

# walk

# Boston

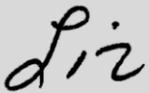
## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As WalkBoston prepares for our upcoming Annual Meeting, we celebrate the individual and collective achievements of visionary leaders who are creating a welcoming pedestrian environment on land and along the sea.

The vision of Jill Medvedow, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art [ICA], reveals the transformative power of integrating water, land, and architecture, with a new waterfront museum at Fort Point Channel. The tenacious advocacy of Vivien Li, Executive Director of The Boston Harbor Association, created public access to land and sea that greatly enhances our quality of life. Through the unwavering commitment of Neil Gordon, Chair of the Friends of the Fort Point Channel, and COO of the Children's Museum, we can begin to see the Friends' bold vision of transforming the Fort Point Channel into a welcoming destination. The persistent efforts of Patricia Foley, President of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, have generated an unprecedented level of cooperation among Federal, State, and local officials to improve the water quality of Fort Point Channel. These nonprofit leaders inspire all of us to dream more boldly and to use vision, persistence, and commitment to make our dreams a reality!

Join the new State Transportation Secretary **Bernard Cohen** for **WalkBoston's Annual Meeting Walk on March 22nd** that will showcase the re-birth of this wonderful Boston neighborhood. The Walk will start at 4 pm at the ICA. At the conclusion of the walk, we will meet at WilmerHale [60 State Street] at 5:15 for **WalkBoston's Annual Meeting/Celebration and Golden Shoe awards**. This year's guest speaker is the very dynamic and visionary Linda Ginenthal of Portland, Oregon, who will share her exciting achievements in using social marketing to increase walking, biking, and transit.

I look forward to sharing this special day with our members and friends! Thank you so much!



Liz Levin

BY WENDY LANDMAN

## Reconnecting land and sea

Maverick Gardens in East Boston was a deteriorating 413-unit Boston Housing Authority project whose "super block" site plan removed the original street grid and cut the property off from the surrounding neighborhood and waterfront. The recipient of a \$35 million HOPE VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the complex was reborn in 2006 as Maverick Landing, a mixed-income, pedestrian-friendly property reconnected to the waterfront and the [continued]

BY BOB SLOANE

## Walking to the ICA

WalkBoston is excited about working with the new Institute of Contemporary Art [ICA] to encourage people to walk to its harborfront location. The ICA and its Seaport District Neighborhood are within easy walking distance of downtown business and shopping areas and public transportation stations. Many of the routes include scenic views of land and sea, along with public art incorporated into the HarborWalk, private development projects, and public open space.

The ICA opened with much fanfare in December 2006, and is rapidly becoming the cultural centerpiece of the waterfront and one of the most recognized architectural landmarks in the City of Boston. The building's dramatic cantilevered design by Diller Scofidio + Renfro integrates the HarborWalk into the museum and offers magnificent views of the harbor. Approaching the ICA from the HarborWalk provides a vista that highlights the scale and drama of the new building and the magnificent downtown skyline.

Built in the burgeoning South Boston Seaport District, the ICA's location is considered by those unfamiliar with the area to be somewhat "off the beaten path." In reality, it is located near the new MBTA Silver Line World Trade Center and Courthouse Stations. Also, the Boston Redevelopment Authority is planning for South Boston to include more direct pedestrian access to the ICA, and WalkBoston is preparing a walking map to illustrate the walking routes and distances between the ICA, the Financial District, and Downtown Crossing. The map will also highlight public art locations.

Our 17th Annual Celebration will begin with a walk from the ICA, March 22nd at 4 pm. Bernard Cohen, Massachusetts' Secretary of Transportation, will walk with us. WalkBoston will also be joined by representatives of the ICA, The Boston Harbor Association, the Friends of Fort Point Channel, and the Greenway Conservancy, who will offer insights on the dynamic relationship between land, water, and public art in the Seaport District and along the HarborWalk.

BY BEVERLEY JOHNSON

## New link at Crosstown Center

The 1.4 million-square-foot Crosstown Center project has the dual distinction of being the gateway to Boston's Roxbury community and the primary economic catalyst for this diverse residential, institutional, and commercial neighborhood. Located at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Albany Street, Crosstown Center also borders Boston's South End and Newmarket Business District. The first phase opened in 2004 and includes the 190-room Hampton Inn & Suites, a parking garage and over 22,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. The second phase is currently under construction, with approximately 204,000 gross square feet of office space and 25,000 square feet of ground-floor retail facing Albany Street.

This mixed-use development has the added merit of linking the Harbor Trail at Fort Point Channel and the Southwest Corridor Park. Working in collaboration with the advocacy organization Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the Crosstown Center developers will build this critical component of the Harbor Trail to create a new pedestrian/bicycle connection between [continued]

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES  
MORE WALKABLE

SPRING 2007

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WalkBoston promotes walking for transportation, health and recreation through education and advocacy. Our mission is to create and preserve safe walking environments that build vital communities.

## mission

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## legislative walks

We're delighted to offer a season of legislative walks—state legislators leading walks in their home districts to increase awareness about the benefits of walking and the needs of pedestrians.

Ten legislators have volunteered to date: Senators Jarrett Barrios and Pamela Resor; Representatives Kay Khan, Anne Paulsen, Denise Provost, Michael Rush, Frank Smizik, Tim Toomey, Marty Walz, and Alice Wolf.

The schedule includes: **April 11—Legislators Greenway walk** led by WalkBoston, briefing about our legislative priorities. **May 5—Marlborough, by Sen. Pam Resor;** **June 16—Somerville, by Rep. Denise Provost.**

Preregister with individual legislators via U.S. mail or email. See our website or call for more details.

## trans stats

**The last elevated trains** in the City of Boston disappeared when the Causeway Street elevated line came down in 2004.

**Boston's South Station** is the eighth busiest in the Amtrak passenger rail system, with 971,000 boardings and alightings in 2005.

**Chatham NJ, New York Times** April 19, 2006, "Here a century ago this week, it seems, humans created one of the hallmarks of the automotive age: the speed bump. Chatham's contribution to transportation history was a raised stone impediment installed on the unpaved Main Street on April 22, 1906. The New York Times...reported admiringly on the 'new scheme for the regulation of automobile scorchers.' "

**Traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death** for Americans between the ages of 4 and 33. Pedestrians are particularly at risk, representing less than 5% of trips, yet about 14% of all traffic deaths.

**104 teenagers who are role models for weight loss.** New York Times January 16, 2007, "Leading the pack of slimming strategies was exercise or becoming more active, listed by 86 of the participants as their main route to a healthier weight. The most popular activities were running, walking and lifting weights."

**Car registrations:** Between 1997 and 2002, the number of cars registered rose by 42% in the City of Boston and by 26% in Metro Boston.

## Crosstown [continued]

the South Boston and Roxbury neighborhoods that will provide convenient access to cultural, entertainment, and recreational activities within both communities.

The Harbor Trail at Crosstown Center will also commemorate Roxbury's historic legacy as the former terminus of the Fort Point Channel and its important role in the history of this waterway. Current plans call for the Harbor Trail, originally planned by WalkBoston member Michael Tyrrell, to be constructed along the eastern edge of the property at Melnea Cass Boulevard. It will then continue across Massachusetts Avenue to the BU Medical Center, and run under I-93 to the Fort Point Channel and Boston Harbor. We all look forward to walking the Harbor Trail at Crosstown Center!

## membership application

Complete this form & mail along with your check made payable to: WalkBoston, Old City Hall, 45 School Street, Boston, MA 02108.  
T: 617.367.9255 | F: 617.367.9285 | info@walkboston.org | www.walkboston.org

name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone: daytime \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- individual/family levels:  INDIVIDUAL \$30  SUPPORTER \$100—\$499  
 DUAL/FAMILY \$50  SUSTAINING \$500—\$5000  
 FRIEND \$65
- corporate levels:  AMBLER \$400  STRIDER \$2500  
 STROLLER \$1000  RACEWALKER \$5000

Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

## East Boston reconnection [continued]

neighborhood. New tree-lined streets and mid-block pedestrian ways open views to Boston Harbor and create easy and attractive walking routes connecting the property to the East Boston HarborWalk, public open spaces, MBTA Blue Line Maverick Station [currently being renovated] and shops.

The redeveloped property provides housing for all of the prior tenants, in addition to new market-rate units. This mixed-income concept joined an adjacent parcel of waterfront property to the development—and added a connection to the East Boston HarborWalk. Maverick Landing was also one of the first large multi-family developments in the country to earn "green" building certification, using many significant energy efficiency techniques.

As described by BHA Administrator Sandra Henriquez, Maverick Landing is an example of "the transformative power the HOPE VI program has had on neighborhoods in Boston." Winner of the Affordable Housing Finance 2006 Reader's Choice Award for the nation's "Best Affordable Housing Development," j that connect residents to their neighbors and their environment.

With its pedestrian-scale sidewalks, low-speed streets, waterfront access, pedestrian-friendly front stoops, and mid-block pathways, Maverick Landing reflects the essence of an urban walkable environment.