

We All Fall Down, Passover Dysfunction

We All Fall Down,
Huntington Theatre Company,
Wimberley Theatre,
Calderwood Pavilion, Boston
Center for the Arts, Boston,
through February 16. 617-
266-0900, 617-933-8600 or
bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

If you are searching for a play that sharply focuses on the Passover Seder, "We All Fall Down" is not your stage Afikomen (the hidden matza that brings children a reward after they find it). Although Lila Rose Kaplan's family dramedy finds the



Dana Stern, Eleanor Reissa and Liba Vaynberg in the Huntington Theatre Company's production of "We All Fall Down". Photo: Nile Hawyer)

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News from...

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

The February Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 pm, at Project Place, 1145 Washington Street, Boston.

Monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month.

Tentative Agenda:

- Neighborhood Announcements

Your chance to share news and happenings

- Safety and Security Update

- City Councilor Annissa Es-saibi George;

We are pleased to welcome our At-Large City Councilor Annissa

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Obituary

Skip Rosenthal, at 68

BY ALISON BARNET

Steven "Skip" Rosenthal, founder of the South End News, died of pancreatic cancer on June 7, 2019 at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Originally from Mattapan, his home at the time was in Phuket, Thailand. He was 68.

When he and I met in 1979, he was working as a social worker for Jewish Vocational Services, with a second job as night watchman in a Chelsea funeral parlor. He had been associated with Gay Community News for years, had a hand in the advertising and technical end of at least one other gay publication, and managed a gay bar in downtown

Boston. Laid off from JVS that fall, he became determined to find meaningful, independent work, which turned out to be a South End community newspaper.

Involved as editor from the beginning, my most vivid memory of the weeks prior to the first issue of

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Pressley disrupts Eurocentric aesthetic about hair



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley

REV. IRENE MONROE

African American females.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley revealed she has the autoimmune disorder "alopecia areata" that has rendered her hairless. Pressley revealing her bald head publicly opened the troubling conversation about black hair — especially for

Our children across America are being humiliated and punished because of racist rules and policies that discriminate against their hair texture and natural hairstyles. Last year the video of an African

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Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I allow my nine-year-old female ratterrier mix to relieve herself inside on a pee pad in a designated area. But she often goes on the carpeting

just a foot or two from the pee pad. She is in the general designated area but doesn't seem to understand that her deposits should be always on the pad (not just near it). She gets two or three walks outside per day but in between she uses the pad or close to it. How do I make her understand to use only the pad only and not the floor or carpet next to the pad?

— Patty

Dear Patty,

Dogs are smart but they don't know the difference between pee pads and carpet. They know "outdoors" and "indoors." Once you allow them to go indoors, they think any interior

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Online

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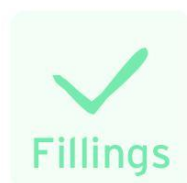
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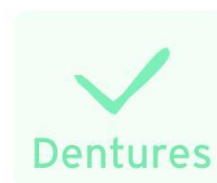
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Theater

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fictional Steins preparing for and finally beginning the iconic Jewish event, a singular dysfunction proves the rule at their Westchester County home.

Veteran director Melia Bensussen and a talented Huntington Theatre Company cast may try to give Kaplan's effort—now in its Hub premiere at the Calderwood Pavilion—real emotional intensity, but her somewhat affecting play suffers from an identity crisis all its own.

Where the Israelites were slaves to the Pharaoh (Ramses II), the Steins look to be prisoners to general assimilation as "We All Fall Down" begins. Judy Callen's stage-encompassing and well-detailed scenic design reveals a spacious but as yet unprepared pre-holiday home and a family with a relatively low bar for conducting their seder. Daughter Ariel is practicing a yoga routine while her sister Sammi observes that they never have a seder and repeatedly laments that her non-Jewish fiancé David—who is supposed to be bringing the centerpiece brisket—remains stuck in heavy traffic on Route 95.

Father Saul, a retired teacher and author of a work on the American Revolution, has more to say about an intended summer trip to Alaska with wife Linda than about Passover. His older sister Nan—who has vivid memories of meeting Linda at a meeting of young Communists—does not exactly help when she mentions some people seeing the seder as "an evening of Zionist propaganda." Periodically leaves are removed from the long family dinner table as invited couples send their regrets.

With such disarray, why are the Steins having a family seder after all? Linda—who has pushed to return to this Passover tradition—ostensibly sees it as a chance for a needed family reunion (and even still-waiting Chanukah gifts). Much later the anxieties expert will reveal serious motivation for which the play does gradually provide some foreshadowing.

Anxiety expert Linda does try to liven up their seder with finger puppets representing the ten plagues and including the colorful boas her daughters wore at school events. As for the text of the Haggadah, ironically Ester—her non-Jewish graduate student assistant—appears to be the only participant who actually reads Hebrew fluently. Elle Borders as Ester rates kudos for a beautiful rendition of 'Mah Nishtanah' ('The Four

Questions').

Quite frankly, theatergoers—Jewish or non-Jewish—who are more than familiar with the seder and Passover themes are likely to question why Kaplan's play resorts fairly early to complications like David's delay or Linda's best friend Beverly's repeated description of Passover as a 'Jewish Easter.' These are the kind of facile elements likely to show up in television sitcoms. Also, a late stretch involving Linda's concern for memory-weak Saul has much more poignancy than much of what precedes it.

Still, cast members sometimes make up for problems in the play itself. Eleanor Reissa has all of Linda's heart and vitality. Stephen Schnetzer convinces a struggling Saul—especially as he speaks about the nature of a seder. Liba Vaynberg captures Sammi's tenacity and Dana Stein Ariel's spirit. Phyllis Kay catches Nan's vocal sharpness. Sarah Newhouse makes the most of the thin role of Beverly.

"We All Fall Down" speaks of a redemption that "is not yet complete." Right now, that observation could describe Kaplan's play as much as the Steins and their experience of Passover.

East Berkeley

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Essaibi-George to the February meeting. The councilor will discuss her current priorities, take your questions, and hear your concerns. Come for an informative and lively discussion.

- Business Spotlight:

Dr. James Seligman of Seligman Dental Designs.
<https://www.seligmandentaldesigns.com/>

- Member Brainstorming and Input opportunity:

We will hold a brainstorming session to capture your priorities and interests.

What's important to you?

What would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?

What would you like future meetings to include?

- Seeking Volunteers

Good things only happen when people make them happen. At this meeting, we will discuss volunteer opportunities and ways for members to become more involved in areas that are meaningful to them!

Possibilities:

Event Coordination, Social Planning, Membership recruitment, and more!

- EBNA Board - Your 2020 board members:

President: Ken Smith, Vice President: Leslie Fine,

Treasurer: Stuart Rose; Secretary: Brad St. Amand; Members: Fran Bilus, Steven Berns, John Connelly, Aimee Coolidge, Sarah Hutt, Geoff Palmer.

Welcome to our newest member Steve Berns! We are happy to have a diverse mixture of residents, organizations, new and longtime residents, and representation from the new buildings in the New York Streets area, as well as the "original" buildings of the neighborhood.

You may also join or renew as a member of EBNA at this meeting. Credit cards accepted.

Share this meeting info with your neighbors. Neighbors can subscribe to this email list here:

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Pressley

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American high school wrestler forced to cut off his dreadlocks to compete went viral. The referee, who was white, stated “his hair and headgear did not comply with rules, and that if he wanted to compete, he would have to immediately cut his dreadlocks – or forfeit.”

Pressley, known for her signature Senegalese twists – as her personal identity and political brand – had been criticized as being “too ethnic” and “too urban.” However, to young black girls, Pressley’s hairstyle was both an inspiration and an affirmation to rock proudly.

African American women and girls endure some of the harshest punishments concerning our hair, thereby permitting racist workplaces, institutions and educators to discriminate against us without repercussion. In 2017, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, in Malden, banned black twins Deanna and Maya Cook from playing after school sports and from attending their prom because they wore hair extensions to school, violating school policy. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey stepped in on the twins’ behalf. Healey sent a letter to the school flatly stating that its policy “includes a number of prohibitions that are either unreasonably subjective or appear to effectively single out students of color.”

In the blockbuster hit “Black Panther,” the beauty of black unstraightened natural hair was placed front and center. Lupita Nyong’o as Nakia wore Bantu knots. Letitia Wright as

Shuri donned individual braids and Danai Gurira flaunted a bald head. While many African American women today wear their hair in afros, cornrows, locks, braids, Senegalese twists, wraps or bald, our hair – both symbolically and literally – continues to be a battlefield in this country’s politics of hair and beauty aesthetics.

For example, in 2007, radio personality shock jock Don Imus insulted the Rutgers women’s basketball team, calling them “some nappy-headed hos.” He struck a raw nerve in the African American community – our hair. “Nappy” derogatorily referenced as a racial epithet, as Imus did, is the other n-word in the African American community.

While many sisters today might use a hot comb on their hair, hot combs called straightening combs too, were around in the 1880s, and sold at Sears and Bloomingdale’s catalogs to a predominantly white female clientele. Madam C.J. Walker, the first African American millionaire for her inventions of black hair products, didn’t invent the hot comb; she popularized its use by remedying the perceived “curse” of nappy hair with her hair-straightening products that continue to this day bring comfort to many black women.

Black hairstyles are not criticized when they are being appropriated by white culture, especially when white celebs or models wear our coiffed styles. In 1979 actress Bo Derek donned cornrows in her breakthrough film “10.” In 1980 “People Magazine” credited Derek for making the style a “cross-cultural craze.” In 2018 when Kim Kardashian posted

a video of herself flaunting braids to Snapchat, she credited them as wearing “Bo Derek braids.” Just last week at the men’s fall/winter 2020/2021 fashion show in Paris models presented creations by Comme Des Garçons wearing cornrow wigs.

Renowned African American feminist author Alice Walker spoke about the constraints of hair and beauty ideals in African American culture. In her address “Oppressed hair puts a ceiling on the brain” Walker, at the women’s historically black college Spelman in Atlanta in April 1987, stated the following:

“I am going to talk to you about hair. Don’t give a thought to the state of yours at the moment. This is not an appraisal... it occurred to me that in my physical self, there remained one last barrier to my spiritual liberation: my hair. I realized I have never been given the opportunity to appreciate my hair for its true self. Eventually, I knew precisely what hair wanted: it wanted to grow, to be itself... to be left alone by anyone, including me, who did not love it as it was.”

In California, the CROWN ACT (“Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair”), a law prohibiting discrimination based on hairstyle and hair texture, went into effect on Jan. 1. Femininity and attractiveness are integrally linked to hair as a Eurocentric aesthetic.

Pressley, however, disrupts this notion because she’s stunningly gorgeous and regal – with or without hair. “I’m not here just to occupy space,” Pressley stated in The Root video interview. “I’m here to create it.”

— Sara

Dog Lady

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surface is fair game—pee pads, carpeting, linoleum, and wood. Actually, your rat terrier is rather remarkable because she, at least, goes near the pee pad.

Train her off the pad by bringing her outdoors more frequently for walks. When she goes, praise her lavishly while feeding her a high-test treat (a freeze-dried liver chunk is always good). Or keep her in a crate, letting her out for walks—outdoors.

Granted, these are not the easy solutions you hoped for. However, when training a dog—even a nine-year-old dog—to go outside, you must suffer before you have success. And the dog will be happier because, by nature, canines don’t want to use their homes as bathrooms. The rat terrier will also love the increased outdoor activity. When she is, at last, properly trained, you will be so relieved. You will also have a stronger bond to your pet.

Dear Dog Lady,

I have had my Pomeranian Hercules for nearly eight years. Hercules weighs less than five pounds. I’ve had my boyfriend, now fiancé, for four years. He claims to love my dog. He says Herc is “our” dog.

What concerns me, though, is how rough he is with this tiny dog. He will pick him up and flip him around or pet him so hard that the dog growls, snarls, or yips. My fiancé will also hold onto Herc while the dog is flailing, trying to get away and/or growling to signal his discomfort. Hercules often pees a little in the floor when my fiancé reaches for him and runs away from him. My fiancé says that Hercules only does this for my attention and that when I am not here Hercules will come to him. However, what I am seeing is a man who is far too rough and a dog who is terrified. You would think we would have figured this out by now but treatment of Hercules is still a regular argument. Any advice?

Dear Sara,

Yes, big advice: You need to speak up for yourself and your dog. You must show your muscle on Hercules’ behalf—and your own. If the manhandling of your little dog makes you uncomfortable, it is wrong. You have every right to demand your fiancé stop tossing the Pomeranian around and begin treating the dog with care.

You should think about how these issues with Hercules reflect deeper divides in the relationship. If a discussion with your fiancé about treatment of the dog devolves into blame and defensiveness, you should broaden the conversation into the future for the two of you. It takes a big man to show kindness to a little dog

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com.

Obituary

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the South End News in February 1980 is of Skip and I running up and down the stairs between our apartments, constantly spilling

over with new developments, ideas and nerves, so the time between trips was often only a minute or two.

At the time, Skip’s partner was James Hoover. When Skip moved to El Paso, Texas, in 1985, he sold the South End News to James,

and James bought Bay Windows a year later. In El Paso, Skip founded International AIDS Empowerment and was its executive director for 17 years. Toward the end of his life, he became actively involved with GNP+, the Global Network of People Living with AIDS.

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Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
Sue O’Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O’Connell [ext. 215]
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Michele D. Maniscalco
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

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Boston, MA 02127
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Letters policy

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday’s paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Free Family Fun At Boston Common

Winter Fest February 20

SUBMITTED BY BPRD

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual Children's Winter Festival on Boston Common in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation during school vacation week on Thursday, February 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other sponsors include XFINTY and L.L. Bean.

"Come join us for the Children's Winter Festival with free, fun activities during vacation week for Boston Public Schools," said Mayor Walsh. "The Parks Department has planned an event full of entertainment giving children and families an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the season on Boston Common."

Attractions will include the 45-foot-long Toboggan Tunnel mountainous adventure with twin roller lanes, the Snow Maz-

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City Of Boston Kicks Off Free Winter Fitness Series

SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) have announced the Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts from January 5 through May 1. The four-month-long series will offer free classes at 11 locations across the city.

Winter offerings include walking group/snowshoeing at Franklin Park, yoga at BCYF Paris Street Community Center in East Boston and Veronica B. Smith Senior Center in Brighton, strength training at BCYF Gallivan Community Center in Mattapan, Zumba Gold at BCYF Golden Age Senior Center in Charlestown, bootcamp in the ADSL Building at Town Field in Dorchester, barre at BCYF Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury, POUND at Anna Mae Cole Center in


Jamaica Plain, chair yoga at Morville House in the Fenway, Zumba at BCYF Curtis Hall in Jamaica Plain, and cardio fitness at the Bubble at Carter Field in Roxbury/South End.

The program is tailored to the interests of residents and participants, including age-friendly classes for kids and older adults as well as those new to fitness classes. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active year-round thanks to the expansion of this program. Outdoor activities are weather permitting.

For more information including dates and times, please visit Boston.gov/winter-fitness. For information on cancellations, check Twitter at @healthyboston and @bostonparksdept or call (617) 534-2355.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P0132EA	
Estate of: Jean Marie Walsh Date of Death: 3/18/2019		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300	
To all interested persons: A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stephen T. Walsh of Saint Petersburg, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Stephen T. Walsh of Saint Petersburg, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.			
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 02/20/2020.			
This is NOT a hearing date but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.			
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 22, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate			

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court	
In the matter of: Kevin Per Nathanael Staberg Of: Boston, MA			
To all persons interested in petition described:			
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been presented by Kevin Per Nathanael Staberg requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Kevin Nathanael Scott		Docket No. SU19C0472CA Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300	
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 3/02/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 23, 2019 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate			



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Family

Continued from page 5

ing maze, the Snowzilla Jr. inflatable winter-themed slide, a ride on the three-car Trackless Train, and hands-on games including Giant Connect4, Baggo, Giant Horseshoes, Inflatable Skee Ball, and much more. L.L. Bean's Bootmobile will be on-site for a photo-op and their Outdoor Discovery Program team will offer sledding and snowshoeing (weather permitting) or a Maps and Compass Challenge if there is no snow.

In addition, Disney is celebrating the release of FROZEN 2 available on Digital February 11 and Blu-ray™ February 25 with

free giveaways and a chance to win a copy of the movie and XFINITY is providing a vintage 1960s Volkswagen bus converted to a photo bus so bring your best pose and let XFINITY's Photobus take your group's photo. The festival will also feature the Magic 106.7 street team with giveaways (while supplies last), activities with the Girl Scouts of Eastern MA, the Mayor's Mural Crew, New England Aquarium, a family Zumba class, and hot tea from DAVIDsTEA.

For more information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505, visit www.cityofboston.gov/parks or go to www.facebook.com/boston-parksdepartment.



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Public Meeting

Frederick Douglass Peace Garden

Wednesday, February 5

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Roxse Homes
Community Room**

Rear of 1050 Tremont Street
Roxbury, MA 02120

Project Description:

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) invites the community to a public meeting to discuss Parcel X-26B in the South End Urban Renewal Area, known as the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden.

At this meeting, we invite the community to review the first draft of a request for proposal (RFP) and provide feedback. The RFP draft is based on comments from the first community meeting held on November 6, 2019.

mail to: **Morgan McDaniel**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.6250
email: morgan.mcdaniel@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/19/2020

[BostonPlans.org](https://bostonplans.org) | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on February 12, 2020, at 9:30 A.M., in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 725, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend "Map 6A/6B/6C, Roxbury Neighborhood District", by adding the designation "U*," indicating an Urban Renewal Area overlay district to the existing zoning of the parcels of land known as Parcels 57, 59A and 59B, in the South End Urban Renewal Area.

A copy petition and a map of the area involved may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 952, Boston, City Hall, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission
Jeffrey M. Hampton
Executive Secretary



Community Meeting

PLAN: Nubian Square

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, February 3
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since the launch of PLAN: Nubian Square the RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on the initiative.

At this meeting, the BPDA will be providing a debrief on the P3 Development Process, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps for the process.

All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. For more information on the upcoming meeting, including the draft agenda and all materials from previous RSMPOC meetings, please visit bit.ly/theRSMPOC.

Please come join your neighbors to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

Contact:

Muge Undemir
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

bostonplans.org | [@bostonplans](https://twitter.com/bostonplans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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