January 30, 2021

**South End Community Outreach Initiative**

Preparation for Library Programming Study

The Friends of the South End Library

January 2021

Committee Co-Chairs:

Yvette Jarreau

Joseph Rondinelli

Committee Members:

Michael Hinchcliffe

Dorothy Kelley

Derek Lessing

Russ O’Haver

friendsofsouthendlibrary.org

Executive Summary

Boston’s South End is a neighborhood that has a rich history and has seen many transformations since the marshland was filled in and the South End became a neighborhood in 1849. Today the casual visitor enjoys our restaurants, our shops, or a visit to SOWA on a Sunday afternoon, however you will discover in the pages ahead that it’s much more than those wonderful experiences.

**Purpose of this Report**

Before the formal programming study actually begins, The Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) want to support the process by providing the BPL, City Facilities, and the selected architectural firm with input about our South End: what are the characteristics of the neighborhood; what South End groups live and work here; what their purposes are; and how our neighbors view or use the South End Library and/or the Central Library.

Beginning in November of 2020 The FOSEL Advocacy Committee reached out to key stake holders of over 30 community groups, a complex ecosystem. The exercise made initial introductions and created background Data Sheets that can be a useful resource and tool to the design team as the Program and Planning Study moves forward.

We selected South End nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations, schools, and churches because they are important structural elements of the neighborhood and their members are likely current or future users of the South End Library. We also wanted to connect with members of our community to introduce the planning process in preparation for their future engagement.

In the spirit of a community that has embraced and supported change, we once again look to the future of our South End and acknowledge its diversity as we consider the possibility of a new branch library. We hope for a library that will be vibrant and engaging – a place that supports the needs of our entire community and one that can evolve and change through time to support the needs of our tomorrows. We look forward in participating in the reimagining of a new branch public library

Committee Co-Chairs:

Yvette Jarreau

Joseph Rondinelli

South End Description & Demographics

If Boston is identified as a city of neighborhoods, then the South End can be considered a neighborhood of many neighborhoods. Although they share many similarities, they each have their uniqueness, due to the ethnic diversity found in the South End’s population, the specific characteristics and needs of that population along with a broad range of resources that are part of the South End.

Historically one of the poorest neighborhoods in Boston, the South End deteriorated rapidly after World War II due to “redlining” and urban renewal. Despite its poverty, the South End was a wonderful place to live. Children who grew up during this time fondly remember the corner stores, their neighbors, and the great sense of community in this uniquely multi-racial neighborhood. Over time the South End changed from being the boarding house community that people moved away from to being an eclectic neighborhood concerned about a variety of challenges: the needs of a diverse population, gentrification, homelessness and substance abuse, renters and owners, changing weather patterns, and good education for our children, among others.

Currently a community of approximately 32,000 residents, the South End is about 5% of Boston’s population, and physically covers about one square mile. It is very densely populated and is the largest collection of Victorian residences in the US. Its northern boundary is the Mass Pike, its western boundary is Huntington Ave, its southern western boundary is Melnea Cass and its south eastern boundary is Harrison Ave.

South End history is inextricably tied to its current diversity; this has been and continues to be an attraction for many residents. We are predominantly renters (61%) which is similar to Back Bay and Beacon Hill, but quite different from Roslindale, Hyde Park, and West Roxbury which are predominantly owner occupied.

According to an inventory by the Department of Neighborhood Development, the South End has the highest proportion of affordable housing in the city at 48%, followed by Roxbury at 45% and Jamaica Plain and Charlestown at 25%. These affordable housing units are located throughout the community, some are easy to spot because of the size of their complex and others are less evident, and all are important to who we are. (The Boston Sun Dec 21, 2018)

About 20% of our residents live in poverty, which is similar to Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, and Mattapan and equivalent to the poverty rate in Boston as a whole. Yet our median family income in the South End is almost $142,000, ranking #6 from the highest, Beacon Hill at $208,000. On a per capita basis the South End income is ranked #5 behind Waterfront, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and North End. Jamaica Plain and Roslindale are considerably lower in that ranking. Almost 50% of South End families have a median income of $150,000+ compared to about 30% who are at a median income of less than $50,000.

Ethnically, we are about 54% white, 13% Black/AA, 14% Latinx, 16% Asian, a slightly different profile racially and ethnically than other communities such as Back Bay which has fewer Black/AA and more Asians. (BPDA Feb 2020)

With approximately 8% of the South End’s population school aged children, the South End faces similar challenges as other communities in the city. There are public schools in the neighborhood that are among the best and others that face difficulties. Some of them have libraries, most do not. In addition, there are about 10% of our population enrolled in undergraduate and graduate studies. Because our city has such a wealth of colleges and universities, we presume their library needs are met by those institutions. Our focus on serving the needs of students should focus on the schools and organizations providing services right in our South End.

**Community Organizations**

* ABCD – Action for Boston Community Development
* Blackstone Community Center
* BCYF – Boston Center for Youth and Families
* East Boston Neighborhood Community Health Center
* Ellis Memorial
* IBA – Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion
* USES – United South End Settlements

Community Organizations

Today’s Community Organizations are a vital part of the South End in supporting the needs of today’s families. They have a rich history as part of the community, some were established in the late 1800’s when Boston and the neighborhood was experiencing its first incredible change. There were new immigrants from Europe and Asia, rural laborers flocked the big cities and there was the Emancipation of slaves. Many found poverty, bad housing and fierce prejudice and some of today’s community organizations were established to help to support the basic needs of that new population. Other community organizations were formed during the 1960’s and ‘70’s as the neighborhood was undergoing the challenges of urban flight to the suburbs followed by the threats of urban renewal.

Although more complete information follows this introduction, a brief description of some of our community organizations begins to highlight how they are woven into the fabric of our community as key stake holders and important voices to include in the programming and planning process.

**ABCD**

ABCD is a large community service organization in the Boston area with a diverse board and funding sources, including government agencies, foundations, community organizations and individuals. Its mission is to offer proven programs and innovations to address the symptoms and causes of poverty.

With multiple locations it helps families, the elderly, youth, and immigrants with a variety of programs such as ESL, tax assistance, housing help, food, clothing essentials, and immigration to name a few. It has two sites in the South End: Head Start in the Cathedral School and 554 Columbus Ave, and is currently providing services via phone, email, and in person by appointment.

**BCYF**

The Boston Center for Youth and Families is a City of Boston organization that supports children, youth, individuals and families through a wide range of programs and services. They manage 36 facilities, including community centers and pools. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for Boston residents by partnering with community center councils, agencies, and businesses to support neighborhood needs.

**Blackstone Community Center**, part of BCYF- Boston Center for Youth and Families is one of the largest human services providers in the South End. The Blackstone Community Center is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating programs and services to meet the expressed needs of the South End community aligned with the BCYF mission.  The facility includes an Olympic pool, a gym, a library, a classroom and an auditorium.

**The IBA** – Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion is an affordable housing community that serves 1,300 residents of low to moderate level incomes. The diverse population includes 51% Latinex predominately of Puerto Rican heritage, 15% are Asian, 15% Black, 2% White, 17% multiracial and 36% of the residents are 65 or older. The community has a pre-school, youth development programs, College and financial empowerment programs and provides art programs.

The following organizations have strong pre school education programs that support both families that can pay full tuition and those that qualify for subsidized tuition costs.

**The Ellis Memorial Organization** is committed to providing high quality early learning opportunities in addition to out of school time programs in a socio-economically, racially, and culturally diverse environment.

Ellis partners with families to provide high quality early childhood education and out-of-school programs in a warm, nurturing environment.  A recognized leader in our field, we support children across the socio-economic spectrum, treasure diversity in all forms, and celebrate the joy of childhood

**United South End Settlements** [USES] opened its doors in 1892 as the Andover House, the first settlement house in Boston. It is now the remaining settlement house in the South End, an amalgamation of several settlement houses that were attempting to lift residents in the late 1800s and early 1900s out of poverty and its associated ills. Currently, three hundred fifty families rely on USES for affordable early education, out of school time programing, including a summer sleep-away camp, family engagement, and workforce development services.

USES’ project known as Vision 125 allows the organization to plan for and celebrate it’s 125th year and beyond and to acknowledge that: “we are now reaffirming our founding vision of an inclusive community where neighbors from all walks of life work together so that all can thrive, while implementing a bold, new model designed to promote economic mobility and social capital to break the generational cycle of poverty.”

**East Boston Neighborhood Health Center**

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is one of the largest community health centers in the country. It provides holistic, affordable medical and health services without regard to age, income, insurance status, language, culture, or social circumstances. In July 2020 it acquired the South End Neighborhood Health Center, a significant entity in the South End with a location on Washington Street and another at the Dr George Haas Center on Shawmut which also provides school-based health services to the Blackstone Innovation School.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** South End Community Groups

**Your Name:** Michael Hinchcliffe/Yvette Jarreau

**Name of Organization:** Action for Boston Community Development [ABCD]

**Date of Contact:** 1/5/21 – The South End site at 554 Columbus Ave between Worcester and W Springfield is open by appointment only. Other sites are operating similarly.

**Website Address:** BostonABCD.org

**Location:** 544 Columbus Avenue

**Contact Person[s]:** Josh Young, Director of Field Operations

Josh.young@abcd.org main #: 617-348-6000

Leads the case management activities for 10 sites

**Mission of Organization:**

ABCD drives proven programs and innovation to eradicate the symptoms and underlying causes of poverty – and ultimately poverty itself.

Each year, Action for Boston Community Development serves more than 100.000 low income people in Boston and the Mystic Valley—and throughout the Commonwealth—through a broad range of innovative initiatives, as well as long-established, proven programs and services.

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population who the organization serves**

* ABCD has multiple locations in the Boston area that serve as many as 100,000 low income people with programs and services; currently many programs are in person by appointment and online. (Neighborhood Service Centers are not accepting walk-ins, but appointments can be scheduled.)
* Funding is from government agencies, foundations, community organizations and individuals.
* ABCD has a diverse and extensive board of directors from the public and private sectors as well as from the neighborhoods it serves.

**Describe the community outreach that the Organization does** – there are partner organizations to whom they refer clients

**Contact Person:** Josh Young, Director of Field Operations, supervises the 10 sites that provide case management; he is quite open to further collaboration and would want to include his South End site manager.

**Describe the resources and programs offered by the Organization** – most generally available by phone or email during the pandemic

*Child Care Choices of Boston – remote services by email*

*Elder Services – by telephone or email*

*ESL – Mattapan, Roslindale & Parker Hill/Fenway are apparently active remotely*

*Food Distribution in certain communities, food pantries*

*Utility bill advocacy, fuel assistance,*

*Head Start & Children’s Services*

*ABCD Health Services*

*Housing Assistance*

*Immigration Services - Green Card renewal, citizenship and naturalization*

*Tax Assistance,*

*Youth Services-*  *[WorkSMART](https://bostonabcd.org/service/work-smart/" \t "_blank),*[*Career Explorations*](https://bostonabcd.org/service/career-explorations/)*,*[*Get Started*](https://bostonabcd.org/service/get-started/)*, & HOPES*

*Clothing and essentials,*

*SummerWorks, Youth Engaged in Action )YEA!),*

*SNAP, MassHealth application assistance,*

*Tech Goes Home.*

**Describe the physical facilities of the organization**

In the South End there are two sites: 554 Columbus (30 years there) and Head Start at the Cathedral School. Pre-Covid clients come in for the food pantry and emergency clothing as well as for working with their case managers. There is a waiting room, computer lab, and a small-ish conference room on the second floor for internal meetings. Not sure if there are spaces outside of the facility that are used for programs. Perhaps at partnering organizations.

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library and do they know if the population uses the library?** Josh Young grew up in the South End and knows Anne Smart for 20 years.

**Does the organization partner with any other community organization?**  It appears to refer clients to a variety of other service organizations.

**Other**

Josh mentioned that he could envision their staff coming to the library post Covid, perhaps for 2 hrs/week, to help people access direct services from the neighborhood center. These could be Workforce Development oriented, some limited housing help, perhaps information about rent relief for past due rent, and other information about how the new relief bill will support individuals/families. We talked about the possibility of engaging with his South End staff to imagine how the SEL and ABCD could enhance services to South Enders.

To gauge ABCD’s immediate and long-term impact, their Planning department conducts and draws on leading research and develops strategies to ensure that their programs and services are results-driven and that a broad range of evaluative information including program outcomes, client tracking statistics, and customer satisfaction feedback is captured to support ongoing program development

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Community Groups**

**Your Name:** Yvette Jarreau

**Name of Organization:** Blackstone Community Center **Date of Contact:** sent email to Keith Houston on 11/17/20 – sent a follow up later – **Never reached anyone**

**Website Address:** [www.yourblackstone.org](http://www.yourblackstone.org) – info is primarily from their website

**Location:** 50 W. Brookline St,Corner of Shawmut and W. Brookline

**Contact Person[s]:** Keith Houston, Administrative Coordinator, at [keith](mailto:keith.houston@cityofboston.gov/)[.houston@boston.gov](mailto:.houston@boston.gov/)

Marco Torres, Program Supervisor, at marco.torres@boston.gov

(617) 635-5162

**Mission of Organization:**

* Blackstone Community Center serves the South End and Lower Roxbury neighborhoods. The mission of Blackstone is to enhance the quality of life for Boston’s residents by supporting children, youth, and families through a wide range of programs and services.
* The Blackstone Community Center is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating programs and services to meet the expressed needs of the South End community.

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population who the organization serves**

* The South End and Lower Roxbury, as served by the Blackstone Community Center, cover the geographic area from East Berkeley Street to Northampton Street and from Albany Street to Huntington Avenue. The South End and Lower Roxbury are one of Boston's most ethnically diverse communities. The Blackstone Community Center, located between Villa Victoria and Cathedral Housing Development at 50 West Brookline Street, is in Boston's Enhanced Enterprise Community (EEC) and has a unique opportunity to bring together residents of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, and income levels to participate in educational instruction and social services in order to reduce poverty.
* The Blackstone Community Center facility and programs are available to all Boston families. In addition, community groups, agencies and organizations with varying social and cultural concerns are entitled to use the Center for community activities.

**Identify how many people access the programs offered DK**

**Identify if the organization falls under a city or federal program DK**

**If so identify department and person who oversees that program**

* The local board of directors, the Blackstone Community Center Council, is a member of the Citywide Board of Boston Community Centers, Inc. The Council sets the policy for the center and is directly accountable to the community under the auspices of the City of Boston.
* The Blackstone Community Center Council represents the diversity of the neighborhood, as it is comprised primarily of South End and Lower Roxbury residents.

**Describe the staff in the organization**

R. Keith Houston, Administrative Coordinator  
Marco A. Torres, Program Supervisor  
Frank Feliciano, Athletic Director  
Paul DeVoe-Edwards, Building Manager  
Keith Spady, Youth Worker  
Jorge Figueroa, Lifeguard  
Ernest Williams, Lifeguard

Has a board of directors – see website

**Describe the community outreach that the Organization does DK**

**Describe the resources and programs offered by the Organization**

* Multi-purpose facility is handicap accessible and houses an indoor Olympic pool, classroom, gym and auditorium. As one of the largest human service providers in the South End and Lower Roxbury, the Blackstone Community Center provides such programs as: GED, Women’s Self-Defense, Toddler Play Group, Martial Arts/Karate, New Adventures After-School, GOGIRLGO Program, Swim Team, One Hood Basketball League, City Stage Theater Program, Youth Connection Drop In Program, ESOL classes, Summer Camp
* “Jump in our pool, shoot a hoop in our gym, read a book in our library, use a laptop computer in our lab, dance to salsa music in our courtyard, act on stage in our auditorium, and more at the Blackstone Community Center. There is truly something for everyone - young and old.”

**Describe the physical facility of the organization**

**The organization has various spaces that is has rented out to nonprofits, profit making and corporate organizations.**

**Space**

Auditorium

Gymnasium

Swimming Pool

Multipurpose Room 5th Floor - "Celtics Room"

Child Care Rm

Seminar Room

Boston University Fitness & Wellness Center – partnership for gym and equipment

**Are there relationships with other organizations? Yes,**

Boston University Fitness & Wellness Ctr

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library and do they know if the population uses the library?** – **DK**

**Does the organization partner with any other community organization? DK**

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Community Groups**

**Your Name:** Joe Rondinelli

**Name of Organization:** BCYF -Boston Center for Youth and Families

**Date of Contact:** Not successful after multiple outreaches

**Website Address:**

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families>

**Location:** 50 West Brookline Street, Boston, MA 02118

**Contact Person[s]:** [BlackstoneCC@Boston.gov](mailto:BlackstoneCC@Boston.gov) December 10, 2018

[info@yourblackstone.org](mailto:info@yourblackstone.org)

[contactus@foundationforbcyf.org](mailto:contactus@foundationforbcyf.org)

**Mission of Organization:**

Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for Boston residents by partnering with community center councils, agencies, and businesses to support neighborhood needs. It is the umbrella organization under which the South End’s Blackstone Community Center exists.

See the Blackstone Community Data Sheet for more info.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** South End Community Groups

**Your Name:** Michael Hinchcliffe/Yvette Jarreau

**Name of Organization:** East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (previously called the South End Neighborhood Community Health Center – was purchased by EBNHC in July 2020)

**Date of Contact:** No Direct Contact

**Website Address:** sechc.org

ebnhc.org (parent)

**Location:** Main Clinic: 1601 Washington St, Boston 02118

Dr. Gerald Haas Center: 400 Shawmut Ave, Boston 02118 (Walk-thru COVID-19 testing is available in the South End at the Gerald Haas Center on

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30am to 11:00am. Please call 617-568-4500 to pre-register. You do not need to have symptoms in order to get a test, and you do not have to be a SECHC patient. Other services at the Haas Center are temporarily suspended due to Covid)

**Contact Person[s]:** **Main Number:**617-425-2000  
**Dr. Gerald Hass Center:** 617-587-1900

**Mission of Organization:**

* EBNHC's mission is to provide easily accessible, affordable, appropriate, high-quality, personalized, coordinated primary care, without regard to age, income, insurance status, language, culture, or social circumstances.
* South End Community Health Center (SECHC) is a comprehensive health care organization for all residents of the South End and surrounding communities. We are committed to providing the highest quality, coordinated health care that is culturally and linguistically sensitive to every patient, regardless of ability to pay.
* SECHC was founded in 1969 by renowned pediatrician Dr. Gerald Hass, businessman Mel Scovell, and neighborhood activists in response to persistent health care disparities and lack of access to quality health care in Boston’s South End community.

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the organization**

* EBNHC is the largest community health center in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the nation, now serving nearly 120,000 patients providing easily accessible, high-quality health care to all who live and work in East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Winthrop, and, most recently, the South End.
* This health center receives HHS funding and has Federal Public Health Service (PHS) deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for itself and its covered individuals.
* **SECHC**’s multicultural, multilingual and highly trained staff of 180+ serves over 19,000 patients accounting for 80,000 annual visits with an operating budget of $16.5 million. Our main clinic, located just steps from the South End’s Blackstone and Franklin Squares at 1601 Washington Street, is a 48,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. SECHC’s Dr. Gerald Hass Center on Shawmut Ave. is Boston’s first full-time elementary school-based health center offering medical, behavioral and dental services to the local community and students of the Blackstone Elementary School.
* SECHC serves men, women and children of all ages, races and ethnicities – 62% identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Furthermore, those living in public or assisted housing, or experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, receive comprehensive coordinated care at SECHC. 80% of our patients are covered by Medicaid/MassHealth, Medicare or are uninsured; 95% of patients who reported income live below 200% of the federal poverty level. The South End is also a community of great income inequality (high Gini coefficient).

**Describe the staff in the organization**

35 staff members in the health care fields listed below:

PRIMARY CARE

* Children
* Adults
* Families

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

* Counseling
* Evaluation
* Assessment

DENTAL SERVICES

* Preventative
* Restorative

**Describe the resources and programs offered by the Organization:**

* SECHC provides primary medical care (adult and family medicine, pediatrics, and women’s health), behavioral health services, and dental and eye care. We also offer a broad array of specialty care services and wellness programming.
* The South End Community Health Center’s satellite, **Dr. Gerald Hass Center**, is a school-based health program offering comprehensive medical, behavioral health and dental services to the students of the Blackstone Innovation School. In addition, this satellite provides the same type of services to the community.

**Describe the physical facility of the organization:**

Two Health Care Facilities in the South End

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library, and do they know if the population uses the library?**  Don’t Know

**Does the organization partner with any other community organization?**

Our hospital affiliations include Boston Medical Center, Tufts Medical Center/Floating Hospital for Children, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Partners with Simmons School of Social Work for rotating interns

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Community Groups**

**Your Name:** Joe Rondinelli

**Name of Organization:** Ellis Memorial **Date of Contact:**

**Website Address:** <https://www.ellismemorial.org>

**Location: Ellis**

58 Berkeley Street

Boston, MA 02116

**Contact Person[s]:** Email Exchanges

Lauren Cook w 617-695-9307 c 603-715-7902

Chief Executive Officer

[laurencook@ellismemorial.org](mailto:laurencook@ellismemorial.org)

**Phone Conversation with:** Julia Mehl

**Mission of Organization:**

* Serving Boston's Working Families Since 1885.
* Ellis is committed to providing high quality early learning opportunities in addition to out of school time programs in a socio-economically, racially, and culturally diverse environment.
* Ellis partners with families to provide high quality early childhood education and out-of-school programs in a warm, nurturing environment.  A recognized leader in our field, we support children across the socio-economic spectrum, treasure diversity in all forms, and celebrate the joy of childhood.

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population who the organization serves**

Infants – 5 classrooms, 35 children

Toddler - 6 classrooms, 52 children

Preschool - 4 classrooms 80 children

School Age - 33 children, [5-12 After School Programs]

**Identify if the organization falls under a city or federal program**

There is funding by the State and City. 60% of Families use vouchers and 40% pay full rate

**Describe the staff in the organization**

Lauren Cook joined Ellis in 2018 as Chief Executive Officer. In her role she leads a team of over 50 early education professionals who provide high-quality early education and care, school-age programming and counseling services to over 300 children in Boston’s South End, Roxbury and Dorchester. Prior to Ellis, she was Senior Executive Director of Programs and Partnerships at Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) with responsibility for program development and evaluation across all BGCB's 11 sites and its partnerships throughout the City of Boston.

**Describe the community outreach that the Organization does DK**

**Describe the resources and programs offered by the Organization DK**

**If relevant describe the physical facility of the organization.**

Facility was renovated in 2012

**Are work or meeting spaces offered, if so briefly describe? DK**

**If relevant describe specific resources such as computer labs, maker spaces, classroom spaces, etc. DK**

**Are there relationships with other organizations and are there spaces outside of the facility that are used for programs? DK**

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library and do they know if the population uses the library?**

* They have not used the South End Library but they have accessed the BPL’s website to pull activities that Families could do during the COVID shut down. They were very open to exploring partnering opportunities with potential field trips to the Library.
* Up until COVID they followed a more Montessori philosophy of teaching with computer screens. That all has changed with remote learning.

**Does the organization partner with any other community organization?**

Not aware of them doing that

**If possible, gather photos of the spaces and activities that take place in those spaces.**

Great images on website and social media sites

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Community Groups**

**Your Name:** Derek Lessing

**Name of Organization: IBA – Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción**

**Date of Contact:** 2020-12-17

**Website Address:** https://www.ibaboston.org

**Location:** 405 Shawmut Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

**Contact Person[s]:** Mayra I. Negrón-Roche, Chief Operating Officer

mnegron@ibaboston.org

**Mission of Organization:**

IBA empowers and engages individuals and families to improve their lives through high-quality affordable housing, education, and arts programs.

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population who the organization serves**

**Identify how many people access the programs offered**

* IBA serves 1,300 residents in its affordable housing community, including the Villa Victoria property, as well as other low-income residents living in the South End/Lower Roxbury region.
* 94.5% of IBA clients are considered low- to moderate-income, with 80% of clients having a household income of less than $30,000. 51.5% of IBA clients are Latinx (predominantly of Puerto Rican heritage), 14.4% are Asian, 14.5% are Black, 2.9% are white, and 16.6% self-identify multiple races or other.
* 43% of IBA’s clients speak primarily English, 44% speak primarily Spanish, and 13% primarily speak another language and/or multiple languages.
* IBA serves all ages and is one of the few organizations that caters to the needs of Latinx elders; 36.0% of IBA’s residents are aged 65 years or older.

**Identify if the organization falls under a city or federal program**

IBA’s programming does not fall under or a city or federal program, though IBA does work closely with the City of Boston to ensure that the organization has the resources necessary to support the surrounding community.

**Describe the staff in the organization**

* IBA’s community-controlled Board of Directors is comprised of nine Villa Victoria residents and eight non-residents. Having residents on the board demonstrates IBA’s commitment to involving residents in the organization’s overall operations and having their voices heard.
* IBA’s current Board is comprised of eight women and eight men; 63% are Latinx, 12% African American, and 25% white. The Board is looking for one new member.
* Beyond the Board of Directors, IBA employs 21 women and 8 men on a full-time basis. The staff reflects the demographics of the community IBA serves. 82% of IBA’s full time staff is Latinx, 14% is white, and 7% is African-American. IBA’s 2 part-time employees are both Latinx women. IBA’s C-level team includes 5 members, 3 of whom identify as Latinx and were born and lived in Puerto Rico.

**Describe the community outreach that the Organization does**

IBA’s programming is centered on its ability to outreach to and engage with the South End community. IBA ensures that the Villa Victoria and West Newton-Rutland housing communities, as well as IBA’s neighbors in the South End, have knowledge of IBA services and activities through the distribution of informational material via social media, by mail, phone calls, and (during this period of COVID-19 pandemic, socially distant) door-to-door visits or hand delivery to the elderly population. By taking these steps to advertise programming, IBA is able to better provides services to the community, including education opportunities, human services, and cultural events.

**Describe the resources and programs offered by the Organization**

* In addition to developing the Villa Victoria community and securing 667 units of affordable housing, IBA administers five community programs serving over 1,000 low-income people annually. These programs include:
  + - **IBA’s Preschool is** the first bilingual Pre-K program in Massachusetts. Licensed by the MA Department of Early Education and Care and accredited by the National Association of the Education for Young Children, it has been recognized as one of the Top 21 School Readiness Programs by Root Cause. IBA’s Preschool program currently serves around 30 students due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.
    - **Youth Development Program (YDP)**prepares 40-50 underprivileged high school students for college and professional careers through an employment-based program, while fostering meaningful and lasting relationships. Through rigorous courses centered on the Creative Youth Development model, the program challenges participants to think critically, grow socially and emotionally, excel in school, and improve their communities. In 2016, former First Lady Michelle Obama recognized YDP with a National Arts and Humanities Award.
    - **College and Financial Empowerment (CAFE)**offers young adults the opportunity to engage and complete various educational pathways to obtain high school credentials, transition to post-secondary education, and gain financial empowerment through financial literacy education and financial coaching. In 2019, the CAFE program served 295 participants.
    - **Resident Services Program (RSP)**engages IBA’s 1,300 affordable housing residents—particularly seniors— through health and wellness, social and recreational, and self-sufficiency programming that promotes stability, mobility, and the well-being of the community. In addition to hosting a full calendar of community events, staff offer case coordination support, helping residents access IBA’s other programmatic offerings.
    - **IBA's Arts Program** promotes and celebrates Latinx Arts by forming dynamic cross-cultural collaborations. The program's annual calendar includes a range of performances, concerts series, gallery exhibits, and discussion panels accessible to the entire community. IBA’s Arts Program engages over 4,800 individuals from across New England each year. In 2020, in response to the pandemic’s effect on the safety of in-person events, IBA transformed it’s Festival Betances, the longest running Latinx festival in New England, into a virtual experience, reaching over 50,000 viewers worldwide in just the first few weeks.

**Describe the physical facility of the organization**.

**Are work or meeting spaces offered, if so briefly describe?**

**Describe specific resources such as computer labs, maker spaces, classroom spaces, etc.**

* IBA runs multiple physical spaces in which programming is facilitated. While not in use currently due to social distancing protocols put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IBA has a tech center/computer lab and multiple program spaces available for community use, including a community room for IBA housing residents. Until recently, IBA also made use of a large performance and programming spaces in Villa Victoria Center for the Arts at 85 West Newton; this space is now closed for demolition and rebuilding.
* Community Room – used by our Resident Services Program as a gathering space for our residents (especially our elders

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library and do they know if the population uses the library?**

* Both IBA staff and clients have a relationship with the library. IBA’s Preschool program will take field trips to the South End library with students, and adult residents/program participants are routinely referred to the library for extra support during tax season or for access to other library services.
* IBA’s Resident Services Program Director Yahaira Objio has also spoken with the South End Library in the past in order to developing programming to improve library-community relations, though these efforts were eventually put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The South End Library has also partnered with IBA’s Arts Program in the past.

**Does the organization partner with any other community organization?**

* IBA partners with Bunker Hill Community College as part of IBA’s College and Financial Empowerment Program, which provide community members with higher education opportunities and engagement with financial literacy.
* In addition to working closely with Bunker Hill Community College, IBA also partners on a year-to-year basis with such local organization as the South End Community Health Center, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Celebrity Series of Boston, Boston Builds Credit, Action for Boston Community Development, the and the Berklee College of Music. These are just a few examples of the many connections that IBA has made throughout the City of Boston.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Community Groups**

**Your Name:** Russ O’Haver/Yvette Jarreau

**Name of Organization:** USES – United South End Settlements

**Contact Person:** Jose Masso (VP Programs)

[jmasso@uses.org](mailto:jmasso@uses.org...great)

**Website Address: https://www.uses.org/**

<https://www.uses.org/programs/ece/>

<https://www.uses.org/about-us/staff-leadership/>

<https://www.uses.org/victory-for-350-children-and-their-families/>

**Location:** 48 Rutland Street, Boston MA 02118

617-375-8150

**Mission of Organization:**

* USES mission is to harness the power of our diverse community to disrupt the cycle of poverty for children and their families. We believe that as families increase their income and assets, become more resilient and connect to a diverse network, they and their children are more likely to develop the necessary skills to disrupt the cycle of poverty.
* Its current strategy, Vision125 includes a revitalized approach to programming that focuses on integrating programs to serve the whole family—from early childhood education and after school youth programs to coaching and workplace readiness programs for parents.
* We help parents and caregivers develop their own capacity to reach their goals, increase their income and assets, and connect with new networks of people through One-on-One Coaching, combined with opportunities for personal development through [Family Mobility](https://www.uses.org/programs/coaching/) programming. For children and youth, we provide quality education and enrichment opportunities that foster personal development and social-emotional skills such as perseverance, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving through [Early Childhood Education](https://www.uses.org/programs/ece/), [club48](https://www.uses.org/programs/club48/) out of school time programming, and [Camp Hale](https://www.uses.org/programs/camphale/) on Squam Lake in New Hampshire.

**Information Gathering**

USES is a Boston-based non-profit.

**Describe who the organization serves**

* USES serves more than 350 families from the South End, Lower Roxbury and other Boston Neighborhoods, of which 82% are people of color and 70% are low income. 73% reside in the South End and Roxbury; 66% specifically in the South End; 23% reside in other Boston neighborhoods, such as Dorchester and Mission Hill. More than 70% of USES families receive subsidies to participate in our programs.

**Describe the staff**

* The staff is diverse with about 19-20 key leaders in development, programming, operations, data management, facilities, communications/marketing, & finance.
* USES offers a variety of programs such as Family Mobility designed to increase family resources, skills, and connections toward attaining and preserving economic independence; Early Childhood Education for preparing children emotionally, academically, and physically to succeed in kindergarten; club 48 to provide services and experiences with curricula designed to support school success; Camp Hale established in 1900 to offer youth opportunities to experience sleepaway camp in the White Mountains and to develop leadership skills, independence and resilience; individualized coaching and job placement.
* USES created a Virtual Library with compiled online resources to support children’s learning. It includes STEAM activities, Food & Nutrition, Read Alouds, Music, and Skills & Topics.
* They also publish a monthly newsletter.
* USES is located at 36 & 48 Rutland St. It recently sold the Harriet Tubman building at 566 Columbus Ave to secure its sustainability into the future.
  + New Boston Ventures will develop the site at 566 Columbus Ave to include a donation of 2300 sq ft to USES for civic engagement and gatherings. They will also preserve the mural by Jameel Parker.
  + Space at 36 & 48 Rutland St is used for programming; including outdoor recreational areas. An expansion to the current building is planned and will be named the Harriet Tubman House to continue that legacy.
  + USES engaged in significant outreach to the community in their strategic planning process and the decision-making about the sale of the building.

**Does the staff of the organization have a relationship with the South End Library and do they know if the population uses the library?**

* + - Kaiti Coffin, Director of Early Education & Out of School Time is on the FOSEL Advisory Board. She has partnered recently with SEL on our Holiday Book Give Away.
    - At USES, we work with AmeriCorps VISTA members who commit a year of service to supporting our mission of disrupting the cycle of poverty for children and their families. This year, we are proud to host Marielle Sheck as our Family Mobility Coordinator and Niamh O’Donoghue as our Community Engagement Coordinator.

### USES works hard to establish relationships with organizations that share our vision for our community. By developing these relationships, we can multiply our resources and provide the highest-quality programs and services to our neighbors at all stages of life.

**See their website for a list of supporters and partners** which consist of other nonprofits, foundations and charitable funds, medical centers, universities, corporations, banks and insurance companies, retailers, big tech, service providers, construction companies, etc.

**See this location for photos:** www.uses.org/usess-2019-in-50-photos/

**History**

* United South End Settlements (USES) opened its doors in 1892 as the Andover House, the first settlement house in Boston. The 1890s saw incredible change in the South End and in Boston. Emancipated slaves, new European and Asian immigrants, and rural laborers flocked to big cities in search of work, freedom, and opportunities. Many found poverty, bad housing, and fierce prejudice. To address these problems, a new form of engagement emerged: the Settlement House. The founding principle of these organizations was to provide college-aged, upper-class men and women with opportunities to live in impoverished neighborhoods and partner with residents in order to lift their neighbors out of poverty by strengthening families and building community.
* Historically one of the poorest neighborhoods in Boston, the South End deteriorated rapidly after World War II due to “redlining” and urban renewal. Despite its poverty, the South End was a wonderful place to live. Children who grew up during this time fondly remember the corner stores, their neighbors, and the great sense of community in this uniquely multi-racial neighborhood. Post-World War II, the Settlement Houses addressed their community’s increasing distress and decreasing resources by consolidating five houses into one, United South End Settlements, in 1959.

**Neighborhood Associations**

* Blackstone Franklin Neighborhood Association
* Castle Square Tenants Organization
* Chester Square Neighborhood Association
* Claremont Neighborhood Association
* East Berkley Neighborhood Association
* Eight Streets Neighborhood Association
* Ellis Memorial Neighborhood Association
* Pilot Block Neighborhood Association
* Rutland Street Neighborhood Association
* South End Forum
* Union Square Neighborhood Association
* Worcester Square Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Associations

The South End is a community of approximately 32,000 residents, which is about 5% of Boston’s population and it physically covers 1 square mile. If Boston is identified as a city of neighborhoods then the South End can be considered a neighborhood of many Neighborhood Associations.

In our initial outreach we discovered that although the Neighborhood Association vary in size, organization and activity they are a wonderful mechanism for community outreach as the Library Programming Study gets underway.

Although they share many similarities they each have their uniqueness, due to the ethnic diversity found in the South End’s population, the specific characteristics and needs of that population along with a broad range of resources that are part of the South End.

There is one umbrella Neighborhood Group called the South End Forum. Steve Fox, a well-known community activist and organizer runs the group.

The South End Forum meets monthly and often in the existing Library Community Room as had many other Neighborhood Associations. When the Library wanted to reach out to the community in the past it has accessed this umbrella group to do that.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Derek Lessing**

**Name of Organization: Blackstone/Franklin Square N.A.**

**Website Address:** [**http://www.blackstonefranklin.org/**](http://www.blackstonefranklin.org/)

**Newsletter if Available:** Mostly bimonthly newsletter is sent out

**Describe Area of South End:** BNA extends from Malden to Shawmut to Worcester to Washington to E. Concord to Harrison to E. Newton to East Canton to Albany Sts.

**Contact Person[s]:** current president is David Stone, [df.stone@me.com](mailto:df.stone@me.com)

Also: [bfsna@blackstonefranklin.org](mailto:bfsna@blackstonefranklin.org)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Purpose**

The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association, Inc. seeks to enhance and preserve the social, cultural, economic and physical conditions of our South End neighborhood, with particular concern for its vibrant, diverse and historical character. We strive to be open, inclusive and among the most active and effective neighborhood voices in the South End.

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

* If available how identify percentage of owners vs renters in the neighborhood - DK

**Describe how active the Association is**

* How often it meets

The BNA meets 5 times per year, ordinarily on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November via Zoom, with agendas noticed in advance on our social media channels and email list. We typically hold in-person informal social get-togethers at local restaurants in alternate months, but these are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

* Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association

They sponsor and organize regular and ad hoc activities and annual events, like Neighborhood Socials, Scholarship Fundraiser and Awards Ceremonies, Park Cleanups, Holiday Wreath and Christmas Tree Sale

* It has a three committees: Scholarship (awarded to high school students living in the South End), Development (attending to the real estate development activities in the neighborhood), and Blackstone/Franklin Squares (for upkeep and maintenance)

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

Indoor meetings were held at BMC until the pandemic and open park areas

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?** Meetings have included representatives from City departments or coalitions such as Mass/Cass 2.0, District 4 Police Department, Pine Street staff, etc.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Some members are aware of the SEL; not clear their views or usage

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of Organization: Castle Square Tenants Association Date of Contact:** information from website

**Website Address: https://www.cstoboston.org**/

facebook.com/cstoboston twitter.com/cstoboston

**Newsletter if Available:** https://www.cstoboston.org/newsletters

**Describe Area of South End:** Bounded by Tremont, Berkeley, Shawmut and Herald St. Address: 476 Tremont Street, Boston 02116

**Contact Person[s]:** Deborah Backus, Executive Director, [dbackus@cstoboston.org](mailto:dbackus@cstoboston.org);

Cherry Wu, Office Manager, [cwu@cstoboston.org](mailto:cwu@cstoboston.org) 617-357-8548

**Information Gathering**

**Mission**  Castle Square Tenants Organization's mission is to promote the economic, educational and social empowerment of low and moderate income individuals by providing access to safe, quality affordable housing and supportive direct service programs.

**Describe the population**

A diverse group, with many Chinese residents. There are about 500 units and as of 2011 the complex ownership was renegotiated with majority ownership by the CSTO and minority ownership by Winn Development Company. It is a successful example of affordable housing with ultimate ownership by residents.

**Describe how active the Association is**

The Board of Directors, all of whom are current residents of Castle Square, governs CSTO and oversees the organization’s Executive Director. Reflecting the demographics of the community, our Board conducts bi-weekly meetings and takes on additional work that is split into four committees: Program Advisory; Monthly Tenant Management Committee meetings; Affordable Housing Development; and Community Events/Marketing. Since the beginning CSTO’s board, comprised of 100% residents, has demonstrated an overwhelming commitment to obtaining a better life for themselves and their community.

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

## Castle Square Tenants Organization provides programming for Castle Square's families, adults and seniors year-round. This includes health and wellness workshops, fitness classes; craft classes; social hour; and ESL classes just to name a few.

* Square Roots After School for Grades K2-8
* The Teen Program is a paid internship that recruits Boston teens between ages of 14 - 19 while providing training in college and career focused workshops. We currently offer two internship pathways for youth ages 14-19:
  + Media Makers Internship: In this internship, Teen Interns learn about different social justice issues through creating their own media in workshops such as Photo/Video and Graphic Design.
  + Film Curators Internship: In this internship, Teen Interns analyze different films and media while learning how to plan and host community-based events. Interns will host two events during the course of their internship.
  + The Square Tech Teen Program is a paid internship that recruits High School students between ages of 14 - 19 while providing training in technology and business focused workshops.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

* CSTO created a LEED Platinum Community Center, complete with a technology and media room, classroom space for our elementary education programs, a gym, a versatile teen space, and kitchen facility.
* CSTO’s Technology Center is used to help connect residents, families, and program participants with the tools needed to be successful in the 21st century. The Technology Center features desktop computers with Windows 10 office 2010, a mounted projector and screen and is managed and maintained internally by Square Tech IT Staff. It is open to the public.

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

The organization partners with many organizations listed on its website. https://www.cstoboston.org/partners

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Derek Lessing**

**Name of Organization: Chester Square Neighbors**

**Website Address:** [**https://chestersquareneighbors.org/**](https://chestersquareneighbors.org/)

**Newsletter if Available:** Yes, apparently there are 2: Chester Square Neighbors & Friends of Chester Park; also has a Facebook page: Chester Square Neighbors

**Describe Area of South End:** Tremont St to West Springfield to Washington to Camden and back to Tremont Sts.

**Contact Person[s]:** Carol Blair, president: [carol@jfocwb.com](mailto:carol@jfocwb.com)

Also: [info@chestersquareneighbors.org](mailto:info@chestersquareneighbors.org)

Leadership slate nominated in Dec for 2021: Carol Blair (president), Sara Mitchell (VP), Armani White (secretary), Kelsey Schiller (treasurer), Alyssa Faria (online community coordinator)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Purpose**

To bring together all persons who live, work or own property within the boundaries of the association for the purpose of promoting neighborly interaction, sharing information and discussing common problems. Further, to promote the implementation of beneficial programs, alone, and in conjunction with other groups and government agencies, to promote the health, well-being, and security of the neighborhood.

**If available, identify percentage of owners vs renters in the neighborhood**

DK

**How often it meets**

Meets monthly on first Wed of the month at 7pm (pre-Covid at 155 Northampton St)

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

Is involved in the Mass/Cass Coalition as well as the Melnea Cass Save the Trees effort

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

DK

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?** See above

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name:** Yvette Jarreau

**Name of Organization:** Claremont Neighborhood Assoc. **Date of Contact:** 12/3/20

**Mission:** The CNA is a volunteer organization whose mission is to enhance quality of life for our residents. Our neighborhood association offers the opportunity for our residents to have a voice in the many issues that affect us all: gardens and green spaces, zoning issues, business licenses and development, public safety, fire and police protection, animal control, noise abatement, sanitation, and parking. The CNA provides a forum for developers and residents alike to discuss potential projects, improvements and changes. Our goal is to provide an open and transparent process to maintain and improve the quality of life in our northwest corner of the South End

**Website Address:** https://www.cnaboston.org/

Mailing address:

4 Wellington St.  
Boston, MA 02118

**Newsletter if Available:** Yes, Claremont News Summer 2020 seems the latest

### Describe Area of South End: Claremont Neighborhood Association (CNA) sector located in the South End, Boston area bordered by West Newton Street on the north side, Tremont Street on the east side, Camden Street (2 blocks south of Mass Avenue) on the south side and the corridor (Back Bay limit) on the west side.

**Activity:** Claremont Neighborhood Association Board Members are active in the community, working to promote a high quality of living in the South End. They collaborate with local officials to work towards insuring citizen safety and maintaining the historical integrity and beauty of the neighborhood. Members volunteer to attend local community meetings, including but not limited to public safety, zoning, licensing and development meetings. The CNA strives to communicate news about issues that impact the neighborhood and works to actively help resolve areas of concern for neighbors.

**Contact Person[s]:** Spoke to Robert Barney, President, [Robert.l.barney@gmail](mailto:Robert.l.barney@gmail) (Gillette, expatriate in Netherlands) 617-875-0311

Another contact from the website: Scott Lush, VP, 17 Claremont Park, [(617) 236-1958](https://nuwber.com/phone/5edacefb9085b007a7baa0d0/6172361958)

BOARD: https://www.cnaboston.org/about-us/boardmembers/

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

* 5 groups: 1) homeowners, supportive housing – tends to be really stable from population perspective – Concord Houses 715 and 725, Saranac and New Castle, 2) Tenants Development Corporation – lots of people with children and could benefit from programming at a library; 3) renters who are shorter term (a couple of years or so); 4) businesses (Five Horse, Pizza, etc.), and 5) Nonprofits
* Tenants Development Corp had offices there at Harriet Tubman – TDC has been in south end for over 50 years, Mary Longley (AA woman) wanted safe, secure housing for people, founded organization and bought run-down properties and converted into supportive housing – owned about 60 bldgs. in SE
* Trying to figure out how to engage these groups and ensure they are represented in our neighborhood assn. – maybe there is collaboration with businesses and how they created their businesses at the library???
* Very diverse neighborhood – different that many places in Boston
* Doesn’t know renters vs owners – can look at Boston assessing data, line by line, to see if they have an exemption which means they own. Tried to get a data dump from assessors, but they were very hard to work with – residential vs commercial, owner occupies Y/N, tax rate tells whether nonprofit or not

**Describe how active the Association is**

* **How often it meets** – typically third Thurs of month at 7pm, with Covid switched to Zoom. A little different, more topic based than in the past – hope to migrate back to face to face; it was more informal. It’s a challenge to get people to do stuff; follow thru is not always there.
* **Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association** -

The CNA hosts at least 3 events per year ranging from family friendly activities to wine tastings and holiday parties. Most events also benefit local charities like Cradles to Crayons, Toys for Tots, and the United South End Settlements. (from Web)

**From Bob:** We have tried to do activities every quarter – Halloween on the green, holiday party in Dec at Shuns downstairs, fall clean up Wellington Common/Green, and spring planting; lights at Wellington; cookouts at Titus Sparrow Park. We are no longer doing street fairs, we have done wine events at Urban Grape, we did event at 5 Horse Tavern, and had planned to close off Claremont Park with music and food for 2020 to celebrate 75th Anniversary as neighborhood assn. but CoV happened.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

* Indoor and open outdoor areas – abuts Southwest Corridor
* Participated in a walkthrough of the corridor with city officials in August to raise their awareness of safety issues occurring there
* Used Harriet Tubman for long time, then USES started charging $300 per night (to cover staff and lock up). Migrated to someone’s home; used community room at 725 or 715 Concord; wasn’t great
* We are looking at New Castle community room – Mass Ave next to NY Pizza, now owned by Fenway CDC (supportive housing org)
* Have used AME church on Columbus across from New Castle; beautiful church – community room is downstairs, good size
* Usually, you can find community rooms at supportive housing places because they have their own needs to gather people
* Sometimes we got 90 people at Harriet Tubman (for a meeting about recreational marijuana 200+ people attended) – for controversial topics people come

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association? Most recent?**

* + - Bob has a strong relationship with Southwest Park Conservancy (Bob on that board) and also Tenants Development Org (has board member from there); also connected to other neighborhood assns. Thru South End Forum, tightly connected with Worcester and Chester and also St Botolph, Concord Sq, and Rutland Sq. We are trying to get more connected to supportive housing groups
    - CNA has membership dues (singles $15 and couples $25/yr) and donations which help the CNA to fund local programs, including the South End/Lower Roxbury Land Trust, Project Place, United South End Settlements, St. Francis House and Friends of the South End Library. We also pay for most of the upkeep and provide the volunteer labor to manage the Wellington Green, a multifaceted, tiny jewel of a garden located on the corner of Columbus Avenue at Wellington Street.
    - The CNA is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit domestic corporation and your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. – statement from website

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

* President has the FOSEL logo on his Facebook page
* General impression is positive, especially the Friends group, he is happy to forward anything FOSEL wants published to their newsletter
* The Library is always trying to do outreach, great windows, historic stuff with maps, always trying to do something creative. Most neighbors are positive. As a younger person I went to take books or to study, now I don’t go there a lot; I also don’t go to central to take books out. I typically buy and recycle. If I had more time, maybe that would change. But the environment/saving trees is a good hook to use the library more.
* SEL could make itself more appealing to a broader group of people; I have been to several meetings and events at the Community Room, but it has been rather small.

**Other:** Suggestion – Carol Blair at Chester Neighborhood Assn – would be a great resource

Worcester Square – George would be a good resource

Bob is open for any follow ups or anything else we might need.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name:** Russ O’Haver

**Name of Organization:** East Berkley Neighborhood Association

**Website Address:** https://www.ebnaboston.org/

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Describe Area of South End:** Shawmut to Herald to Albany to Union Park to Waltham St to Washington to Peter’s Park to Shawmut Sts.

**Contact Person[s]:** Ken Smith, President, Leslie Fine, Vice President, Stuart Rose, Treasurer info@ebnaboston.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Mission**

It is our mission to improve and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood for both residents and businesses. We provide a forum for sharing information, connecting neighbors, and working collaboratively with City officials to bring about positive change in our community.

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

**If available how identify percentage of owners vs renters in the neighborhood**

**Describe how active the Association is**

**How often it meets**

Seems to meet monthly

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

At its meetings it hears from District 4 Police about safety and security, has connected with Pine Street Inn on specific needs/issues, has included the press, and city officials as relevant

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

**Indoor and open outdoor areas**

In person meetings have taken place at Project Place

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

Pine Street Inn

Project Place

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** South End Neighborhood Organization

**Your Name:** MichaelHinchcliffe

**Name of Organization:** Eight Streets Neighborhood Association

**Date of Contact: NO RETURN CONTACT.**

**Website Address:** www.eightstreets.org

**Newsletter if Available:** has meeting minutes on its website

**Describe Area of South End:**

The entire streets of Dwight, Taylor, Milford, Bond, Hanson and Ringgold. Waltham Street, from Tremont to Washington, Shawmut Ave from East Berkeley to the alley between Waltham and Union Park. (211 Shawmut through 304 Shawmut, all addresses), the even side of Tremont Street from East Berkeley to the alley between Waltham and Union Park. (500 Tremont through 560 Tremont, even addresses only), the odd side of East Berkeley St., from Tremont to Shawmut (1-65)

**Contact Person[s]:** Include Position title, and contact information

President - Michael Almond, VP – Ted Pietras, Treas – Colleen Fitzpatrick, Secy – Mary Chowdhury contact only by website

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

* Mission: The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization established to act as a unified voice representing the concerns of all its residents. We will keep residents informed of pertinent issues and events, respond to issues and concerns regarding our neighborhood and seek out ways to improve the overall quality of life. We will accomplish this through inclusive membership representation, broad outreach programs and collaboration with government and other community groups.
* Purpose of the association: Coordinate activities and communications across the various Friends Groups (Peters Park, Ringgold Park, Watson Park and Berkeley Community Gardens) to ensure a cohesive and thriving neighborhood. Support annual clean ups, maintenance and community fundraising.

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

The neighborhood is a mix of renters and owners.

**Describe how active the Association is**

* Monthly meetings – usually 2nd Tues of the month from Sept to June
* Neighbored issues, planning & development, stoop parties, Ringgold & Peters Park, holiday party
* Has membership fees

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

Monthly @ Project Place (Washington @ Berkeley)

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

They work with the BPD, Businesses & Nonprofits, City Officials, & the South End Forum.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** South End Neighborhood Organization

**Your Name:** Michael Hinchcliffe

**Name of Organization:** Ellis Memorial Neighborhood Association

**Date of Contact:** 12/14/20

**Website Address:** www.ellisneighborhood.org

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Describe Area of South End: Tremont / W.Canton / Columbus / Dartmouth / Pike**

**Contact Person[s]:** Stacy Koeppel, Executive Director

Ellis South End Neighborhood Association

19 Union Park, 1A

Boston, MA 02118

617-821-4185 M

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

The neighborhood is approx. 60% owner occupied.

**Describe how active the Association is**

* Monthly meetings and quarterly board meetings.
* Local advocacy and community outreach, book group, development & licensing & zoning, neighborhood services, wine group, holiday wreaths, tree pit fencing, Crite Park renovation.
* The association has about 600 active members.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

Board meetings are held at the Ellis Memorial Building but it is small and does not allow for medium or large scale gathering; the Franklin Institute is often used, but it is about to be lost to a multi-year renovation and privatization; the various committees are in constant need of space for regular meetings.

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association**?

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Yes, they would actively use community event space or meeting rooms in the library if available.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name:** Joe Rondinelli

**Name of Organization:** Pilot Block Neighborhood Associatio**n**

Date of Contact: November 18, 2020

**Website Address:** [**https://pbnainfo.wixsite.com/pbna2**](https://pbnainfo.wixsite.com/pbna2)

**Twitter:** @pilotblock

**Describe Area of South End:**

With close proximity to the Back Bay, Pilot Block includes lower West Canton Street along with West Newton, Pembroke, West Brookline and Warren Avenue. The neighborhood’s residents have easy access to Dartmouth Square, James Hayes Park and Harriet Tubman Square.

**Contact Person[s]:** Etta Rosen, President

[ettamrosen@gmail.com](mailto:ettamrosen@gmail.com)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

Described as a family friendly community with a population of just over 1,000 residents with an average age of 42 years old. Changing demographics with 50% of the residents are homeowners.

**Describe how active the Association is**

Since the pandemic the Association has not been that active, but normally an Association meeting would attract 20-30 neighbors. It has in the past had social events but has only had 2 remote Zoom conferences since March but a committee will be participating in hanging holiday wreaths.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

Association meetings are held in the South End Library’s Community Room and they have had street social events

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Etta is an active visitor of the Library but the children in the community may mostly be going to private school and unclear how they see the Library as a resource

**Other**

The neighborhood is changing, there are older long-time residents and also many younger families. It was identified as one of the smaller Associations and it seems like the pandemic this year has hindered interest. They do email blasts and have sent info out about the Library and they do have a Twitter Account.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Derek Lessing**

**Name of Organization: Rutland St. N.A. Date of Contact: 12/13/2020**

**Website Address:**

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Describe Area of South End: Rutland Street between Shawmut and Tremont**

**Contact Person[s]:** Derek Lessing, [dplessing@gmail.com](mailto:dplessing@gmail.com), 267-825-5836 (yes, I “interviewed” myself for this one)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

* Like everywhere else in the South End, there has been increasing gentrification over the past 20 years, but 3 buildings are run by IBA for low-income residents.
* There are a significant number of renters, maybe half? Some residents have lived on this block for decades, and there are rental units that turnover fairly often with new residents.
* United South End Settlements is located at #42 and is looking to develop this property further to make up for the space lost from the old Tubman House that was at Columbus & Mass Aves.

**Describe how active the Association is**

* We are essentially an email list to notify residents of city announcements.
* We organize an annual block party on Halloween, where we grill hot dogs and centralize the candy giveaway for trick-or-treaters.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

* Rare in-person meetings are held in the community room of the Library, sometimes at USES.
* Occasional get-togethers in the spring are held at Rutland Green, a park between #.

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

We participate in the South End Forum and have good relationships with USES and IBA, who manage 3 buildings on Rutland St. plus all on W. Newton Street.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Yes. We are right across the street from the library. 10 years ago, many residents spoke out against the possible closing of BPL branches.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Derek Lessing**

**Name of Organization: Rutland Sq. Neighborhood Association Date of Contact: 12-12-2020**

**Website Address:**

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Describe Area of South End: both sides of Rutland Sq. and the west side of W. Newton St., between Tremont & Columbus Aves.**

**Contact Person[s]:**

* I spoke with Steve Fox for this sheet, but was lucky to be able to piggyback this on a call for another issue.
* Going forward, Marleen Nienhuis is a new co-chair and will probably be easier to get ahold of! [marleen.nienhuis@comcast.net](mailto:marleen.nienhuis@comcast.net)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

* No more than 30% renters.
* One building is owned by a trust (Mel King is one of the trustees) and reserved only for music students.
* One of the longest-residing South End families lives on this block, the owners of Wally’s Café.

**Describe how active the Association is**

* Meets “as needed” for controversial issues like new development; routine business handled by email
* RSqNA maintains the street’s center oval parks & paid for the urn; they maintain Hiscock park as well.
* Holiday wreaths are put up by RSqNA.
* In-person meetings have always been at the Library

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

Steve Fox also heads up the South End Forum. RSqNA does not have a webpage but Steve has encouraged residents to use the South End Facebook community page.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Very much so. RSqNA was a forerunner of FOSEL and took care of the Library park, paid for some interior improvements; they

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Derek Lessing**

**Name of Organization: South End Forum**

**Website Address:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthEndForum/>

\*\*public-facing community board: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthEndCB/>

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Contact Person[s]:** Steve Fox, stephenfox@verizon.net

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

Umbrella organization for ~12 south end neighborhood associations

**Describe how active the Association is**

* Meets monthly (pre-pandemic)
* The forum does not organize events, but it does publicize them, and gives a united south end voice to city-wide issues like garbage collection, the use of winter space savers, and input on big development projects in the south end

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

Most often, the Library community room

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

Besides coordinating the South End N.A.s, the forum has worked with other city neighborhood associations.s like Bay Village & Beacon Hill on city-wide issues.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Yes. Marleen has been a frequent speaker at forum meetings for years.

**Other:**

Zoomable, interactive[**Google map of South End NAs**](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=12N4epy8MW9ESoPhEsjHvJmMdpbg&ll=42.34221427730425%2C-71.07624221925913&z=15)

Click on a colored area for NA name and more info – note that in many cases there’s uncertainty about the boundaries. Cosmopolitan NA is likely defunct; also, I believe the W. Concord NA has merged with Hurley Block.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of Organization: Union Square Neighborhood Assn Date of Contact: Sent emails, but no response**

**Website Address: https://www.upna.org/**

**Newsletter if Available:** mentions one on website, but none available there

**Describe Area of South End:** The UPNA, a non-profit organization in Boston’s South End, encompasses the area between Upton Street and Waltham Street and between Tremont Street and Harrison Avenue ([see map](http://upna.org/Map.htm)).  
Supported by contributions from residents and local businesses, its elected Board of Directors represents the interests of the neighborhood in civic matters, strives to maintain a safe and attractive neighborhood, and hosts a variety of social events throughout the year.

**Contact Person[s]:** only by website: upna.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood** DK

**If available how identify percentage of owners vs renters in the neighborhood** DK

**Describe how active the Association is**

**How often it meets** DK

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

* Outdoor movie nights
* Park concerts
* Holiday parties

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

They use their park for variety of activities

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?**

* The UPNA Board is happy to share that we have made two $1000 donations to Off Their Plate and the Women's Foundation of Boston Response Fund to assist local non-profit organizations in their support of COVID-19 relief efforts. The donations were funded by the UPNA General Fund.
* They appear to have received funding from a variety of local businesses as well.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Neighborhood Organization**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of Organization: Worcester Square Neighborhood Assn**

**Date of Contact: 12/11/20**

**Website Address:** http://worcestersquare.org/

https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterSquare/

**Newsletter if Available: no**

**Describe Area of South End:** WSANA encompasses more than Worcester Square! According to the 1978 map, its boundaries were Northampton Street from Washington Street to Albany Street, Albany Street from Northampton Street to Plympton Street,  Plympton Street from Albany Street to Harrison Avenue, Harrison Avenue from Plympton Street to East Brookline Street, East Brookline Street from Harrison Avenue to what is known now as Father Gilday Street, East Concord Street from Father Gilday to Washington Street and Washington Street from East Concord Street to Northampton Street.

**WSANA’s mission** is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues that impact the neighborhood—safety, development, cleanliness—and to amplify the voices of its residents with the city government, police, developers, restaurants, business owners, and social and health service providers. Whether you own or rent, work or play here, you are welcome to attend our meetings.

**Contact Person[s]:** **George Stergios**, President

contact information: [info@worcestersquare.org](mailto:info@worcestersquare.org); wsana2010@gmail.com

617-470-6855

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the population in the neighborhood**

Changed a lot since I’ve been here since 1996; was very gay neighborhood when I moved in. Now it’s very mixed. Level of education has risen. We still some have some older people from before gentrification. Mixed feelings about all this. It was funkier when I moved in; I saw people more casually rather than now the people seem driven - strivers. Worcester Sq people smart, work hard, high education. There are a lot more kids; don’t know how often children go to the library.

**If available how identify percentage of owners vs renters in the neighborhood:** 1/3 own WSANA – no public housing; 50-60% owner estimate; in my own building, renters have been long standing. Owners can move in 3-4 yrs too. Medical people come for a time and get assigned elsewhere.

**Describe how active the Association is**

Meets 10 times per year, 4th Tues of every month at 7pm – not in Aug or Dec

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association** -

WSANA has organized and sponsored a Tree Lighting Event every December for almost 60 years. Local businesses donate gift certificates and food, the city donates a tree, WSANA hires a band, Santa appears with Christmas cheer and presents for children, and a raffle is held to raise money for this event and others throughout the year, including a more recent tradition of a summer concert series.

**Are there community spaces that the Association has used?**

* Indoor and open outdoor areas – do 3 concerts; tree lighting, 1 or 2 events; park is co-owned by the city
* BMC is used for meetings

**Has the Association partnered with any other community organization or Association?** Politically with Blackstone/Franklin – we have the same set of challenges with Mass/Cass – not partnering on events; advertise each other’s events

**Is there any awareness if the members of the neighborhood use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**  I rarely go to the South End Library. Mostly it’s a book drop off place. The homeless population doesn’t make it appealing to hang out and read a book. People I know don’t go there to read. The architecture isn’t pleasant; seats are not so comfy. Generally I go to Central, which is more pleasant, even though further. It has a coffee shop; yet the books have to be fetched. I’m not sure what people with kids do, though. Questions – do 9-10 yr olds go by themselves to the library; do teens?

**Other:**

* Community space at SEL is upstairs used by South End Forum; could be useful for WSANA. We tend to lean on the hospital for space. Smaller spaces at the library where a few people can meet would be a good idea; my wife used Cambridge Library a lot for that.
* Anything else: not sure about people with kids; usually I think it is people picking up books. If I want access to stacks, I use BU. I use BPL Central for hanging out and using the café; I order a book and sometimes wait 2 hrs for it.
* If SEL were different, comfy seating, café, what do you think? The extra 15 min to BPL isn’t bad, so why try to compete with BPL? Homeless problem won’t go away and is problematic if you feel like you don’t belong; some people feel threatened, I don’t. You could do more community stuff at SEL, it’s a shorter distance for people with kids. Think of it in terms of the whole library system.
* Taking stacks down at BPL was a little disappointing and it being a more community- oriented space was a little problematic. For SEL concentrate on what’s good for the community and differentiation from Central.
* Would entertain a visit by us to their meeting – Marleen came 5-6 yrs ago; and Barbara Sommerfeld, maybe 2-3 yrs ago.

**South End Schools**

* The William Blackstone Elementary School
* Cathedral 7-12 High School
* The Hurley K-8 School
* Josiah Quincy Elementary School
* Josiah Quincy Middle School
* Wm. E. Carter School
* William McKinley Elementary and Tech HS

South End Schools

Although our Boston Branch Libraries serve many populations the programs and services provided for children are extremely important and valued in the communities. In reimagining a new South End branch library understanding the schools within our community is critical.

With approximately 8% of the South End’s population school aged children, the South End faces similar challenges as other communities in the city. There are public schools in the neighborhood that are among the best and others that face many challenges.

Understanding the programs and resources available to our students can help inform the Library Study as it moves forward.

Here are a few highlights from what we discovered:

**Background Historical Information:**

Our schools, similar to many of the resources in the community are part of the rich historical fabric of Boston and the South End.

* The William Blackstone Elementary School is named after the first settler in Boston in 1625
* The Cathedral High School was founded in 1926 and is the only coeducational Catholic high school in Boston
* The Hurley K-8 School was founded in 1961 and named after Joseph Hurley, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 1935-37
* The Josiah Quincy Elementary School was established in the mid-1800s, and is celebrating its 174th anniversary this year. It is one of the oldest elementary schools in the country, and the first to have a different grade level in each room*.*

**Library Resources within schools:**

* The Josiah Quincy Elementary School library space is very large with over 15,000 titles and a computer lab. It is a school branch of the BPL and uses the BPL library system.
* The Library in the Cathedral High School also doubles as a Computer Lab but equipment is out of date and it is under utilized.
* The Library in the Hurley School has been converted into a STEM lab

**General Information**

* Students from the Wm. E Carter School are developmentally challenged in a variety of ways; 25 students aged 10 -22
* The William Blackstone Elementary School is one of only 2 elementary schools in Boston that can accommodate children with multiple disabilities
* For many students attending South End Schools English is not their first language
* The Josiah Quincy Upper School has an auditorium that is available to the community, corporate partners and nonprofits. There will be a large auditorium in the new building being planned.
* Many of the South End schools have music and art programs

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name: Dorothy Kelley**

**Name of School:** William Blackstone Elementary School  **Date of Contact:** 11/12/20

**Website Address:** blackstoneschool.org

**Newsletter if Available:** Blackstone Monthly

**Address:** 380 Shawmut Avenue

**Principal:** Shammah Daniels

**Contact Person[s]:** Lauren Blonde, Community Coordinator

lblonde@bostonpublicschools.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information**

* **Include brief history including age of school:** Named after William Blackstone, the first settler of Boston in 1625, Blackstone was founded in 1975. It was designated a Turnaround School in 2010. It is currently rated in the bottom 50% of all schools in MA (2017-2018). Minority enrollment is 96% of the student body. For two-thirds of students, English is not their first language. Most students have limited English proficiency and receive special instruction. Three out of four qualify for the free lunch program. It is one of two elementary schools in Boston that can accommodate students with multiple disabilities.
* Grades levels, total student population and neighborhood it serves: It serves pre-K through fifth grade. Student population is around 600. Students come from all over the Boston area.

**Is there a Library within the** School Yes

* Librarian Contact Information: Maura O’Toole*.*

**How large is the space of the library** DK

**Does the School have an Auditorium?**

**Are those spaces available for use by the community**? DK

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?** DK

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school? Is there practice space for music available in the school?**  DK

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**In discussions with staff and teachers can you identify academic programs that the school excels in and others that may need to improve?**

Known for three special programs: SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education); MD (Multiple Disabilities Program for grades K-5; SEI (Sheltered English Immersion program).

**Other:**

Friends Group: Friends of Blackstone School, made up of current school volunteers and neighbors. The group raises funds and engages with the community.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name:** Dorothy Kelley

**Name of School:** Cathedral 7-12 High School **Date of Contact:** 11/6/20

**Website Address:** cathedralhighschool.net

**Newsletter if Available:** An electronic, weekly newsletter is sent every Friday to current students and parents.

**Address:** 74 Union Park Street

**Principal:** Head of School Dan Carmody

**Contact Person[s]:** Head of School Dan Carmody

[dcarmody@cathedralhighschool.net](mailto:dcarmody@cathedralhighschool.net)

617-542-2325

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information**

**History:** Cathedral was founded in 1926. It is the only coeducational Catholic high school in Boston. 100% of its students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. 45% live in homes where English is not the primary language. 60% come from single-family homes. Ethnic breakdown: 57% Black; 31% Hispanic; 5% multi-racial; 2% Caucasian; 1% Asian. 100% of its students receive financial assistance. There are 20+ sports teams. The current head of school, Dan Carmody, took over in March 2020, two weeks before the pandemic ended in-person classes. For the past sixteen years, every senior has graduated and earned admission to college. The average class size is fourteen students.

**Grades levels, total student population and neighborhood it serves:**

300 students in grades 7-12. Students come from the greater Boston area, but the population is made up predominantly of low-income Black students from the South End.

**Is there a Library within the** **School** Yes

Librarian Contact Information:

Sister Nancy Brennan

617-542-2325 ext. 407

**How large is the space of the library?**

The library is the size of three classrooms. The librarian has other, unrelated duties. The library is seldom used. It doubles as the computer center, but the computers are old and seldom used. There are no free periods for students to visit the library on their own.

**Does the School have an Auditorium?**

It has a gymnasium.

**Are those spaces available for use by the community?**

*Yes.* The Head of School would like to expand its use to the public to encourage greater interaction with the community.

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?**

Yes, it is part of the library.

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school?**

**Is there practice space for music available in the school?**

Both art and music are offered at the school, and there is practice space available. There is no band or orchestra.

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** No.

**In discussions with staff and teachers can you identify academic programs that the school excels in and others that may need to improve?**

The school strives to offer STEAM-based education (Science/Technology/Engineering/Arts/Mathematics). It has a 15,000 sq. ft. Applied Learning Center, that includes seven collaborative learning spaces, a makerspace, and performing arts space, but it needs to improve both academics and technology.

**Gather photos of school including classroom, library and computer center if available. If possible include photos of activities in the school.**

The Head of School said there is an “awesome archive of photos,” and that he would send some to me by phone.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name:** Dorothy Kelley

**Name of School:** The Hurley K-8 School **Date of Contact:** 11/6/20

**Website Address:** hurleyschool.org

**Newsletter if Available:** ParentSquare. Issues once a month online.

**Address:** 70 Worcester Street

**Principal:** Bethy Verano

**Contact Person[s]:** Principal Bethy Verano

[bverano@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:bverano@bostonpublicschools.org)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information**

**Include brief history including age of school:**

The school was founded in 1961, and named after Joseph Hurley, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 1935-37. It has been a dual language school (Spanish/English) for the past fifteen years.

**Grade levels, total student population and neighborhood it serves:**

It serves 361 students in grades K-8.Priority for admission goes to siblings. Over 50% of students are Hispanic. It serves primarily the South End, Roxbury, and South Boston.

**Is there a Library within the School?** No

*Target renovated the library several years ago, but it wasn’t utilized. It has been converted to a STEM classroom.*

**Does the School have an Auditorium?** Yes

**Are those spaces available for use by the community?**

Yes, the auditorium may be booked through BPS. There may be a booking fee*.*

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?**

No. The school utilizes computer carts.

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school? Is there practice space for music available in the school?**

Art is offered for every grade level. This year (2020-21) music classes are offered through a partnership program funded by the Neighborhood Parents of Hurley School foundation.

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

The K1 teacher takes her classes to the South End Library once a month. The school has used the meeting room space at the South End Library for ISEE classes on Saturdays. The new principal would like to work with the South End Library on building literacy for Hurley students.

**In discussions with staff and teachers can you identify academic programs that the school excels in and others that may need to improve?**

* There is an emphasis on Spanish language learning.
* Science classes use the district curriculum, which needs to be updated.

**Other:**

NPHS, Neighborhood Parents of the Hurley School, is a non-profit organization of parents that acts as the Development arm of the school*.*

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name:** Dorothy Kelley

**Name of School:** Josiah Quincy Elementary School **Date of Contact:**11/6/20

**Website Address:** www.jqes.org

**Newsletter if Available:** Monthly online newsletter

**Address:** 885 Washington Street

**Principal:** Cynthia Soo Hoo, csoohoo@bostonpublicschools.org

**Contact Person[s]:** Rowena Tuttle, Community Field Coordinator

[rtuttle@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:rtuttle@bostonpublicschools.org)

617-659-0314

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information**

**Include brief history:**

The school was established in the mid-1800s, and is celebrating its 174th anniversary this year. It is one of the oldest elementary schools in the country, and the first to have a different grade level in each room. It has its own swimming pool, and all students have swim lessons. It has its own orchestra.

**Grades levels, total student population and neighborhood it serves:**

It serves K0-5th grade. With 750 students, it is the largest elementary school in the Boston Public School system. Students come from 25 different zip codes, and are admitted through the BPS lottery system. 60% are Asian and live in Chinatown. 25% come from the South End. Every grade level learns Mandarin. There is an English immersion program. Tufts Dental School provides dental care in the school. A high percentage of students go on to Quincy Upper School for sixth grade, and 50% go on to Test schools for grades 7-12.

**Is there a Library within the School** Yes

* Librarian Contact Information

Heidi Boulogne

[hboulogne@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:hboulogne@bostonpublicschools.org)

* The Josiah Quincy Elementary School library space is very large with over 15,000 titles.  The library has a computer lab, lots of tables and a wide-open space for meetings.  It is a school branch of the BPL and uses the BPL library system.  The librarian issues BPL library cards to all of our incoming students to use at the school and at their neighborhood library.  Students can look up and reserve books on the BPL system, but it does not have a lending delivery system, so they need to pick up at their branch.  It does not allow non school BPL patrons to borrow our books.  Funding for the library comes from the Boston Public School budget or the school's budget.  Over the past nine years the librarian has only received funding once from Boston Public Schools!  She relies on her own grant writing, parent donations and crowdfunding (DonorsChoose) for books and technology needs. BPL provides training and book processing support.

**Does the School have an Auditorium?** Yes

**Are those spaces available for use by the community?**

The school is considered a community center, and is regularly used for swimming classes and other community events.

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?**

Yes, there is a media lab in the library. There is an active Tech Committee, and students have access to Chromebooks and iPads.

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school? Is there practice space for music available in the school?**

Yes to both questions.

Its music program has recently been renamed The Boston Music Project. It is open to Quincy students as well as others from the community. Lessons are offered in school

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** Yes

**Other:**

Contact information for the School Parent Council: josiahquincyparentcouncil@gmail.com

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name: Dorothy Kelley**

**Name of School:** Josiah Quincy Upper School **Date of Contact:** 11/13/20

**Website Address:** www.jqus.org

**Newsletter if Available:** No

**Address:** 152 Arlington Street and 900 Washington Street

**Principal:** Heads of School: Stephen Cirasuolo and Richard Chang

**Contact Person[s]:** Head of School Richard Chang

[rchang@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:rchang@bostonpublicschools.org)

office: 617-635-8940

cell: 617-756-3162

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information**

**Include brief history including age of school:**

Opened as a pilot school for Grade 6 in 1999. The first graduating class was the Class of 2006. It is the only BPS that is an IB (International Baccalaureate) for all grades, 6-12. Students come from anywhere in Boston, many of them from the South End. Demographics: 50% Asian; 25% Black/Latino; 5% white. 85% are certified low-income. The percentage that goes on to Exam schools used to be 50%, but now 85% choose to stay at Quincy through graduation.

**Grade levels, total student population and neighborhood it serves**

Grades 6-12, currently in two buildings. Enrollment: 550. Its capacity will increase to 650 when it moves to a new building in 2024-25.

**Is there a Library within the School ?** No. Students use public libraries*.*

**Does the School have an Auditorium?** Yes

**Are those spaces available for use by the community?**

Yes, it is available to community/corporate partners and nonprofits such as the Bay Village Neighborhood Assn. There will be a large auditorium in the new building.

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?**

No. Since every student has a Chrome Book, a common area for computers is not considered necessary. The new building will have a media lab that combines resources such as language learning with a library. The library will consist mostly of online resources, and some popular Young Adult fiction*.*

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school? Is there practice space for music available in the school?**

Both art and music are offered. They are considered core subjects, not add-ons. There are no practice spaces; students use the hallways.

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**In discussions with staff and teachers can you identify academic programs that the school excels in and others that may need to improve?**

* It excels at “bringing social privileges to all students,” not just those whose parents can afford it. The school is proud of its International Baccalaureate program. All high school juniors are guaranteed a trip abroad, either to a Spanish- speaking country, or to a Mandarin-speaking country, depending on which language they have chosen to learn. 20% of their students have never been to the Logan Airport. Since it is a Pilot School, Quincy has a lot of autonomies, and has corporate partnerships that pay for the student trips abroad.
* An area that needs improvement is that students don’t know how to use resources. The school would be interested in any help the public library can give on teaching research skills to its students.

**Other:**

There is a JQUS Family Council that consists of: five elected teachers; six elected parents; two student council representatives; and the two Heads of School.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of School: Wm E. Carter School Date of Contact: several emails, but no direct contact**

**Website Address: http://www.williamecarterschool.org/**

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address:** 396 Northampton Street, Boston, MA 02118

**Principal: Mark O’Connor**

**Contact Person[s]:** Mark O’Connor  (617) 635-9832 [carter@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:carter@boston.k12.ma.us)

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**General Information:** Students are developmentally challenged in a variety of ways; 25 students aged 10 -22; Our students’ families come from a broad range of cultures, including those native to Boston, Haiti, Morocco, Iraq, Eritrea, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador, Cape Verde and they reside in every neighborhood in the City of Boston.

**History:**

The program, which later developed into the Carter School, began in 1971 as a joint city-state project. The Department of Mental Retardation (now the Department of Developmental Services) provided the facilities, while Boston Public Schools hired two teachers.

**Other:**

**Mission**

* We at the Carter School are dedicated to providing an accessible, developmentally appropriate educational environment, that combines data driven instruction with individualized services and supports to maximize our students access to learning.
* We offer a school wide instructional focus of developing lessons and programs that increase each students’ ability to communicate, so that our students can realize their potential for maximum independence and the highest possible quality of life.

**Instructional Focus:**

* To develop, deliver, and share individualized lessons and programs, to increase each student’s ability to communicate. Include: Cognitive Development, Communication Skills, Activities of Daily Living, Adaptive Behavior, Sensory Development, Gross Motor Development, Pre-vocation and Life Skills, Leisure, and Community Inclusion
* Offers aquatic therapy to 3-5 students per week in Waltham
* Has an outdoor sensory garden classroom

**Is there a Library within the School?** DK

Librarian Contact Information: NA

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?** DK

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school?**

Yes, there is music and art therapy.

**Is there practice space for music available in the school?** DK

**Does the school have relationships with other organizations?**

Yes The school collaborates with BC, BU, Northeastern, Simmons, & Berkley through internships of students working at Carter.

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**  DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of School: McKinley Elementary School (grades K-5); McKinley South End Academy (grades 6-7) Date of Contact:**

**Website Address:** [mckelem@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:mckelem@bostonpublicschools.org)

[mckseacad@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:mckseacad@bostonpublicschools.org)

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address: 90 Warren Ave.**

**Principal: Cindie Neilson, Head of School; Christine Stella, Program Director**

**Contact Person[s]:** 617-635-9978 Elem; 617-635-9976 Academy

**Information Gathering**

**General Information**

**Brief history including age of school**

McKinley Schools, founded in 1978, is a three-site, substantially separate, Boston Public School program that serves students in grades K-12 who have been diagnosed with moderate to severe behavioral, psychological and/or emotional issues.

Boston's McKinley Schools are several schools in one, providing special education for students in kindergarten through grade 12; students are referred because they are unable to make progress in their regular school due to issues of emotional dysregulation.

* + Focus on emotional, behavioral, and learning needs
  + Highly structured behavior management system
  + Intensive clinical supports
  + Full range of academic programs
  + All students assigned via Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Meeting
  + Four Boston Educators of the Year on staff: David Russell, Meredith Berke, Cara Bufalino, and James Scaringe
  + Named an Over-performing Elementary School by Boston magazine, 2005

**Is there a Library within the School?** DK

**Does the School have an Auditorium?** DK

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources?** DK

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school?**

Students have art and music classes

**Is there practice space for music available in the school?** DK

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**Other:** see data on all McKinley School students in McKinley Preparatory High School Data Sheet

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Schools**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of School: McKinley Preparatory High School (9-12); Date of Contact:**

**Website Address:** www.bostonpublicschools.org/mckinley-preparatory-high-school

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address:** 97 Peterborough St

**Principal:** Cindie Neilson, Head of School; Dr. Anne De Barros Miller, Program Director; Claudine Silva & Dennis Hoogendyk, Asst Program Directors

**Contact info:** 617-635-9907

**Information Gathering**

**General Information**

McKinley Schools, founded in 1978, is a three-site, substantially separate, Boston Public School program that serves students in grades K-12 who have been diagnosed with moderate to severe behavioral, psychological and/or emotional issues.

Boston's McKinley Schools are four schools in one, providing special education for students in kindergarten through grade 12

* Focus on emotional, behavioral, and learning needs
* Highly structured behavior management system
* Intensive clinical supports
* Full range of academic programs
* All students assigned via Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Meeting
* Four Boston Educators of the Year on staff: David Russell, Meredith Berke, Cara Bufalino, and James Scaringe
* Named an Over-performing Elementary School by Boston magazine, 2005
* Total 327 students in 2019; 47% African American/Black; 40% Hispanic, 7% White; 98.5% considered high needs; 77% economically disadvantaged\*
* 52 teachers with a high percentage holding teaching licenses\*

**Is there a Library within the School?** - DK

**Does the School have an Auditorium?** - DK

**Does the School have a computer center or other common resources? -** DK

**Are there art or music classes offered at the school?**

* 95% of students participate in arts courses that include visual art, music, theater, dance, and general arts.\*
* Only 4% of grade 11 & 12 students participate in advanced courses; only 31% of 9th graders pass all their courses.\*
* None of the high school students complete the MassCore program of studies which includes: four years of English, four years of math, three years of a lab-based science, three years of history, two years of the same foreign language, one year of an arts program and five additional "core" courses.\*
* The school has high absenteeism at 72% who miss more than 18 days of school with average number of days absent at 48.\*
* 12% receive out-of-school suspensions; 15% experience school-based arrests\*
* In 2018 the graduation rate was 22%, down from 32-39% in 2017; 16% dropped out in 2019; 11% in 2018\*

**Is there practice space for music available in the school?** DK

**Is there a relationship with the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**Other:**

\*data for McKinley students in K-12 from School and District Report Cards 2019, MA Dept of Elem & Secondary Education

**South End Churches**

* The Cathedral of the Holy Cross
* Columbus Avenue AME Zion Church
* First Church of Christ Scientist
* Grant AME [African Methodist Episcopal] Church
* Peoples Baptist Church
* St. John the Baptist [Hellenic Orthodox Church]
* St. Steven’s - Episcopal Church
* Union United Methodist Church

South End Churches

The faith communities of the South End are another critical component of the ecosystem that provides critical services beyond spiritual support to many in our neighborhood. Many of the congregations and their buildings of worship have been part of the community for over a century. It is critical to acknowledge and tap into the broad reach of our faith communities and continue reaching out to them as the programming and planning process evolves.

A few examples of how the Communities of Faith have been woven into the fabric of the South End:

**The Cathedral of the Holy Cross** (Roman Catholic)

Built in the 1860s the largest church in New England it serves our diverse community with 20 weekly masses and about 1200 people attending. It offers help for homeless, AA meetings, housing for low income seniors at St Helena House, a food pantry, and a health clinic.

**Columbus Avenue AME Zion Church** [African Methodist Episcopal]

Founded in 1863 on Beacon Hill as a black congregation. Moved to current location 600 Columbus Avenue in 1903

**St. John the Baptist, Hellenic Orthodox Church ,**15 Union Park

Originally constructed in 1862 by a Protestant community (1862-1887) and it later became a Jewish Synagogue, the Temple Ohabei Shalom (1887-1921), to be finally sold when the Synagogue moved to Beacon Street (in Brookline).  
It was bought in 1924 by the Greek Orthodox community of St. John the Baptist for $65,000, with a down payment of $6,000.

**Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church** 419 Shawmut Avenue

The church has existed for 170 years. It started in the West End, and burned in the Great Fire of 1871. It has been in its current location since 1926. It was very involved with the neighborhood revitalization, including Villa Victoria, that occurred in the 60’s. St. Stephen’s hires a part-time librarian at Blackstone, and pays parents to be classroom aids at both Blackstone and Hurley School. It runs an after-school program with 260 children from both Blackstone and Hurley.

**Union United Methodist Church** 485 Columbus Avenue

Union’s story begins in 1796 when a group of African-American believers began meeting for study and worship on Beacon Hill. They soon outgrew this space and built a larger church that was a stationed along the Underground Railroad.

With the migration of Boston’s black population, the congregation moved from Beacon Hill to Roxbury and then to its current home on Columbus Avenue in Boston’s South End—and took the name “Union.”

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name:** Dorothy Kelley

**Name of Church:** Cathedral of the Holy Cross **Date of Contact:** 1/24/21

Identify Faith: Roman Catholic

**Website Address:** holycrossboston.com

**Newsletter if Available:** Weekly Bulletin, available onsite and online

**Address:** 75 Union Park Street, Boston, MA 02118

**Church Leader:** Sean Patrick Cardinal O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston

Contact Person:Michael Kieloch, Director of Communications

mkieloch@rcab.org

617-542-5682 or cathedral2@rcab.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Include brief history of the Congregation in South End**

Construction began in 1860 but was interrupted by the Civil War. It was dedicated in 1975. As the largest church in New England, it seats nearly 2000 people. It has just completed a major renovation.

**Membership Size and Demographics**

It serves a diverse community worshiping in the English, Spanish, German, Ge’ez and Tridentine forms of the Catholic tradition. It celebrates twenty weekly Masses, with more than 1200 people in attendance*.*

**Describe Community activities that the Church organizes**

Help for homeless families transitioning from shelters to permanent housing; free health services through its Cathedral Cares Clinic; weekly AA meetings; St. Helena House (housing for low -income seniors); an offsite shelter for victims of human trafficking; Order of Malta homeless outreach, where young members bring water and clothing to people living on the streets; food pantry run by Catholic Charities; celebrates Mass in English, Spanish, Latin, and the Ge’ez Eastern Rite; Hispanic community hosts weekly Spanish masses, religious education, and bible studies; supports Cathedral High School.

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?** *Yes*

**Are those spaces available to members outside of the congregation?**

Yes: AA meetings, food pantry, and others. It is a “missionary parish.”

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?**

Partners with the City of Boston with a shelter for trafficked individuals.

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name: Michael Hinchcliffe/Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of Church: Columbus Ave. AME Zion Church**

**Identify Faith:** African Methodist Episcopal

**Date of Contact:** Calls and contacts not returned

**Website Address:** columbusavenueamezion.org

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbus%20Avenue%20Ame%20Zion%20Church/116291148398660/

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address: 600 Columbus Avenue**

**Church Leader: Rev. George C. Woodruff**

**Contact Person[s]:** Include Position title, and contact information

617-266-2758 columbusavenueamezion@gmail.com

Rev. Jacqueline King, Church Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, Missionary Supv

Right Rev. Dennis V. Proctor, Prelate

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the Congregation**

* Founded in 1838 on Beacon Hill as a black congregation, it relocated to the West End for 37 years before moving to 600 Columbus Ave in 1903, purchasing the former Temple Adath Israel. For many years it was the largest and principal Black church in the city of Boston.
* In 1903, shortly after moving to Columbus Avenue, the church experienced what was called the “Boston Riot.” The church hosted a debate between Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute and William Monroe Trotter, editor and publisher of the “Boston Guardian”. Mr. Trotter, a Black Bostonian, opposed the gradual conservative approach to civil and political rights as promulgated by Mr. Washington. The debate took place on July 3, 1903 and the church was packed with over 2,000 spectators. Shortly after the opening prayer by Pastor McMullen, Washington was introduced. A disturbance then erupted with Trotter eventually being arrested for disturbing the peace.
* Early freedom fighters Fredrick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman were members.

**Membership Size and Demographics [ages, families, etc.**]

Based on the photos posted on their Facebook page, the congregation is predominantly people of color.

**Describe Community activities that the Church engages in**

* In addition to Sunday School and Morning Worship, they hold Tuesday noon and Wednesday evening bible study groups
* They have several ministry groups: Evangelism, Men’s, Women’s, Singles, Seniors, and Marriage.
* They have had at least four annualChristmas Turkey Giveaways; they hosted a Black History Luncheon in 2017; Christmas toy giveaway for kids
* Participation in New England Conferences called Check-Ups with the Boston and Hartford Districts

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?**

Photos show a space for social activities, presumably in a space below the main floor.

**Are those spaces available to members outside of the congregation?** DK

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?** DK

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**Photos** are shown on their Facebook page.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name:** Joe Rondinelli

**Name of Church:** Grant AME Church

African Methodist Episcopal

**Date of Contact:** Not successful after multiple attempts

**Website Address:** Facebook @ GrantAMEChurchBoston

[info@game-bos.org](mailto:info@game-bos.org)

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address:** 1906 Washington Street, Boston MA

**Church Leader:** Pastor Pedro Castro Jr**,**

**Contact Person[s]:** 617-427-0670

Church Secretary e-mail:  
info@game-bos.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Include brief history of the Congregation in South End**

* It came to pass late in the year of our Lord 1919, that a small group of devout Christians, under the leadership of the late Reverends J.U. Gums and J. Morris were filled with the desire to start a second A.M.E. Church in Boston, Mass. They began worshipping in a building at 78 Lenox Street in the South End, later holding services in the Shawmut Congregational Church, Tremont and Brookline Streets.
* In 1920, the late Bishop William Heard appointed the late Rev. J.S. Myrick as pastor, that a church building was purchased at 135 Vernon Street, Roxbury, MA The Church was incorporated as the Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1949, the Rev. D. Ward Nichols, under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. James Crichton, burned the church mortgage. The first parsonage was purchased at 250 Cabot Street, Roxbury, MA in 1952, under the pastorate of Rev. John Lee. During the administration of the Rev. A. McNeil White, this property had to be torn down and a new parsonage was purchased at 4 Fountain Street, Roxbury, MA.
* On November 2, 1952, God caused the membership of Grant Church to see with prophetic vision that the site of the Church should be on its present location, 1906 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA. This was accomplished under the pastorate of the Rev. Vernon Carter.

**Mission, Vision, Purposes and Objective of the Church**

* The A.M.E. Church mission –is to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.
* The vision- is to carry out the original mission of the free African Society, A.M.E. Church, which is to seek out and save those        that are lost, and to serve the needy and encourage all church members to become in all aspects of church training.
* The purpose-Is to make available all of God’s biblical principles, spread Christ’s liberating Gospel and providing continuing programs which will enhance the entire social development of all people.

**Membership Size and Demographics [ages, families, etc.]**

**Describe Community activities that the Church**

There are several ministries listed on their website for different groups within the congregation.

They have noon day workship, bible studies, and prayer meetings.

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

The church created an outdoor, prayer ribbon memorial to commemorate the lives of all who died of Covid in Massachusetts.

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?** DK

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?** DK

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name:** Russ O’Haver

**Name of Church:** Peoples Baptist Church

**Date of Contact:** Not successful after multiple attempts

**Website Address:** pbcboston.org (listed but not functional)

https://www.facebook.com/pbcboston/?ref=page\_internal

**Newsletter if Available:** DK

**Address:** 830 Tremont Street, Boston

**Church Leader:**

**Contact Person[s]:** [(617) 427-0424](https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJzj4tZP1zcsz4o3NygzN2C0UjWosLBMNTZPNDQzNjFMTTVMMbQyqDAxTEk0NTEwMjRJMjZKTk3xEitIzS_ISS1WSEosKMksLlFIzigtSs4AAC1lFwM&q=peoples+baptist+church&oq=People&aqs=chrome.1.69i59j46i39i175i199j69i57j0i67i395j46i67i175i199i395j46i20i131i199i263i291i395i433j69i60j69i65.4218j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

**Information Gathering**

**Describe the Congregation**

**Include brief history of the Congregation in South End**

* 215 years old
* People's Baptist Church was founded in 1805 as the First African Baptist Church. The church offers Bible study class, prayer meetings and a variety of ministries including the Prison Ministry, Bereavement Support Ministry, Hospitality Ministry and more. Service is held twice on Sunday.
* Peoples Baptist Church of Boston is a community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We accept the Scriptures as our only authority in the life of the church and in our private lives.
* We believe that the Gospel speaks to the human condition and is relevant to every aspect of life.
* Our members representing every sector of life, are drawn from the Greater Boston area.
* Our worship, which is in the black religious tradition, is designed to be spiritually uplifting, intellectually challenging, and socially relevant.

**Membership Size and Demographics [ages, families, etc.]**

Presumed primarily African American through photos and mention of black religious tradition

**Describe Community activities that the Church**

Virtual Sunday Services on Facebook

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by Association**

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?**

Photos show a community space being used for a community meal

**Are those spaces available to members outside of the congregation?** DK

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?** DK

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

See photos of events held by the Church on Facebook.

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name: Joe Rondinelli**

**Name of Church: St. John the Baptist Church Date of Contact:** from website

**Hellenic Orthodox Church**

**Website Address:** <http://www.saintjohnthebaptist.org>

**Newsletter if Available:**

**Address:** 15 Union Park, Boston MA

##### **Church Leader: Rev. Fr. Theodore J. Barbas, Chancellor**

**Contact Person[s]:** Pastoral Assistant stjohnpastoralassistant@gmail.com

(617) 536-5692

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Purpose** That this Community may sustain, firstly, a Greek Orthodox Church and, secondly, a Greek School, offering to the children of the people of Greek descent who live here an education which is Greek as much as possible.

**History and** **the** **Church Building**

* The Parish of St. John acquired its magnificent and exquisite church building in 1924.
* This historic edifice was constructed in 1862 by a Protestant community (1862-1887) and it later became a Jewish Synagogue, the Temple Ohabei Shalom (1887-1921), to be finally sold when the Synagogue moved to Beacon Street (in Brookline).
* It was bought by the Greek Orthodox community of St. John the Baptist in 1924 for $65,000, with a down payment of $6,000 (Minutes of the Church Council Meeting of 12 February 1937).
* In 1943, according to the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Church Council and the Board of Trustees of 11 November 1943, “the church building was auctioned by the Franklin Savings Bank because the Greek Orthodox Community could not pay its debt.
* It was bought again for $16,000 on 3 December 1943!” The price for the building’s payment to the Franklin Savings Bank had been collected in record time. The Deed was registered with the new name “Hellenic Orthodox Church of Saint John the Baptist the Second,” because the loan was paid off and was bought anew under the form of a new Trust.
* The Minutes of the Church Council Meetings of the Parish abound in information regarding the struggles for the preservation of the church building and the configuration of the interior space. These struggles, together with the many others that were undertaken in the cause of various objectives and activities, social, ethnic and purely religious, constitute a true epic.
* In 1975 the church celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the acquisition of its church building.
* The donations of the faithful laity, church members and friends continued during the decades which followed, from the 1980s to the present day. They are too many to be recorded and the records are not complete.
* In the 1990’s the interior ceiling of the Church underwent a complete reconstruction following a collapse. The iconography was restored by the Bulgarian iconographer Georgi Alykov. The main cost was covered by the insurance company.
* In the beginning of 2004, the Church Hall was completely renovated, and donors covered the entire expense. It was dedicated to George and Katerina Handis, the oldest surviving members of the St. John Community.
* In 2007 the Sanctuary and the open area before the Sanctuary and the Solea were completely renewed, thanks to a donation from the family of Demetrios and Ioanna Pesirides. The panel icons on the gallery in the nave were cleaned and restored by Georgi Alykov thanks to a donation from the family of Andreas Bounas.
* In 2008 the construction of the central isle, a long-awaited prospect since the acquisition of the church, was achieved thanks to the great donation of John and Effie Lagadinos. The installation work of the central isle was offered by Demetrios and Ioanna Pesirides. At this time the repair of the magnificent old icon stand of the baptism of our Lord was carried out and an additional icon stand for the Mother of God was added thanks to Mrs. Katerina Kontos and family.
* These major works, and innumerable lesser ones, are most eloquent proofs of the dedication and love of the members of the Parish of Saint John the Baptist and constitute a guarantee for future progress.

**Describe the Congregation** DK

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by the church**

Annual Pastoral Giving Tree

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?** DK

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?** DK

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?** DK

**If possible gather photos of events held by the Church**.

https://www.flickr.com/people/191500146@N02/

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name:** Dorothy Kelley

**Name of Church:** St. Stephen’s **Date of Contact:** 11/18/20

**Identify Faith:** Episcopal

**Website Address:** Ststephens.org and [www.ssypbos.org](http://www.ssypbos.org) (youth group website)

**Newsletter if Available:** weekly e-news

**Address:** 419 Shawmut Avenue

**Church Leader:** The Reverend Tim Crellin, Vicar, tim@ststephensbos.org

**Contact Person[s]:** Liz Steinhauser, Priest Associate and Senior Director of CommunityEngagement 617-851-6680 liz@ststephensbos.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Describe the Congregation**

**Include brief history of the Congregation in South End:**

The church has existed for 170 years. It started in the West End, and burned in the Great Fire of 1871. It was refounded in 1980, and has been in its current location since 1926.

**Membership Size and Demographics:**

The church considers its parish to be everyone within a ten-block radius around the building, including the high school and college students who come in from other areas to volunteer. Pre-pandemic, 80-90 people attended Sunday services. 90-100 attend virtually during the pandemic*.*

**Describe Community activities that the Church organizes:**

It was very involved with the neighborhood revitalization, including Villa Victoria, that occurred in the 60’s. It now partners with Blackstone School, for the past eleven years. It and a few other churches fund the school library. St. Stephen’s hires a part-time librarian at Blackstone, and pays parents to be classroom aids at both Blackstone and Hurley School. It runs an after-school program with 260 children from both Blackstone and Hurley.

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?**

Yes. There is a parish hall*.*

**Are those spaces available to members outside of the congregation?**

Yes. The church is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and they try to accommodate anyone who wants to use church spaces.

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?**

Two other churches, an Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and a Catholic group called Dignity, hold their services there. AA and Narcotics Anonymous groups meet there. During the pandemic, students who need a place to do their remote learning use the church*.*

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Public Library or the Central Library?**

Children in the afterschool and summer programs are taken to the South End Library to get library cards. The church also uses the South End Library’s meeting room spaces for movies and other events for kids.

**Other:**

The church has a Facebook page*.*

**DATA SHEET**

**Category:** **South End Church Groups**

**Your Name: Yvette Jarreau**

**Name of Church:** Union United Methodist Church **Date of Contact:** 12/1/20

**Identify Faith:** Methodist

**Website Address:** unionboston.org/

**Newsletter if Available:** Yes

**Address:** 485 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA 02118 • unionboston.org

**Church Leader:** Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, Lead Pastor.

Gary Bailey, Chair Church Council and FOSEL board member

**Contact Person[s]:** Gary Bailey, Chair Church Council, FOSEL board member - [gary.bailey@simmons.edu](mailto:gary.bailey@simmons.edu) 617-521-3977

Church (617) 536-0872 office@unionboston.org

**Information Gathering Guidelines:**

**Church Mission (from website)**

The mission of Union is to nurture followers of Jesus Christ who transform the world through love, justice, and service.

**Church Vision (from website)**

At Union, we’re family—members, worshippers, and guests experience Union as a spiritual home grounded in the unconditional love of God. An individual who is a part of Union will be transformed personally and empowered to do good in the community.

**Describe the Congregation**

* (From the website) Union’s story begins in 1796 when a group of African-American believers began meeting for study and worship on Beacon Hill. As the faith community grew, they requested their first pastor, Samuel Snowden—a former slave turned abolitionist—and formed the May Street Meeting House. David Walker, who published the influential “Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World,” was a member of this congregation. They soon outgrew this space and built a larger church that was a stationed along the Underground Railroad.
* With the migration of Boston’s black population, the congregation moved from Beacon Hill to Roxbury and then to its current home on Columbus Avenue in Boston’s South End—and took the name “Union.”
* Union is a real special place–empowering, multicultural, spirited. We live at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. We are a family from all walks of life: black and brown, white, Latinx, Asian, and indigenous; young and more seasoned; economically stable and struggling; transgender and cisgender; differently-abled, physically challenged; straight, gay, lesbian, queer, allies; lifetime Christians, new beginners, skeptics and seekers.
* Over our 200-year history, our congregation, which is now Union United Methodist Church, has had seven different names, in five different locations, under three different denominational names. A multitude of places, but a single people–this place called Union is the intersection of Methodism and liberation.

From Gary:

**Membership Size and Demographics [ages, families, etc.]**

* Sunday service 60-70 attendees
* Connections with people for whom Union is a unique experience, being part of a congregation online has increased participation
* 200 members in their book
* Many people live at Methunion
* Inclusive of everyone, particularly LGBTQ; people can find a place they can fit, 1/3 of parishioners are White, yet worship comes out of African Black experience

**Describe Community Activities and Events organized by the church**

Virtual Worship on Sunday, short weekly refreshes (15 min), weekly or biweekly connection groups to get to know people, bible study groups

* Annual MLK Breakfast
* Christmas Gift Drive
* Union Church Boston App – sermons & bible readings
* Book Clubs
* Young Adults Small Groups
* Food Pantry
* Sr program is on hiatus due to CoV – they purchased iPads for seniors with a year of WIFI and the Union App installed. This came from 40 donors at $750 each.

**Are there community spaces available within the Church?**

* Are those spaces available to members outside of the congregation? Yes
* Union is a community center for holding meetings or a reception, Handel Hayden Society uses it.
* They are currently renovating the chapel, making is handicapped accessible, including movable seating for a more dynamic space. It will be rentable to cover their costs.
* Cooper Hall is downstairs – has been used for community meetings – there are some insurance concerns.

**Does the Church partner with any other Church, Community Organization, Neighborhood Association or School for programs?**

* Runs the largest, oldest MLK event at the Convention Center and partner with St Cyprion’s. It is the “who’s who” event for the town and state
* USES, Black Lives Matter Boston, ABCD, Methunion (built it), created Cooper Comm Ctr in Roxbury (for elderly), gave up land for expansion of Titus Sparrow Park (Ken Kruckmeyer)

**Is there any awareness if the members of the congregation use the South End Library or the Central Library?**

Feels certain that members use the library.

**In what ways might the SEL serve congregants?**

* There are ways to think about how we do an activity where the space at the library isn’t sufficient; the church could be used for a talk or performance. Some of that could be done together. We should be able to use the space at the church.
* The church would not likely go somewhere to use space since we have so much. Yet, sometimes every nook and cranny is booked, so overflow could go to the SEL, when everything is back to normal. Parking is a challenge for both organizations.
* Programming for older people, culturally competent and relevant could be interesting
* People get together at Panera Bread, in South Bay Mall, for small group meetings – could be something that a library could offer
* People tend to go to places that are already open in the evening.
* Summer activities, concerts in park are interesting
* Author series is interesting; survey what people are interested in hearing about; Young Adult authors could be good
* Being part of Local/Focus was good
* We could have speakers that are really interesting and give people access to really valuable, important knowledge.
* Artists could have a way to offer their art to more people.
* Use technology for inclusion and we are just at the beginning.

**Other:**

Libraries are important sources of information; they are holders of history, as are churches; we collect souls, library collects books, both collect hearts and minds. Partnership doesn’t have to be formal, but it could be respectful and appreciate what each institution offers to the community. Members understand the library as a resource and value it. In an electronic world, can libraries make themselves like other institutions offering access to what they have, a la museums? We are constants in a changing community.

*FOSEL Mission: To promote and enhance the value of the South End Library and Library Park as a cultural, informational, and educational asset for the South End community, free to all, through programs, activities, and financial support.*

The Friends of the South End Library

January 2021