

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

December 2014

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE NOV. 18 MEETING

#### Lesley University Updates

"President Joe Moore extends his gratitude on behalf of the university for the community's support of the new art center," stated John Sullivan, Director of Communications at Lesley. "We're aware there's been an impact on the community due to construction, and we thank residents for their patience."

The Lunder Arts Center, part of the Lesley College of Art and Design (previously the Art Institute of Boston), will comprise studio spaces, classrooms, and a gallery in a new structure, as well as a library and additional educational spaces housed in the old North Prospect Church. The new buildings will open late January 2015, in time for the winter semester. The official opening launch is scheduled for Thursday, February 5th and will include a community open house.

Learn more about the construction online at: [lesley.edu/artsconstruction](http://lesley.edu/artsconstruction)

For weekly email updates, contact [construction@lesley.edu](mailto:construction@lesley.edu) and ask to be placed on the email list.

Mr. Sullivan shared a poem written by a neighbor, Mary Buchinger, about the move and repurposing of North Prospect church. The poem was published by Ibbetson Street Press ([www.ibbetsonpress.com](http://www.ibbetsonpress.com)).

#### Q&A

- Q:** Will the library be open to the public, as initially indicated?
- A:** Yes, as much space as possible will be open to the public. This includes the galleries, front entry, and the library.
- A:** Can you tell us about the benches in the 'pocket park' on Roseland St. alongside the University Hall parking lot? Why don't they have backs? This can be difficult for older people who want to sit.
- Q:** The benches without backs may be a design choice. The park is meant to be unobtrusive and aesthetically pleasing.



### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**DEC. 9 - 7:30 PM**

Maud Morgan Arts  
20A Sacramento Street  
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

#### Agenda:

- Harvard University Updates
- Additional items TBA

**Threshold Program Construction Update**

Since 2012, Lesley University has been renovating the buildings that house Threshold, a campus-based program for young adults with special needs. Currently, they are updating Reed House, 68 Oxford Street, with a teaching kitchen for Threshold’s life skills program, and accessibility improvements, such as better wheelchair access. Reed House accommodates twenty-six residents and two resident assistants.

The contractor is Highland Construction, and completion is expected by the end of 2014.

Learn more online at:  
[lesley.edu/thresholdconstruction](http://lesley.edu/thresholdconstruction)

**What’s New With the Mass. Ave. Demo Block**

Ruth Ryals of Neighborhood 9 presented recent improvements to Mass. Ave. between Shepard and Garfield Streets, related to the Mass. Ave. Master Plan.

**Proposed Starbucks Mural**

This past fall, Starbucks proposed a mural depicting a coffee branch at 1662 Shepard Street, just outside the store. When community members learned about the project, they approached the international coffee seller to work with the neighborhood to design a public mural for that highly visible spot.

The group proposed three ideas with varying costs and time frames to create a mural via:

1. The Cambridge Arts Council, in coordination with residents and local art institutions
2. The Bachelor of Fine Arts student group at the Lesley University College of Art and Design
3. Lesley University College of Art and Design high school summer mural class

Starbucks agreed to the second proposal and approved the estimated budget.

Dean Emeritus Stan Trecker is working with Lesley faculty to identify a mentor and student(s) for the project. Mr. Trecker is also a member of Maud Morgan’s advisory board and of the Art Committee for the Avenue.

The mural project is expected to begin in January, with installation set for spring 2015.

**Q&A**

**Q:** Have you contacted the restaurant going into the old Chez Henri space? It would be great to get them on board.

**A:** Not specifically about this latest development, but we have been in contact with the owners of the new French/Mediterranean restaurant. We will be updating Rene Becker of High Rise Bread Company and Susan Regis, formerly of Upstairs on the Square, soon.

**Progress on the Ave.**

An example of what Mass. Ave. will look like in the future, the Demonstration Block was constructed using new design standards established by the Mass. Ave. Master Plan.

Improvements include:

- Granite seating/planter arrangements at two sites, placed in such a way to encourage conversational groups, including wheelchair and stroller access
- Possible design and placement at a third site in front of a proposed new building between ChangSho and Cambridge Trust Company
- Spotlights on the seating arrangements
- New large-caliper trees delivered and planted
- Raised crosswalks on some of the side streets
- Artistic bike racks/planters near Prentiss and Exeter Streets



Additionally, the Art Committee is working on a prototype historical plaque. There are plans to create a brochure giving more historical details about the sites marked by the plaques, as well as possibly a smartphone app with a more detailed narration of the site's history.

"We're very pleased by how the project is beginning to come together," stated Stephen Diamond, ABC Board Director.

Neighborhood 9 resident Ron Axelrod added, "Our group has invited City Manager Richard Rossi and Mayor David Maher to see the new improvements, and to thank them for their support. Since improvements on the Ave. are tied to existing projects, we're hoping for future funding to get more done."

As a next project, the group is looking into creative options to improve parking for businesses and restaurants on the Avenue.

#### **What Is the Mass. Ave. Master Plan?**

The Mass. Ave. Master Plan refers to design and infrastructure standards developed as a collaborative effort between residents and the City to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and the character of Mass. Ave. between Harvard and Porter Squares. This effort began in 2010.

Learn more online at:  
[bit.ly/lower-mass-ave-plan](http://bit.ly/lower-mass-ave-plan)

View photos of the Demo Block in progress at:  
[massavenue.wordpress.com](http://massavenue.wordpress.com)

#### **What is the Art Committee for the Avenue?**

The Art Committee for the Avenue, with representatives from Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine, local businesses, the Cambridge Arts Council, and local art institutions. It is an offshoot of the Mass. Ave. Neighborhood Improvement Committee and is focused on developing an 'Avenue of the Arts' to highlight Maud Morgan Arts, Lesley's College of Art and Design, and Harvard as sources for creative expression in the neighborhood.



## Community

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### **THANKSGIVING POTLUCK RECAP**

ABC extends thanks to this year's eight turkey cookers, four turkey carvers, Agassiz Baldwin staff, Maria L. Baldwin School custodial and kitchen staff, and all who contributed a delicious dish, good company, and conversation. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's 44th annual event!

See photos online at:  
[bit.ly/thanksgiving-potluck-photos-2014](http://bit.ly/thanksgiving-potluck-photos-2014)

#### **Leave a Dish?**

Did you leave behind a dish or utensil at this year's potluck? Contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).



### **KIDS ONLY! HOLIDAY SALE 2014**

Calling all Kids! Come to our Kids Only! Holiday Sale to buy fun and inexpensive gifts for family and friends.

**When:** Tuesday, Dec. 9th through Friday, Dec. 12th; 3:00-6:00 PM  
**Where:** Maud Morgan Arts, 3D Studio, 1st Floor, 20A Sacramento St.  
**Contact:** Phoebe Sinclair, (617) 349-6287 x10, [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)

Proceeds from the sale benefit Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs.

# Community Calendar

## December 2014

Tuesday, December 9	3:00-6:00 PM	Kids Only! Holiday Sale, Maud Morgan Arts, 1st Floor 3D Studio, through Friday, December 12
Tuesday, December 9	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us!
Wednesday, December 10	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Saturday, December 13	10:30-11:30 AM	NEW! LWN Tai Chi for adults age 55+ Univeristy Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave., learn more: <a href="http://bit.ly/lwn-tai-chi">bit.ly/lwn-tai-chi</a>
Wednesday, December 24		Christmas holiday, ABC Programs & Office closed through Friday, December 26

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). Items of interest to the neighborhood should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

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**DO NOT FORWARD**

### “DRAWN FROM WITHIN”

“Drawn From Within,” features the collective talents and creativity of staff and faculty at Agassiz Baldwin Community and Maud Morgan Arts. In the Chandler Gallery, Dec. 8, 2104 - Jan. 9, 2015. [bit.ly/drawn-from-within-exhibit-2014](http://bit.ly/drawn-from-within-exhibit-2014)



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