

Staff Report to the Board *July 18, 2018*

Administration

Roselli, Clark & Associates conducted their field work for the 2017 Audit. CRA staff and the auditors are coordinating the timeline for reporting overlapping information within the City of Cambridge, Cambridge Retirement Systems, and CRA audits.

Parcel 6

The CRA staff has once again partnered with the Community Art Center for an installation to cover the Volpe fence. The *Imagination Mural* will be created by students in the Public Art Crew. The art work will illustrate the students' favorite books and characters from literature that they have read. The installation on the southern portion of the fence is scheduled for late August.

Recently the ABC nightly program Chronicle featured the 3rd & Binney Civic Space for a segment focused on local landmarks, historic sites, and quirky destinations in and around Boston. CRA staff and our community partners, who have been key to the success of the pocket park, were all interviewed during the segment.

Grand Junction Park

The restoration landscaping work is nearly completed on the north end of Grand Junction Park. Plants and replacement irrigation have been completed. The final work to complete the restoration work will be the removal of a dead pine tree and the installation of the shared bike path signage. These are scheduled to be completed this month.



6th Street Walkway

Turner Construction has started the construction work for the 6th Street walkway and bikeway improvements on behalf of Boston Properties. The walkway is expected to be closed to pedestrians for the 3-to-4-month construction project. The east service drive has been set up as a detour route for pedestrians and cyclists traffic during the construction project.

CRA staff have met with Councilor Denise Simmons regarding the dedication of the bike path in honor of Kittie Knox, a bi-racial woman and avid cyclist, who ignited local and national debate about race and gender in the cycling world in the late 1800s.

KSURP – Infill Development Concept Plan - Phase 2

CRA and City staff have been coordinating the joint review by the CRA and Planning Board of a proposed amendment to the MXD Infill Development Concept Plan (IDCP). Boston Properties presented an update on the next phase of the IDCP and the proposed amendment to the East Cambridge Planning Team on July 11th. In addition to the upcoming joint meeting of the CRA and Planning Boards, Boston Properties is planning to host a community meeting on August 1st and is putting together a coUrbanize community outreach website for the IDCP amendment.

MIT Coop Food Court

The Food Court at the MIT Coop has closed permanently. CRA Staff negotiates with Boston Properties management staff and the MIT Coop to keep the passageways open from 8AM to 6PM on weekdays to provide commuter access through the area. Once Pioneer Way is opened, all parties agreed to revisit those access hours.

Forward Fund

The initial 2018 Forward Fund payments have been distributed to a majority of the award winners. During the past months, Forward Fund projects have had celebrations to recognize ground breakings and grand openings. The Magazine Beach Partners held a ground-breaking event for the new Canoe/Kayak Launch and Outlook. The event featured State and City officials as well as CRA Board Member Conrad Crawford. Commonwealth Kitchen also held a celebration to mark the grand opening of their CW Kendall Incubator. The event was attended by members of the CRA staff, the KSA, the Cambridge Community Foundation and others. Later this month, the Looking Glass is scheduled to be installed in Galaxy Park with the assistance of Boston Properties and we will discuss a commemorative event with Innovators4Purpose.

Unfortunately, the 2017 Forward Fund project Suitsculpture has been discontinued. The artists recently contacted CRA staff and notified the CRA that due to personal and other factors they will be ending the project and returning the funds to the CRA. Please refer to the attached matrix for an update on the various projects over the past three years.



Forward Fund Update: July 2018

Grantee / FF Year	Project Name	Amount Disbursed	Amount Remaining	Status Update	Anticipated Completion
Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association / Magazine Beach Partners (2016)	Magazine Beach Public Canoe/Kayak Launch and Outlook	\$8,143	\$8,143	Ground breaking for the Magazine Beach Public Canoe/Kayak Launch and Outlook took place June 22, 2018. The canoe/kayak launch will be the first improvement to Magazine Beach as part of Phase II of the overall infrastructure project.	2019
Innovators for Purpose (i4p) (2017)	The Looking Glass (Wayfinders – Connecting 2 the IE)	\$12,500	\$12,500	Fabrication of the sculpture is in the process of being completed. Installation in Galaxy Park is scheduled for July (base and footing) and August (sculpture).	August 2018
Community Art Center, Inc. (CAC) (2017)	Port Kiosk	\$12,500	\$12,500	Community Research has been completed as well as the selection of lead artist/designer of the project. The delay in the completion of the project is due to CAC's building renovation.	Late Summer 2018
Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Inc. (MFNH) (2017)	Building Pillar	\$12,500	\$12,500	MFNH is undergoing a change in leadership and this has caused the project to be delayed. CRA staff has had discussions with the interim Executive Director and has been notified that the project will be completed in the fall with minor changes to the original plan.	Fall 2018

Grantee	Project Name	Amount Disbursed	Amount Remaining	Status Update	Anticipated Completion
ROLO (2017)	Suitsculpture	\$3,750 (<i>to be returned to the CRA</i>)	\$3,750	CRA staff was recently notified by the artists that due to personal factors the project will no longer be continued. Forward Fund grant funds will be returned to the CRA in full.	Discontinued
Friends of the Greenway (2017)	Tunnel of Light	\$0	\$10,000	Friends of the Greenway have been notified by DCR that the bridge above the project site will need to be repaired. The bridge repair project is scheduled to go out for bid this summer. The Tunnel of Light project will commence after the repair project is completed.	On Hold
Innovators for Purpose (2018)	Genius of 700 Main	\$5,000	\$5,000	i4p has begun their summer design sessions with the students who will created the 2018 Forward Fund project. "Students will be using a very defined creative problem-solving process to develop an original design to represent the genius and inventiveness that have been embedded in Osborn Triangle's DNA since its origins."	Late Spring 2019

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Vinfen (2018)	Street Façade Improvements	\$2,500	\$2,500	Vinfen has completed the first portion of the project which can be viewed at their 950 Cambridge Street location. “The window decals have been installed and they have successfully helped animate the building façade and add some warmth with the smiling faces.”	Fall 2018
CommonWealth Kitchen (2018)	CWKendall	\$9,000	\$9,000	CWKendall celebrated its grand opening on June 21 st . The opening of the kitchen incubator will help foster “inclusive entrepreneurship and create sustainable employment, with a focus on people who have been impacted by racial, social, and economic equality.”	Completed
MathTalks (2018)	MathScapes: Activating Public Spaces for Early Learning	\$10,000	\$10,000	The project is currently focusing on the community engagement aspect. The first installation will take place later this summer in Sennott Park located in the Port.	Fall 2019
Central Square Business Association (CSBA) (2018)	Central Square Mural Project	\$12,500	\$12,500	CSBA recently had a major donor back out of the project. Due to the decrease in funding the project will now include only 9 of the original 10 murals. The first mural will be completed early August.	September 2018

Grantee	Project Name	Amount Disbursed	Amount Remaining	Status Update	Anticipated Completion
Cambridge Community Center (CCC) (2018)	Building Modernization: Community Kitchen	\$12,500	\$12,500	CCC are busy fundraising for the Building Modernization project. The Forward Fund project is scheduled to begin the week after their traditional Thanksgiving community dinner this fall.	2019
East Cambridge Open Space Trust (ECOST) (2018)	O'Connell Library Parklet	\$0	\$25,000	ECOST are in the process of finalizing bid documents for project.	2019
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) (2018)	Elevator Improvement Project	\$0	\$25,000	MAPS has recently approved a contract with Associated Elevator to begin the elevator improvement work in August.	August 2018