

## Staff Report to the Board *December 16, 2020*

### Administration

By the end of the week, CRA staff will have completed the Kendall Square Association's (KSA) 12-week professional development program called Inclusion Drives Innovation. Staff will then be discussing how to incorporate the concepts from this training into all elements of the CRA's administration and community programs. This will include the update to the Strategic Plan, a Community Engagement Outreach strategy applicable to all projects, and an updated Personnel Policy (Employee Handbook) for internal and external operations focused on building an anti-racist organization.

CRA Staff met on Galaxy Park for a socially distanced picture and staff meeting on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, marking the first time all staff have been together, in person, since Fabiola has joined the CRA.



### Forward Calendar

- 93-99 Renovation General Contractor Selection
- KSURP Implementation Plan
- Margaret Fuller Neighborhood Housing Pre-Development Agreement
- Annual Report / Annual Meeting

### Project Updates: Kendall Square

#### *Broadway/Main/Third Streetscape*

The CRA has been making progress on the Broadway/Main/Third Streetscape designs with consultants Sasaki Associates and HDR, working closely with City staff from the Community Development Department, Traffic Parking and Transportation, and the Department of Public Works. The project team has initiated discussions with local property owners and is working to

incorporate and respond to MITIMCO's Volpe site designs and TIS made public last month. Alternative concept designs should be ready to share for community input in January of next year.

### *325 Main – Construction Progress*

325 Main Street's topping off was Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate, Boston Properties hosted a socially distanced celebration on Kendall Plaza, coordinating small groups to sign the last beam throughout the day. Last week, CRA staff were also invited on a 325 Main Street building tour, allowing staff to see the construction of the building and roof garden first hand.



Progress continues as crews work their way up the building pouring floor slabs, spraying fireproofing, and erecting the stair risers. Installation of the glass curtainwall proceeds rapidly and drywall installation continues on the lower levels. It is expected that the basement slab will be poured this week, allowing crews to deliver more materials through the lower-level loading dock. Preparations are already being made for the tower-crane to be dismantled in March of next year.

### *Open Space*

Brightview Landscaping (BV) recently completed the fall clean-up of Grand Junction Park and 3rd & Binney Civic Space. As a condition of BV's contract, they are required to provide the CRA with a Quality Site Assessment (QSA) report. The report provides Staff with a review of all measures taken to maintain a healthy open space and also gives Staff insight on additional efforts that may be needed in the spring to allow the parks to remain healthy and vibrant. The report didn't include any surprises or large budget items that would require amendments to the 2021 open space maintenance budget.

Staff has provided a license agreement to the City for use of 3rd & Binney. The City still plans to utilize the space as a temporary dog park and will be responsible for all park maintenance in 2021. At this time there are no plans to activate the space with food trucks during 2021. Staff will reevaluate the program later in the year and provide an update to the Board on the future uses for the site.

### *Volpe Community Center Workshop*

On Tuesday, December 8th, CRA staff participated in Volpe's first workshop focusing on the Community Center. Equity, diversity, and inclusion were at the forefront of the conversations as residents want to see a center that is welcoming to all, particularly residents of The Port and a culturally conscious center that offers unique practical programs. The CRA is looking forward to further conversations with Volpe to brainstorm ways to coordinate between the new center and the Foundry to ensure coherent programming at both community centers that is genuinely beneficial to residents.

## **Foundry**

The Foundry Executive Director Search Committee, made up of CRA staff and Foundry Consortium board members, will start advertising for the executive director position in January. The Foundry Consortium aims to hire the first executive director by June 2021, approximately one year before the building opens to the public. CRA staff are also working with the Foundry Consortium to finalize the process to identify office tenants for the Foundry. Marketing of the office space will start in spring 2021. The process for reserving community-use space will be finalized once the new executive director is hired. The next Foundry Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 8:00 AM.

## **Childcare Grants**

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, marked the initial submission period for the CRA Safety Support Grant. The grant was approved by the Board at the October meeting and opened to nonprofits and childcare providers on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the grant is to assist childcare providers with awards up to \$5,000 to purchase PPE, necessary supplies, and help retrofit their existing space to lower the risk of infection with staff and the students they serve.

As of last Wednesday, the CRA received and reviewed 18 grant applications. Of the 18 submissions, staff recommends providing grant funds to 14 organizations. The average grant amount is the maximum grant of \$5,000. The funds awarded will contribute to the organization's ability to continue to remain open while providing in-person programming. The second round of funding happens in January. Applications will be accepted through January 18<sup>th</sup>.