

YOUR HARBOR YOUR IMPACT

BOSTON HARBOR NOW | SPRING 2020



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HARBOR AMBASSADORS

Meet Airalis Colon, a junior at Cristo Rey High School Boston and volunteer at Boston Harbor Now's Community Cruises. Your support enriches the lives of people like Airalis through Boston Harbor Now's free Community Cruises. Now she feels a stronger connection with Boston Harbor and is an advocate for greater public access and climate resilience for our waterfront.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Airalis Colon. I am 16 years old and a junior in high school. I am from Puerto Rico. I moved to Boston five years ago.

What did you love most about living in Puerto Rico?

My favorite thing to do was to visit my uncle, and other family. I lived in San Juan and they lived in Ponce, and I would visit them there. Ponce is a beautiful place, there is a beach, and a place called Paseo Tablado La Guancha, a boardwalk with small vendors and shops. They also sell Puerto Rican food, which is **VERY GOOD!** At the beach there are fish and boats, where you can even buy food and feed the fish! *(continued on page 3)*

Airalis Colon (right) with Meredith Lynch, Manager of Special Events (left)

"A lot of people come to Boston without knowing the city.

These people wouldn't know the Seaport, but if you give them the opportunity to see what it looks like they will love it."

— Airalis

See Inside...

- Meet Aaron Toffler, New Director of Policy
- Volunteers Plant over 4,200 Native Plants



Text **HARBOR20** to 41444 to give

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From the President & CEO

With each day bringing a few precious minutes more of sunlight, we eagerly await the return of summer public programs and events on the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, Harborwalk, and across the Harbor.

Your gift has been put to good use all year long. As you'll see in this issue's interview with Airalis, your gift builds new and lasting connections with future stewards for the Harbor.

This year, volunteers gave their time and achieved extraordinary results for the environmental health of the Harbor.

Because of your support, we continue to enhance public access to the Harbor while protecting the region from the increasing risks and impacts of climate change.

Thank you for being a supporter and donor for this important work.

Kathy Abbott



Welcome Aaron Toffler New Director of Policy

Boston Harbor Now is proud to announce the appointment of Aaron Toffler as Director of Policy—a role that stands at the center of the organization's work to enhance public access to the Harbor while protecting the region from the increasing risks and impacts of climate change.

As Director of Policy, Toffler will lead the development and implementation of policy initiatives at Boston Harbor Now. He will serve as a leading voice for the organization in advocating for an accessible and resilient waterfront in partnership with a diverse array of government, business, community, and nonprofit stakeholders.

Learn more: bostonharbornow.org/people



2019 Latinx Community Cruise



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Tell us about your volunteer opportunity.

I went to the Seaport, and I had no idea what it would look like. I worked on a Community Cruise for the Latinx community. I helped with the line and with translating. Going on the boat reminded me of being in Ponce, but the weather and the water are very different in Boston. The Seaport is beautiful, and the funny part is now I work in the Seaport at Nutter!

How did you feel when you saw that your new job was in the Seaport?

On my first day I went to the conference room at Nutter. The office is beautiful. I looked out and saw the water and the boats. I realized I had worked on the cruise there already. I told my supervisor I already knew the area because of the Community Cruise. I felt good because I knew the Seaport.

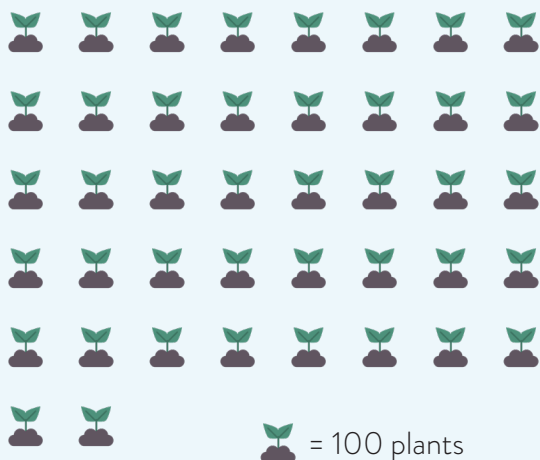
Why do you think it is important that people have access to Boston's waterfront?

I feel like giving people the opportunity to be on the water is awesome. A lot of people come to Boston without knowing the city, they don't know English, because that was me when I moved here. These people would not know the Seaport, but if you give them the opportunity to see what it looks like they will love it. It made me want to explore other parts of Boston even more.

Give today: bostonharbornow.org/donornews



Thanks to your gift, you've given Airalis her first Harbor experience on the Community Cruise. She now feels comfortable in Boston's Seaport and feels good about her new internship at Nutter, where she is eager to share her love for all things Boston Harbor.



Volunteers Plant Over 4,200 Native Plants

Thanks to the **2,749 volunteers** who gave **21,546 hours** of their time to the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park in 2019. This year, with the help of **22 groups**, over **4,200 native plants** were planted to restore natural habitats on Grape and Thompson Islands.

Volunteer: bostonharbornow.org/volunteer





THOUSANDS RING IN A NEW YEAR ON THE HARBOR

On New Years Eve, your gift helped provide free and low-cost waterfront programming for families, residents, and visitors alike. With 21 ice sculptures from East Boston, Charlestown, North End, Downtown, and Seaport, there were many ways to celebrate.

Along the way, people enjoyed waterfront activities like a Harbor Map Tour, Touch-a-Truck with First Responders, and a guided tour of the Wharf District. To cap off the evening, many more celebrated as fireworks illuminated the Harbor, thanks to donors like you.



DID YOU CATCH IT?

Waterfront Wednesdays on Climate Risks

In a recent episode of Boston Harbor Now's Waterfront Wednesdays vlog, Jessie Partridge Guerrero of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council shared how they are addressing climate change vulnerability, including mapping areas affected by severe heat and flooding.

Your gift to Boston Harbor Now raises awareness of climate risks by sharing these discussions through Waterfront Wednesdays, a monthly vlog hosted by Director of Planning Alice Brown, that examines a variety of waterfront topics.

Watch: bostonharbornow.org/vlog



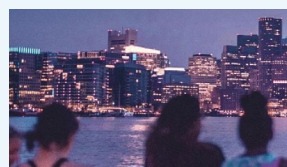
Revelry & Revolution
Harbor Cruise
March 21



Boston Harbor Islands
National and State Park
Opening
May 2020



Boston Harbor For All
Conference
June 4



Spectacle on Spectacle
Annual Fundraiser
June 18

See more: bostonharborislands.org/calendar



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