The goal of our workshop is to use poetry to dig deep enough to find the root of what moves us and to grow stronger by nurturing it. When we express our nature, we bloom miracles.

Presented in Partnership with Writers Without Margins

It's Deeper Than Words

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 10, 12, 17, and 19, 2021

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Registration Required
This program will be on Zoom
Register at <a href="https://bit.ly/3xFp7g7">https://bit.ly/3xFp7g7</a>

For more information contact Cindy Dye at <a href="mailto:cdye@bpl.org">cdye@bpl.org</a>
For more, visit <a href="mailto:www.bpl.org">www.bpl.org</a>

## Free 1-Hour Webinar Training:

Homeless Clients: Compassionate Solutions to Problematic Behavior

Do you and your staff want:

- More confidence working with individuals experiencing homelessness, mental illness, addiction, or trauma?
- Less problematic behavior in your organization?
- An inclusive organization, capable of serving everyone?

Presented by Ryan Dowd, Executive Director of a large shelter outside of Chicago and international homelessness trainer.

When:

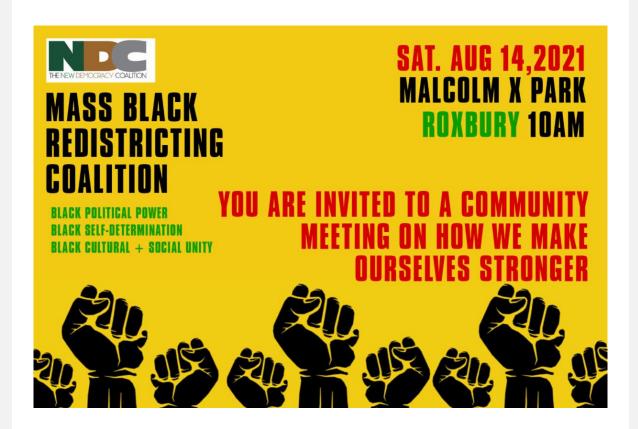
We have these two times in August:

Wednesday, 8/11 @ noon

Thursday, 8/26 @ 1 PM

Length: 1 Hour

Here's the link to register: <a href="https://event.webinarjam.com/register/112/ml1q4i01">https://event.webinarjam.com/register/112/ml1q4i01</a>



## **Come Testify!**

What Is Redistricting? And How You Can Help Us August 14, 2021,10 Am, Roxbury

Redistricting is the process of redrawing political districts every 10 years. Political districts, at the state and congressional, level must reflect population, balance and electoral justice for voters who have historically been discriminated against. The redistricting process in Massachusetts allows for "people input." So we must make our voices heard. We need you to join us in person for 60 seconds of testimony during our "community redistricting hearing."

Click Here to Learn More

# WAYS TO CLAIM YOUR CHILD TAX CREDIT

### File your taxes:

The Boston Tax Help Coalition has sites open that can help you file your 2020 tax return. www.bostontaxhelp.org/tax-sites/

### Call a Financial Navigator:

Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment's Financial Navigator can answer your questions regarding your eligibility and provide assistance with the IRS portal.

https://ofe.boston.gov/city-of-bostons-financial-navigators/

### Use the IRS online portal

Update your information with the IRS at irs.gov



### What the 2021 Child Tax Credit offers

Eligible families with children under 6 years old will get up to \$3600 or \$3000 for children under 18 years old

Families can choose monthly payments or a single large payment

fb.com/BostonTaxHelp @BosTaxHelp











### **Expanded Child Tax Credit!**

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is not a new tax credit but it has changed for 2021—more money is available and 90% of those eligible will automatically receive advance payments.

Families with children under the age of 6 will get a tax credit of \$3,600 per child, while the tax credit for children between the ages of 6 and 17 will be \$3,000, up from \$2,000 per child. [Learn more]



### **Need Tax Help This Summer?**

Some Boston Tax Help Coalition tax sites are open, but you have to schedule an appointment first. We have virtual and drop-off options available <u>click here!</u>



## Do You Have Questions About the 2021 Child Tax Credit?

If you have more questions about the changes to the Child Tax Credit, Boston's Financial Navigators can help! [Click Here] for more information.

## Few in Mass. Enroll for Internet Subsidy

By Aaron Pressman, Globe Staff

A new federal program offering billions of dollars to help people in need pay for Internet service kicked off in May, but not many Massachusetts residents are taking advantage yet. So far only 34,116 people in the state have signed up for the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit program since enrollments began on May 12. That ranks 29th in the country, according to federal statistics. Some similar-sized states have done much better, as 81,549 people signed up in Indiana and 57,991 in Maryland. Nationwide, some 3.3 million people have signed up.

Under the program, the government will pay up to \$50 a month for Internet service for at least the next six months. To be eligible, households must have low income, participate in other federal aid programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline, receive a Pell Grant student loan, qualify for free school lunches, or have experienced "a substantial loss of income" because of job loss or furlough since February 2020. Eligible households can also get up to \$100 to buy a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer. Congress included \$3.2 billion to pay for the program in the COVID relief bill passed last December and the FCC says it can run the program until the money runs out.

As a percentage of eligible people, only 3 percent of Massachusetts residents have signed up, which ranks 44th, according to data from the National Lifeline Association, a nonprofit that supports federal communications subsidy programs. That's far behind leaders Louisiana and Oklahoma, where 13 percent of eligible residents signed up for the benefit.

Given the eligibility requirements and the government's desire to avoid fraudulent claims, the program has an application process that many have found complicated, particularly if they can't get online before they start getting the subsidies. Generally, people have to confirm their eligibility by navigating the site <u>getemergencybroadband.org</u> or calling the

program's help center at 833-511-0311.

Aaron Pressman can be reached at <u>aaron.pressman@globe.com</u>. Follow him on Twitter @ampressman.

Click Here to Read More

## Fair Housing and Zoning as Anti-Gentrification: The Case of Boston, Massachusetts

James Jennings\*

Introduction

The Fair Housing law protects individuals and groups based on race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, or having a disability. In addition to the federal protected classes, Massachusetts Anti-Discrimination Law, Massachusetts General Laws, ch.151B, prohibits discrimination against the following protected classes: sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry, age, presence of children, veteran status or membership in the armed forces, receipt of Section 8 or other public assistance, source of income, or genetic information. Under the Obama administration...

#### Click Here to Read More



## Project Pipeline Interested in Architecture?

Calling all young creatives ages 11-15 interested in learning more about buildings, cities, design and architecture!

WHO: Youth Ages 11-15

WHERE: Online

Register at <a href="https://www.bosnoma.org/project-pipeline">www.bosnoma.org/project-pipeline</a>

Free art supply and activity kit included with registration!

Join us in imagining and creating the city of the future! Over three days of virtual activities, architecture and design professionals will teach drawing, modeling, and design thinking in a fun online environment. Students will create their own projects based on observations and analysis of their community, neighborhood, and city.

Questions? Contact projectpipeline@bosnoma.org

Click Here to View Flyer



First Lego League and First Lego League Jr are great ways to get your child exposed to the world of robotics! They learn about teamwork and join over 320,000 kids around the world solving global challenges through coding and robotics!

Click to learn more about <u>First Lego League (Ages 9 - 13)</u> and <u>First Lego League Jr (Ages 6 -8)</u>

### We're forming teams!

Teams around the world are digging into this season's Cargo Connect Challenge and we're excited to join in the fun, learning, building, and coding!



#### **Details**

Our pricing is all-inclusive (Registration fees, kits, T-shirts, coaches, swag)

### FLL JR (Ages 6 - 8)

- Team size is capped at 4 kids per team
- Teams meet for 90 mins a week from September through November
- Cost is \$150/mo
- Final expo/showcase will take place in December!

### FLL (Ages 9 - 14) - Competitive and Non-Competitive Teams

- Team size is capped at 4 kids per team
- Teams meet twice a week for 2.5 hours (90 mins for competitive teams) from September through December. (Exact timing depends on dates of final competition and if the teams advance to state championships. Regional and state events are determined by first.org but are usually the first and second week of December)
- Cost is \$225/mo (\$150/mo for non competitive teams)

### Spots tend to fill up VERY quickly!

### Have questions?

Please email us at westford@thecodewiz.com or text us at 978 496 1053

Learn More and Sign Up!



### Learn to Be a Remote Worker

Training Offered through OPERATION ABLE

Learn how to set up a home office and gain the computer skills needed to work remotely.

IF YOU ARE AGE 55 OR OLDER, UNEMPLOYED, AND LIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS: You may be eligible for an innovative, new, and free skills training program.

**INSTRUCTOR-LED** training will be offered in a virtual classroom environment through video conferencing.

#### THIS 20-WEEK VIRTUAL SKILLS TRAINING OFFERS:

- Information, resources, and guidance in setting up an effective, comfortable, and secure home office;
- Intensive computer skills instruction with an emphasis on Microsoft Office applications;
- Choice of subject-matter training in Customer Service, Accounting, or Medical Office Administration;
- Intensive group and individual Job Search Instruction;
- Opportunity to be part of a small group within a class cycle with peer support;
- Personal Case Management and support services;
- Access to technology, Wi-Fi, and technical support;
- Assistance in guiding you to training-related employment.

### APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS

Three Class Cycles:

FIRST CYCLE BEGINS
September 13, 2021
2nd and 3rd CLASS CYCLES to begin Winter and Spring

**Contact:** Mark Gyurina, Chief Program Officer, <a href="maggurina@operationable.net">mgyurina@operationable.net</a> or visit <a href="maggurina@operationable.net">OperationABLE.net</a>



### What's in Store?

From daily networking and a sunset boat cruise to enhancing your civic engagement and enhancing the future of our community, we've got a little something for everyone. Head to our <u>website</u> for everything you need to know about this year's HYBRID Fierce Urgency of Now festival, **September 15-18, 2021**.

### Event categories:

- Mental Health
- Civic Engagement
- Practicing Resilience
- Resume-Building Workshops
- Technology
- Investing
- Nonprofit & Corporate Partnerships
- Entrepreneurship
- Happy Hours
- Music, Art, and Entertainment

Find what interests you, sign up, and tell your friends. Join us this September!

**SIGN ME UP!** 



## A Sneak Peek At Our Keynote

A renowned expert on the American economy, Heather McGhee is one of the most brilliant and influential thinkers exploring inequality today. Both her viral TED talk and her instant New York Times bestseller The Sum of Us reveal the devastating true cost of racism—not just for people of color, but for everyone. McGhee's keynote will offer us an actionable roadmap to walk away with, don't miss out. Stay tuned for more details!

**SIGN ME UP!** 

## Healthy Places Boston July Updates Urban Forest Plan

The Urban Forest Plan is well underway and the team is currently conducting work on both an extensive analysis of existing conditions and several engagement efforts.

Our team is currently in the final stages of completing the city-wide street tree inventory. Some preliminary updates have been shared <a href="here">here</a>, and our team looks forward to integrating the dataset, once complete, into the range of other sources and indicators that have informed our preliminary analysis.

We recently hosted the first meeting of the Community Advisory Board's (CAB) Equity Council on June 28th. The Equity Council is a key group of representatives from organizations working in and for historically excluded and presently marginalized communities, in an attempt to center their voices and concerns throughout the Urban Forest Plan.

In other exciting news, the complete Community Advisory Board (CAB) has now been established, with the selection of our Collaborating Partners from respondents to a public call for expressions of interest. These individuals will join the Equity Council and Intergovernmental Working Group at the first CAB meeting, which will take place on July 19th. This meeting will feature a facilitated workshop focused on the existing condition of the trees that make up Boston's Urban Forest, and will be a first critical step in the planning process.

### 2022-2028 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

At this time, the project is in the beginning stages but we're excited to jump into the work of updating the OSRP this year. We'll keep you informed of any engagement opportunities as we develop them in the months ahead. Updates and opportunities will be shared here, to the Healthy Places website as well as the <u>2022-2028 OSRP project page.</u>

### Heat Resilience Study

The Climate Ready Boston team is working to protect Boston from the impacts of climate change, like extreme heat. You can take action by sharing your ideas to help inform the solutions. Together our plan will develop solutions to cool the city and keep Bostonians safe.

This spring and summer, the Climate Ready Boston Team has met with Bostonians to hear about experiences with extreme heat in the city.

During the first Community Open House we shared information about heat risks and how neighborhood characteristics can affect heat. Residents also shared their experiences during extreme heat days and ideas for cool their neighborhoods during the Idea Session Series. Review the presentation materials for these events on the project website.

As we work to build a resilient, safe, and healthy Boston, your input is critical to the process. We hope to see you there!

## It's All About Caring for Each Other

July 8, 2021

Dear Coalition Associates and Friends: Caring sincerely for those around us can be shown in simple impactful ways. Listening to expressions of hopelessness and asking questions about feelings of aloneness can diminish desperate, regrettable actions. Across section of individuals from teenagers to the very elderly face the challenges that lead to suicide.

Click Here to Learn More

## GENDER AND MOBILITY INITIATIVE

CLOSING THE GENDER DATA GAP
TOWARDS EQUITABLE URBAN SPACES

CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

# SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE STREET!

Contribute to research on gender inclusive streets!

ADULTS (18 YEARS OLD AND OLDER) WHO REGULARLY TRAVEL ON COLUMBIA ROAD

We are conducting a research study on how gender identity impacts travel along or intersecting with Columbia Road.

Potentially win a \$20 gift card by participating in a 20-30 minute survey.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY

Please visit our website at www.gendermobility.com or scan the QR code,



Benefits: This study is not designed to benefit you directly

Risks: Participants may feel uncomfortable being asked about their gender identity, presentation, and prior experience. Participation is voluntary and all disclosed information will remain confidential.

Contact us at gendermobility@tufts.edu or at the phone number 617 627 7821 to coordinate a phone survey or general questions



By LivableStreets Alliance in collaboration with Rebecca Shakespeare, PhD

## Legal & Financial Resources to Help Avoid Eviction

### **LEGAL RESOURCES:**

- CDC Form: Tenants are required to <u>sign and submit a declaration</u> to the landlord. The declaration states that they qualify for protection under the moratorium. Sign and submit this form as soon as possible.
- Massachusetts COVID Eviction Legal Help Project: They provide referrals, legal
  information, assistance, and legal representation in Housing Court. The goal of
  representation is to achieve housing stability. <u>Visit their website for help</u>.
- Office of Housing Stability Legal Clinics: Every Tuesday from 5:30 7:30 p.m., the

- Office of Housing Stability hosts a virtual legal clinic. <u>Complete our online form</u> to RSVP for this clinic, where you can speak with attorneys, OHS staff, and the City's landlord mediator.
- Greater Boston Legal Services: Free civil legal aid to low-income people in Boston. Call 617-371-1234 for help.
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau: Legal services program for those with low incomes in the Boston area. Call 617-495-4408 for help.
- Massachusetts Bar Association Referral Program: Get lawyer referral services and information at Housing Court. Call 617-654-0400 for help.
- Volunteer Lawyers Project: They offer eviction help for tenants and owner-occupied landlords. Call 617-603-1700 for help.
- Eastern Housing Court Phone Number: 617-788-6500

### FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

- RAFT: For individuals and families at risk of being displaced or forced to leave their homes due to COVID-19 employment loss. Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) can provide eligible households with up to \$10,000 to be used to: help keep their housing, obtain new housing, pay their mortgage, or otherwise avoid becoming homeless. RAFT can help regardless of source of income, lack of income, citizenship, or immigration status.
- Rental Relief Fund: The Rental Relief Fund helps Boston residents experiencing
  difficulty paying their rent as a result of COVID-19. It pays up to \$15,000 in rental
  help for overdue or future rent. Rental payments are sent directly to landlords by
  one of the three partner agencies for the fund.

If you live in a subsidized unit, please contact your landlord or property manager and let them know that you need to re-certify your income.

## **Around the Community**



**Grove Hall in Color,** Saturday, July 31st. A very successful event, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets was one of the sponsors.





Ed Gaskin receives an award from Frederica M.
Williams, President, and CEO of Whittier Street
Health Center for being a Men's Health Champion.
Not pictured was board member Eddie Jenkins
who was also recognized as a Men's Health
Champion.

Greater Grove Hall received an award for being a Gold sponsor of the Roxbury Unity Parade.

Pictured left to right, Councilor at large Julia Mejia, Congresswoman Ayana Pressley, Roxbury Unity Parade Founder Toy Burton, and Boston Mayor Kim Janey.



**Ekua Holmes** and **Ed Gaskin** at the successful Grove Hall in Color where several hundred people came.

**Visit Our Website** 



