

Lower Roxbury Outreach Advisory Group Meeting

March 17, 2022 @ 11 AM

Notetaker: Ashley Pierre-Louis, HSH

In Attendance: Paulette Ford, Louisa Gag, Javier Gutierrez, John Monacelli, Aziza Robinson-Goodnight, Kelly Sherman, Sarah Rodrigo, Karin Rose, Jen Rowe, Jacob Wessel, Ronald L Whitaker

[Slide deck](#)

Summary

Reviewed purpose of outreach advisory group. Learned about the Frederick Douglass Peace Plaza project and discussed possible arts/culture/public realm collaborations. Reviewed outreach plan in progress, explained two updates to priority areas, and set a date for the next meeting.

The Legacy of Frederick Douglass and Douglass Plaza

- The plaza will be located on Tremont at Hammond St
- Many of the residents who started the project idea a decade ago were gentrified out
- Artwork designed through public process, Mario Chiodo and Paul Goodnight
- The sculpture references Frederick Douglass's son, the importance of literacy, and Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, a leader in the suffragist movement
- The garden is designed around the sculpture.
- The site is between two existing murals of Frederick Douglass
- The project has taken over a decade. It's now in partnership with the city. The team won a 20K grant to clean up and activate the space.
- The space will include informational signage, herbs available for picking, native plants, performance space

Discussion about possible arts/culture/public realm collaborations

- What do you think residents would be enthusiastic about?
 - *Ron - If you add artwork on Shawmut Street by Ramsay Park, you need to slow the street down first. Jim Rice Field is an important neighborhood place.*
- We could combine street art with safety improvements. For example, we could narrow the street with painted curb extensions.

Reactions to project team's updates to priority areas

- *What will these design upgrades do for Camden and Lenox?*

- ***If there's a focus at Northampton and Hammond at Tremont, you also need to do something for Camden and Lenox.***
- ***People use Camden and Lenox Streets as race tracks.***
- **We prioritized the intersections at Northampton based on how often we heard about it from community members. We'll take a closer look at Camden and Lenox to see if there's anything possible there short of a larger Tremont Street reconstruction project like what is in construction in the South End.**
- ***Could we explore a speed bump at Camden and Lenox to go across Tremont Street?*** It's not recommended to add raised elements like speed bumps on roadways as busy as Tremont Street. They don't last long enough with such high volumes of vehicles. Additionally, EMS doesn't support raised elements due to concerns about how they would impact their ability to respond quickly to emergencies.

Meeting Evaluation

- **No comments.**

Next Meeting: May 19th