



**BOSTON
HARBOR
NOW**

**IMPACT REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020**

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2019-2020

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STAFF

Year ending March 2020

Kathy Abbott, President and CEO
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Liz Cook
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Merrin Meltzer
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Ryan Silve
Rebecca Smerling
Ryan Thomas
Aaron Toffler
Lilli Vo
Kim Weglarz
Jodi Wolin
Deborah Wood

“Today the Harbor is critical to the health and well-being of our citizens and economy. Looking ahead, as we continue to face the challenges of climate change, racial and economic inequality, and public health, I am confident we can come together to create an even more vibrant, resilient, and welcoming Harbor that benefits everyone.”



Kathy Abbott
President and CEO

2020 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THIS REPORT COVERS THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020.



CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE HARBOR



40,000 YOUTH & FAMILIES from Greater Boston received free and reduced-cost access to the harbor in 2019, surpassing 35,000 people served in 2018.

7,500 PASSENGERS visited the Boston Harbor Islands for free through three Free Ferry Days, including a Free Fun Fridays event in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation.

12 COMMUNITIES joined us on an evening cruise of the harbor with healthy meals, entertainment, and educational programming through our Community Cruise program. New partners included a senior cruise with AARP and a foster families cruise with the Wonderfund.



SOLD OUT our Island Pass program with over 15,000 free access tickets distributed through our network of 250+ nonprofits and community groups.

PARTNERED with Boston-area YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs programs to engage 500 youth in Harbor Discovery Camps, a week-long educational intensive in the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park.



ENGAGED over 900 visitors to the Boston Harbor Islands in a survey to better understand programming and visitor experience.

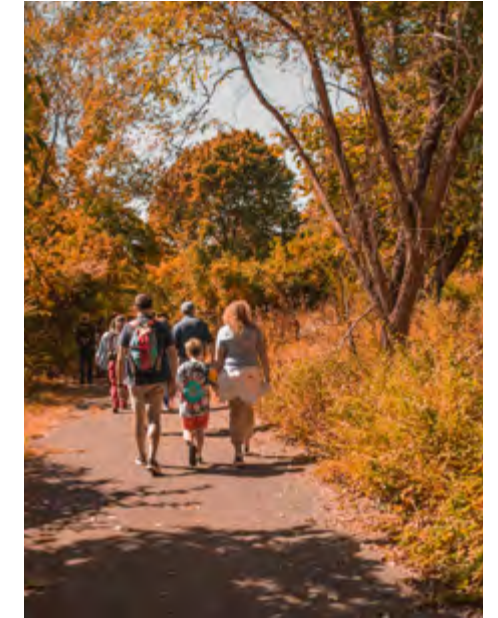
ORGANIZED our 13th annual Veterans Day Cruise to Georges Island in partnership with the National Park Service, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Home Base, an organization that supports veterans and their families after returning from service. Sponsored by Boston Harbor Cruises and Arbella Insurance Foundation, we were able to offer the cruise to all veterans and their families for free.



ADAPTED to the virtual world. In response to school closures beginning in March 2020, Boston Harbor Now produced a new PSA video in partnership with the National Park Service promoting the Boston Harbor Islands Junior Ranger program as a resource to families seeking new activities at home.

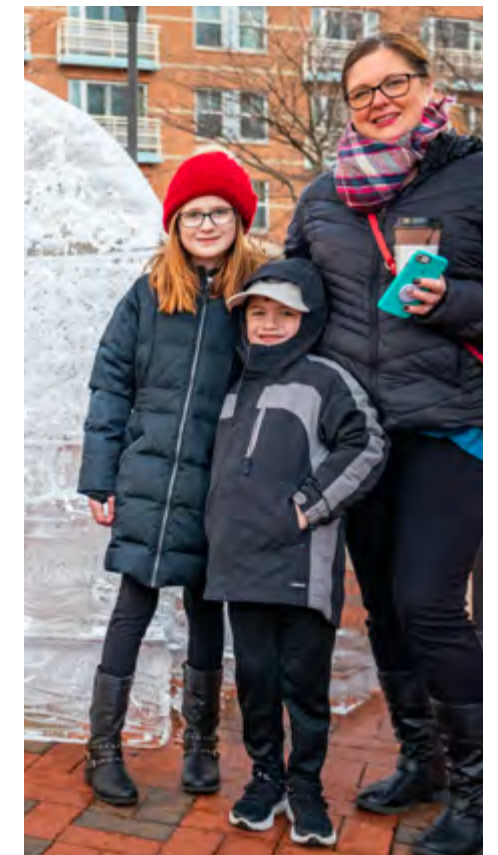
AUTHORED 16 comment letters. Letters helped ensure robust public access around new waterfront developments and shaped policy in waterfront neighborhoods. Letters included guidance on zoning amendments with the Downtown Municipal Harbor Plan, Boston's local wetland ordinance, and an update to the

Ray Flynn Marine Industrial Park Master Plan. We reviewed projects including Commonwealth Pier's redevelopment, 15 Necco Street, and the South Boston Innovation Campus.



COLLECTED feedback on the Peddocks Island Project. More than 1,800 people responded to our online survey or signed in at our three Open Houses held at the Hingham Public Library, the Pilot House in the North End, and the Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center on the Greenway. Participants ranged from long-time park users to individuals just discovering the islands.

RELEASED 17 new episodes of Waterfront Wednesdays, Boston Harbor Now's vlog series exploring topics such as climate change, water transportation, and public policy in clear and accessible ways.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE HARBOR



100,000 FERRY RIDERS were welcomed to the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park in 2019, surpassing 90,000 ferry riders in 2018.

PILOTED new island programming, including guided birding walks, nature exploration and forest bathing, backcountry yoga and meditation, and night sky astronomy.

EXPANDED weekly evening programming in the Charlestown Navy Yard, including free summer concerts and swing dancing.

DESIGNED the new Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park trip planning website to improve visitors' online experience.

ACTIVATED the Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center and entered into a new Public Ferry service contract.

LAUNCHED Spectacle Summer Nights, a new program that invites guests to come out to the islands for an evening of live music, a beer and wine garden, picnic baskets, games, and firepits on the beach. We partnered with Trillium, City Winery, and Night Shift for three sold-out nights.

HOSTED two artists-in-residence. Robin MacDonald-Foley and Brian Sonia-Wallace lived on Peddocks Island and engaged visitors on Georges and Spectacle Islands over the course of three weeks, culminating in an open studio.

GREW our 9th annual Spectacle Island 5K with a record number of 600 runners, spectators and volunteers.

RANG IN the new year with our 7th annual Ice Sculpture Stroll featuring business and non-profit partners along the waterfront. In 2019, a record number of 20 hosting sites lined the waterfront from Seaport Place to East Boston and Charlestown, with many sites offering free activities, refreshments, and warming stations.

ATTRACTED hundreds of thousands of viewers to the waterfront with fireworks displays before Labor Day Weekend and on New Year's Eve. Viewers enjoyed the show through the lenses of special rainbow fireworks glasses provided by Boston Harbor Now, and those at the downtown location enjoyed a performance by Berklee College of Music.

PROMOTED the Boston Harbor Islands through a new MBTA ad campaign.

WELCOMED visitors to our off-season programs including the Winter Wildlife Cruise, Fall Frolic, and Peddocks Winter Wander. In three sold-out programs, over 950 adventurers explored the park through guided tours and educational and recreational programming.

CELEBRATED the 35th Anniversary of the Harborwalk. We led four extensive waterfront walks and hosted an evening event that touched on both the history and future of the Harborwalk. The Harbor[walks] were 5 to 9 miles in length with special guest speakers from the public sector and our non-profit partners. The evening panel discussion served as a reunion for people who developed the original plans in 1984 and also included an inspiring presentation about the Seattle Waterfront.

PRODUCED the new Boston Harbor: 50 Years of Transformation Video. Footage from 1969 shows polluted waters and crumbling infrastructure: a stark picture of a neglected and underused harbor and islands. Contrasted with footage from current day, the video is a heartening document to how far we have come. You can watch the video [here](#).

RELEASED two water transportation business plans. To celebrate and promote the new business plans, we hosted a panel discussion and two boat tours. Our conversations with public and private partners continue as we work to move implementation of both services forward. In an effort to promote existing ferry service as an avenue for exploration and tourism, we also ran a summer series of Boat+Bike Tours on existing ferry routes.



DEMONSTRATING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENT AND ACCESSIBLE HARBOR

ESTABLISHED the Stone Living Lab on Boston Harbor, in partnership with The Stone Foundation, The City of Boston, The National Park Service and UMass Boston. The research produced will enable us to implement nature-based solutions to climate change and coastal flooding.

WORKED with major stakeholders on resilience plans for Long Wharf. We hosted a Long Wharf Workshop in partnership with the City's Environment Department and Stoss, to learn about participants' top priorities for Long Wharf improvements. As a major water transportation hub, the gateway to the Harbor Islands, and a vulnerable flood pathway, we continue to focus on Long Wharf's future.

COLLABORATED on the future plan and program of Moakley Park, the city's largest waterfront park, which needs to provide recreational and community opportunities as well as critical coastal protection in the coming decades. We were selected as official city partners in the process. We hosted the Moakley Winter Warmer in February 2020, kicking off an on-going partnership for linking programming and planning with the City of Boston's Parks Department, their consultants at Stoss, and the South Boston Neighborhood House.

CONVENED speakers from private and public sectors who are shaping the waterfront for monthly Harbor Use Public Forums. These meetings allow for interested stakeholders to learn about and provide feedback to waterfront developers and public agency planners on projects affecting Boston Harbor's waterfront and islands.

FORGING A VIBRANT HARBOR

ENGAGED 3,203 volunteers who provided over 32,047 hours of service. Projects included invasive species removal, shoreline cleanups, and visitor engagement along the waterfront and within Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park. In partnership with NPS and DCR, we hosted 22 volunteer groups and continued the annual day of service with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Volunteers aided in the annual Coastsweep initiative to collect and log trash and celebrated picking up nearly 700 pounds of trash on Peddocks Island.

OFFERED 69 new public boat moorings at Spectacle, Georges, and Peddocks Islands with online reservations provided by DOCKWA.

ENHANCED visitor experience by bringing electricity to Peddocks Island's camping yurts in collaboration with DCR and REI. Installed two new multi-purpose shade shelters on Spectacle Island thanks to the City of Boston's Community Preservation Fund.

REHABILITATED the piers at Georges and Spectacle Island and began re-design of a new float and gangway system at Peddocks Island, in contracts with Smith Marine Services and GEI Engineering.

Photo: Bob Chen, Professor and Interim Dean, University of Massachusetts Boston School for the Environment with students Sahil Duvadie and Amina Miliani at Clippership Wharf living shoreline ▶



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Detailed financial information can be found at bostonharbornow.org/financials
EIN: 04-3268863

For the year 2020, April 2019 - March 2020

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

FY 2020

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Contributions | 2,402,565 |
| Government grants and contracts | 659,835 |
| Special events, net | 826,544 |
| Donated goods and services | 102,498 |
| Program service fees | 236,085 |
| Investment income | 7,736 |

Total Support and Revenue

4,235,263

EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Program expenses | 2,169,859 |
| General and administrative | 975,552 |
| Fundraising | 692,452 |

Total Expenses

3,837,863

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Change in net assets from operations | 397,400 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 1,982,194 |
| Net assets, end of year | 2,379,594 |

ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Cash | 960,933 |
| Government grants and contracts receivable | 404,553 |
| Current portion of contributions receivable, net | 644,872 |
| Prepaid expenses | 6,044 |
| Contributions receivable, net of current portion | 625,000 |
| Property and equipment, net | 32,609 |
| Intangible assets, net | 46,759 |

Total Assets

2,720,770

LIABILITIES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Accounts payable | 63,753 |
| Accrued expenses | 251,467 |
| Deferred revenue | 25,956 |

Total Liabilities

341,176

NET ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Unrestricted | 17,237 |
| Temporarily restricted | 2,362,357 |

Total Net Assets

2,379,594

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

2,720,770



SPECTACLE ON SPECTACLE

On June 20, 2019, Boston Harbor Now hosted Spectacle on Spectacle, our annual kickoff to summer. This year's event honored Mayor Martin J. Walsh for the Resilient Boston Harbor Plan. Chairs Brian Dacey, Martin O'Neill, and Geri Denterlein led the charge to raise a record-breaking \$645,000 to support our work. Each year, sponsors look forward to attending and hosting clients or special guests at this one-of-a-kind event on Spectacle Island.

HOST COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Brian Dacey, Co-Chair | Bryan Koop |
| Geri Denterlein, Co-Chair | Rebecca Lee |
| Martin O'Neill, Co-Chair | Martha Ann Mazzone |
| Peggy Briggs | Doug McGarrath |
| Barbara Capuano | Tom McShane |
| Carol Churchill | Shelly O'Neill |
| Michael and Kitty Dukakis | Diana Pisciotta |
| Neil Fitzpatrick | Jeff Porter |
| Cherry Garrido | Bud Ris |
| Rickie Golden | Paige Scott Reed |
| Bob Golledge | Raj and Nalini Sharma |
| Elizabeth Grob | Richard Walker |
| Meaghan Hooper-Berdik | C.A. Webb |
| Jessica Hughes | Marcelle Willock |



BOSTON LIGHT SOCIETY

Boston Light Society members are a distinguished group of supporters who receive special opportunities and benefits designed to deepen their relationship with the work of Boston Harbor Now and help lead our organization into the future. Created on the 300th birthday of the nation's oldest lighthouse, Boston Light Society members are the backbone of Boston Harbor Now. You can join today with a gift of \$1,000 or more or a monthly gift of \$84 or more.



FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Founders Circle members are the lifeblood of Boston Harbor Now, providing significant unrestricted funding of \$25,000 and above each year. Founders Circle members receive personalized updates from the President & CEO and exclusive opportunities to engage with Boston Harbor Now at programs and events throughout the year.



ONBOARD AWARDS

On November 18, 2019, Boston Harbor Now hosted our annual Onboard Awards at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The Onboard Awards recognize extraordinary contributions to public access and climate resilience on Boston Harbor. Co-chaired by Bob Golledge and Jake Citrin, the evening had opportunities for networking, the official premiere of our new Boston Harbor: 50 Years of Transformation video, and the presentation of our Onboard Awards to Seaport/ North Station Ferry Founders, Encore Boston Harbor and Harborwalk, and Martin's Park. The evening raised a record-breaking \$370,000 to support the work of Boston Harbor Now.

HOST COMMITTEE

Jacob Citrin, Co-Chair
 Bob Golledge, Co-Chair
 Joe Aiello
 Jay Ash
 Anne Bailey Berman
 Paul Bauer
 Roger Berman
 James Folk
 Dana Griffin
 Elizabeth Grob
 Thomas Gunning
 Meaghan Hooper-Berdik

Nicholas Iselin
 Stephen Johnston
 Charles Norris
 Charles Pappalardo
 Jeff Porter
 Elaine Richardson
 Cheri Ruane
 John Schmid
 Yanni Tsipis
 Kishore Varanasi

OUR PUBLIC AGENCY PARTNERS

Our work is powered by partnership. Boston Harbor Now would not be able to carry out critical mission-driven work in our parks and public spaces without collaboration with a variety of state, municipal, and federal agencies, including those that make up the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.



A LASTING LEGACY

A gift in your will of any size will continue to support our harbor for generations. To learn more about three easy ways to make a gift in your will or estate plan, please contact Interim Director of Development Jack Garvey at jgarvey@bostonharbornow.org or 857-246-9430.



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Please talk to your advisor and make a contribution to Boston Harbor Now today. For more information, contact Jack Garvey, Interim Director of Development at jgarvey@bostonharbornow.org or 857-246-9430.



Boston Harbor Now is proud to serve as the official non-profit partner of Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park and the Boston Harborwalk.



BOSTON HARBOR NOW

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