



Grant Money for You, Your Group or Your Non-Profit

Through a generous gift from the Cummings Foundation, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets will be making grants up to \$2,500 to individuals, groups and non-profits, who have projects that help the Grove Hall community.

These grants are designed to increase civic engagement and the improvement of the Grove Hall community. Please complete an application at <https://bit.ly/3ct7nfK>.

For questions or additional information please email

Greatergrovehallmainstreet@gmail.com.



City Nature Challenge: Boston Area

The [City Nature Challenge: Boston Area](#) Steering Committee is super excited as we gear up for this year's CNC, which has become a large global effort! If you haven't connected with us this year about participating, please do so via this [Google form](#). In 2021, we are again taking a place-based focus encouraging everyone to document biodiversity encouraging a stay-local focus. In 2020, while we had fewer overall observations, we increased the number of species documented by 200 species!

This year's CNC will run from April 30 - May 9, with **April 30 - May 3** being the observation phase and **May 4 - May 9, 2021** being our time to help improve identification in the CNC. We will once again be documenting biodiversity within the I-495 corridor, out to Stellwagen Bank, and include Cape Cod and islands.

For 2021, we will build on the success of a place-based focus to document biodiversity and encourage you to keep it local and safe! Go slow and steady to explore in detail the biodiversity near you. We will continue to use iNaturalist to record observations and tally results. However you participate, we want to support your efforts.

Resources: We have science quests to delve deeper, an [Education Toolkit](#) to help you engage others, and attached are some sample flyers (See below for **Promotional Guidelines** please use the organizer logos from our international organizers).

Our [website](#) has been updated for 2021 and is ready to list your group as a participating organization - just let us know! Check the 2021 videos explaining [What is the City Nature Challenge?](#) And [How to use iNaturalist for the 2021 CNC - A Beginner's Guide.](#)

Ready to join as a participating organization? Please register your organization with us by completing [this google form](#) (if you haven't already) to let us know you are participating. Here are a few examples of how you can become a participating organizations in the 2021 CNC in the Boston Area:

- **Spread the word!** Send out information about the CNC to your member or volunteer lists.
- **Plan an event or incorporate the CNC into your existing events.** Encourage involvement virtually or in safe ways as outlined by your organization respecting local health guidelines. While we aren't hosting an event calendar this year - feel free to tag us on social media and we'll help spread the word. (@bostoncnc on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#))
- **Help make IDs** during the observation (April 30- May 3) and the identification periods (May 4 - May 9). The more observations we identify to species level, the bigger our tally!
- Make **use of the data** collected by the CNC to help your conservation, management or research efforts. Check out [this quick video from Dr. Corey Callaghan](#) highlighting how data from the CNC: Boston Area has been used so far!
- If you're an **educator** (formal or informal) let us help you **get youth involved** with our Education Toolkit! This includes NGSS-aligned pre-, during, and post-event materials.

Join the 2021 Boston Area [iNaturalist project](#) today and stay tuned for more information. If you have any concerns or suggestions for this year, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from and working with you! Please fill out the [google form](#) to register as a participating organization as soon as you can! Feel free to reach out directly to me with questions.

Virtual Events: We plan on hosting daily zoom meetings during the CNC hosted by members of the Steering Committee and Participating Organizations. The registration links for those interested will be available shortly. If your organization would like to host a zoom let us know!

Promotional Guidelines: We are so thankful for your participation in the CNC. Feel free to adapt any of the [materials found here](#) (and attached) for your own needs. When accessing the [google folder](#), please make a copy of any of the editable files prior to customizing (a PDF is attached). We've included the [CNC: Boston Area logo](#) for use in your promotional materials. **The only requirement in advertising is that you please include the international organizer logo lock-up on any thing you produce.** The lock-up features the logos of the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles ([CNC International-Org-Lockup_BW.jpg](#)). As the originators of this great event - please give them credit. We would love it if you can also use the Steering Committee logo banner - but no worries if there just isn't space for so much organizational love.

Otherwise be well, keep an eye on the natural world, and share your observations on iNat!

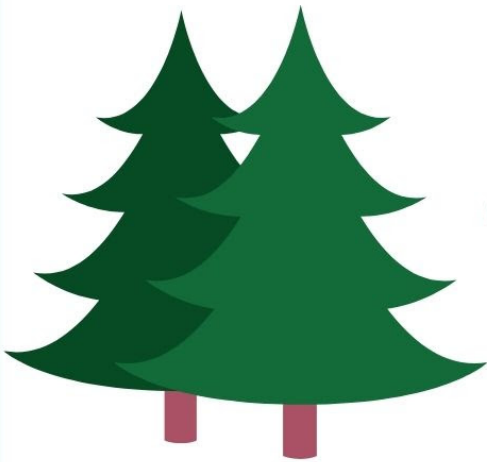
The 2021 CNC Steering Committee

- Colleen Hitchcock, Brandeis University
 - Claire O'Neill, Earthwise Aware
 - Rob Stevenson, University of Massachusetts Boston
 - Courtney Ready and John Anderson, Zoo New England
 - Peter Burn, Suffolk University
 - Pam DiBona, MassBays National Estuary Partnership
 - Stan Rullman and Mark Chandler, Earthwatch Institute
-



FRANKLIN
PARK
COALITION

Franklin Park Neighbors Community Meeting



**Tuesday, May 4th at
5:00 pm**

Community Input Survey:

bit.ly/33akjSB

Zoom Link:

bit.ly/3nBCPfN

Passcode: 119120

Councilor Matt O'Malley, Franklin Park Coalition, Boston Parks and Recreation, Boston Police Department, Councilors Campbell, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Mejia, Wu, Mayor Janey, and/or staff will be in attendance.

It's Spring in Franklin Park ~ Let's Make Our Park Work for Everyone!

Please join the Franklin Park Coalition on **Tuesday, May 4th** from 5-7pm. City councilors, the Boston Parks Department, Park Rangers, Police, and other city agencies will be with us.

With the advent of warmer weather, park neighbors and users have noted the uptick in off-road motorbike use, (loud) late night parties, and off-leash dogs. There's worry about fireworks starting again. [Park rules](#) prohibit these activities.

Give your input!

[Respond to this short survey](#) by Monday, May 3rd.

Zoom in to the meeting on Tuesday: bit.ly/3nBCPfn - passcode: 119120

And please forward this email to neighbors, family, and friends who use the park.

FPC believes these are management problems requiring creative solutions that support all park users. We share well-founded concerns about contacting police for issues that may involve BIPOC community members. We hope that better management and deterrence can be achieved with involvement from different City and State agencies & departments, not just police.



Franklin Park Action Plan "Edge" Meeting

Do you live in Grove Hall? In the neighborhoods bordered by Seaver Street, Blue Hill Avenue, or American Legion Highway?

Please join us for a meeting to consider the Action Planners' proposal for the Seaver Street and Blue Hill Avenue edge of the park:

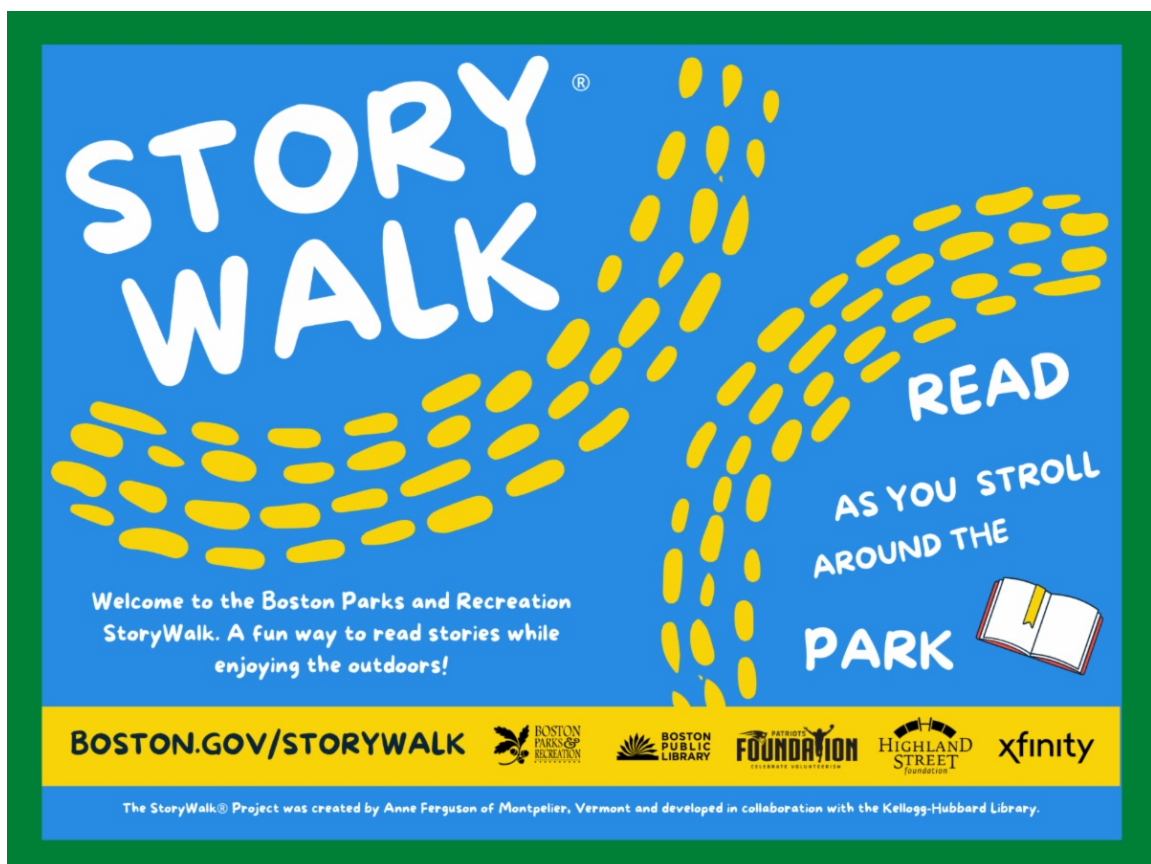
Tuesday, May 11th from 6-8pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145171600> passcode: 683692

If you can't make it on the 11th, join the FPC Action Plan subcommittee on Thursday, May 13th from 11:30am-1:00pm. The meeting will be devoted to the Seaver Street edge for those neighbors. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920329321> passcode: 77672

The Franklin Park Coalition asked the Boston Parks Department to slow down the Action Plan process so that:

- 1) Neighbors from the Seaver St, Blue Hill Ave, and American Legion edges of the park can weigh in on the ideas that particularly impact them. (We hope to schedule other "edge" meetings as we understand changes planned in different areas of the park.)
- 2) We can all review more detailed plans for each area of the park.



Have You Been on the Story Walk in Franklin Park?

Start at El Parquesito de Hermandad - the playground on Walnut Ave at the top of School Street (google: 450 Walnut Ave, Roxbury 02119)

~
En Español e English!

Follow the pages of the children's story, Augustus and His Smile as you walk through the park.



More Free Programs for Kids in Franklin Park

Golf lessons: Age 7-14, equipment provided (or you can bring your own).

July 6 - August 12 with Tuesday and Thursday classes at 9am and 10:30am

[Pre-registration](#) required.

Summer Sports Camp at White Stadium: Age 7-14, play volleyball, lacrosse, tennis, basketball, Double Dutch, track and field, football, soccer, and baseball/softball.

July 11 - August 18, Tuesday - Fridays 8:30am-3:00pm, Monday academic enrichment.

[Register now](#) - space is limited.



NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



Artists of Color - Grants + Call for Artists

[Spatial Justice Grants: What's New?](#)

Apply by May 24, 2021

Our [Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice](#) and [Public Art for Spatial Justice](#) grants are back! As we move through this new phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, we hope these grants will inspire you to envision how we might welcome one another back into and reimagine public spaces in Massachusetts.

We acknowledge the continued impacts of violence experienced by communities of color for simply existing in public space across the country. We recognize the intersectionality of our identities and collective struggles towards justice and have made some modifications to our grant criteria and priorities.

[Learn More](#)

[Watch the 2021 Webinar](#)



[Watch the Webinar](#)

Or [read the transcript](#).

West End House Opportunity

Dear Friends and Partners,

West End House is delighted to announce an exciting opportunity for a local installation artist to lead our community in celebrating hope and healing through art this summer!

Esperanza: A Celebration of Hope and Healing through Art is a joint effort between a local artist and the West End House community of members, alumni, partners, and neighbors in Allston-Brighton. West End House is an innovative and vibrant youth development and college success organization that has been providing outcomes-driven programs to the youth of Boston for 115 years! The selected artist and community members will create a collaborative art installation inspired by the theme: Celebrating Hope and Healing. Esperanza also engages community members with artmaking through hands-on workshops culminating in the thematic exhibition conceived, designed, and led by the selected artist.

West End house seeks an artist for this opportunity who self-identifies as ALAANA+ (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, or Native American) or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), as these groups are largely representative of our organization's members.

During the summer, a local artist will guide and collaborate with community members of all ages to create a final exhibition on view during September and October after its completion. The completed project is exhibited within the grounds of the West End House Boys and Girls Club at 105 Allston St. We hope you will join us in creating a visual representation of our vibrant community as a symbol of hope and strength as we emerge from the trials of the past year together and perhaps, more aptly, together apart.

Please know that safety is our priority. All artmaking collaborations will take place in accordance with West End House COVID safety policies which align with up-to-date CDC guidelines.

We hope that you will help us to spread the word by posting the link to our online application or forwarding it to artists who may be interested in applying.

We will be accepting submissions until midnight on 5/2/2021 .

[APPLY HERE!](#) OR HERE <https://forms.gle/ufHCuudXULhRe4hP7>

For more information about this new initiative, please [click this link to view the flyer](#). In the coming weeks we will keep you posted on project developments through our social media and hope you will be able to join us for the launch on **June 12th, 2021** at West End House!



boston planning & development agency

New Bid Opportunity!

Your attention is requested.

The BPDA has issued a new bid opportunity to all MA-licensed General Contractors for "Fire Damage Repairs for the China Trade Center" located at [2 Boylston Street](#), in the Chinatown/Theater District, Boston MA. The project is estimated at a construction value of \$38,000. Please follow [this link](#) to read the full advertisement and, if interested, complete the information required to download the bid documents.

For this and all City of Boston MGL c.149 construction projects, the City Ordinance Regulating Employers on Public Construction Contracts shall apply.

P-3 Diverse Development Team Outreach Survey is Open

[The BPDA invites small, local, or MWBE developers to complete this survey seeking input on the RFP for Parcel P-3 in Roxbury.](#) Your answers will help us build our outreach list and help us structure the RFP in order to provide the best opportunities for small, local, and MWBE developers. The survey closes on May 6th.

The BPDA will also be hosting a [P-3 Diverse Development Team Outreach Conference](#) on May 26th at 1 pm to discuss the feedback we received and provide networking opportunities. Responding to the survey is not required to participate in the conference.

For further information, please contact morgan.e.mcdaniel@boston.gov.



Has your Business Been Affected by COVID-19?

The [Boston Local Development Corporation](#) (BLDC) has been awarded relief funds by the EDA CARES Act to help the City of Boston Small Businesses navigate the financial challenges brought on by COVID-19.

Loans are available for existing businesses, new ventures, and businesses relocating to the City of Boston. These loans range from \$10,000 to \$150,000. For Boston companies in the industrial and manufacturing sectors, loans can go up to \$250,000.

Funds can be used for working capital, equipment, utilities, expansion, and many other business needs. BLDC loans have flexible terms and there are no prepayment penalties.

Please click [here](#) to review BLDC's Loan Process.

If you would like to discuss the needs of your business with our BLDC staff, please complete our [Get Started](#) form.

[Get Started](#)



The BLDC Understands the Need for Businesses to *Activate* and *Renovate*:

- The BLDC will **provide financing** that allows businesses to change their physical environment with the goal of **increasing take-out and quick service capabilities**.
- The ability to **provide a safe environment** that embraces best practices in social distancing and protection for both customers and employees will be key to **small business recovery**.
- Substitute for the lack of, or reduced, **bank financing to activate new business projects** currently in the pipeline.
- Assist with **funding improvements to a small business's social media presence** to activate sales.
- Provide **working capital to assist businesses** as they hire and/or rehire staff and to **fund restocking inventory** needed to activate sales.

Some of our borrowers include:



[Marvelous Barber Lounge](#)

[82 Broad Street](#)

[Boston, MA 02110](#)



[Row House](#)

[25 Lovejoy Wharf](#)
[Boston, MA 02114](#)



[She Is Sofie James](#)

[707 East Broadway](#)
[South Boston, MA 02127](#)

The Boston Local Development Corporation (BLDC) is a private non-profit corporation that utilizes staff from the Boston Planning & Development Agency to support its operations and is overseen by an independent Board of Trustees. In the last twenty years, the BLDC has provided over \$20 million in small business loans. These loans have successfully leveraged over \$95 million in other funding and have helped to create or retain over 3,500 Boston jobs. For additional information on the BLDC, please refer to our website at bostonbusinessloans.org/bldc



NSMHA
North Suffolk Mental Health Association

What STEPRox Is

STEPRox's mission is to provide a safe place for the recovery community, their families and friends, and those who are interested in recovery.

STEPRox Recovery Support Center is a peer-led community center offering FREE education and social service resources, group & community activities that aim to support individuals 18+ maintain a recovery lifestyle. At STEPRox, they can engage in activities beneficial to the individual and the community at large.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

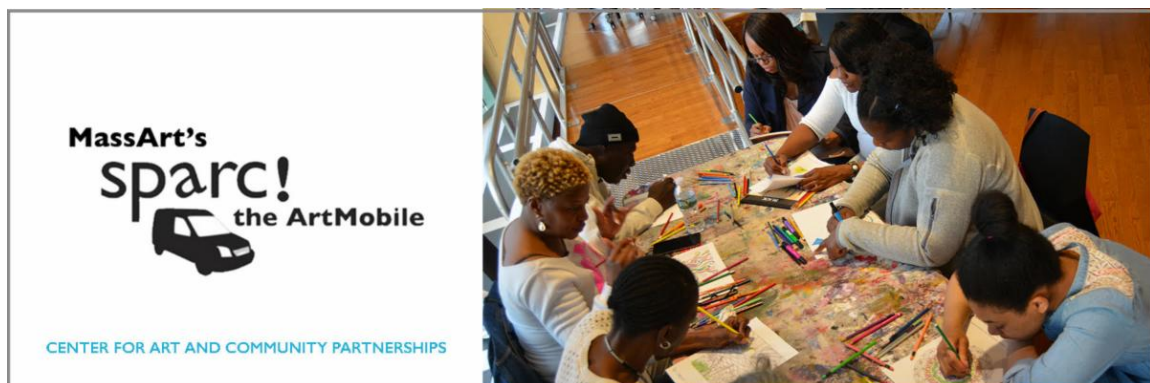
STEPRox Recovery Support Center's Virtual Calendar

[Click Here to View Calendar](#)

Support for Dorchester Small Businesses

"Ohia Advisors is a Roslindale-based consultancy that provides guidance and team training to help businesses operate safely during COVID-19. Small businesses in Boston can request that their services be provided at no cost thanks to federally-funded support through the Mayor's Office for Economic Development. Check out [their website](#) or reach out to info@ohiaadvisors.com to learn more."

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



A Special Request

Dear Community,

We, the staff of the Center for Art and Community Partnerships are nominating Ceci Mendez-Ortiz, our brilliant Director to receive a Kennedy Center Next 50 Award. Without her leadership style and generosity, there would be no **sparc!** igniting art and design in the neighborhood. With this nomination we hope to honor the work she's done over the past 11 years shaping a culture of community, inclusion and activism.

It only takes a moment. Will you nominate her too? All that's required are 1-3 sentences detailing why you think she's a cultural leader worth lifting up.

Nomination Form

From their website: *The Kennedy Center defines a Cultural Leader as a non-elected official who through sustained excellence of artistic, educational, athletic, and/or multi-disciplinary behaviors, moves us toward a more inspired, inclusive, and compassionate world. Their work is rooted in creativity and yields social impact that's centered in healing, unified vision, and joy.*

Many Thanks!

Ekua for team of sparc! the ArtMobile



Want to be a Lifeguard at a BCYF Pool this Summer?

Sign up for BCYF Lifeguard Review or Training Classes

Go to [Boston.gov/BCYF-Aquatics](https://www.boston.gov/BCYF-Aquatics) for more info:

BCYF Curtis Hall
Jamaica Plain
617-635-5193

BCYF Draper Pool
West Roxbury
617-635-5021

BCYF Flaherty
Roslindale
617-635-5181

BCYF Mason Pool
Roxbury
617-635-5241

[Click Here to View Flyer](#)

The Coalition for an Equitable Economy!

There are a few ways you can start engaging with us:

1. Become a technical assistance or capital partner for the Massachusetts Equitable PPP Access Initiative which is helping underserved business owners apply for PPP loans and seek forgiveness of existing loans. This work will continue through this summer. Training and resources are provided to participating partners. Please reach out to Doug Ling at dling@lisc.org to participate.
2. Share our recent MassINC report, [Unleashing the Potential of Entrepreneurs of Color in Massachusetts](#), which challenges us to close racial and ethnic gaps in business ownership by the end of the decade, and lays out a near-term policy blueprint for this work. [View the recording](#) of the release.
3. Encourage your MA legislators to co-sponsor the legislation filed by Sen. Lesser and Rep. Cabral called An Act to Promote Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Economic Justice ([HD 4004](#) / [SD 2387](#)). This bill was written to advance many of the recommendations in our MassInc report.
4. Contact your legislators and urge them to support \$10 million for the Small Business Technical Assistance program. Here is a [fact sheet](#) for more info: https://www.macdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/sbta_fact_sheet.pdf

We will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to share more ways to engage in our work. We look forward to working together to achieve racial and ethnic parity in business ownership by the end of 2030!

If you have any questions or want to share your feedback with us, please write to us at info@maequitableeconomy.org.

The Coalition for An Equitable Economy



Did Covid-19 Impact Your Ability to Get Food?

If so, sign up for the ABCD free grocery delivery service today.

The program delivers **\$110 worth of healthy and fresh produce, meat and frozen goods** to you monthly from a preselected menu*.

** Dietary Restrictions accommodated. Delivery services provided through Stop & Shop Peapod.*

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



SUMMERWORKS

A paying job and career development

You'll take part in career skills and job readiness workshops, receive mentoring and social supports, and be placed in a job that gives back to the community — all while earning a paycheck.

The program offers in-person worksites* and remote project based work that helps you gain skills and explore different pathways.

We offer remote placements as well.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Boston residents
- Age 14 to 21
- Income-eligible

Supporting documents can be uploaded directly using the online application, but limited appointments are available for those without internet access.

** Pending COVID restrictions*

Apply at [Summerworks.net](https://www.summerworks.net)

[Click Here to View Flyer](#)

FAST EASY FREE TAX PREP

Fast Easy Free Tax Prep

Did you make under \$57,000 in 2020? Then let ABCD prepare your taxes for **FREE!***

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Visit Our Website

