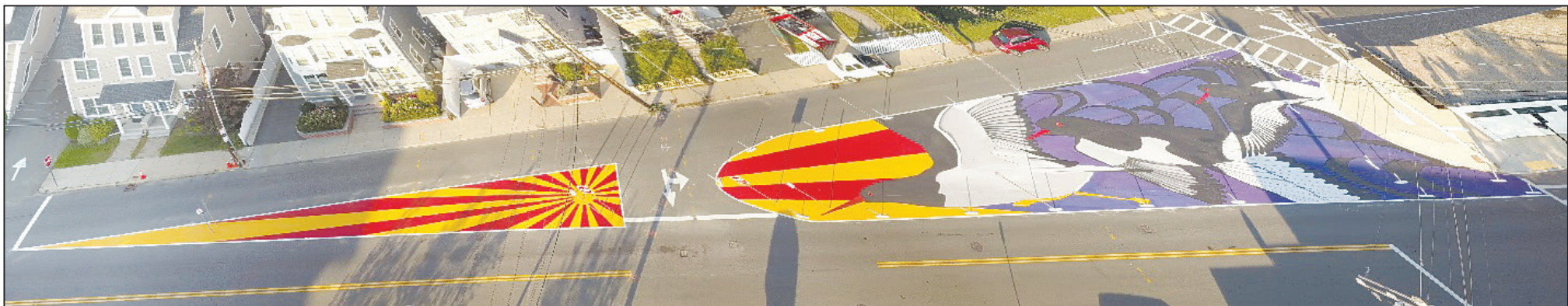


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This aerial view shows how celebrated Colombian artist Felipe Ortiz turned the intersection at Ashley and Boardman Streets into a work of art.

Celebrated Colombian artist Felipe Ortiz turns Eastie intersection into work of art

By John Lynds

Anyone who lives in Orient Heights knows the area near the Marty Pino Community Center where Ashley Street dumps out onto Boardman can be a dangerous area for pedestrians and motorists.

With a community center and neighboring Noyes Park hosting hundreds of children each week once the weather gets warm the city has heard enough complaints about the intersection to begin trying something different.

Since last March the Boston Transportation Department has deployed

a host of different traffic calming measures including installing permanent traffic cones to demonstrate the city's plan to transform the triangular intersection into a more user friendly area for motorists and pedestrians.

Recently, Redgate, the developers of the 230-unit apartment community on Addison Street, teamed up with the City of Boston's Tactical Urbanism Initiative to create a safer intersection at Ashley and Boardman streets.

Redgate commissioned celebrated Colombian artist Felipe Ortiz to turn the portion of the troubled in-

tersection within the traffic cones into a work of art.

Ortiz's now completed mural incorporates imagery of native wildlife from Belle Isle Marsh into a public art piece for all to enjoy while drawing attention to the traffic calming measures that have been deployed by the city.

The commissioning of Ortiz was part of a community benefits mitigation package in connection with Redgate's Addison Street project and was funded through the Addison project in collaboration with the tactical urbanism initiative

"The place we have created at Addison is very welcoming and hopefully inspiring to the artist community, and these wonderful pieces of public art reflect that idea," said Damian Szary, a Principal at Redgate. "Felipe's street mural not only has created great beauty for all of East Boston to appreciate, but it will actually contribute to improved public safety at the Ashley and Boardman intersection."

Ortiz's unique murals are a fusion of artistic themes representing the urban scenery from the U.S., its vast landscape, and fast-paced urban en-

vironments. In addition to Colombia's vibrant culture, colors, sounds and dense natural scenery. For this mural at Ashley and Boardman, Ortiz took both of these factors and put them down taking nature's elements from Eastie.

This is not the first time Redgate has commissioned local artists for work in the community. The developer hired cross-medium artist Mia Cross also created a dra-

matic interior painting which is the signature feature of Addison Street project's lobby.

Cross, a Boston-based artist who is originally from Framingham – has been featured in numerous galleries and exhibits throughout New England and New York, and her work lives in private collections throughout Europe and the United States.

See ART Page 2

Boston Licensing Board approves new restaurant

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Licensing Board approved plans for a new 'pan-Latin' restaurant on the corner of Border and Decatur Street inside a commercial space created by NOAH (East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) as part of its Coppersmith Village project.

According to the proposal before the Licensing Board last week, Pearl & Lime Restaurant, which will be managed and partly owned by lifelong Eastie resident Vanik Hacopian, plans to obtain a seven day all alcoholic license for the planned 3,626 square foot restaurant. Attorney Andrew Upton told the board his clients plan to create 3,071 square feet inside and an additional 555 square foot seasonal outdoor patio with 40 seats. Upton said the patio would close by 10 a.m. but the indoor portion of the restaurant would remain open until 1 a.m.

"Pearl and Lime is a fresh pan-Latin concept with neighborhood price points and a commit-



Eastie resident Vanik Hacopian talks about his new restaurant concept at last week's Licensing Board hearing.

ment to being part of the community," said Upton. "Fresh food and a comfortable modern atmosphere and decor will be the calling cards of this new neighborhood restaurant. The character and fitness of this applicant is clear. This is the team that's behind Pearl and Lime in Quincy and are a family friendly, fresh pan-Latin concept that has become a neighborhood fixture and has had no violations or complaints from their neighbors. They've proven this concept and are excited about this East Boston location. Further their landlord, NOAH, has chosen this team due to their sensitivity to the residents, the neighbors and the community."

The planned restaurant approved last week received support from City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madero as well as the Maverick Square Neighborhood Association (MSNA).

See LICENSING Page 2

City Councilor Edwards becomes Senator-elect Edwards

By John Lynds

Yesterday, voters in East Boston and the rest of the First Suffolk & Middlesex district went to the polls and elected City Councilor Lydia Edwards to serve as their next state senator. Once sworn in Edwards will become the first woman and the first person of color to represent the district.

"I am grateful to the people of Boston, Cambridge, Revere and Winthrop for sending me to Beacon Hill to fight for our communities," said Senator-Elect Edwards. "I know how to fight for what you believe in, build a movement and win, and I am looking forward to continuing the work in the state house. When in 2014 we passed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, we showed the world that nannies and house cleaners can write laws: they know as workers, as women, as immigrants and people of color, about the



Senator-Elect Lydia Edwards.

dignity they deserve and they know when our government needs to do more to guarantee their rights

and wellbeing."

Edwards continued, "Like so many in our communities, I know what

it's like to be unable to afford school lunch, to lose a job and panic about next month's rent, to live each day breathing in air pollution and to worry about tomorrow as the sea levels continue to rise. Together, with our pain and purpose, we will fight for laws and the social conditions that protect people, communities and our planet. I am excited for the journey ahead."

The election took place across the district during Tuesday's frigid state general election and included Wards and Precincts in Eastie, Revere, Winthrop, the North End, Beacon Hill, Bay Village, Chinatown, the South End and Cambridgeport. With no Republican challenger on the ballot Edwards's win was all but guaranteed Tuesday.

Edwards defeated Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio during the Decem-

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MFA celebrating 20 years, dreaming a future together

On Monday, January 17, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), and Citizens Bank will invite the community to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a free open house. This year's event marks the 20th anniversary of the MFA's partnership with Citizens on this annual celebration, which has welcomed more than 120,000 attendees over two decades. The event offers free admission—including access to special exhibitions—to Massachusetts residents, and tickets will be available in person on a first-come, first-served basis. Upon entry, visitors will be asked to validate their Massachusetts zip code to enjoy free admission.

The open house runs from 10 am to 5 pm, welcoming visitors to experience over a dozen exhibitions on view, including Paper Stories, Layered Dreams: The Art of Ekua Holmes. Also sponsored by Citizens, the exhibition features more than 40 vibrant illustrations by the Roxbury native that reflect her commitment to Black imagery and representation. Visitors will also

have their final chance to experience Black Histories, Black Futures, the teen-curated exhibition focusing on works by 20th-century artists of color, which ends its successful run on MLK Day—the same day its opening was celebrated in 2020. Programming offerings connected to both exhibitions will be announced in January.

“Thank you to the MFA for their continued partnership in this effort to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” said Lisa Murray, Massachusetts State President, Citizens. “This annual event is an opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy the incredible artwork on display, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of it this January.”

Effective Monday, January 3, 2022, the Museum will be open for visitors Thursday through Monday and remain closed to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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financial institutions, with \$187.0 billion in assets as of September 30, 2021. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs in order to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a 24/7 customer contact center and the convenience of approximately 3,000 ATMs and approximately 1,000 branches in 11 states in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions. Consumer Banking products and services include a full range of banking, lending, savings, wealth management and small business offerings. In Commercial Banking, Citizens offers a broad complement of financial products and solutions, including lending and leasing, deposit and treasury



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About the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Founded on February 4, 1870, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), stands on the historic homelands of the Massachusetts people, a site which has long served as a place of meeting and exchange among different nations. The Museum opened its doors to the public on July 4, 1876—the nation's centennial—at its original location in Copley Square. Over the next several decades, the MFA's collection and visitation grew exponentially, and in 1909, the Museum moved to its current home on Huntington Avenue. Today, the MFA houses a global collection encompassing nearly 500,000 works of art, from ancient to contemporary.

The Museum is located at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. For more information, call 617.267.9300, visit mfa.org or follow the MFA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Urgent need for kitchen volunteers at community servings

Kitchen volunteers are urgently needed at Community Servings to help the nonprofit's professional kitchen staff prepare and package 18,000 medically tailored meals that are delivered weekly to critically and chronically ill individuals across the region.

While Community Servings operates one of Boston's largest volun-

teer programs, the current COVID-19 surge has pushed January volunteer numbers to low levels. Demand for the nonprofit's nutritious, life-saving meals has increased by over 80% since the pandemic began.

“Volunteers have been at the heart of our mission since we began, essential to ensuring that we can feed our neighbors in

need and help maintain their health,” said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings. “Given the effects of this pandemic surge, we are making a plea for anyone with a few hours to lend a helping hand in our kitchen.”

Volunteers help peel and chop vegetables; portion soups, stews and salads; and pack weekly meal bags for clients living with

HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes and heart disease, among other illnesses.

For health and safety reasons, all volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated, have their temperature taken, and wear a surgical or KN95 face mask (provided) at Community Servings' Food Campus in Jamaica Plain, which is on the T's Orange Line. The kitchen is equipped with hospital-grade air ventilation and filtration systems.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit www.servings.org/ volunteer to sign up for three-hour shifts Monday through Friday (9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).

Founded in 1990, Community Servings' mission is to actively engage the community to provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families. To help clients maintain their health and



dignity, we provide culturally appropriate meals, nutrition education and counseling, and other community programs. Our kitchen team, with support from thousands of volunteers, prepares over 800,000 medically tailored meals that are served to more than 3,200 clients annually. For more information about programs and opportunities to volunteer or donate, please visit www.servings.org.

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