

YOUR HARBOR YOUR IMPACT

BOSTON HARBOR NOW | FALL 2020



BOSTON HARBOR FOR ALL SUMMIT HOW DO WE MAKE WATERFRONTS MORE INCLUSIVE?

Thanks to your support, Boston Harbor Now hosted our second Boston Harbor for All Summit in June. Now more than ever, it is important that we address the need for public spaces to be welcoming and connected to everyone. The virtual summit explored what we can do together, to create a waterfront that is explicitly welcoming to people of color and is actively protecting vulnerable populations living and working in potentially flood-prone areas.

The second panel of the day, INCLUDE, was moderated by Adrian Walker of the Boston Globe and asked the question: how can parks on waterfronts and elsewhere feel welcoming and connected to everyone, particularly to people of color and with different abilities? The panel included Stephen Gray of Grayscale Collaborative, Sara Zewde of Studio Zewde, Dr. KangJae “Jerry” Lee, Assistant Professor in the Department of Parks at North Carolina State University, and Najah Casimir, Communications Manager for the City of Cambridge Traffic, Parking, and Transportation. *(continued on page 3)*

"The INCLUDE panel was designed to serve as a roadmap for creating a more welcoming and accessible waterfront in Boston by hearing how other communities and designers overcame similar challenges."



Alice Brown
Chief of Planning and Policy
Boston Harbor Now

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- Our Harbor, Our Home
- Cathie Barner, Legacy Gift Spotlight



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From the President & CEO

This July, we were thrilled to welcome back community members to beautiful Spectacle Island at reduced capacity. On the road to recovery ahead of us, Boston Harbor Now sees the tremendous value of our Harbor to help restore our health, create economically vibrant communities, and strengthen social connections.

As you will see in this issue, your financial support is helping us rethink how public spaces can be truly equitable and welcoming.

Because of your investment in our work, we are able to continue to enhance public access on the Harbor while protecting our region from the increasing risks and impacts of climate change.

There's so much more we can do together to ensure a more vibrant, welcoming, and resilient Boston Harbor for all.

Thank you for being a supporter and donor through these challenging times.

Kathy Abbott



Our Harbor, Our Home

On August 27th, over 1,500 households joined Boston Harbor Now to experience our inaugural virtual fundraising event. Thanks to the generous support of guests and sponsors like you, we were able to raise over \$530,000 to support our work!

Guests were transported from their living rooms to our waterfront as they enjoyed a delivered gourmet meal and an inspiring program. We heard stories from neighbors like Leverett Wing, recognized The Nolan Family, long-time owners and operators of Boston Harbor Cruises, and saw a special performance from Veronica Robles and her all-female mariachi band! Thank you to Governor Charlie Baker for welcoming our guests and speaking about the importance of the harbor, islands, and waterfront to our community.

Watch Our Harbor, Our Home at:

BostonHarborNow.org/OurHarborOurHome

Donor Advised Funds

Have a Donor Advised Fund? Consider making your grant today, rather than at year-end, to help us meet the urgency of the moment.



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BOSTON HARBOR FOR ALL

All Boston residents live within five minutes of a public space; however, not all public spaces are created equal, and not all parks feel welcoming to all. In a recent survey, 65% of white people said they had visited the Boston waterfront more than three times in the past year; a stark comparison to the majority of people of color who had visited the waterfront fewer than three times. With your gift, Boston Harbor Now is working hard to make the waterfront more equitable and accessible to all.

Panelists discussed the barriers to entry for the Black community and for people of color to public spaces, how the planning of parks often overlooks ADA-compliance requirements, and how signage is often only in English. We heard a success story—Graffiti Pier, an abandoned waterfront space that was a haven for graffiti artists and was transformed into a public park. Collaborating with the community—especially long-time visitors—was key to its success. When planning for future urban open spaces, we have an opportunity to learn from local communities, collaborate on new solutions, and recognize that urban planning for public spaces is never a one-size-fits-all process. We need more intentionally inclusive urban planning and to rethink what it means to be an accessible space—that is how we will create a Boston Harbor for all.

Boston Harbor Now is working hard to make parks accessible and welcoming to all, but we need your help. Donate today at BostonHarborNow.org/DonorNews.



Adrian Walker



Stephen Gray



KangJae "Jerry" Lee



Sara Zewde

Thanks to your gift,

we were able to convene experts in urban planning and public spaces to directly address how we can create a future waterfront that is explicitly welcoming to people of color, and actively protect vulnerable populations living and working in flood-prone areas.

Watch the virtual Summit at:

[BostonHarborNow.org/
SummitResource](https://BostonHarborNow.org/SummitResource)



New Tax Advantages

This year because of the COVID-19 emergency, the federal government approved legislation called the CARES Act. Now you may deduct up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for charitable gifts for your 2020 tax returns. Even if you don't itemize, you can still take up to a \$300 deduction for cash gifts to Boston Harbor Now.

CATHIE BARNER LEGACY GIFT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Cathie Barner, Boston Harbor Now Advisory Board Member and long time Boston Harbor advocate.

How did you get involved with Boston Harbor Now?

It goes way back, Kathy Abbott and I were working together for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Kathy was leading a study to make the Islands a State Park and I was managing the design to restore Long Wharf. When I started my own consulting business, the National Park Service hired us to determine whether the Boston Harbor Islands were eligible for inclusion in the park system. During that time, I facilitated the creation of the Boston Harbor Island Alliance as the official nonprofit group to support the Park Service and the Islands. After great collaboration with legislative leaders, the community and businesses, the Islands were designated a National Park on November 12, 1996. Although I have since moved to San Francisco, I stay involved because I love the Islands and the Harbor.

How and when did you decide to make a planned gift to Boston Harbor Now? And what do you hope your gift will accomplish?

Kathy called me about a year and a half ago and said Boston Harbor Now was launching a Planned Giving program, and asked me to consider making a gift. Without hesitation I said, "Absolutely!" I checked with my husband, Bob, and he was 100% behind it. He was one of the founding board members of the Boston Harbor Island Alliance, so he has a soft spot in his heart for the Islands too. The gift is unrestricted, so it's to be used however it helps you the most. **I feel good knowing that there was a way to pass on money to support Boston Harbor Now in the future.**



Catherine and Bob Barner

What would you say to someone considering a planned gift to Boston Harbor Now?

There are so many good reasons to give. Boston Harbor Now represents broader interests than ever before. In partnership, they provide public access, a wide array of programs and promote general enjoyment of the harbor and waterfront. **I think planned giving is a wonderful opportunity for people who want to give but just don't have the resources in their lifetime.** I wish it wasn't deferred—but I'm so happy to have the opportunity to commit my resources to the future of a place I love.

A gift in your will or estate plan protects Boston Harbor for future generations. For more information, contact Jack Garvey, Associate Director, Institutional Advancement at jgarvey@bostonharbornow.org or 857-246-9430.



SEE UPCOMING EVENTS AT [BOSTONHARBORNOW.ORG/WINTER2020](https://bostonharbornow.org/winter2020)

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