

Mayor Wu celebrates 30th year of the Mayor's Mural Crew

Two new large-scale murals painted in Mattapan by 20 students from 11 Boston neighborhoods

SUBMITTED BY
THE CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu, together with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, shared recent projects that the Mayor's Mural Crew completed during its 30th



Tout Moun Se Moun/One Love: Mattapan Tap Tap Mural. Photo Courtesy Boston Parks and Recreation Department

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BMC Awarded Magnetâ Recognition for Nursing Excellence

SUBMITTED BY BMC

Boston Medical Center (BMC) has been awarded Magnetâ Recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the highest national credential for nursing excellence, quality patient

care and innovation in professional nursing practice.

With this recognition, BMC joins a select Magnetâ community, with fewer than 10 percent of hospitals in the United States achieving Magnetâ status. The

ANCC thoroughly evaluated BMC nursing practice in their review of submitted documents that included exemplars and outcome data, as well as interviews of clinical nurses,

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Morgan, Brown & Joy Adds South Ender Mario Nimock as an Associate

SUBMITTED BY
MORGAN, BROWN & JOY

Boston labor and employment law firm Morgan, Brown & Joy announces that Mario Nimock has joined the firm as an associate.

Nimock is a trial lawyer and

advisor to employers of all types, advising and defending them in connection with a range of workplace matters. His experience includes defending employers against various claims, including discrimination and retaliation, harassment, wage and hour, employment contracts, and enforcing confidentiality

agreements. Experienced in defending clients before Federal and State courts, and in surrounding mediations and arbitrations, Nimock also represents employers in actions pending at the Massachusetts Commission Against

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Shop with a Cop 2021



Image courtesy of BPD.

Officers Assigned to District D-4 Help Spread Holiday Cheer in the South End

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Due to ongoing health and safety considerations, the Boston Police Department decentralized the traditional

'Shop with a Cop' event and branched out into our neighborhoods through our district stations with the help of our local partners.

While several events are scheduled over the coming days, these photographs were recently taken at District D-4 (South End) where Santa Claus himself was on hand to greet our officers and community members of all ages to help spread some cheer.

Group expands, renovates residential center near Mass & Cass

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

Volunteers of America reports it's re-opened its Hello House, its residential recovery center in a brownstone on Mass. Ave. near Harrison Avenue.

The renovated center now has 28 beds, two more than before, along with several new bathrooms, a new ventilation center and new furniture.

"The Men's Hello House provides a structured environment

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Don Green



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Guest Opinion

In support of flexibility, and more

BY EILAKEISHA SPENCER, M.Ed

Between taking care of my child and running the Dorchester-based Boston Lesbian Urban Foundation, which uplifts members of the LGBTQ+ community in Boston, it can be tough to pay the bills. For the past 3 years, I have relied on the flexibility of driving with Lyft to earn additional income while I balance my personal and professional goals. I am extremely proud of what I have accomplished, both as a parent and a community leader, and grateful that the independence of rideshare was there for me when I needed it. Unfortunately, change may be coming for rideshare and delivery drivers in the form of lawsuits and court mandates that would eliminate this flexibility forever. I am joining the effort to save it.

A lawsuit currently making its way through the courts in Massachusetts would force all rideshare and delivery companies to make their drivers employees. That would mean bosses, set shifts, flat wages, requests for time off - all the things about regular jobs that just don't mesh with the demands of raising a child or running a non-profit. The politicians and special interests behind this effort say it will bring new benefits to drivers, but at the cost of our independence.

That's not a trade I am willing to make. So, I am joining thousands of other drivers, from communities across Massachusetts in

supporting a ballot question that would offer the best of both options. The proposed ballot question would guarantee our continued flexibility as drivers, including our ability to make our own schedules, drive when and where we want, as little or as much as we want, whenever we want. But it would also guarantee us 120% of minimum wage, paid sick time, health care stipends, and more.

Importantly for me as a parent, the ballot question would automatically enroll drivers in the state's Paid Family & Medical Leave program - just the same as any other employee in Massachusetts. And importantly for me as an advocate, the question would protect drivers from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, genetic information, ancestry, status as a veteran, pregnancy, or sexual orientation.

With the flexibility of rideshare, I put myself through school to earn a Master's in Mental Health; I pay for those unexpected parental expenses; I work every day on the ground and in communities to ensure that Massachusetts is a safe place for LGBTQ+ individuals to live and thrive. If the courts take away my flexibility to drive, to earn - none of this will be possible for me. The ballot question will protect me and other drivers, and ensure that our options are not being stripped away without our input.

I urge Massachusetts voters to join me in supporting this ballot initiative and stand with thousands of people like me who rely on the flexibility that driving provides.

Boston Lesbian Urban Foundation Inc.

BMC

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nurse leaders, the BMC executive team and members of the Board of Trustees.

"BMC's Magnetâ designation was made possible by years of hard work by our Nursing Department and many other teams across the hospital," said Kate Walsh, President and CEO of BMC. "This is a reflection of the high quality, compassionate care that our nursing team provides across the hospital and in all of our clinics, and our nurses should feel incredibly proud, as I do."

"Magnetâ recognition is an honor that reaffirms the professionalism and dedication of our entire staff, and reinforces the core values that guide how we do our jobs every day," said Nancy Gaden, BMC's Chief Nursing Officer. "As a Magnetâ-recognized organization, we live by our mission - exceptional care without exception."

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is a

private, not-for-profit, 514-bed, academic medical center that is the primary teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine. It is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services in New England. BMC offers specialized care for complex health problems and is a leading research institution, receiving more than \$166 million in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2019. It is the 13th largest funding recipient in the U.S. from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. In 1997, BMC founded Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc., now one of the top ranked Medicaid MCOs in the country, as a non-profit managed care organization. Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine are partners in Boston HealthNet - 12 community health centers focused on providing exceptional health care to residents of Boston. For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc.org>.

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e-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Mural

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year of employing Boston high schoolers to create large-scale public art projects across Boston's neighborhoods and City parks.

"These murals will connect and inspire so many in Mattapan and across our city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Thank you to all of our Mural Crew artists for creating art that celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of our communities - and I am thrilled to see what you all bring to our neighborhoods next."

During the month of July 2021, the Mayor's Mural Crew painted "Tou Moun Se Moun/One Love: Mattapan Tap Tap Mural," a 50 foot by 18 foot mural located at the rear entrance of Chase Bank on Blue Hill Avenue. In August, the crew painted "Eat What You Grow Reap What You Sow," a 31 foot by 14 foot mural at the corner of Ippolito Street and Edgewater Drive, along the Neponset River.

Murals were painted by a team of youth and adult artists, including Anthony Amaral, Ava Chow, Brenda Cartagena, Bobby Zabin, Camila Aguilera-Steinert, Eli Swanson, Heidi Schork, Isabel Slater, Jabari Gichuru, Jerome Jones, Leah Prodigalidad, Lucy Edelstein-Rosenberg, Liz O'Brien, Mila Fields-Zayas, Nate McKay, Niamh Mulligan, Sin Porter, Terrance Wharton, Upasana Patel, and Zariyah Wilkerson.

"This was my third summer working as a youth muralist with The Mayor's Mural Crew; it was a wonderful experience—we got to experience the effects of art on a community, and had a lot of fun doing it. Both murals directly depict people who would stop by to observe the process, and the cultures of those living in Mattapan, which made both projects so special," said Niamh Mulligan, who began studying studio art at Suffolk College in September 2021.

"Painting a huge wall by hand in a group with others and having to work together to paint one cohesive image was challenging to say the least, especially when people had differing views, but it was all worth it in the end once we stepped back and saw the whole piece," shared Lucy Edelstein-Rosenberg, a recent Boston Latin School graduate, who began studying studio art at Suffolk University in September 2021.

"Completing these two murals showed me how strong you can build something, when teammates learn how to work together. Through each stage of each mural, our bond became stronger as we learned from our mistakes and each other. It was important to all of us to serve the Mattapan community by sharing messages of unity and love," said Upasana Patel, a graduate student at Boston



Eat What You Grow Reap What You Sow: Edgewater Drive Mural. Photo Courtesy Boston Parks and Recreation Department

Architectural College.

Tout Moun Se Moun/One Love: Mattapan Tap Tap Mural

A large-scale homage to Toussaint L'Ouverture and Marcus Garvey was previously displayed on the wall when it was owned by Santander Bank in 2015. For this project under the patronage of Chase Bank, the Mayor's Mural Crew developed a theme around the Caribbean residents of Mattapan Square by incorporating traditional Haitian and Jamaican stylistic elements on a larger than life size tap tap bus (tap taps are brightly painted vehicles with metal covers that serve as taxis in Haiti). The work features iconic architectural motifs in the form of Haitian gingerbread houses, bright gradients, and plants native to both Jamaica, Haiti, and Mattapan to show the diversity of the neighborhood. All the portraits were sourced directly from Mattapan residents, community members who play essential roles in public transit, health-care, variety stores offering cultural foods, and greenspace maintenance. L'Ouverture and Garvey were done in the style of the banknotes from their respective countries to highlight their legacy, but also the exchange of value that occurs between US residents and their families back home, as well as the investments Chase Bank is making in this community. The lettering was done in a lively color scheme as would be on an actual tap tap bus, with all the variety of script fonts, bold sans serifs, in-line color blocking, white starbursts, and outlines. The community was pleased with

the work of the Mural Crew, often showing their support with honks, cheers, photos, long conversations, and even by providing food and water for the crew.

Eat What You Grow Reap What You Sow: Edgewater Drive Mural

The Neponset River and greenspace at large has been historically inaccessible to the residents of Edgewater Drive and Mattapan as a result of redlining. This mural was done in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Food Access, the Edgewater Neighborhood Association, in addition to the neighboring food bank run by Reverend Homicil and the wall donated by Guerini Inc. The aim of the mural is to call attention to the need for community garden space and local food access. It features two teen volunteers from the Edgewater Community Garden, Cornelius Simmons and Kayla Docker, prominently tending to their garden and a longstanding figure in the community and gardener extraordinaire, Winfield Russell, in the center. The rolling Blue Hills are in the distance behind the houses of Mattapan. All of the vegetables in the mural such as Swiss chard, maize, Honduran beans, callaloo, tomatoes, sunflowers, collard greens, cabbage, were taken directly from the food being grown in the garden. The residents of Edgewater Drive have boldly taken up the task of ensuring that their community can eat fresh vegetables and herbs "By Any Greens Necessary."

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Crime

SUBMITTED BY BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

BPD Drug Control Unit Arrests Two Boston Men and Seize Approximately \$230,000.00 in Cash after a Drug Trafficking Investigation in the Area of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard

At about 1:13 PM on Thursday, December 16, 2021, officers assigned to the Boston Police Drug Control Unit arrested one individual in the area of 15 Hamilton Street in Hyde Park and a second individual in the area of 13 Laurel Street in Roxbury. Both arrests come after a month long investigation into Drug Trafficking in the area of The Dudley Triangle, Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Officers executed a search warrant at 204 Neponset Valley Parkway and as a result of the search warrant, officers recovered a loaded Smith & Wesson firearm, 254 Grams of Crack Cocaine, various packages of Fentanyl and Suboxone. Also recovered was approximately \$230,000.00 in USC. An additional search warrant was executed at 27c Dimock Street in Roxbury where Crack Cocaine was seized.

Two Suspects Arrested After the Execution of a Search Warrant Leads to the Recovery of Drugs

At about 11:25 AM, on Tuesday December 21, 2021, officers assigned to the District C-6 Drug Control Unit (South Boston) and the City-Wide Drug Control Unit, executed two search warrants issued out of Roxbury District Court for a storage facility located at 100 Southhampton Street in Boston. As a result of the search

warrants, officers arrested two suspects.

After a lengthy investigation involving surveillance footage, officers recovered the following items from the storage unit listed on the warrant; plastic baggies of Fentanyl and Crack Cocaine, along with several digital scales and \$742.00 in USC.

Morgan

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Discrimination, Rhode Island Commission of Human Rights, and the EEOC.

Prior to joining Morgan, Brown & Joy, Nimock was an associate in a boutique litigation firm handling all types of civil litigation including employment, personal injury, professional liability, premises liability, construction defect, construction work site accidents, products liability

and contract disputes. Before that, he served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Frederick L. Brown (ret) of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Outside the office, Nimock supports organizations devoted to building equality within the legal industry, including serving as a board member of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, and former board member and co-chair of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association.

Nimock earned his J.D. from the University of Massachusetts School of Law and a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Mass

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with access to counseling, recovery education and case management - for clients to develop the skills necessary to live a substance-free life. After a stay that affords participants the

individual time needed to move through stage-based treatment, they reintegrate back into their families and communities as sober individuals who are employed and committed to an ongoing recovery process. VOAMASS offers program graduates access to long-term supports, including mental health counseling."

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Huntington Theater cancels in-person performances



SUBMITTED BY HUNTINGTON THEATER

Due to the detection of breakthrough cases within the company, The Huntington has made the difficult decision to cancel the final week of in-person performances of *Teenage Dick* (Dec 28 – Jan 2).

At the Huntington, the health, safety and well-being of our staff, artists and audiences remains our top priority. We apologize for this inconvenience and greatly appreciate your patience and understanding.

All affected ticket holders are being

contacted.

While we are saddened audiences will no longer be joining us in person for *Teenage Dick*, we are thrilled to still be able to share this amazing production with you from the comfort of your own home via a specially recorded version of *Teenage Dick* captured for film via an 11-camera shoot! See why audiences are saying that digital is the next best thing to being there! Digital is available now through January 16th.

For more information visit www.huntingonthatre.org

COVID-19 UPDATES

COURTESY BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION: AS OF DECEMBER 28TH, 2021



What you need to know

- Starting on January 15, 2022, individuals will be required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 in order to enter certain indoor spaces in Boston. People working in those locations will also be required to have received their vaccines. Learn more at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/introducing-b-together>.
- The Boston Public Health Commission is offering rapid, at-home test kits to Boston residents while supplies last. Test kits are available at pickup sites in the community.
- You can find a site near you on our test-kit website at www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/free-covid-19-home-test-kits.
- Face masks are required in all indoor public settings in the City of Boston.
- Boston City Hall is open to the public five days a week. Appointments are no longer needed for in-person services.
- The City of Boston has aligned with the state's reopening plan. All remaining COVID-19 restrictions for businesses have been lifted.
- People ages 5-17 are now able to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. If you are 18 or older, you can get any vaccine. You can sign up to get vaccinated through the state's website at www.vaccinesignup.mass.gov/#/, or visit our website for Boston vaccination sites at www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston.
- Visit the MBTA's website for the latest public transit service updates at www.mbta.com/covid19.

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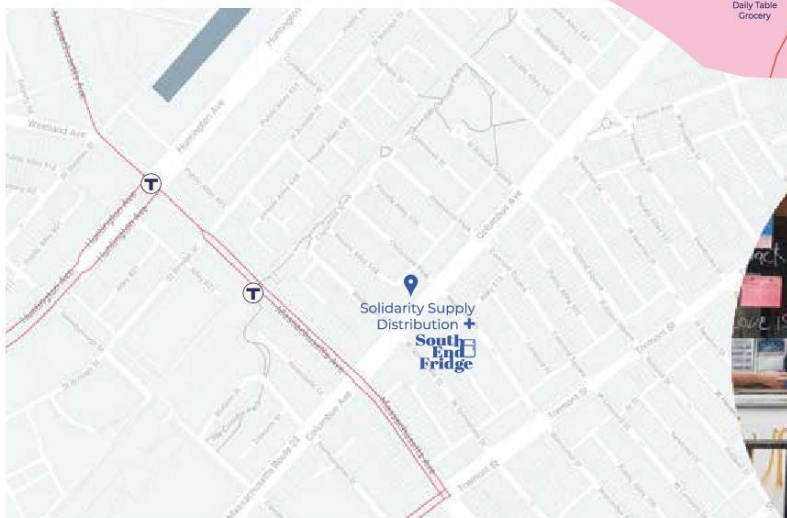
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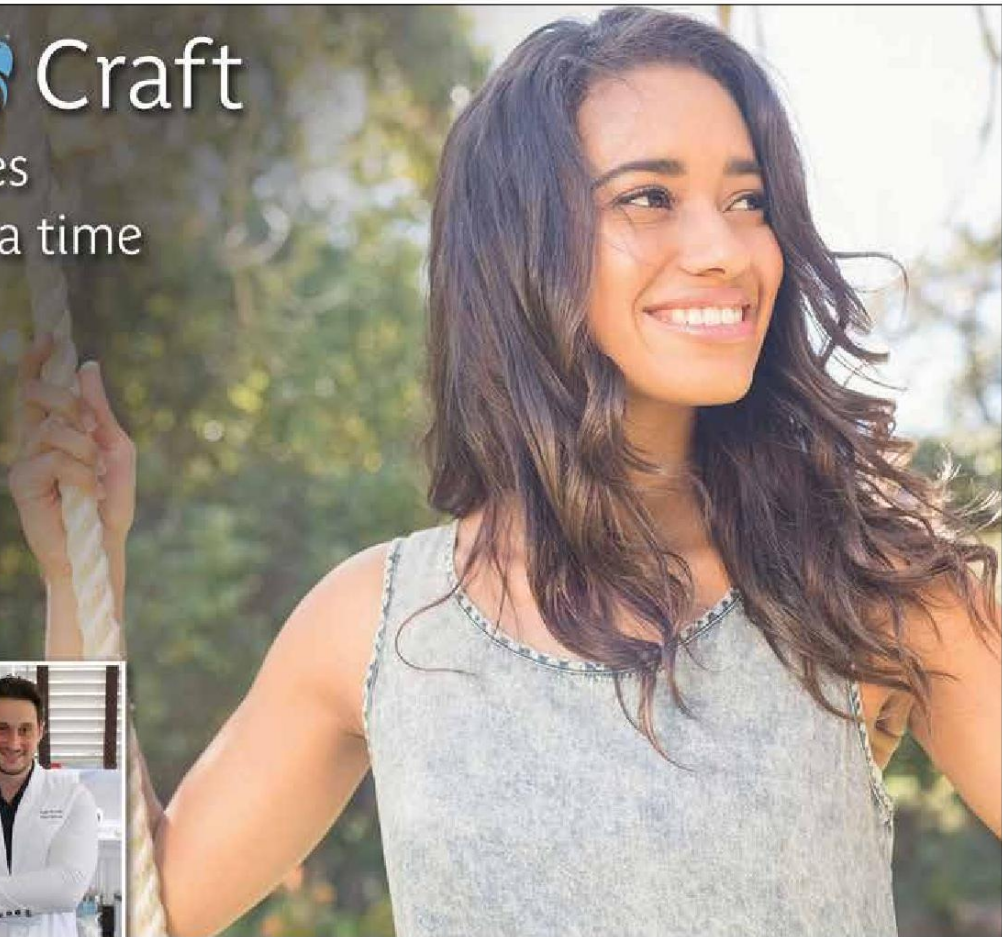
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