the Whistler
Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
February 2020

IN THIS ISSSUE

ANC: Update on City Council Order Regarding Neighborhood Name Change, Your Neighborhood Council - Looking Back at 2019	***1-2***
Community: ABC Considers Issues of Race and Equity, Hip Hop Festival Recap, Afterschoolers Perform Original Play "Mystery at Baldwin", Spaces Available in Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool	***2-5***
LWN: Introduction to Google Drive and Applications	***5***
Maud Morgan Arts: "If You're a Chair, I'm a Chair" at Chandler Gallery	***5-6***
City Wide: 2020 US Census, Renew Your Resident Parking Permit for 2020 Now to Avoid Delays, Help Shape Universal Pre-K in Cambridge	***6***

ANC News

UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL ORDER REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD NAME CHANGE

On January 14th, Agassiz Neighborhood Council's regular monthly meeting included a discussion of changing the neighborhood's name. CRLS senior and Agassiz resident, Maya Counter, brought the topic to ANC after discovering Agassiz's racist legacy during a school-assigned research project. Since then, the conversation has received press coverage by Cambridge Day, Harvard Crimson and WickedLocal, and made its way to City Council.

At City Council's February 10th meeting, City Councilor E. Denise Simmons discussed a policy that would order the City Manager to "direct appropriate city staff to work with the residents of the Agassiz neighborhood in furthering this important conversation and in helping make a determination as to how to arrive at an appropriate official name change for this neighborhood."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Ms. Counter spoke briefly on her efforts thus far to rename the neighborhood, including her appearance at the January 14th ANC meeting. Agassiz resident Kate Frank also spoke in support of removing the 'Agassiz' name during public comment, saying it gives the neighborhood the opportunity to discuss "something unnoticed by some, while offensive to others."

After hearing Ms. Counter, Ms. Frank, Ms. Simmons as well as City Councilor Patty Nolan, City Council voted unanimously in favor of this policy.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for how to faciliate larger conversations around renaming the neighborhood, or would like to get involved in planning, please contact Community Liasion Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org.

Read the City Council policy order at: http://bit.ly/City_Council_policy_order_25

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 10 & April 14
7:30 PM
Maud Morgan Arts,
20A Sacramento Street

Agendas

- *To be determined*

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL - LOOKING BACK AT 2019

In 2019, Agassiz Neighborhood Council provided a forum for discussion and action on numerous topics, including:

- Renovations at Harvard's Andover Hall and debates over the destruction of a 200-year old oak tree
- The development at 74 Oxford Street and its impact on neighbors and abutters
- Introductions to new businesses, including prospective recreational cannabis stores
- The maintenance of brick sidewalks in Cambridge
- Updates on the new off-leash hours pilot program at Sacramento Field
- A forum for City Council candidates

Our community is stronger when citizens take an active part. Attend a Council meeting, suggest topics for discussion, volunteer on a subcommittee -- get involved!

Visit: bit.ly/agassiz-neighborhood-council

Community

ABC CONSIDERS ISSUES OF RACE AND EQUITY

Prepared by Ashley Yee, Children's Programs Special Projects Manager

The start of another year provides an opportunity to reflect and set intentions. As Agassiz Baldwin Community enters into a new decade of programming, we would like to acknowledge the internal work we've engaged in concerning race and equity within our organization.

2019 marked the first year of ABC's anti-racism work without the leadership and guidance of our late executive assistant Eric Delisle, who was instrumental in helping to organize our internal anti-racism effort in 2016. Maria LaPage, Phoebe Sinclair, Micah Eglinton-Woods, and Eric Delisle began facilitating discussions with members of the ABC administration in the winter of 2017. That spring, ABC received a grant from Community Health Network Area 17 (CHNA 17), which enabled the anti-racism stewards to attend learning community workshops.

The stewards set goals for the 17-18 academic year in the summer of 2017, which included establishing communication agreements for use within anti-racism stewards meetings, collecting resources, and compiling a list of key terms. This work was completed in the fall and winter of 2018. In the spring of 2018, I (Ashley Yee) joined the stewards as Eric stepped down from his work at ABC. While his health was declining, his optimism for our future was unshakable, inspiring, and kept us going during difficult times. He passed away in December 2018 (learn more in The Whistler Dec. 2018-Feb. 2019).

We regrouped in the spring and introduced the anti-racism resource library to program staff in the summer. Agassiz Baldwin Community also hosted an all-staff story circle event centered around first memories associated with race during the summer of 2018. In the fall of 2018, program leadership joined ABC administrators to discuss personal reactions to key terms related to race, racism, and equity.

The first of their kind, these meetings were not expected to be comfortable; reactions were varied and responses revealed just how prepared,

or unprepared, we were when asked to discuss issues of race and racism in a professional setting.

The goal of the monthly meetings is to create space and time for our staff to discuss the impact racism has on our communities, ourselves, and the work we do for Agassiz Baldwin Community. No one is presumed to be an expert; we have all learned from and alongside one another in this process. Like many other organizations and institutions attempting this work, we have made mistakes. In the spirit of lifelong learning, we're committed to identifying challenges as areas for growth.

In the winter and spring of 2019, Maria LaPage, Andrea Breen (director of children's programs), and I attended various trainings and workshops centered around racial equity through Human Resources practices. As the monthly staff meetings continued, conversations were no less challenging, but began to feel more routine. Talking openly about issues of race and racism was becoming normalized at ABC; we were giving ourselves permission to question, challenge, and reflect on our own implicit biases and practices.

In the spring of 2019, four teachers in our afterschool program led an effort to revitalize our library by recommending a hundred new titles for purchase through a grant; these titles are now in circulation in our Kindergarten and 1st-5th Grade Afterschool, reflective of Agassiz Baldwin Community's welcoming and inclusive mission. Also in the spring of 2019, the staff invited our Board of Directors to formally join us in our anti-racism work.

Before summer began, we turned inwards again, considering ways to support each other's efforts by prioritizing self- and community-care. Job descriptions and hiring practices for our children's programs were adjusted with the goal of assembling an afterschool teaching staff that was more reflective of the community we serve. This fall, our children's programs staff attended professional development workshops through Agenda for Children's Out-of-School-Time Symposium, which was dedicated entirely to conversations around race and equity. Following the symposium, our site directors led their own staff meeting to consider material on race and equity in youth work.

Rather than "calling out" we are learning to "call in", sharing resources with each other and committing to having difficult yet important conversations. I've summed up our journey so far in a handful of tidy paragraphs, but the truth is the work can feel slow--at times, imperceptible. Experience has taught us that we must be confident and knowledgeable in our work; success is quantifiable and can be illustrated by data points. Engaging in anti-racism work challenges these notions.

We are all pushing through discomfort to learn together. While we have a long way to go, we've come to recognize how our personal experiences and choices impact the quality of our programming. Confronting racism out loud and with each other means that we're constantly striving to live up to our organization's mission.

Looking ahead, Agassiz Baldwin Community will be partnering with equity incubator Arts Connect International (ACI) at the Arts Equity Summit in Boston. Led by ABC Board Director Allegra Fletcher, ACI's 2020 summit will center community and conversations on visions of equitable organizations and the approaches, systems, and structures to get us there.

This year at ABC we will continue to discuss the impact white dominant culture has in the workplace and the antidotes that will lift up our organizational values. An anti-racism fund has been established in memory of Eric Delisle; donations made to this fund will be put toward future professional development and other anti-racism efforts across all programs within our organization.

Donations may be made to Agassiz Baldwin

Community at bit.ly/donate-to-ABC. Please choose "anti-racism work" from the drop-down and indicate that you want your donation dedicated in memory of Eric Delisle. Readers can learn more about our work by contacting Ashley at ayee@agassiz.org.

HIP HOP FESTIVAL RECAP

The 24th Annual Hip Hop Festival featured performances by some of our returning favorites OrigiNation, FloorLords, Cambridge Community Center's Hip Hop Transformation Project, Intrigue Boston, the Rhythm Beat Squad of King Open School, DJ Dru-Nyce and our fantastic MC Naheem.

Many thanks to Ana Balbino, Andrea Breen, Ashley Yee, Phoebe Sinclair, our photographer Delia Tharnish and other Agassiz Baldwin team members for helping organize the event. Special thanks to everyone who attended as well as Cambridge Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, who generously supported this year's event with a grant.

View more photos online:
http://bit.ly/24th-annual-hip-hop-fest

AFTERSCHOOLERS PERFORM ORIGINAL PLAY "MYSTERY AT BALDWIN"

Prepared by Jess Leach, Children's Programs Registration Coordinator

While performances are frequently part of our summertime drama curriculum, our school year students seldom get the same opportunity - except for this year. Drama teacher Sivan Spector led our 1st-5th grade afterschoolers in an original production called "Mystery at Baldwin," a musical about a misunderstood teacher and mysterious disappearances.

This group of afterschool students worked tirelessly for a little over a month to put together a story, write the script and original music, make props and sets, memorize their lines and rehearse the show.

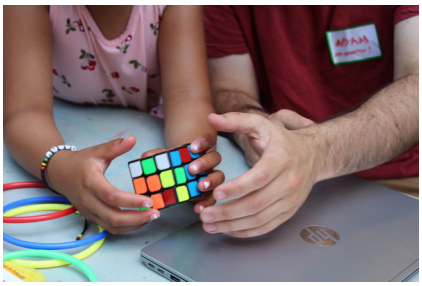
It all came together on February 13th, when they performed "Mystery at Baldwin" for families and friends on the Baldwin School cafeteria stage. Everything from the original songs, which were composed and performed on piano by a 3rd grader, to the lighting and sound, were created and run by kids.

In addition to the performance, afterschoolers also hosted a hot chocolate stand to raise money for our Equity and Access Scholarship Fund. By the end of the night, the stand collected $75 from hot chocolate sales.

Between the performance, behind-the-scenes work and the hot chocolate stand, the event was special for students and families alike. It was a chance to share in the creativity, joy and learning that makes afterschool a fun and enriching experience for all kids.

View more photos online:
http://bit.ly/mystery-at-baldwin

SPACES AVAILABLE IN AGASSIZ BALDWIN AFTERSCHOOL



Looking for a fun, enriching and dynamic afterschool experience for your child? Our choice-based Kindergarten and 1st-5th Grade programs currently have part-time space available for the remainder of the school year.

Please contact registration@agassiz.org for more information about enrollment as well as financial aid opportunities.

Living Well Network

INTRODUCTION TO GOOGLE DRIVE AND APPLICATIONS

When: Wednesday, March 18
1:30-2:30 PM
Where: Agassiz Community Room
1651 Massachusetts Avenue

Google's online programs offer useful free alternatives for storing and sharing files and photos, editing documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations, and more.

Come learn about these useful tools on Wednesday March 18th at the Living Well Network's Google workshop for folks 55+. Please email Kathy Dalton at kdalton@agassiz.org to register ahead of time so we can better tailor the workshop. Free for Living Well Network members and $5 for nonmembers.

Maud Morgan Arts

"IF YOU'RE A CHAIR, I'M A CHAIR" AT THE CHANDLER GALLERY

Exhibition: March 9-27, 2020
Opening Reception: Thursday, March 19
6:00-8:00 PM

The heart of "If You're a Chair, I'm a Chair," the latest show at the Chandler Gallery, is a sculpture made of two antique wooden chairs. After cutting them down on their inner sides, artist Hilary Tait Norod bound them together with many layers of different materials, such as yarn,

rope and scraps of wood, "to unite them as one." The once-separate pieces became more than just a loveseat – they're a representation of the artist's marriage.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/hilary-tait-norod

City Wide

2020 US CENSUS

2020 will include the US Census, which is conducted every 10 years. Invitations to respond to the Census will be delivered between March 12-20. You have the option to respond online, by phone, or by mail.

This census informs how Cambridge is represented in the US Congress and in Massachusetts Legislature and impacts the allocation for federal assistance for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, social services and transportation.

When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous and are used only to produce statistics, as the U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to keep answers strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

More information about the US Census can be found on the City of Cambridge website.

RENEW YOUR RESIDENT PARKING PERMIT FOR 2020 NOW TO AVOID DELAYS

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

The renewal season for 2020 Resident/Visitor Parking Permits for the City of Cambridge is in process from January 2 - March 31, 2020. Please note that 2019 Resident and Visitor Permits are valid through March 31, 2020.

Residents who have a current Resident or Visitor Parking Permit have the option of renewing their permit(s) online at cambridgema.gov/parking-permit-renewal. Online applications can take up to three weeks for processing and delivery, so please plan accordingly, keeping in mind the March 31 expiration date for 2019 permits.

Permits can also be renewed in person during regular hours at the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, Monday: 8:30 AM-8 PM., Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30 AM-5 PM., Friday: 8:30 AM-12 PM.

HELP SHAPE UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN IN CAMBRIDGE

Prepared by Cambridge Public Schools and Birth-3rd Partnership

Community-based providers and agencies serving preschool age children are invited to hear from City Manager Louis DePasquale and the Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Salim about the development of a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. Please come ask questions and share your wisdom and ideas as we begin the planning process. Please RSVP to Maggie Rabidou at mrabidou@cpsd.us

What:	Meeting About Universal Pre-K in Cambridge
When:	Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6-8:30 PM (dinner at 6 PM, program begins at 6:30 PM)
Where:	Cambridge Street Upper School 850 Cambridge Street

SUMMER PROGRAM HIRING!

Are you compassionate, energetic and empathetic? Are you interested in working with Kindergarten through 6th grade youth?

Located between Harvard and Porter Squares on the Red Line

June 22 through August 28
Part time, seasonal **$16/ hr**

Visit our website:
agassiz.org/employment-opportunities

Take a photo of QR code to go directly to application

Agassiz Baldwin **Community**

Community Calendar
March 2020

Wednesday, March 4	**6:00-8:30 PM**	Meeting About Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Cambridge Street Upper School, 850 Cambridge St.
Tuesday, March 10	**7:30-9:00 PM**	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us
Wednesday, March 18	**1:30-2:30 PM**	Introduction to Google Drive and Applications Agassiz Community Room, 1651 Massachusetts Ave.
Wednesday, March 18	**6:00-7:30 PM**	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, March 19	**6:00-8:00 PM**	"If You're a Chair, I'm a Chair" Opening Reception Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.

The Whistler is published monthly September-June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 750 in 2019. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by email or mail. The newsletter is available online at 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. Editorial team: Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison & Editor; Jessica Leach, Scribe; Ashley Yee, Guest Writer.

The Whistler February 2020

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 497-4388
www.agassiz.org, www.maudmorganarts.org

DO NOT FORWARD