

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

June 2017

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

#### 2017 Board of Directors

At the May 9th Annual Meeting, the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to approve the slate for the 2017 Board of Directors.

#### Officers for a 1-year term:

Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.  
Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.  
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.  
Jonathan Lehrich, Treasurer, Cogswell Ave.

#### Directors for a 2-year term:

Stephen Diamond, Frost St.  
Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.  
Sue Kriegsman, Crescent St.  
Jonathan Lehrich, Cogswell Ave.  
Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.

#### Directors in mid-term:

Fred Meyer, Hammond St.

Learn more about the ABC Board online at:  
[agassiz.org/about/board](http://agassiz.org/about/board)

### Appreciations

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Sue Kriegsman thanked everyone who contributed, in a wide range of ways, to the success of Agassiz Baldwin Community in 2016 and '17. Particularly, they thanked:

#### Agassiz Baldwin staff:

- Maria LaPage, Executive Director
- Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison and Webmaster
- Molly Juhlin, Director of Children's Programs
- Haley MacKeil, Maud Morgan Arts Director
- Micah Eglinton-Woods, Director of Marketing and Technology
- Boriana Kantcheva, Chandler Gallery Coordinator
- Diana Montenegro, Development Director
- Diane Martin, Living Well Network Coordinator
- Eric DeLisle, Administrative Assistant

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**JUNE 13 - 7:30 PM**

Maud Morgan Arts  
20A Sacramento Street

### AGENDA

- Meet **President Jeff A. Weiss** of Lesley University
- New **Affordable Housing Development Proposed** for 1791 Mass. Ave.

Nominating committee members:

- Joel Bard
- Terry DeLancey
- George Hein

Additionally, Ms. Kriegsmann thanked the members of the Spirit Awards Committee; the ABC Advisory Group; and Gao Wen-Shao and Emily Joy Anderson, both of whom stepped down from the Board after many years of service.

**Volunteer Thank You & Ice Cream Social**

Maria LaPage, Executive Director, extended gratitude to those who volunteer at Agassiz Baldwin Community and Maud Morgan Arts.

She stated, "I'd like to honor all the time, skills, passions, and ideas that our volunteers bring. We couldn't do the work we do in the community without them, and we want our volunteers to know that they're really having an impact."

Council members, Board Directors, and volunteers enjoyed an ice cream treat from Honeycomb Creamery.



# Community

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## BACKYARD BLOCK PARTY 2017

Join us for an afternoon of FREE fun at our 7th annual Backyard Block Party at Agassiz Baldwin Community and Maud Morgan Arts.



- When:** June 10th, Saturday, 1:00-4:00 PM, rain or shine
- Where:** 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
- Admission:** Free

Things To Do:

- **Make a Mandala** at Maud Morgan Arts
- Learn **Tai Chi** with Living Well Network's Jean Lukitsh
- Blow **giant bubbles**
- Build with **big blue blocks**
- Play **bocce**
- Visit the **Portrait Studio**
- Take home **free hoops** (as supplies last)
- Snack on **watermelon, popcorn, and lemonade**
- Challenge yourself with a **Guess the Number** game
- Browse at a **Gently-used Jewelry Sale** to benefit Living Well Network
- Learn about the new youth-designed **Fort Agassiz 'Annex' project**
- **Relax** in the shade
- Get a **kid-designed temporary tattoo** (\$1 per tattoo)

Things To See:

**Balloon Twisting with Wendy**  
1:30 PM, Front Porch

**Agassiz Afterschool Dance Crew**  
2:00 PM, MMA stage

**Live Music featuring BABY!**  
2:30 PM, MMA stage

**From the Studios: Student Art Show**  
All day, in the Chandler Gallery

Visit our website for schedule and activity updates: [agassiz.org](http://agassiz.org)



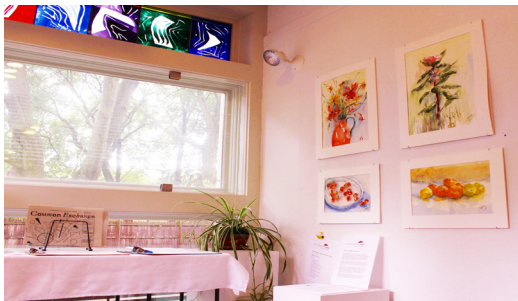
**NEW EXHIBITION SPACE**

The Community Artist Spotlight Space at Maud Morgan Arts is a new exhibition space that showcases the work of artists living and working in the community.

Currently on display:  
**Ordinary Sightings: Watercolors by Brenda S. Engel**

**Dates:** May 24 – June 9, 2017  
**Hours:** M-F, 3:00–6:00 PM

Learn more online at:  
[bit.ly/community\\_artist\\_spotlight\\_space](http://bit.ly/community_artist_spotlight_space)



**GRANT SUPPORTS ‘ANNEX’ FOR POPULAR PLAY STRUCTURE**

The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority Forward Fund has awarded Agassiz Baldwin Community a \$5,000 grant in support of an addition to the play structure, Fort Agassiz, located in the backyard of 20 Sacramento Street. The current structure was designed in 2012 by middle school students at Maud Morgan Arts, under the guidance of architect/teacher Wendy Prellwitz, funded with support from the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard (CAH) Fund, and built by students and a professional carpenter.



Responding to the growth of Agassiz Baldwin’s Children’s Programs and space demands, a new

project seeks to expand the original structure. A new group of middle school students interested in architecture convened via a Maud Morgan Arts workshop and created concepts and designs to expand Fort Agassiz. Currently, ABC is working to secure additional funding so that students can bring the ideas together into a single design and, with help of professional carpenters, build the ‘annex’ for future play and enjoyment.

Come to the Backyard Block Party on Saturday, June 10th from 1 to 4 PM to check out Fort Agassiz for yourself and view the design models for the ‘Annex.’ Stay to enjoy a wide variety of activities all day! Learn more at: [agassiz.org/community/backyard\\_block\\_party](http://agassiz.org/community/backyard_block_party)

Can’t attend the Block Party but want to contribute to the Fort Agassiz ‘Annex’ project? Donate online at [bit.ly/donate-to-ABC](http://bit.ly/donate-to-ABC) or send a check c/o ‘Fort Agassiz Annex’ to Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

**General Project Schedule**

- April 2017** Complete scaled model of the design created by the middle school students
- May 2017** Complete architectural drawings
- June 2017** Hire Contractor and complete fundraising goal
- August 2017** Complete construction of the structure
- Sept. 2017** Complete all structural inspections in preparation for the first day of school

**THE OXFORD STREET “NECK-DOWN”**

Prepared by Astrid Dodds, Agassiz Resident & Pedestrian Advocate

In 1998, Cambridge asked the Agassiz Neighborhood Council to help re-design Oxford St. using traffic calming principles. Oxford St. was due to be torn up for a storm and sanitary sewer separation project. It made

sense to restore Oxford St. in a way that worked better for all its users. Everyone wanted more trees, slower motor vehicles, fewer trucks, and safer crosswalks. Thanks to a flooding rainstorm on 6-13-98, the Oxford St. traffic calming project was shelved. However, one small part of it survives as the Oxford St. neck-down.



The top of Oxford was so wide open that motor vehicle drivers coming over the Beacon St. railroad bridge toward Beacon and Oxford Streets had no incentive to slow down or use a turn signal. Cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers could only guess who was headed for Beacon versus Oxford. Guessing wrong was hazardous. Everyone agreed in 1998 that Oxford was too wide at the top.

Since the last 50 feet of Oxford is in Somerville, the Cambridge Traffic, Parking & Transportation Dept. consulted with Somerville. Luckily, Beacon St. was on a Mass. Dept. of Transportation list of pending roadway projects. Somerville agreed to add reconfiguring the top of Oxford to the Beacon St. project.

It took 15 years for the Beacon St. Project to make its way up the MassDOT roadway funding list. Reconstruction started with utility work in spring 2016.

A new granite curb now provides a permanent outline for the neck-down – also known as a Curb Extension or a Bump-Out. For drivers and cyclists coming over the railroad bridge into the Agassiz neighborhood, Oxford St. is now a definite right turn. Drivers and cyclists are getting the hang of signaling their intent, making life safer for everyone.

The present neck-down is not the finished product. Asphalt paving inside the curb extension is temporary. The entire area will be improved – perhaps including planters and street furniture. The Beacon St. project has a long way to go. The final paving of Beacon St. may not happen until 2018, but a long-awaited improvement at the top of Oxford is in place at last.

Many thanks to the City of Somerville for agreeing almost 20 years ago to add the Oxford St. neck-down to the Beacon St. project and thanks, too, to Cambridge DPW Commissioner Owen O’Riordan who made sure the neck-down stayed on the Beacon St. plans.

Updates on the Somerville Beacon St. Project can be found here:  
[www.somervillema.gov/beaconstreet](http://www.somervillema.gov/beaconstreet)



## Maud Morgan Arts

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR SPIRIT AWARDS 2017

The Spirit Awards Benefit is our annual and most important fund-raising and fun-raising event that celebrates and supports the artistic and educational mission of Maud Morgan Arts: build community through the visual arts by connecting, inspiring, and enriching individual lives.



The Benefit celebrates the spirit of Maud Morgan, a community resident and artist of exceptional vibrancy, who lived her life deeply in the arts, in her neighborhood and in the world (1903-1999). Once a year the arts community and our supporters gather for a unique evening to honor outstanding

individuals who embody the “spirit” of Maud Morgan. This year, we honor Jason Weeks for his tireless efforts to enliven and enhance the arts for all of Cambridge.

Proceeds will support students and artists through Maud Morgan Arts’ scholarships, programming and collaborations with local organizations.

Tickets will be available soon. Visit: [bit.ly/spirit\\_awards\\_2017](http://bit.ly/spirit_awards_2017)

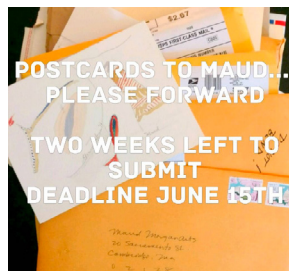
## Chandler Gallery

### CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR POSTCARD SHOW

Postcards to Maud . . . Please Forward is an expansive artist postcard show to benefit the Chandler Gallery at Maud Morgan Arts.

**Dates:** August 14 – September 7, 2017  
**Deadline:** All postcards must arrive at Chandler Gallery on June 15  
**Mail to:** Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Artists are asked to create work that is 6×8 inches. All work will be sold at \$50 with 50% to go to the artist and 50% to benefit Chandler Gallery. One piece per artist. There is no fee to participate in the show. The card can be sent in an envelope or sent directly. Please use heavier paper if choosing to send directly. Unsold cards will be held for 30 days for pick up by the artist or a representative.



The Fay Chandler Gallery began as an artist collective in the late 1970s and was known as the 20 Sacramento Street Gallery. For many years it contributed to the community by fea-

turing local artists. In 2010, the gallery was renamed to honor artist Fay Chandler, and it is now a program of the Agassiz Baldwin Community and is administered by Maud Morgan Arts.

Learn more online at: [www.maudmorganarts.org/chandler-gallery/call-for-entries](http://www.maudmorganarts.org/chandler-gallery/call-for-entries)

## City Wide

### LOOKING FOR LOCAL RESOURCES?

Find It Cambridge is a new website to help you easily find the activities, services, and resources you are looking for in Cambridge. Our city has an amazing array of opportunities, and Find It Cambridge will serve as that one-stop-shop website for those who live and work here.



There are many features to make it easy for you to find what you are looking for: you can filter by age, category, location and/or cost; sign up to get reminders about upcoming events; report information that is outdated or inaccurate, and much more!

We are spreading the word about Find It Cambridge via various social media platforms. Please like and follow Find It Cambridge on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest

If you have any questions you can call our Find It Cambridge Manager, Hector Acevedo. He can be reached by phone (617) 349-6392 or email [hacevedo@cambridgema.gov](mailto:hacevedo@cambridgema.gov).

Check out: [www.finditcambridge.org](http://www.finditcambridge.org)

# Community Calendar

## June 2017

Saturday, June 10	1:00-4:00 PM	Backyard Block Party, 20 Sacramento St., back yard See page 3 for info
Tuesday, June 13	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St. All are welcome, please join us!
Wednesday, June 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). Items of interest to the neighborhood should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

## The Whistler June 2017



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**DO NOT FORWARD**

The Whistler newsletter, ANC meetings, and ABC Board meetings are in recess during July and August. Newsletter publication and meetings will resume in September 2017. We wish you a safe and splendid summer!



@agassizbaldwin  
@maudmorganarts



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