

Staff Report to the Board: *January 18, 2023*

Personnel and Hiring Updates

The CRA is continuing efforts to fill two open positions, Project Manager and Project Planner. An offer for the Project Planner position is currently pending. The CRA plans to re-post its Project Manager position, re-advertising the opportunity and clarifying the scope of positional responsibilities. The CRA is also preparing to begin advertising for a third position, Finance Manager. The Finance Manager will support the Director of Finance and Operations to ensure that the organization has timely, accurate financial reporting, and strong financial systems.

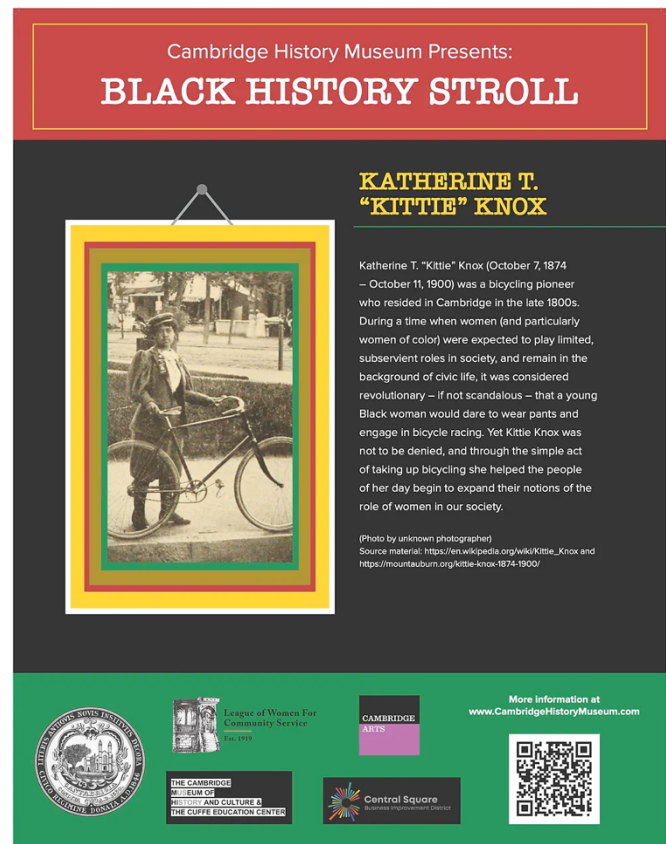
Forward Calendar

- Annual Report
- Strategic Plan Update - Financial Strategy and External Partnerships
- 99 Bishop Allen Closeout
- Foundry Construction Closeout
- Annual Investment Accounts Report (April)
- Kendall Public Space Programming Update (April)

Project Updates

Cambridge Black Women's History Stroll

The CRA is collaborating with Cambridge City Councilor Denise Simmons, the Cambridge Arts Council, and BXP to host the Cambridge Black Women's History Stroll in the newly renovated Kendall Public Lobby. The exhibit will include posters (see image example) featuring Cambridge women of color who were trailblazers, who lived life on their own terms, and who changed this world for the better. An opening ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 5th, at 3 PM led by Councilor Simmons. Light refreshments will be served courtesy of BXP. The exhibit will be open for the month of February. All are welcome to come!



Cambridge History Museum Presents:

BLACK HISTORY STROLL

KATHERINE T. "KITTIE" KNOX

Katherine T. "Kittie" Knox (October 7, 1874 – October 11, 1900) was a bicycling pioneer who resided in Cambridge in the late 1800s. During a time when women (and particularly women of color) were expected to play limited, subservient roles in society, and remain in the background of civic life, it was considered revolutionary – if not scandalous – that a young Black woman would dare to wear pants and engage in bicycle racing. Yet Kittie Knox was not to be denied, and through the simple act of taking up bicycling she helped the people of her day begin to expand their notions of the role of women in our society.

(Photo by unknown photographer)
Source material: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kittie_Knox and <https://mountaibum.org/kittie-knox-1874-1900/>

More information at www.CambridgeHistoryMuseum.com

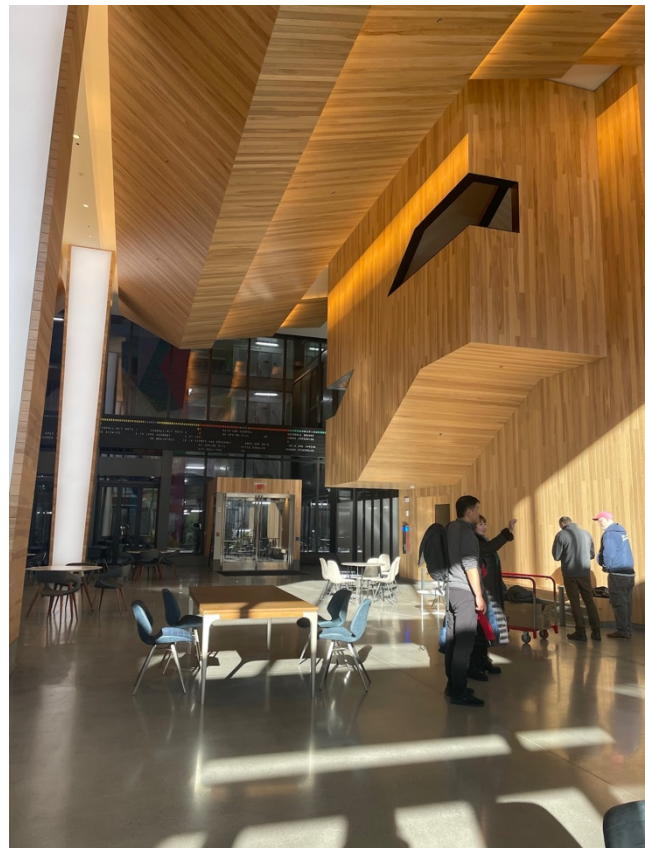
Logos at the bottom of the poster include: Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, League of Women For Community Service (Est. 1915), The Cambridge Museum of History and Culture, The Cluff Education Center, Cambridge Arts Council, and Central Square.

MXD Substation - Blue Garage Demolition

Demolition of the Kendall Center Blue Garage began in earnest at the start of the New Year. The crew has been working on decommissioning the elevators and removing vertical panels from the exterior of the structure. Power to the structure was cut off on January 7th, and the structure itself began demolition this week on January 16th. CRA staff have been given access to BXP's two live stream cameras that are recording the process. We expect these streams to be made visible to the public in the future as part of the marketing and engagement program displayed at the construction team headquarters at 90 Broadway.

Kendall Public Lobby - Temporary Furnishings Installed and Pioneer Way Reopened

The Kendall Public Lobby, located between 325 and 355 Main Street, opened to the public last month. Delivery of the permanent furniture for the space has been delayed, so BXP has provided temporary furniture for public use. Additionally, BXP has reopened the internal connection of Pioneer Way located within the 325 Main Street building. Pioneer Way allows pedestrians a direct connection between Kendall Plaza, Ames Street, the Green Garage, and the Public Lobby. This space also includes public amenities, including an elevator to access the second level terrace and roof garden, bathrooms, and a wellness room.



Foundry - VESTER Opens in Cafe Space

VESTER began to serve drinks out of the cafe space within the community hall of the Foundry on January 9th and plans to expand its offering to include pastries and lunches as soon as possible. The opening was met with great excitement by both the Foundry Consortium staff and tenants of the office suites. The cafe is open to those utilizing the Foundry space and the public. Nicole Liu originally opened VESTER on Ames Street in Kendall Square in 2018, and the concept now has three locations including Ames Street, South Boston, and the Foundry.