

Staff Report to the Board: *April 13, 2022*

Administration

The CRA has made job offers to two new staff members; a Project Planner who will start at the end of April, and a new CRA Property Manager who will start in early May. Initially the Project Planner will help with project design review and transportation planning projects focused on Kendall Square. The Property Manager will oversee our property management responsibilities at 99 Bishop Allen, the Foundry, KSURP open space parcels, and other properties that may be acquired.

Forward Calendar

- Design Review of 250 and 290 Binney Street Commercial Buildings
- Investment Account Update
- Foundry Commercial lease for Third Floor
- Walden Square Easement Consideration
- Danny Lewin Park Schematic Design
- KSURP Parcel Four Easement Amendments

Project Updates

Danny Lewin Park Schematic Design

The CRA has been working with MYKD to redesign Danny Lewin Park, and a preliminary design concept has been completed. CRA staff is now meeting with stakeholders and the community to get input on the design. The staff have also met with Akamai to gain perspective on the design related to honoring Danny Lewin's memorial. So far, the design has received positive feedback, and we look forward to holding both a community meeting and a CRA Design Review committee meeting soon.

Privately Owned Public Spaces

The CRA has finalized the POPS Signage Guidelines. The staff has incorporated suggestions heard from the Board, including adding information related to the space, such as name, hours of operation, and amenities available. Staff will also continue to work with the city to discuss the implementation of POPS signage throughout Cambridge. The document and other related materials can be found on CRA's POPS website.



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to all**

Bishop Allen Ribbon Cutting

An estimated 80 - 100 community members attended the ribbon cutting for 99 Bishop Allen Drive on March 30th. Kathy Born kicked off the speaking program reminding the crowd that the CRA's future was not certain when the current board was seated several years ago, but that this project is evidence of the important role a redevelopment authority can play in Cambridge.

Tom Evans and Erica Schwarz thanked the many members of the project team, who were all in attendance. Both Mayor Siddiqui and City Manager DePasquale congratulated the CRA and the nonprofit tenants for this milestone, and acknowledged the importance of this building in particular and of supporting



Cambridge's nonprofit field. Geeta Pradhan of the Cambridge Community Foundation, an early thought partner to the CRA when the building first was rumored to be going up for sale, spoke about the community effort that resulted in the purchase of the building, and the way in which the site is bringing its nonprofit tenants closer together.

Finally, representatives from most of the building's nonprofit tenants gathered to each share why this building is important, illustrating the need and value of this project for supporting nonprofit capacity, enabling inter-agency connection, and helping to strengthen programs that support the larger community. Following the speeches, the project team gathered to cut the ribbon in front of the building. All attendees were then invited to tour the building, and visit each nonprofit's space and learn about them. There was a strong feeling of connection and community, and recognition of the value of partnerships to accomplish great tasks. The event included cupcakes and empanadas from S&S Restaurant and The Nada Cart, respectively, the latter of which is newly joining the CRA's food truck program in 2022.

Bishop Allen Solar Installation

Interconnection and Smart Solar applications were submitted several weeks ago and are under review by Eversource. Most equipment is not in stock at the moment and once Resonant receives approval from Eversource on the proposed design (via the interconnection process) panels will be ordered. The permits (building and electrical) will be submitted after we receive approval from Eversource for our proposed design. Building permits will take longer than electrical so those will be started first after receiving the Interconnecting Service Agreement (ISA). Construction should commence by September 19, 2022 and will finish 15 days later. The final inspection and permission to activate the panels will take place 7 and 14 days after the construction has been completed. Estimated time of final completion & coming online is tentatively scheduled for November.

Forward Fund Project Close-Outs

Three of the 2021 grant awardees have completed their projects – Central Square - BID Starlight, MultiCultural Arts Center and TSNE - Link. The Central Square - Bid Starlight team completed improvements to the outdoor performance space in Central Square. The MultiCultural Arts Center replaced their flooring and added new LED lighting for the performance space. TSNE made improvements to The Link co-working space to adapt to COVID-19 by adding new air filters, phone booths, and upgraded the technology to the main conference room for conducting hybrid meetings.

Parcel Six Food Truck Program

The CRA and the City are finalizing arrangements for three food trucks to activate 174 Binney Street for Spring 2022. All have submitted applications to ISD and are awaiting permits. A full schedule will be available by mid-April. Staff are in early discussions with Commonwealth Kitchen to lease/purchase a food truck that can be available for new business ventures to serve at Parcel Six.

145 Broadway Bus Shelter

Boston Properties has replaced the 145 Broadway bus shelter located on Galileo Galilei Way, servicing the EZRide Shuttle. The new shelter is an Avanti Daytech shelter, and matches those installed at 88 Ames Street, and 500 Main Street. The work is substantially complete, with final clean-up and caulking needed over the next few days.

88 Ames Mural

Boston Properties has commissioned the Community Art Center's Teen Public Art Program, to design a large mural to be installed along the northern facade of 88 Ames Street. The artwork was led by CAC's Teen Public Art Manager, Jack O'Hearn, and includes artwork from all the teens in the program (listed below). The artist's prompt was to base the art on the area's local history, or to include themselves as part of that history by telling their own story. The themes in the mural include stories of family immigration to the U.S., of life growing up in Cambridge, and Cambridge's industrial and commercial past.

Student artists include:

Jack O'Hearn - Teen Public Art Manager
Sarah Suarez Cuello
Emmett Gebremedhin
Elias Estaviliz-Liceaga
Mickey ChengYue Liao
Nadisha Chowdhury
Ethan Tejada
Vanessa Drayton

