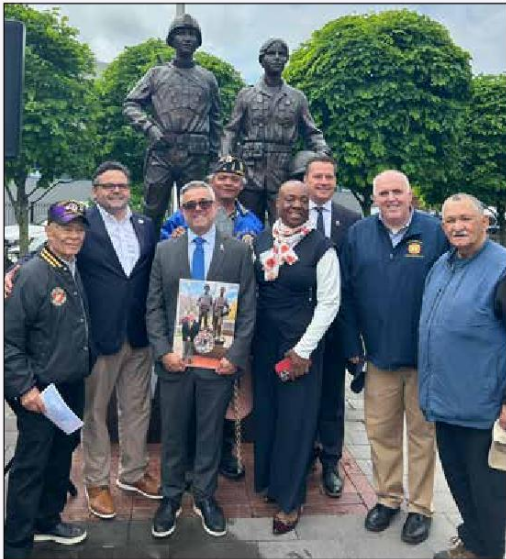


Memorial Day tribute held at Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial



On Memorial Day, veterans, families, elected officials and community members gathered at the Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial in the South End to honor U.S. service members who died in uniform, including Puerto Rican veterans and members of the 65th Infantry Regiment. The memorial, unveiled in 2013 at West Dedham and Washington streets, is considered the first in the nation dedicated to Puerto Rican soldiers. The ceremony also recognized Gold Star Families, whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country. Photo via X, @EdforBoston.

Nothing Rotten About Lyric Stage's Riotous Revival

BY JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Call "Something Rotten!" an often silly but inspired homage to Shakespeare, much as "Spamalot" proved a wild tribute to King Arthur and the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot." Imagine two very different but close brothers attempting to create a play good enough to rival those of their legendary contemporary William Shakespeare. Picture the Bard of Avon as an Elizabethan-era rock star with adoring groupies. Add in the famous Jewish merchant Shylock (from "The Merchant of Venice") as a would-be investor

Continued on page 5

Something Rotten!, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through June 7. 617-585-5678 or LyricStage.com



Jared Troilo (top, center) as William Shakespeare with cast members of Lyric Stage's revival of "Something Rotten!" Photo courtesy of Nile Hawver.

USES Raises \$1.1 Million at 2026 Neighborhood Gala



USES Staff announce fundraising total. Photo courtesy of USES.

United South End Settlements (USES) raised \$1,106,703 at its 2026 Neighborhood Gala on Friday evening, surpassing its \$1 million goal.

The fundraising total reflects broad community support for USES' work with children and families in Boston. Sponsorships, donations, partnerships, and indi-

Continued on page 4

NEWS FROM... FRIENDS OF SOUTH END LIBRARY

SUBMITTED BY YVETTE JARREAU
President, FOSEL

Boston Public Library, the City of Boston, and Utile hosted the seventh Community Meeting for the South End Branch on Tuesday, May 19 at Union Church on Columbus Ave. After the presentation which included a revised project schedule, options for alley designs, proposed alley design and management, and

Q&As, attendees were invited to walk to the alleys adjacent to the existing library to further understand the options that were presented.

In addition to the many community members who attended at the church David Leonard, President of BPL was there with Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services, Christina Jones, SE Library Branch

Continued on page 6

La CASA opens as New England's largest Latino cultural center

BY SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

La CASA has opened in Villa Victoria, marking a major milestone for the South End neighborhood where Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción was born out of residents' fight against displacement.

La CASA: the Center for Arts, Self-determination and Activism officially opened May 15 with a

Continued on page 6



Photo by Dante Luna Media Group for IBA.

BOSTON PRIDE Mark your calendars! Boston Pride is happening earlier this year, so festivities are kicking off sooner than you may expect.

Boston Pride Parade to March Through South End on June 6

The Boston Pride for the People Parade returns to the South End on Saturday, June 6, stepping off at 11 a.m. from Copley Square and winding 1.7 miles through the neighborhood before ending at Boston Common. This year's

celebrations will take place one week earlier than usual to accommodate World Cup activities in Boston on the following weekend.

Continued on page 5

Chandler Street Block Party Returns June 6

The Chandler Street Block Party, one of the longest-running street parties of the South End's Pride season, returns Saturday, June 6, from 2 to 7 p.m. on Chandler Street near Berkeley Street — capping a day that

begins with the Boston Pride for the People Parade marching through the neighborhood that morning.

Continued on page 5

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Rosie's Place raises \$825,000 at annual Safe & Sound Gala



From left, Rosie's Place Board Chair Cherise Bransfield, Rosie's Place President & CEO Leemarie Mosca and gala emcee Susan Wornick. Photo courtesy of Rosie's Place.

Rosie's Place raised \$825,000 at its annual Safe & Sound Gala, held May 6 at The Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts.

The event drew about 300 attendees and supported the Boston-based community center's work with poor and homeless women. Retired WCVB-TV anchor Susan Wornick served as emcee.

Proceeds will support Rosie's Place programs, including emergency shelter, meals, a food pantry, education, legal services, behavioral health support, employment assistance, housing help and stabilization services.

Rosie's Place President and CEO Leemarie Mosca said during the event that the organization is seeing increased need.

"Every day we are seeing women in despair and meeting women who never thought they'd need our help," Mosca said. "In response we are offering more help in more ways than ever before. And we're far from finished. Over the next two years, we will grow all of our programming by 25%."

Funds were raised through event chairs, table hosts, patrons and supporters, as well as a silent auction, live auction, "mystery

wine pull" raffle and fund-a-need donations.

The evening included food from 13 Boston-area chefs and restaurants, including Kimberly Beatrix of La Padrona; Andrew Brady and Sara Markey of Field & Vine; Joanne Chang of Flour Bakery; Tim and Nancy Cushman of o ya; Steve DeFillippo and Rodney Murillo of Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse; Luke Fetbroth of Tonino; Andy Husbands of The Smoke Shop BBQ; David Kriz of Tres Gatos; Jacob Mendros of Prima Italian Steakhouse; and David Punch of Sycamore, Little Big Diner and Jinny's. John Erdman of Bianca Woodfire Kitchen & Bar served as mixologist for the evening.

Event chairs were Cherise and Robert Bransfield, Christina and Michael Gordon, the Marriott Daughters Foundation, Michele May and David Walt, and Deb and Mark Pascualano.

Founded in 1974, Rosie's Place was the first shelter for women in the United States. The organization says it relies on support from individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept city, state or federal funding.

Written with information provided by Rosie's Place



Photo courtesy of Rosie's Place.

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JUNE 2026

From Councilor Ed Flynn & Family

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SOUTH END CALENDAR

Share Your Titus Sparrow Park Memories — Deadline May 31

Friends of Titus Sparrow Park is collecting photos of families, friends, and community moments at the South End park to help celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Submit photos to hello@titussparrowpark.org. The submission deadline is Sunday, May 31.

SoWa Open Market Returns for the Season — Every Sunday

The SoWa Open Market is back on Harrison Avenue every Sunday through fall, running 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The South End's flagship Sunday market brings together more than 175 artist booths, vintage curators, food trucks, and a beer garden across multiple blocks of the SoWa Art + Design District. SoWa Boston

Admission is free, and the market is easily reached via the MBTA at Tufts Medical Center or Back Bay. Upcoming South End dates include May 31, June 7, June 14, June 21, and June 28.

SoWa First Friday, June 5

SoWa First Friday returns to the SoWa Art + Design District (450 Harrison Ave.) on Friday, June 5, beginning at 5 p.m. The monthly

open-gallery night welcomes visitors into the largest concentration of working artist studios and contemporary galleries in New England. SoWa Boston

The event is free to attend. SoWa funds its free neighborhood programming, including First Friday and the Sunday Open Market, partly through revenue from its ticketed Winter Festival.

Tour de Green Bike Ride: South End, Thursday, June 11

The Trustees' Boston Community Gardens program hosts a guided South End bike tour Thursday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m., meeting at the Rutland Washington Community Garden. The Trustees

Co-led by Boston Community Gardens and Boston Cyclist Union staff, the ride covers about four miles at an easy pace, with stops at community gardens along the way. Participants provide their own bikes and helmets. Tour de Green is a new monthly series running May through October 2026.

31st Annual South End Garden Tour, Saturday, June 20

The South End Garden Tour returns Sat-

urday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with check-in at the Berkeley Community Garden, 500 Tremont St. The Trustees

Now in its 31st year, the self-guided, map-guided tour showcases the beauty of South End gardens and the neighborhood's distinctive architecture, with a different part of the neighborhood featured each year. It is the Boston Community Gardens Team's largest annual fundraiser, benefiting the growth and maintenance of 56 community gardens across the City of Boston. Gardens close promptly at 4 p.m.; tickets are available through The Trustees and Eventbrite.

Now on View — BCA Mills Gallery Exhibition

The Boston Center for the Arts is showing a group exhibition in its Mills Gallery (551 Tremont St.) featuring more than two dozen residency artists, on view through August 1, 2026. Boston Center for the Arts

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday. The BCA's historic South End campus also hosts ongoing theatre and performance programming throughout June.

USES

Continued from page 1

vidual contributions helped the organization exceed its target.

More than 400 supporters attended the event, which celebrated USES' mission and raised funds for programs serving Boston families. The evening featured remarks, a Fund-A-Need appeal, and the presentation of two special honors.

James T. Brett, president and CEO of the

New England Council, received the Philip Dushku Changemaker Award in recognition of his leadership, impact, and advocacy. Dr. Gary Bailey received the Mel King Social Innovator Award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to community, education, and social justice.

Guests included Representative John Moran, Councilor Miniard Culpepper, and Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, along with longtime supporters, partners, and friends of USES.

Funds raised through the gala will support USES programs for children and families, including early childhood education, Club48 youth programming, Camp Hale, and STEP, the organization's guaranteed income initiative for families with young children.

The evening concluded with celebration, dancing, and community recognition. USES said additional photos from the event will be shared in the coming weeks on its social media channels.

Written with information provided by USES.



James Brett and Aaron Dushku. Photo courtesy of USES.



Jerrell Cox, Dr. Gary Bailey, and Pamela King. Photo courtesy of USES.



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Something Rotten!

Continued from page 1

in the siblings' ambitious enterprise. What you have is the madcap hit Broadway musical "Something Rotten!" — now in a riotously hilarious revival by the Lyric Stage Company of Boston.

Set in 1595 South London, the Tony Award-nominated 2015 musical — with a snappy and witty score by Wayne and Karey Kirkpatrick and a clever book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell — immediately embraces the spirit of the times in a high-spirited number entitled "Welcome to the Renaissance." Thanks to Christopher Shin's exuberant choreography, the talented Lyric Stage ensemble greets the possibilities of the Renaissance with impressive leaps and high kicks. Indijhan Richard displays great authority and a strong vocal delivery as Minstrel in this eye-catching entry to the world of Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson, as well as newbie dramatists Nick and

Nigel Bottom (their last name an allusion to Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream").

Outspoken Nick speaks of hating Shakespeare and calls him a "hack with a knack," while reticent Nigel regards him as a genius. Even so, both share a desire to put together an original work to be staged in London. Early on, Shylock seeks to invest in their efforts despite opposition to Jews doing so (since the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290). Uncertain about the viability of the venture, Nick consults the legendary soothsayer Nostradamus, who advises him to create a musical and explains that in this genre, the plot is largely delivered through song. Here, the Kirkpatricks go to town with an extended number disarmingly entitled "A Musical." Musical buffs can expect to hear a bountiful number of allusions here and later to such famous shows as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Phantom of the Opera," "Evita," "Rent," "Dreamgirls" and even an amusing sequence in which ensemble players hold up head shots à la "A Chorus Line."

Adding to the show's creative fun in the second act, confusion about Nostradamus' predictions leads to the Bottoms mistakenly calling their musical "Omelette" and focusing on the food staple eggs (where the audience will immediately realize that the soothsaying was about the great play "Hamlet"). As much of a showstopper as the first-act "A Musical," the second-act "Make an Omelette" makes the most of Chloe Moore's very funny egg costumes and Shin's spunky choreography. The sublimely silly but always satisfying book ultimately looks to America, where musicals will find their true home.

Under Ilana Ransom Toepfritz's impressive direction and Katya Stanislavskaya's robust musical direction, "Something Rotten!" finds an equally satisfying home at the Lyric Stage. Ryan Mardesich has all of Nick's seriousness about writing, his ongoing antagonism to Shakespeare and eventual understanding of the actual wisdom of his poetry-centered brother. For his part, lanky Ohad Ashkenazi

displays real comic talent in his body language as seemingly nerdy Nigel and good chemistry with Lauren Dodds, fetching as love interest Portia. Kristian Espiritu finds all of Bea's free spirit and inner strength with husband Nick.

Gifted veteran Bobbie Steinbach — who often plays pivotal male roles on stage — has a field day delivering Yiddish expressions as resourceful Shylock. Joy Clark is a hoot as purposely wacky Nostradamus. Jared Troilo turns in a virtuoso performance as the musical's roguish Shakespeare. In movement, voice — especially evident in the first-act winner "Will Power" — and disguise while spying on the Bottoms, this uncommonly versatile actor captures the show's sometimes edgy portrait of the Bard.

Recently, the Lyric Stage brought new understanding to the disarming Thornton Wilder classic "Our Town." Director Toepfritz and a treasure trove of talents have turned "Something Rotten!" into an equally fresh and rich revival.

Pride Parade

Continued from page 1

Following a 10:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony, the parade enters the South End via

Clarendon Street, passing St. James Avenue, Columbus Avenue, and Appleton and Warren streets. It then turns left onto Tremont Street, running through the heart of the neighborhood past Waltham, Hanson, Milford, and Dwight streets, before turning left onto Berkeley Street

and heading back toward Back Bay past Warren, Appleton, and Columbus. The route finishes with a right onto Boylston Street and a left onto Charles Street, ending at the Common. There, an all-ages concert and festival run from noon to 6 p.m., with a block party from 2 to 8 p.m.

Road closures and parking restrictions will be in effect along the route throughout Saturday. Organizers strongly encourage attendees to take the MBTA — the Green Line to Arlington or Boylston, or the Orange Line to Back Bay Station — rather than drive.

Chandler Street

Continued from page 1

Presented by Boston Proud, the outdoor

street dance is a Boston Pride tradition that draws thousands of revelers to dance and socialize outdoors in the heart of Boston's South End neighborhood. Boston Proud describes itself as a coalition of LGBTQ+ community

members, allies, and corporate sponsors committed to continuing Pride in Boston free from discrimination — celebrating hard-won victories for LGBTQ+ rights while acknowledging the inequities the community still faces.

Chandler Street will be closed to traffic for the event, and temporary no-parking zones will be in effect along the block. The party is ticketed; tickets and additional details are available at chandlerstreetblockparty.com.

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In the matter of: Quanwantaire Mallory Of Boston, MA		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Quanwantaire Mallory is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.		
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/18/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.		
IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.		
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 20, 2026 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>		

FOSEL

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Librarian, and Allison Ford, Manager of Major Projects and Operations.

Sarah Sharpe, our Bay Village and South End Liaison from the Mayor's Office kicked off the meeting, followed by Mohammed Missouri, Executive Director of City Neighborhood Services. Also attending were Mayor Wu, City Councilor Ed Flynn, City Councilor Miniard Culpepper, Briana Millor, Chief of Community Engagement, and several people from the Public Facilities Department, as well as members of Public Works, including Dennis Roache, Superintendent.

In Mayor Wu's welcome, she acknowledged our elected officials, Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor Miniard Culpepper, and representatives from other Councilors' offices. She also conceded that this project has been delayed and is now prepared to go forward after receiving community input to the options being presented about how to manage the adjacent alleys.

Patricia (Trish) Caffery, Deputy Chief of Operations, Mayor's Office, presented the slides which began with the revised, estimated timeline for the building. Completion of the design phase and updated construction documents will occur this spring/summer. Simultaneously they plan on moving forward with the pre-qualification stage for hiring the contractor. And by fall 2026 the project is planned to go out for bids, with the contracting phase happening in winter '26. Construction should begin in the spring of 2027 and will take about 27 months.

After covering the timeline Trish shared the current street and alley configuration as well as service vehicle

access.

Then Brett Bentson, Principal and Project Leader from Utile, explained each of three options for Alley #510 which are available here (https://www.bpl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2026/05/2026-05-19_South-End-Library-Community-Meeting-7_Final.pdf) on slides 7-12 (with renderings) and then asked for input and questions from community members. There were many ideas from the attendees which we hope the designers/planners will consider integrating into the final design. Some of these ideas included: higher curbs to deter parking, no cobblestones, enforcement of No Parking (starting now, to get people used to it), and placing the transformer as close to the building on the alley side as possible, not enclosed by its own fence.

Mayor Wu asked for a preliminary show of hands for each of the options. More people seemed to like Option 1 better than the other two options.

However, this was before Trish Caffery shared information about Alley 510 ownership, one half of which is owned by abutters and the other half by the Library/City. To manage the increase in building size and resultant decrease in alley width, she presented the following operational changes for managing the alleys:

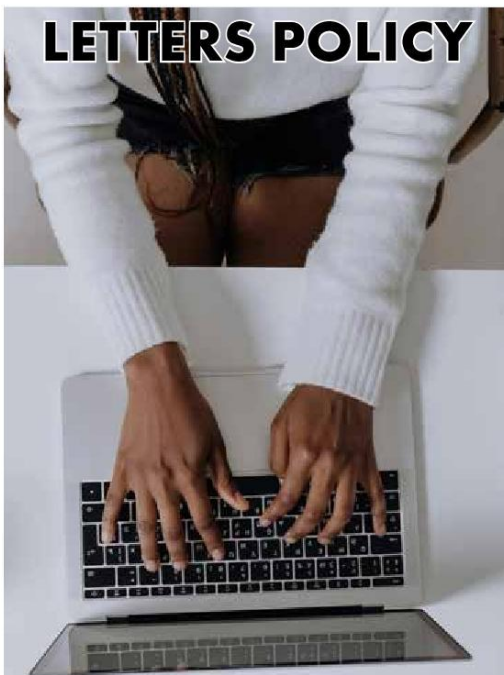
1. Private Alley 510 to become one-way to minimize conflicts.
2. Signage: Add No Stopping signage for fire access, public works services and neighborhood access.
3. Designation: Add the 'Open to Public Travel' designation to the alley. The alley is already open to public travel, as residents along Private Alley 529 pass through, but the designation adds clarity.

After the presentation, Trish led a walk-through in the alley which had been laid out with temporary markers indicating the larger building and the footprint cutout which increases space for vehicles navigating the alley's intersection with alley 529. Community members asked questions and learned that an existing electrical transformer is located underground near the side of the current building, but a new one will need to be larger to accommodate increased electricity requirements for an all-electric branch and as a result will have to be moved closer to the Rutland Square end of the alley. There are also considerations about the tree root systems that require placing the transformer further down the alley away from the building.

FOSEL hopes that people's concerns and suggestions will be integrated into the best possible approach for the neighborhood and the library. We do not have an official position on the three options presented by the City on how to design and manage Alley #510 behind the library. We feel this is best determined by the input from the people who live adjacent to the alley and the city officials with expertise on streets and city operations.

Because the project has been significantly delayed, we are pleased that it will move forward on parallel tracks: completing the design and prequalifying a contractor this fall. We hope the alley-way access issues raised will lead to a better outcome for adjacent neighbors and city services.

All the slides from the presentation are available here (https://www.bpl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2026/05/2026-05-19_South-End-Library-Community-Meeting-7_Final.pdf).



LETTERS POLICY

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com

La CASA

Continued from page 1

ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, the South End community development organization known as IBA. The four-story, roughly 26,500-square-foot center is being described by IBA as the largest Latino cultural center in New England.

The center is located in Villa Victoria, the historic Puerto Rican and Latino community created after residents organized against urban renewal and displacement in the South End.

The public opening included state and local leaders, including U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, state Sen. Nick Collins and state Rep. John Moran, alongside IBA leadership, artists, architects, funders and community partners. Boston 25 reported that La CASA is a \$33 million project located on West Newton Street.

IBA says the center is intended to serve as a permanent home for Latino arts, culture and community

empowerment. The building includes a two-story performance space, an outdoor amphitheater and public gathering areas designed to connect the historic character of the South End with modern, open architecture.

Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, IBA's CEO, told WBUR that La CASA represents "a historic milestone of almost six decades of community work" and will allow the organization to expand its arts and cultural programming.

The opening celebration stretched across four days and included music, art, dancing, public tours, workshops and community events. Opening week-end programming included a concert by Afro-Caribbean musician Eguie Castrillo, community open houses, arts workshops and a dance fiesta featuring Puerto Rican and Latinx music.

The new center also highlights the role of artists and designers in shaping the space. IBA identified world-renowned Puerto Rican artist Antonio Martorell, lead architect Natasha Espada of STUDIO ENÉE and senior

collaborating architect Ann Beha of Annum Architects among those central to bringing the project to life. Boston 25 reported that visitors are greeted by "Future in Motion," a large mural by Boston-based Puerto Rican artist Alvin "Acóma" Colón.

The center's main performance venue, Jean and Tom Yawkey Hall, will host live performances and cultural programming. Boston 25 reported the hall seats about 230 people and includes state-of-the-art lighting and acoustics.

For IBA, the opening is both cultural and political. The organization says La CASA was built on land preserved through decades of anti-displacement work, making the center a statement about cultural permanence at a time when Boston and other cities face rising housing costs and development pressure.

La CASA is now open to the public, with IBA expected to continue offering arts, cultural and community programming in the space.

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