

## MEDIA ALERT

# UPCOMING EVENTS AWARDED THROUGH THE OLMSTED NOW PARKS EQUITY & SPATIAL JUSTICE GRANT

### Who:

The [Olmsted Now](#) Committee of Neighborhoods and [Emerald Necklace Conservancy](#) awarded 16 grants to hold public events in open spaces throughout Boston which are more vibrant, verdant, equitable and welcoming between now and October 2022.

### What:

For the 2022 Bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted “Olmsted Now”, 16 inspiring proposals from local creatives have been awarded *Olmsted Now Parks Equity & Spatial Justice Grants*. Rather than focus exclusively on the history or landscapes of Olmsted, Olmsted Now invited all to explore the contemporary relevance of Olmsted’s legacy values: shared use, shared health and shared power across all parks and public space. Olmsted Now’s core grant program is likewise values-driven: parks equity and spatial justice guiding the process in which decisions are centered in community and resources are de-centered across neighborhoods. Grant decisions were made by the [Committee of Neighborhoods](#): trusted Boston neighborhood leaders respected for their commitment to amplifying under-heard voices and under-resourced open spaces with a dedication to opportunity, advocacy and justice. Inspired by Olmsted’s vision of parks as places to “Come together and be seen,” the grantmaking is supported by the “Come Together” Fund of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy Board and the broader Olmsted Now [coalition](#).

Awarded projects will take place between now and October 2022. They were selected for their strong potential and diverse approaches to modelling parks equity across more than 10 Boston neighborhoods. The grantees bring a vast range of experience to their proposals: some have built trust in Boston over many decades, while others are testing terrain to mark new chapters in greenspace activation and spatial justice. Each proposes to engage participants through intersections of movement, making, music, storytelling, ritual, history-keeping and future-making. Cultural affirmation and themes of healing and revitalization run through all of the projects.

Where & When (order of most recent event to last):

Project Lead	Proposal	Date(s) Location(s) TBC	Award
<b>Boston Liberation Center</b> ( <a href="#">Rachel Domond</a> ) <a href="http://liberationnews.org/boston-liberation-center">liberationnews.org/boston-liberation-center</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/bostonliberationcenter">@bostonliberationcenter</a>	<a href="#">1-year anniversary celebration &amp; reflection event on public land</a> with local food, music/art & family activities for a working-class community center.	August 21 from 11am-6pm, reclaimed lot next to the Boston Liberation Center, 194 Blue Hill Avenue	\$5,000

		in Roxbury – <a href="#">event details</a>	
<b>Kera Washington /Zili Misik</b> <a href="http://Zilimisik.com">Zilimisik.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/zilimisik">@zilimisik</a> with sculptor <a href="#">Walter Clark</a> .	<a href="#">Festival to highlight Afro-diasporic arts</a> with interactive dance workshops, performances by 4 music troupes and temporary installation of sculpture.	September 18 from 2-6pm at Pope John Paul II Park, Neponset River	\$20,000
<b>Bridgeside Cypher</b> (Jillian Girardin) <a href="http://linktr.ee/BridgeCyph">linktr.ee/BridgeCyph</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/bridgecyph">@bridgecyph</a>	<a href="#">Public Outdoor Hip-Hop Open Mic Series</a> , cypher sessions to expose & invite passersby of all backgrounds to celebrate the energy of live hip-hop.	September 24 along the Emerald Necklace parks	\$10,000
<b>Ife Franklin</b> <a href="http://ifearts.com">ifearts.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/ife_franklin_slave_narrative">@ife_franklin_slave_narrative</a>	<a href="#">Series of ancestor processions</a> to communally honor gravesites & bring justice to the ancestral spirits of Boston’s enslaved African Americans.	September 25 at 1-3:30pm at the Copps Hill Burial Ground in Boston’s North End	\$10,000
<b>Dzidzor Azaglo &amp; Crystal Bi</b> <a href="http://dzidzor.com">dzidzor.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/dzidzorazaglo">@dzidzorazaglo</a> <a href="http://crystal-bi.com">crystal-bi.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/crystalbi_b">@crystalbi_b</a>	<a href="#">Wilderness Bittersweet Vines Project</a> , an interactive art installation inviting participants to write ancient and new prayers, proverbs and poems on ribbons tied to woven structures of Asiatic Bittersweet vines.	September 30-October 7, Overlook Ruins at Franklin Park	\$20,000
<b>Anita Morson-Matra</b> <a href="http://anitamorsonmatra.com">anitamorsonmatra.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/a_anita_anita_a">@a_anita_anita_a</a> with <a href="#">Jean Appolon Expressions</a>	<a href="#">Baldwin in the Park: Collective Healing through Movement &amp; Meaning</a> , featuring Baldwin texts & Afro-Haitian rhythm to guide relationship building & explore/reclaim freedom in parks.	September/October, Boston Common and Rose Kennedy Greenway	\$10,000
<b>Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr.</b> <a href="http://andrestrongbearheart.com">andrestrongbearheart.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/no_loose_braids">@no_loose_braids</a>	<a href="#">Indigenous cultural revitalization</a> in Boston, making a mishoon (traditional canoe) as a bridge between the Nipmuc and Massachusetts tribes.	7-10 days in October, site proposals forthcoming	\$20,000
<b>Linda N. Wells</b> <a href="http://lindawellnesswarrior.com">lindawellnesswarrior.com</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/lindawellnesswarrior">@lindawellnesswarrior</a>	<a href="#">Platform for Black and indigenous yoga practitioners</a> to lead sessions for all “shapes, sizes, abilities in the elements.”	Dates now through October 5, Saturdays between 9:30-10:30am, Monday and Wednesday between 6:30-	\$5,000

		7:30pm at Schoolmaster Hill in Franklin Park	
<b>Robert Peters &amp; Erin Genia</b> <a href="https://creativeground.org/profile/robert-peters">creativeground.org/profile/robert-peters</a> <a href="https://erigenia.studio">@erigenia</a>	<a href="#">Ceremonial Circle and Medicine Fire</a> hosted by a Mashpee Wampanoag resident of Boston - building a ceremonial circle on public land to provide a spiritual, cultural and educational space for usage by Indigenous people and the public.	October 10 (Indigenous Peoples' Day), site proposals forthcoming	\$20,000
<b>Veronica Robles</b> <a href="https://veronicaroblesculturalcenter.org">@vrocoboston</a> <a href="https://veronicaroblesmariachi">@veronicaroblesmariachi</a>	<a href="#">The Day of the Dead Celebration &amp; Parade</a> , inviting local community to co-create visual elements that reaffirm Latin immigrant culture.	October 30, Central Square Park, Meridian & Water Streets, East Boston	\$10,000
<b>Asian Community Development Corporation</b> (Christine Nguyen) <a href="https://asiancdc.org">@asiancdc</a>	<a href="#">Hudson Street Stoop/ Chinatown Backyard</a> , ongoing anti-displacement series in which residents collaborate with artists to recreate "stoop culture."	Fall, One Greenway Park at 66-88 Hudson Street, Chinatown	\$10,000
<b>Hyde Square Task Force (Barbara Civill Montoya)</b> <a href="https://hydesquare.org">hydesquare.org</a> <a href="https://@hydesquaretf">@hydesquaretf</a>	<a href="#">Afro-latin cultural affirmation</a> with live concert, new visual arts activities by BIPOC artists, mural celebrating Latin music and youth dance performances across 3 locations.	Dates TBC, Mozart Park, Blessed Sacrament & Mildred C. Hailey Apts, Latin Quarter Cultural District, Jamaica Plain	\$5,000
<b>MetaMovements Latin Dance</b> (Eli Pabon) <a href="https://metamovements.com">metamovements.com</a> <a href="https://@metamovements">@metamovements</a> <a href="https://@ladyelipabon">@ladyelipabon</a>	<a href="#">Salsa in the Park</a> bringing live performance and dance instruction for people of all abilities and backgrounds back to where it all began in Boston's South End in 2008 and to Jamaica Plain.	Dates TBC, proposed locations near Blackstone Community Center, South End and Flaherty Playground, Jamaica Plain	\$10,000
<b>Ngoc-Tran Vu</b> <a href="https://tranvuarts.com">tranvuarts.com</a> <a href="https://@tranvuarts">@tranvuarts</a> with <a href="#">Asian American Resource Workshop</a>	<a href="#">Public interactive arts exhibition</a> with local music, mural, food, stories to amplify critical spatial justice and displacement issues within the Asian American Pacific Islander community.	September, Town Field in Dorchester	\$10,000
<b>Karen Susan Young</b> <a href="https://karensusanyoung.com">karensusanyoung.com</a>	<a href="#">Taiko and the Parks</a> , three events led by an intergenerational team to	To center the safe and comfortable	\$20,000

<p><a href="#">@karensusanyoung</a>, Mica Rose and Mel Taing with elders of <a href="#">Older &amp; Bolder</a> and <a href="#">Elizabeth James-Perry</a></p>	<p>center Boston elders, acknowledge our lands, share sustainable gardening practices and celebrate the power of taiko to hold and highlight our green spaces.</p>	<p>participation of local elders who identify as BIPOC, event dates and times will be shared specifically for those audiences, however, documentation will be shared with all afterwards. Locations will include Savin Hill Park, Iacono Park in Hyde Park, and Fallon Field in Roslindale</p>	
<p><b>Nakia Hill</b> <a href="#">nakiahill.com</a> <a href="#">@nakia_hill</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Writing our truth in the Park</a> intergenerational workshops for BIPOC women and girls to write about their memories and relationship to Boston parks. Their nonfiction stories will be eligible to be professionally bound in a published book.</p>	<p>The book will be released in spring 2023 with women and girls beginning to write their stories this summer and heavy production throughout the fall and winter 2022.</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>

**Website:**

For full details, please visit [www.olmstednow.org](http://www.olmstednow.org)  
Follow [this link](#) to a map of project sites in progress

**About Olmsted Now**

Visionary American landscape architect, journalist, social critic and public administrator Frederick Law Olmsted (April 26, 1822 - August 28, 1903) turns 200 in 2022. Many ideas that drove Olmsted’s 19th-century work remain urgent, including fostering civic dialogue, building healthy environments and championing community access to greenspace. Olmsted Now, Greater Boston’s Olmsted Bicentennial formed as a coalition-led platform to connect neighborhoods and organizations in making parks and public space more vibrant, verdant and welcoming for all. Olmsted Now is a forum to share, discuss and act on Olmsted’s enduring legacy, and to advance contemporary ideas of shared use, shared health and shared power in parks with the “fierce urgency of now,” in the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. To inspire local programming from April through October 2022, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted) co-organized monthly meetings for a growing multidisciplinary coalition to connect and learn from each other, and to coordinate Greater Boston’s planning with the national effort *Olmsted 200*. Olmsted Now is an opportunity to collectively grapple with what



parks and public places will mean for years to come, and to affirm and advance Olmsted's impact on civic life and public health, engage residents in learning about shared stewardship and intentionally build more resilient and inclusive places together.

Olmsted Now is made possible by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted), with generous support from Paul and Katie Bittenwieser, Kate and Ben Taylor, National Collaborative for Health Equity, Verizon, Four Lucky Dogs, Davis Family Charitable Foundation, Brooke and Jeff Cook, Marjorie and Nicholas Greville, Hastings Family Foundation, The Caroline Loughlin Fund, The Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation, Sarah Freeman, Focus Real Estate, Highland Partners Charitable Fund, Lois R. Kunian, the "Come Together" Fund of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy Board and other individuals, organizations and businesses. [www.olmstednow.org](http://www.olmstednow.org)

### **About the Emerald Necklace Conservancy**

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a community-supported non-profit founded in 1998 to steward and champion the Emerald Necklace, Boston's largest park system of seven distinct parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to connect over a dozen neighborhoods with 1,100 acres of meadows, woodlands, waterways, paths and parkways. Working with civic and neighborhood partners, the Conservancy strengthens parks, people and policy by advocating for the Emerald Necklace and advancing access, maintenance and restoration, park stewardship and education through volunteer and youth programs and inclusive public programming. The parks serve as a healing respite from the city, a valuable commuting connector and a community convener for more than one million residents and tourists each year, and have taken on a special significance as a safe and socially distanced destination for recreation and reconnection since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. [www.emeraldnecklace.org](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org)

**For more information, please contact:**

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