

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Baldwin Neighborhood Council | Spring 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

BNC Meetings: Notes from the April 8 BNC Meeting, Notes from the May 13 Annual Meeting, Notes from the June 17 Special Meeting 1-2

Community Updates: Volunteers Needed for Baldwin Neighborhood Council, Keep Outback Going Strong, Arts and Community Weekend, Thank You 2024 Donors, Enroll Now for '25-'26 Afterschool Programming 2-5

City Wide: HRI Projects in Baldwin Neighborhood 5

BNC News

NOTES FROM THE APRIL 8 BNC MEETING

MLBCC Rebranding Project

In 2024, Maria L. Baldwin Community Center (MLBCC) began working with a team of marketing consultants from Empower Success Corps and designers from Gill Fishman Design to develop new branding for the organization following its name change in 2022. Empower Success Corps previously worked with MLBCC on its organizational name change process. This work will culminate in a new logo, new brand identity, and new website to reflect both the name change and changes to MLBCC's programmatic direction, such as integrating Maud Morgan Arts curriculum into general children's programs.

MLBCC is currently in the phase of finalizing the new logo and beginning to redesign a new website with Gill Fishman. In MLBCC's new brand identity, Baldwin Neighborhood Council will be treated as an "endorsed sub-brand,"

meaning it will retain its own visual identity but be tied to the organization verbally. It will not change how the organization and the neighborhood council interact and operate to respect the council's independence while keeping it connected to the rest of MLBCC.

If you have any questions about this process or are curious to learn more, please contact Jess Leach, Director of Communications and Outreach, at jleach@agassiz.org.

NOTES FROM THE MAY 13 ANNUAL MEETING

2025 Board of Directors

At the May 13th Annual Meeting, the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to approve the slate for the 2025-26 Board of Directors.

Officers for a One-Year Term

- Andrea Walsh, Chair, Eustis St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
- Gao-Wen Shao, Treasurer, Fayette St.

Directors for a Two-Year Term

- Ellen Harkavy, Lancaster St.
- Cicely Carew, Jay St.
- M. Amaris Kinne, Rogers St.

Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee: Terry DeLancey, Lawrence Neeley, Jonathan Lehrich, Wendy Prellwitz, and Sue Kriegsman

NEXT BNC MONTHLY MEETING

September 9, 7:30 PM

ZOOM

- Agenda TBD

Join Our Board of Directors

If you feel a connection to the mission of MLBCC and are looking for meaningful volunteer work, consider joining our Board of Directors! Interested candidates should email a statement of interest and a resume to our Co-Executive Director Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org. Visit agassiz.org for more information.

NOTES FROM THE JUNE 17 SPECIAL MEETING**Special Presentation by Cynthia Smith and Laura Wernick**

On June 17th, the Neighborhood Council hosted a special meeting featuring a presentation by Baldwin residents Cynthia Smith and Laura Wernick on their experience participating in the first South African Women's Grannies International Soccer Tournament.

In 2023, Ms. Smith and Ms. Wernick were two of 50 women over the age of 55 who traveled together from Boston to South Africa to participate in the soccer tournament. In their presentation, they talked about the tournament and its origins, as well as their travels, which included a safari and visits to two small communities along the way.

We invite anyone who might be interested in sharing their story with the Baldwin Neighborhood Council to reach out to Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org.

View more photos from the meeting on our Flickr page: <https://bit.ly/june17specialmeeting>

**Community****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BALDWIN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Are you passionate about issues facing the Baldwin neighborhood? Do you want to be more connected to your community? The Baldwin Neighborhood Council (BNC) is in need of neighborhood residents to share their perspective and volunteer their time to help shape its future. Council meetings are currently facilitated by Phoebe Sinclair, Co-Executive Director, and Jess Leach, Director of Communications and Outreach, at the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center.

We are especially in need of volunteers to assist us in agenda-setting for our regular meetings and helping to organize the upcoming City Council candidates' forum. If you are interested in lending your time or would just like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Phoebe Sinclair via email at psinclair@agassiz.org.

**KEEP OUTBACK GOING STRONG**

Our beloved Outback Summer Program began this July, with 8 fun-filled weeks of beach trips, backyard performances, games, art, and friendship. Through Outback, we create a diverse and welcoming community and provide an unforgettable summer experience for hundreds of local families and children.

But this year, we really need your help. With rising costs and nearly 30% of our families requiring tuition assistance, we must raise \$61,885 by July 31st to keep our joyful, community-rooted programs going strong, and provide every household requesting support with the resources they need this summer.

We're on our way to reaching that goal, and now we're turning to you, the people who know us best— families, alumni, grandparents, neighbors, artists, and friends— to help close the gap and show up for the community when we need you most.

With your support, The Maria L. Baldwin Community Center (MLBCC) and Outback can offer something rare, unique, and powerful:

- Full-day, arts-rich childcare grounded in creativity, play, and equity
- A full-time staff social worker helping families with housing, food access, and mental health support
- Dedicated educators and artists who return year after year and have built trusting relationships with our Outbackers and their caregivers
- Scholarships, supplies, meals, and care so every child is included, regardless of income
- A community hub where older adults, kids, and neighbors all belong

And it makes a difference.

Kids meet their best friends here. Outbackers return as counselors. Parents and grandparents come back to teach cooking, gardening, painting, and more. It's a place that sticks with people— because it's built by friends like you.

With your investment, life-changing outcomes are possible when we work together. These are just a few of the many incredible things we achieved in partnership with our grassroots supporters this year:

- 168 families received over \$367,000 in scholarships for full-time childcare and free access to all our programs
- More than 600 hours of free private 1:1 mental health counseling to children and parents, and anyone in the community who needs a little extra support
- 235 local kids have a safe, fun place to learn, grow, and make lifelong memories this summer with special activities from field trips to ceramics
- 55 middle schoolers get their first jobs through our counselor-in-training program
- Competitive wages, paid sick time, and benefits for our caring and dedicated teachers and program staff

When you donate to MLBCC, you are joining a community movement of caring neighbors and courageous advocates who work together to ensure that all kids, and every person, has a place to belong.

Please make your gift today—whether it's \$25 or \$2,500, your donation helps meet our goal and strengthen our community. To donate, please visit: <https://bit.ly/donatemlbcc>.



ARTS AND COMMUNITY WEEKEND

On May 30th and 31st, Maria L. Baldwin Community Center hosted our first ever Arts and Community Weekend – two days celebrating our staff, students, and community. The weekend included our annual afterschool student art show,

Maud's Handmade Market (our annual sale of handmade goods and art by our staff and adult students), a Living Well Network tai chi demonstration, and open house for our children's programs.



We welcomed many new and familiar faces – some from right here on Sacramento Street and some from even farther parts of the greater Boston area. Both days were filled with different events that took neighbors, friends, and family all over our little campus at 20 Sacramento Street.

On Saturday, we were lucky to have a break in the inclement weather to spend a lot of time in our spacious backyard and enjoy a lovely soundtrack of live piano from afterschool piano teacher Caroline Ndiaye.

You can view more photos from the event by visiting <https://bit.ly/artsandcommunityphotos>



THANK YOU 2024 DONORS

Additional donations to Maria L. Baldwin Community Center come through Maud Morgan Arts and the Living Well Network.

Toni Lee De Lantsheere

Camille and John Musser
 M. E. Heck and A. K. Reinhart Heck
 Anne Smith
 Skip Schiel
 New England Development
 Dante DeMeo
 Andrea Walsh and Carmen Sirianni
 Jennifer Jackson
 Jenine Turner-Trauring
 Derek Reisinger
 Keene Metzger and Nancy Moorehead
 Leighton Scheffy
 Dorianne Low
 Marie Stroud
 Valerie Bradley and Lewis Sargentich
 Hull Fulweiler and Catherine Chute
 Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz
 Helene Quinn
 Hull Fulweiler and Catherine Chute
 Ruth Ryals and James Cornie
 Joel and Betsy Bard
 Phoebe Sinclair
 Suzanne Kriegsman
 Peter and Mary Jeanne Tufano
 Donna Kelly
 Oxana Shevel
 Deborah Morse
 Renee L. Kasinsky
 Deborah Lee
 Marjorie Crigler
 Deborah Lee
 Aram Comjean
 Joel Goldberg
 Julia Stearns and Umberto de Ros
 Patricia Whelan
 Juliet Stone
 Jim and Sue Stockard
 Taylor Mortell
 Albert Silliman and Seija Halva
 Barbara St. Clare Post
 Margaret Curtis
 Marcia and Daniel Halperin
 Estelle Disch
 Margaret McConnell
 Kathryn Deane
 Leslie and John Akula
 Jeanette Atkinson

Wendy Prellwitz
 Khaki Janusz
 Ellen Harkavy
 Laurel and Ed Mortell
 George Hein and Emily Romney
 Susan Murray
 Michael Bogenstaetter
 Marian Fox
 Colin Connolly
 Roberta Rosenberg
 Ted Live and Barbara Allen
 Tina Lieu
 David and Patricia Straus
 Iryna Kovalchuk
 Jerad Lewis
 Peter Meyersohn and Annette Needle
 Freeman Deutsch
 Ruth Goodman
 Meghan Shaw
 Angela Radan
 Mimi and Paul Ezust
 Whitney Espich
 Clare Leslie
 Christine Hannon
 Wendy Stone
 Susan Sklan
 Lynn Cadwallader and Richard Barran
 Peter Kelsey and Ginger Ryan
 Lauren P. Curry and Robert O'Shea
 Emily Somma

ENROLL NOW FOR '25-'26 AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Enrollment is now open for afterschool programs for the 2025-26 school year. We have limited space available in our Kindergarten afterschool program and on certain days of our 1st-5th grade program at the Baldwin School, and very short waitlists for our other offerings.



To learn more about our different afterschool options and join waitlists, please visit our website: <https://agassiz.org/afterschool-program/>

City Wide

HRI PROJECTS IN BALDWIN NEIGHBORHOOD

Homeowners Rehab Inc. (HRI) is a non-profit organization that aims to create and preserve high-quality, affordable rental housing. They operate primarily in Cambridge, but also have expanded to areas such as Worcester, Lowell, Somerville, Newton, and Watertown. The organization currently owns nearly 1,700 apartments.

In the Baldwin neighborhood, in addition to the buildings they already own and manage on Sacramento and Oxford Streets, there are developments in the works at 4 Mellen Street (formerly 1627 Mass. Ave.) and at 28-30 Wendell Street.

If you have questions or want to learn more about HRI and its current projects, you can visit their website www.homeownersrehab.org/



NEW CONSTRUCTION AT HARVARD

For those interested in construction for a new building that will house the Department of Economics, occurring along Mass. Ave., between the Harvard Law School campus and the Science Center Building, see the Fall 2024 edition of The Whistler newsletter, pages 3-4 .

Community Calendar

Summer 2025

Friday, August 22		Last day of Outback Summer Program
Monday, September 1		MLBCC Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, September 2		1st-8th Grade Afterschool Open House
Wednesday, September 3		First Day of 1st-5th Grade Afterschool, Kindergarten Afterschool Open House
Thursday, September 4		First Day of Kindergarten Afterschool
Friday, September 5		First Day of 6th-8th Grade Afterschool
Tuesday, September 9	7:30-9:00 PM	September Baldwin Neighborhood Council Meeting

The Whistler is published periodically from September-June by the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center, distribution 600 in 2022. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by email or mail. The newsletter is available online at www.agassiz.org. Editorial team: Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison & Editor; Jessica Leach, Scribe; Ashley Yee, Guest Writer.

MLBCC is located on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett people, and their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag.

The Whistler Spring 2025

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DO NOT FORWARD



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