

SAVE THE HARBOR/SAVE THE BAY ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023

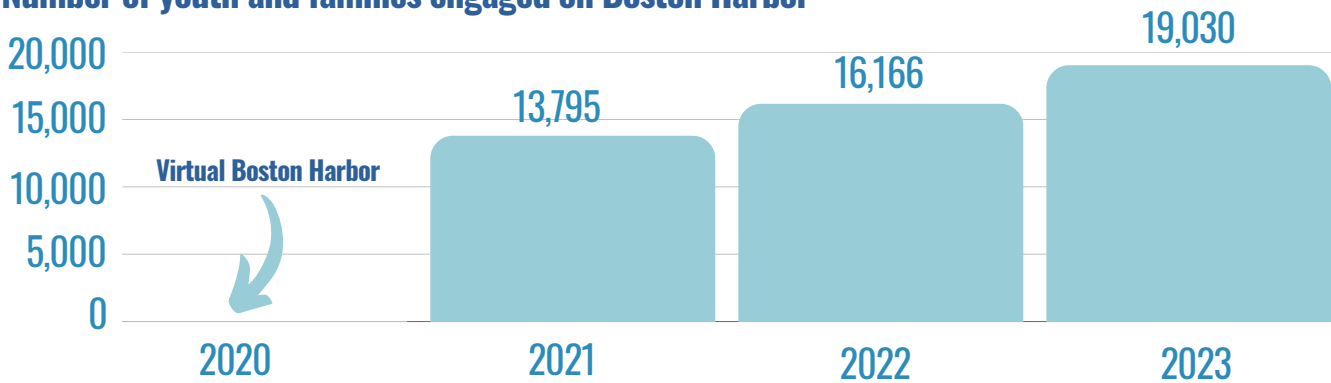


Free tide pool exploration hosted by Friends of Belle Isle Marsh in Revere.

OUR IMPACT

This summer, **thousands of community members from across the state joined us for free, accessible and inclusive programming** on Boston Harbor, the harbor islands, and our region’s public beaches. From island cruises and fishing trips to experience and learn about local marine ecosystems, to music and cultural festivals and beach parties to foster community fun — we did it all. Take a look:

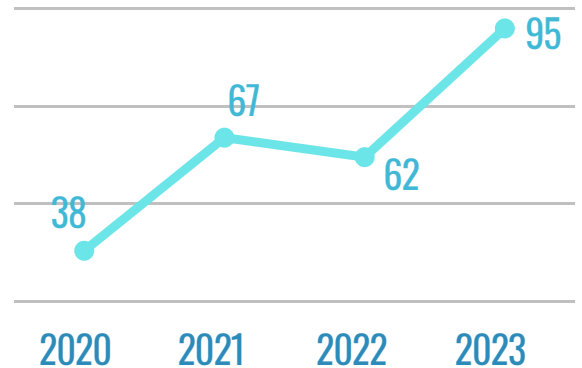
Number of youth and families engaged on Boston Harbor



Check out what we’ve accomplished in 2023:

- **19,030 community members** engaged in our free, diverse, and accessible youth-led programs on Boston Harbor, the region’s public beaches, and the Boston Harbor Islands.
- **47 free boat trips** for community members to experience STEAM programming on Boston Harbor.
- **\$320,500** granted to **95 grantees** to run **217** free cultural, fitness and wellness events, beach parties, festivals and more.

Number of organizations granted funds per year



Kids enjoying a free All Access Boston Harbor cruise.

- Meaningful employment for **40 local high school and college staff** who connect youth from **231 community groups** to Boston Harbor, creating a new generation of environmental stewards.
- **326 individuals** contributed to **4 public hearings and 2 community conversations** to shape the recommendations in the first-of-its-kind 2023 Breaking Barriers report.

Keep reading to see how we did it.

ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR PROGRAMS



All Access
Boston Harbor



Boston Harbor
Explorers



Catch of
the Day

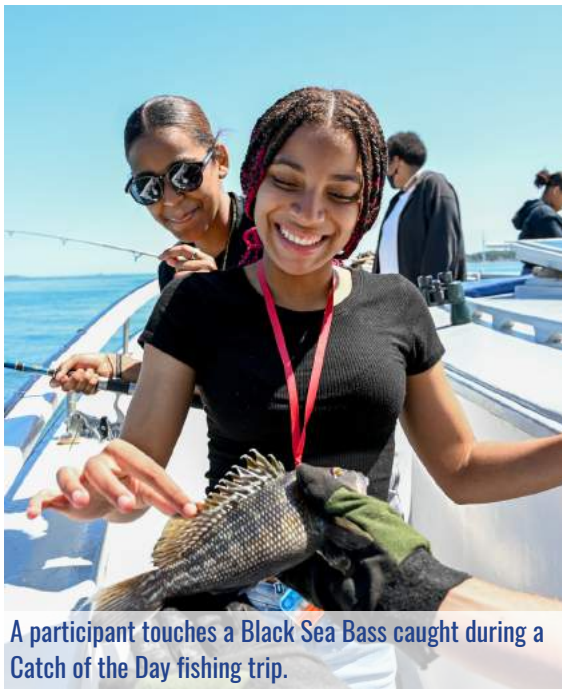


Share the
Harbor



Better Beaches
Grant Program

Here's a snapshot of what we got up to this summer:



A participant touches a Black Sea Bass caught during a Catch of the Day fishing trip.

More than **4,600** people joined us to visit Georges and Spectacle Islands as part of **All Access Boston Harbor**, which ran 20 trips this summer. The program provides **free access for local youth and community groups** to experience the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park by reducing economic barriers.

Boston Harbor Explorers partners with 8 waterfront camps in order to introduce and expand environmental education curriculum for Boston's youth. This year, **5,644 kids took part in our hands-on dockside curriculum** focusing on biodiversity and climate change issues.

Our **Catch of the Day** program brought **nearly 350 folks from 13 partner organizations** out to experience a full day on the water learning how to fish and becoming more familiar with sustainable practices and the species that call Boston Harbor home.

Share the Harbor partners with community groups to recruit adults and families to experience all that Boston Harbor has to offer. These free trips include **harbor tours and trips to Spectacle and Georges Island**. This year, we partnered with Men of Melanin Magic for a Pride Cruise and a "ReGayTon" cruise to honor Hispanic Heritage Month. We also hosted the Beats On The Boat Cruise to highlight our growing music program.

Better Beaches enables local organizations to host free, accessible and inclusive events to encourage more people to visit and experience a sense of belonging on Boston's regional beaches. This year, grantees hosted **217 free events that attracted more than 820,000 people**.



The North American Indian Center of Boston held a Native Peoples Summer Social at Castle Island using Better Beaches grant funding.

ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR PROGRAMS



Children play with beach toys at the Boys' and Girls' Club KidsFest at Malibu Beach in Dorchester.



Triangle Inc. hosted the annual Beach:Ability program at Constitution Beach in East Boston, featuring mobility and accessibility aids for people with disabilities



Kids enjoyed a pedicab ride from TrikeHub at Save the Harbor's Eastie Beach Bash at Constitution Beach.



The Foundation Freestyle Dance Battle & Fundraiser on Spectacle Island, hosted by StiggityStackz Worldwide Inc.



Friends of Wollaston Beach and Asian Women For Health collaborated on Kids Fest in Quincy.



South Boston Neighborhood House hosted a family day at Carson Beach.



Friends of Winthrop Beach hosted an art class on the shore.



Latino Outdoors hosted surfing lessons and beach parties for Latino kids and adults at Nahant and Revere beaches.



The Veronica Robles Cultural Center hosted the Multicultural Festival on Constitution Beach.

ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR PROGRAMS



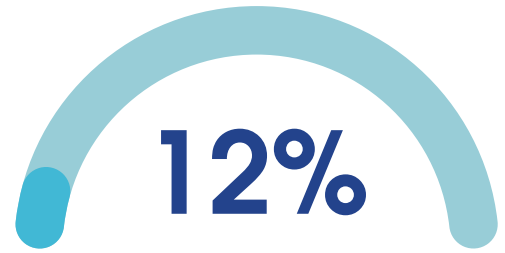
Even when we're not on one of Boston Harbor's many beaches, we're advocating for accessible and inclusive access to outdoor activities through the **Metropolitan Beaches Commission**, which Save the Harbor manages for the state legislature.

Since 2021, the Commission's focus has been on **increasing diversity and equity on the region's beaches**, specifically improving access for people of color, people with disabilities and people who do not speak English as a first language. This year, we released the **Breaking Barriers report**, a first-of-its-kind evaluation of the state of access on the region's beaches and recommendations for next steps.

The report identified obstacles to **beach accessibility** for those with disabilities, **a lack of signage** in languages other than English, **insufficient affordable and accessible transportation** options for visiting the beaches and **experiences of discrimination and racism** for communities of color, rooted in both historical and current events.

Here's what else we're doing:

- In October 2023, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo testified to the MBC on his progress addressing the recommendations, including prioritizing equity in hiring at DCR immediately.
- We completed a beach accessibility assessment with the DCR's Universal Access Program to determine ways to improve experiences on the sand and the sea.
- We will work closely with DCR's interpretive and communications teams to design and install multilingual signage before the 2024 beach season.
- DCR and Save the Harbor created a reporting protocol to address cases of bias in real time on coastal public lands.
- The MBC will host community meetings on the effects of climate change on the region's beaches and collaborative strategies to address and reduce those impacts.



of Boston's population identifies as disabled.

Kids of color are **6x** more likely to die from drowning than white kids.

The government's per capita spending on MA parks & recreation is only **58%** of the national average.

Out of 250 signs on Boston's public beaches, **only 4** were in languages other than English.



BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Langone Park, North End

Activated the boardwalk with free fishing, touch tank, dance, and environmental games for youth at the Nazzarro Community Center.

Piers Park Sailing Center

Taught hands-on dockside lessons about the species that live in the harbor and the effects climate change has on the waterfront of East Boston.

Courageous Sailing

Held dockside STEAM programs and ran our Catch of the Day fishing program .

Camp Harbor View

Taught campers to identify native and invasive species, implement the scientific method, and engage in discussion about the changing climate.

Atlantic Wharf

Recruited youth groups to activate the waterfront park along Fort Point Channel with a diverse array of environmental curriculum.

Spectacle Island

During our All Access Boston Harbor free cruises, groups engaged in seaglass walks, fishing, crabbing, beach sports and hikes to explore the island.

Georges Island

During our All Access Boston Harbor free cruises, groups engaged in historical fort tours, fishing and crabbing.

Boston Children's Museum

Ran free Fishing 101 programming for the museum's visitors and brought environmental education curriculum to the museum's camp three hours a week.

Across these 8 sites, Save the Harbor's youth staff engaged more than 10,000 people.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



Save the Harbor's environmental education curriculum teaches youth to:



Identify the marine species living in Boston Harbor.



Recognize the many threats climate change poses to Boston's neighborhoods.



Know the environmental justice communities surrounding the harbor.



Notice the importance of marshlands to marine life cycles.



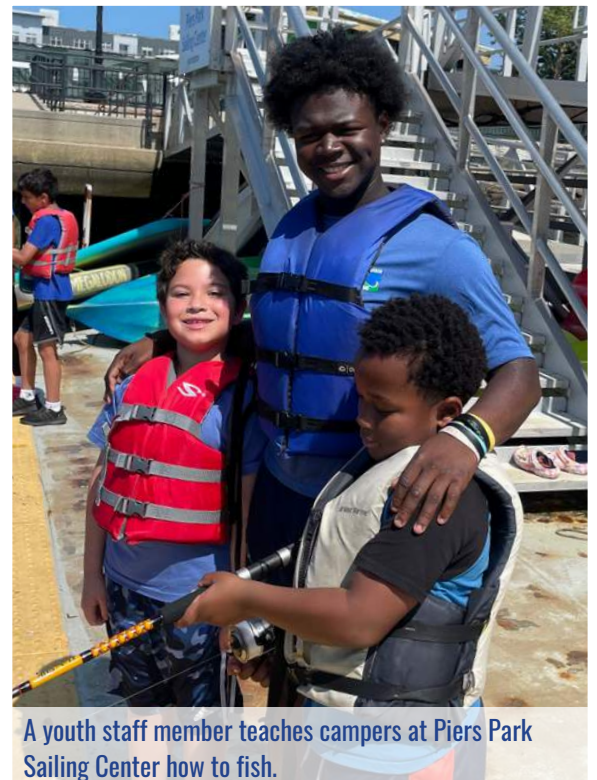
Track the abundance of native and invasive species in intertidal zones.



Learn skills to interact with the water to continue to enjoy it in the future.

By directly experiencing the Boston Harbor Islands, dockside hands-on programming and fishing trips with Save the Harbor, **youth begin to build and strengthen their personal connection to the harbor.** That personal connection creates an impact when they learn about factors that might threaten their future ability to enjoy such spaces, such as **rising sea levels.**

Youth that experience our programs also **share what they learn with friends and family**, expanding the reach beyond one individual. When talking about how one person or one family can make an impact in stewarding our blue spaces, **community members and youth who have a personal connection and knowledge of the harbor are that much more likely to take action** — and spread the word.



A youth staff member teaches campers at Piers Park Sailing Center how to fish.



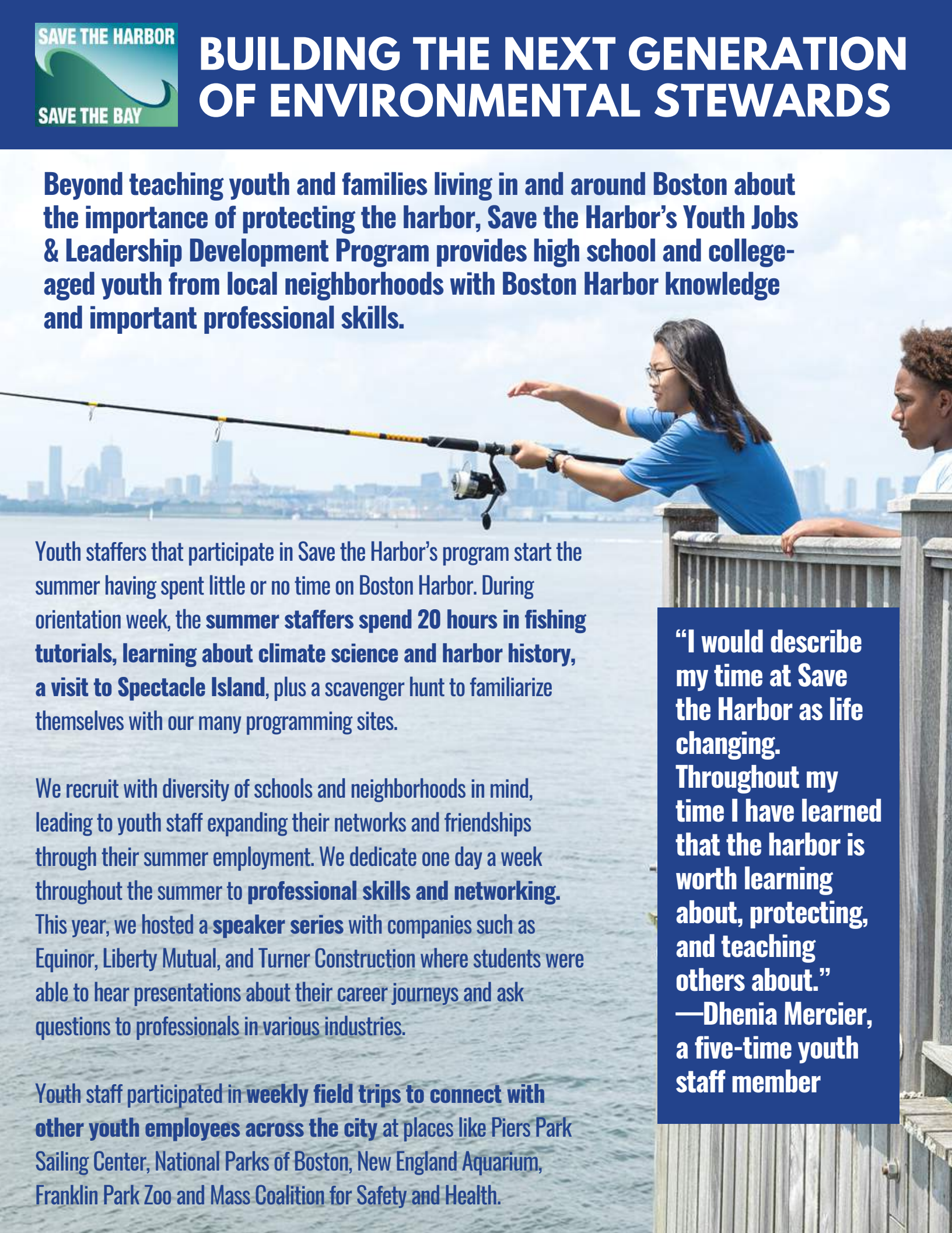
BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Beyond teaching youth and families living in and around Boston about the importance of protecting the harbor, Save the Harbor's Youth Jobs & Leadership Development Program provides high school and college-aged youth from local neighborhoods with Boston Harbor knowledge and important professional skills.

Youth staffers that participate in Save the Harbor's program start the summer having spent little or no time on Boston Harbor. During orientation week, the **summer staffers spend 20 hours in fishing tutorials, learning about climate science and harbor history, a visit to Spectacle Island**, plus a scavenger hunt to familiarize themselves with our many programming sites.

We recruit with diversity of schools and neighborhoods in mind, leading to youth staff expanding their networks and friendships through their summer employment. We dedicate one day a week throughout the summer to **professional skills and networking**. This year, we hosted a **speaker series** with companies such as Equinor, Liberty Mutual, and Turner Construction where students were able to hear presentations about their career journeys and ask questions to professionals in various industries.

Youth staff participated in **weekly field trips to connect with other youth employees across the city** at places like Piers Park Sailing Center, National Parks of Boston, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and Mass Coalition for Safety and Health.



“I would describe my time at Save the Harbor as life changing. Throughout my time I have learned that the harbor is worth learning about, protecting, and teaching others about.”
—Dhenia Mercier, a five-time youth staff member

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



The 2023 youth staff at orientation, before boarding "The Belle" to begin the fishing trip.



Youth staff at Camp Harbor View on Long Island teach campers how to fish off the dock as part of the environmental education program this summer..



Youth staff attended a toxic tour led by ACE in Nubian Square, where they learned about the effects of the MBTA on local air quality.



During the Eastie Beach Bash, youth staffers cool down together by running into Boston Harbor.



Youth staffers enjoy a kayak ride at Piers Park Sailing Center.



Staff exploring the Franklin Park Zoo during their visit to learn more about the summer experiences of other youth staff in Boston.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-LED OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



In 2023, Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program grants funded 217 free events, including...

- 21 bicycle, wellness and outdoor recreation programs
- 30 neighborhood beach events for youth, families and community members
- 28 culture, music, literacy and fine arts programs
- 4 beach events designed specifically for veterans, seniors and people with disabilities

Those programs reached an estimated **820,000 people** from King's to Nantasket beaches.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-LED OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



How does the Better Beaches grant program work?



A portion of your state taxes goes toward activating public beaches through free Better Beaches events.



You tell us how you want your money to be spent through participatory budgeting.



The community comes together for the Shamrock Splash to raise additional funds.



Community organizations receive Better Beaches grants.



Your money is used to host free events on your Boston Harbor beaches.



Photos from this year's Beats on the Beach program: Production day where local artists created sound packs from beach sounds, the community block party and the Beats on the Boat cruise.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-LED OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

Since 2008, **Save the Harbor** has granted more than **\$2 million** through its **Better Beaches Program**, allowing community organizations to leverage an additional \$4 million to host free, inclusive and accessible programming on Boston Harbor, the Harbor islands, and region's public beaches. We have prioritized events, decision-making and programming run by and for community members in our Better Beaches program.

Our **participatory budgeting program** creates a democratic process where community members decide how part of a budget is spent — **giving real people power over real money**. We also collaborate with community members directly to build programming.

Since 2020, **Beats on the Beach** has grown into a fully-fledged program run by and for community members, challenging local artists to create an original beat using soundbites captured from natural elements on Boston's beaches. Now, BOTB is even more than just a music contest:

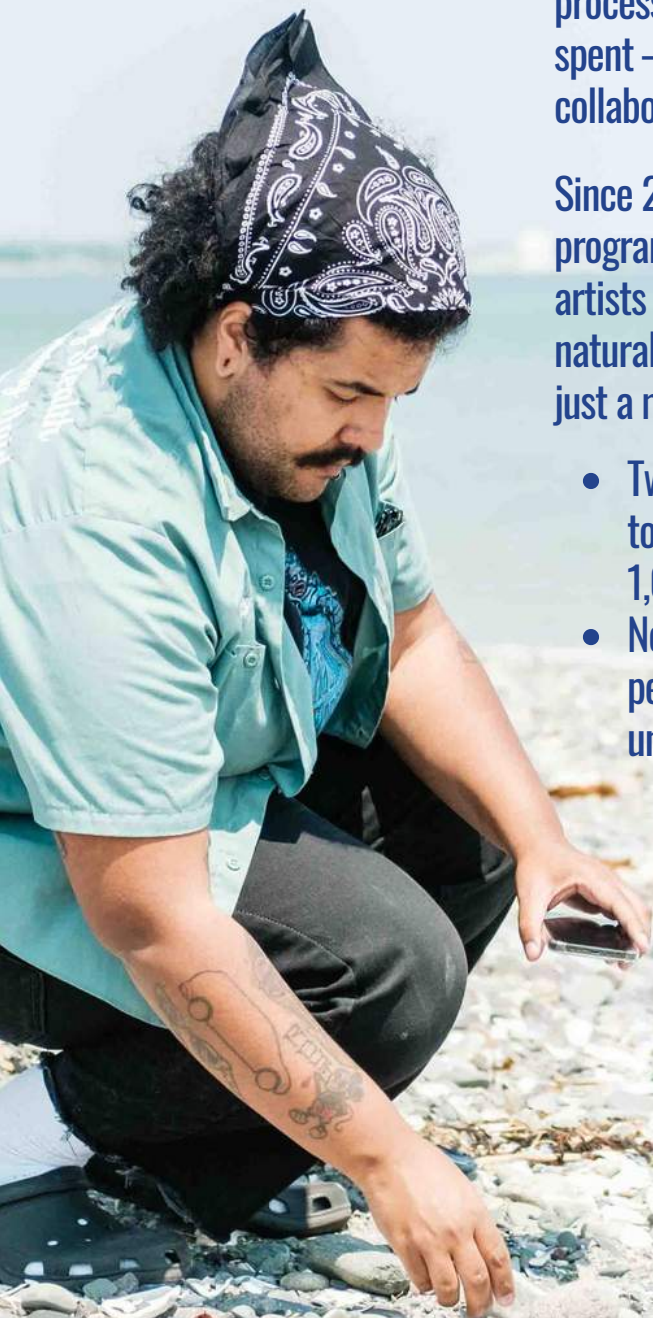
- Two years of the Beats on the Beach Block Party brought together dozens of local vendors and performers, with more than 1,000 community members in attendance.
- New this year, the Beats on the Boat cruise featured 2 local performers and more than 200 community members for a unique night on the harbor.

Since 2020, Beats On The Beach has engaged more than

1,500 community members

and **117 local artists,**

driving more than **\$25,000** into the hands of local creatives.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-LED OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



The Friends of Nantasket Beach in Hull hosted a Summer Sunshine Concert Series on the beach.



Paint By The Ocean hosted several plein air painting workshops at Red Rock Park in Lynn this summer.



Abilities Dance Boston put on two free pop-up dance performances on Tenean and Constitution beaches.



The World Music Concert Series planned two music festivals at Revere and King's beaches featuring local artists and community members.



At Constitution Beach in East Boston, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing organized kayaking lessons for kids.



Namastay Sober, a community group for sober people, hosted fitness and yoga events at Revere Beach.

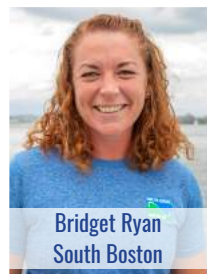


The Caribbean American Carnival Association of Boston organized the 2nd Annual Carnival Cooler at Carson Beach.



Women on Wheels Boston hosted a 15-mile co-ed bike ride ending at Carson Beach, followed by a BIPOC Beach Bash.

SUMMER STAFF 2023





BETTER BEACHES SPONSORS & GRANTEES

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay thanks the Healey-Driscoll Administration, House Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, Co-Chairs Sen. Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn and Rep. Adrian C. Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, the Department of Conservation & Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and all our Better Beaches Program funders and event sponsors for their support. We would also like to thank all of the 2023 JetBlue Shamrock Splash participants who raised money and took the plunge at East Boston's Constitution Beach this year.



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
The Blue Sky Collaborative
Boston Consulting Group
Coast Cannabis
Comcast
David Nardella
FMC Ice Sports
EveryDejaVu

Harpoon Brewery
Income Research + Management
Izotope
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National Grid
P&G Gillette
The Richard Saltonstall
Charitable Foundation
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Topo Chico
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
The YMCA of Greater Boston

2023 Better Beaches Program Grant Recipients

313 Won Productions
Abilities Dance Boston
Asian Women For Health
Ayah's Circle of Healing
BCYF Curley Community Center
Beats By Girlz
Bike to the Sea, Inc. - 501(c)(3)
Black and Pink MA
Boston Centers for Youth & Families GIRLS Program
Boston Collaborative High School- Boston Public Schools
Boston Harbor Now
Boston Police B3 Community Service
Boston Young Black Professionals
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester
Caribbean American Carnival Association
Cathartic Care
Charlestown YMCA
Circus Up, Inc.
City of Revere Parks & Recreation Department
Daddy & Me Inc
Digital Ready
Disabled Vet's Fishing Trip
Dorchester Bike Kitchen
Drag On Boats
E.F. Gilmore Disabled American Veterans
East Boston YMCA
Friends Lynn & Nahant Beach
Friends of Belle Isle Marsh
Friends of Nantasket Beach
Friends of the Paragon Carousel, Inc.
Friends of Winthrop Beach

Friends of Wollaston Beach
Girls Inc. of Lynn
Harlem Lacrosse - Boston
Haus of Threes
Heal and Release Boston
Hull Council On Aging
Hull Lifesaving Museum
Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce
Inner Peace At The Beach
Latino Outdoors
Lena Park Community Development Corporation
Living Experience
LLEGO Boston
Masjid Al-Quran
Massachusetts Network of Foster Care Alumni
Maskiting
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Men of Melanin Magic LLC
MetroWest Writers' Guild
Mutual Aid Eastie
Namastay Sober
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing Inc. (NOAH)
New Leaders Council Boston
Next Level Factory & Hoops Collaborative Youth Development Program
Next Stop Revere
North Shore Juneteenth Association Inc.
North Shore Woman of Color Coalition
Ohana New England Dragon Boats
Paint By The Ocean
Photographer in Residence
Piers Park Sailing Center

OPriscilla Azaglo
Puzlkind
Queer Youth Assemble
Revere Beach Partnership
Showcase & Recreation at the Beach with Aashka
Soca Fusion
Soca Hikes
South Boston En Accion
South Boston Neighborhood House
Southwest Boston Senior Services d/b/a Ethos
St. Stephen's Youth Programs
STH Beach Bashes
StiggityStackz Worldwide Inc
Stonewall Sports, Inc. Boston Chapter
Tareq Rantisi World Music Concert Series
The Black Literacy & Arts Collaborative Project
The Harborkeepers
The Makanda Project Organization Inc
The MOMS Club of South Boston
The North American Indian Center of Boston
The Social Justice Trap Movement
The TrikeHub
Transformational Prison Project
Triangle, Inc.
Veronica Robles
Winthrop Chamber of Commerce
Women on Wheels Boston
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
Youth Options Unlimited

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH PROGRAM PARTNERS



ABCD Head Start
ACCESS Chinatown
Achieve the Gap
Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc.
All Dorchester Sports and Leadership
America SCORES
Annapolis Neighborhood Association
Arlington Boys & Girls Club
Artists For Humanity
Asian Community Development Corporation
BCYF Adventure Girls
BCYF Blackstone Community Center
BCYF Charlestown Community Center
BCYF Cleveland Community Center
BCYF Condon Community Center
BCYF Curley Community Center
BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center
BCYF G.I.R.L.S. Initiative
BCYF Gallivan Community Center
BCYF Hennigan Community Center
BCYF Holland Community Center
BCYF Hyde Park Community Center
BCYF Jackson Mann Community Center
BCYF Leahy Holloran Community Center
BCYF Madison Park Community Center
BCYF Marshall Community Center
BCYF Martin Pino Community Center
BCYF Mattahunt Community Center
BCYF Menino Community Center
BCYF Mildred Avenue Community Center
BCYF Ohrenberger Community Center
BCYF Paris Street Community Center
BCYF Perkins Community Center
BCYF Quincy Community Center
BCYF Roche Community Center
BCYF Roslindale Community Center
BCYF Shelburne Community Center
BCYF Snapshot Program
BCYF Streetworker Program
BCYF SUPERTeens
BCYF Tobin Community Center
BCYF Tynan Community Center
BCYF Vine Street Community Center
Bethel Math & Science Scholars Program
Beyond the Block Youth Solutions Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay
Billerica Boys & Girls Club
Bird Street Community Center
Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club
Boston Area Health Education Center
Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program
Boston Centers for Youth & Families
Boston Children's Chorus
Boston Children's Museum
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Boston Debate League
Boston Fun Cruises
Boston Girl Scouts
Boston Harbor Cruises
Boston Harbor NOW
Boston Higher Education Resource Center
Boston Police Department Community Service
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Public Schools
Boston Uncornered
Boston University Summer Journalism Academy
Bowdoin Bike School
Bowdoin Street Community Center

Boy Scouts of America
Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee Teen Center
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica
Boys & Girls Club of Lynn
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Berkshire Partners Blue Hill
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Charlestown
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Condon
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Edgerly Family South Boston
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Franklin Hill
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Hennigan Club
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Jordan
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Mattapan Teen Center
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Orchard Gardens Club
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Summer Club
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lowell
Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County
Braintree After School Enrichment
Braintree Recreation Department
Brandeis University Upward Bound
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Brigham Camp
Brighton High School
Brighton YMCA
Brookline High School
Brookline Recreation Department
Brookview House
Building Bridges Through Music
Building Our Lives Together As One
Burbank YMCA
Burlington Summer Central
Cambridge Adventure Day Camp
Cambridge Camping Association
Cambridge Community Art Center
Cambridge Community Development
Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program
Camp Harbor View
Camp Stow Town of Stow Recreation
Cape Verdean Association of Boston
Casserly House
Castle Square Tenants Organization
Cathedral High School
Catholic Charities Teen Center at St. Peter's
Cedar Grove Civic Association
Central Boston Elder Services
Charles River Church
Charles River YMCA
Charlestown Coalition: Turn it Around
Charlestown Community Center
Charlestown Residents Alliance
Charlestown YMCA
Chelsea Collaborative
Chelsea Community Connections
Chelsea Public Schools Intergenerational Literacy Program
City Point Neighborhood Association
Clarendon Hill Towers
Classical Conversations
Codman Academy
Community Boating, Inc.
Cooper Community Center
Courageous Sailing Center
Cushing House
Daybreak
Dedham Community House
Deliverance Temple Worship Center

Diamond Girls Boston
Discover Quincy
Dominican Development Center
Dorchester Bike Coalition
Dorchester Healthy Boston Coalition
Dorchester YMCA
East Boston Community Learning Program
East Boston Harborside Community School
East Boston High School
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
East Boston Social Centers
East Boston YMCA
East End House
Easie Farm
Edusports
Egleston YMCA
Elizabeth Peabody House Afterschool and Summer Program
Emerald Necklace Conservancy
EPIC Leaders
Everett Boys & Girls Club
Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn
Farrington Nature Linc
Fecteau-Leary Jr./Sen. High School
Fenway High School
Fishbucket Sportfishing Boston
Franklin Field/Franklin Hill Healthy Boston Coalition
Franklin Park Development Tenants Association
Freedom House
Friends of Adams St. Library
Friends of Belle Isle Marsh
Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach
Friends of Lynn Heritage State Park
Friends of Savin Hill Shores
Friends of the Paragon Carousel
Friends of Winthrop Beach
Friends of Wollaston Beach
Frog Pond
Frost Group Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
Fusion Academy Hingham
Get Buckets Summer Program
Girls Inc. Lynn
Girls LEAP Arlington
GRASP, Inc.
Greater Generations/Greater Kids
Greenwood Shalom
Groundwork Somerville
Harborkeepers
Haverhill YMCA
Hearth Inc.
Highland Coalition
Hispanic American Library Springfield
Holy Family Home for Little Wanderers
Housing Families Inc.
Housing Opportunities Unlimited
Hull Lifesaving Museum
Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce
Huntington Ave YMCA
Hyde Park YMCA
Idiil Learning Center
Institute for Pan-African Cultural Education
John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science
Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center
Julie's Family Learning Program
Junior Leaders in Communities, PBHA
Kathy's Place Youth Center
Kiddie Academy of Cambridge
Laboure Center
Lawrence Community Day Care Inc.



THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH PROGRAM PARTNERS

Lawrence Community Works
Lawrence YMCA
LEO After School Program
Let's Get Movin'
Level Ground Mixed Martial Arts
Lynn Economic Opportunity Summer Program
Lynn YMCA
M-Power Malden
Malden YMCA
Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House
Mary Lyon Pilot High School
Massachusetts Military Support Foundation
MassCOSH
Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition
Maverick Association of Residents
Maverick Landing Community Services
Medford Boys & Girls Club
Melnea Cass Recreation Center
Melrose Family YMCA Teen Leaders Program
MGH Revere Cares
Millis Girl Scouts
MissionSafe
MIT Sea Grant
Morse School Cambridge
Movement City
Mystic Learning Center
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
National Parks of Boston
Neighborhood House Charter School
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing
New England Aquarium
New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance
New Life Community Church
NMSC Coastal Ocean Science Academy
NOAH
North End Against Drugs
North Shore YMCA Camp Tricklin' Falls
North Suburban YMCA
Oak Square YMCA
Ohrenberger Community School Council
PACE
Paddle Boston
Paige Academy
Paraclete Academy
PBHA: Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment
PBHA: Cambridge Youth Enrichment
PBHA: Chinatown Adventure
PBHA: Franklin I-O
PBHA: Keylatch Summer Program
PBHA: Mission Hill Summer Urban Program
PBHA: Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment
PBHA: Roxbury Youth Initiative

PBHA: South Boston
Phillips Brooks House Association, Inc.
Piers Park Sailing Center
Port Norfolk Civic Association
Public Housing Youth Academy (PHYA)
Queset Coop
Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.
Quincy Recreation Department
Quincycles
Real Kidz Boston
Red Oak After School + Summer Program
Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment (RYSE)
Revere Beach Partnership
Revere Parks & Recreation Department
Revere Public Schools Afterschool Summer Program
Rhythm Room Records
Roslindale YMCA
Roxbury Tenants of Harvard
Roxbury YMCA
Roxbury Youth Initiative
Saint Ann Parish Vacation Bible School
Salem YMCA
Salesian Boys & Girls Club
Salvation Army
Salvation Army Kids Club
Salvation Army South End Corps
Sasaki Foundation
Saugus YMCA
Seekers of Knowledge, Inc.
Share Your Love Foundation
Silver Lining Mentoring
Sociedad Latina Somerville High School
Somerville YMCA
South Boston Community Health Center
South Boston Leadership Initiative
South Boston Neighborhood House
South Boston Stars
South Boston TEAM
South Shore YMCA
SPARK Center
Squashbusters
St. Cecilia Young Adults
St. Mark Wainwright Summer Program
St. Peter Academy
St. Stephen's South End
Steward Health
Stone Living Lab
Stratford Street United Church
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Tenacity Community Group, Community Learning Centers
The Community Group: Latchkey Program
The Community Group's 21st Century CLC at the Arlington School
The Community Group's 21st Century CLC at the Bruce School
The Community Group's 21st Century CLC at the Tarbox School
The Community Group's 21st Century CLC at Wetherbee School
The Fishing Academy
The Home for Little Wanderers-Safe at Home
The Joy Foundation
The Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center
The Welcome Project
Therapeutic After School Program
Town of Braintree Special Needs Program
Triangle Inc.
Trinity Education Excellence Program
UMASS Boston Urban Scholars
Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta
United South End Settlements
Vibrant Boston
VietAID Summer Youth Program
Vigorous Youth
Walden School for the Deaf
Waltham YMCA
Wang YMCA of Chinatown
Washington Heights Tenants Association
Wediko Children's Services MassSTART Program
West End House
West Roxbury YMCA
West Somerville Neighborhood School
Winthrop Chamber of Commerce
Winthrop Parks & Recreation
Winthrop Public Schools
Woburn YMCA
World Ocean School
Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Roxbury
YMCA of Greater Boston
YMCA of Greater Springfield
YMCA of Merrimack Valley
YMCA of MetroNorth's Camp Sachem
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
Youth Opportunity Boston
Youth Police in Partnership (YPP)
YouthBuild Lawrence
YWCA Enrichment Center @ Arlington Mills



Thank you to photographers Irka Gonzalez Perez, Joakeem Gaston and Katy Rogers, as well as all of our Better Beaches program partners whose submitted photos are used in this report.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



CHAMPIONS & CAPTAINS

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BXP
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Comcast
Constellation Generation
The Cronin Group
Department of Conservation and Recreation

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The Boston Globe

Urban beaches make some feel ‘unwelcome and uncomfortable.’ A new report says we should fix that.

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission wants to make beaches more inviting for people of color, people with disabilities, and non-native English speakers.

By Globe Staff | May 12, 2023



Katrina (left) and Melissa enjoy Carson Beach in South Boston.



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's staff on the beach.

With summer just around the corner, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission on Friday announced an initiative to make beaches more welcoming for underrepresented communities.

The plan, titled “Breaking Barriers,” was prepared by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and aims not only to make the beaches more inviting but also to drive increased investment in them. A recent report by the UMass Donahue Institute found Massachusetts to have the lowest per capita spending on parks and recreation in the country.

“We found that our beaches have increasingly drawn residents who represent the rich diversity of our region,” the report says. “However, more progress is needed before we can say they are truly inclusive.”

The commission represents Boston and the neighboring oceanfront communities of Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, Quincy, and Hull.

“People’s perceptions of their beaches are shaped by their personal experiences and those of their friends and families,” according to the report. “For people of color, people with disabilities and non-native English speakers, this has often meant feeling unwelcome and uncomfortable on their beaches, which are spectacular public resources that belong to them and their communities.”

The broad objectives of the initiative, which is being announced Friday at a news conference at Carson Beach in South Boston, call for increased funding for infrastructure repair and improvements, and better leadership from the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation, which has had six different commissioners in the past eight years.

But the main focus is on making the beaches feel more inviting and safe for people of color, which includes everything from increasing transportation options with shuttles from public transportation, improving event programming with culturally relevant activities, and strengthening the commitment to water safety programs. Children of color are six times more likely to die from drowning.

“We believe the metropolitan region’s public beaches are extraordinary assets for our communities, and that equitable access to healthy blue and green spaces improves the quality of life of all the region’s residents and visitors, regardless of race, ability, language, or income,” according to the commission, which was co-chaired by Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn and Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston.

For people with disabilities, a public hearing revealed that the lack of accessible parking and maintained ramps and walkways leaves many feeling “like spectators instead of participants,” according to Andrea Gayle-Bennett of the Disabled American Veterans of Massachusetts.

“The commission hopes that the findings and recommendations included in this report will be embraced by the Healey-Driscoll administration,” the report reads, “and serve as a blueprint for improved and equitable access to the Metropolitan Region’s public beaches and the benefits of our more than \$5 billion investment in clean water in Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay.”

A beat-making competition highlights the sounds of the Boston Harbor



Artist LDER captures sound using the sand.

July 6, 2023 | By Ally Jarmanning

Sticks snapping, the shriek of a seagull, the crunch of a shell being crushed underfoot and the steady lapping of waves are all sounds that could be heard on a relaxing beach vacation. But for the last four years, they have been looped, filtered and warped by producers in basements and in-home studios around greater Boston. Each one hoping to create a track to win the Beats On The Beach competition.

Put together by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay — an organization that advocates for Boston Harbor conservation — Beats On The Beach has two established Boston-area artists head to the shore with a microphone. Joining metal-detector-bearing treasure seekers, the sample collectors wander the beach and smack pebbles, scratch at the sand or just listen to the waves in the hunt for audio gold. Once recorded, the samples are made available online, and this unique competition, which combines environmental advocacy with music, begins.

The competition was born out of a desire for a sense of community at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Partnerships and program development director Maya Smith and Save the Harbor were forced to come up with a new way to use funds initially set aside for an artist-in-residence. For ideas, Smith turned to one of her best friends, the Boston-based beatsmith [LDER](#). “He immediately popped out the idea for Beats On The Beach,” she remembers.

A beat competition might appear far removed from the world of environmental advocacy, but to Save the Harbor executive director, Chris Mancini, there is an obvious and deep connection. “To connect people to clean urban natural resources,” says Mancini. “Not everyone experiences that joy in the same way. Some people get it from fishing and picking up crabs on the shore. Music and art are just another way of doing that.” It’s a way to raise awareness for the harbor conservation, clean-up, education and community-building work that the organization advances.

For Smith, the event also intersects with racial justice and the historically marginalized people who have been shut off from Massachusetts’ coastline. “You have the right to be here,” Smith says. “There is not a lot telling us that we belong in the water. We’re not exposed to the water in the same way, and there are a million things culturally and historically that have led to it being that way.”

According to a [GBH investigation](#), only 12% of the Massachusetts coastline is open to the public. The rest, privately owned, is shut off to lower-income residents. Additionally, the beaches around cities like Boston, Lynn and Quincy, which are home to racially and ethnically diverse populations, are often more prone to dangerous bacterial contamination.

In part, because of this lack of access and the myriad wealth disparities caused by systemic racism, beaches are most dangerous for Black and Latinx children. A majority of Black children and almost half of Latinx children [have little to no swimming ability](#), and Black children between 11 and 12 are 10 times more likely to drown than their white counterparts. For this reason, Smith has dedicated herself to this work. On top of what she does for Save the Harbor, she also co-founded the [Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition](#) in 2021. The group has made it a priority to address the disproportionate amount of people of color drowning.

Beats On The Beach also serves as an opportunity to fund the local artists of color that move the Boston scene. The beatmakers are competing for a cash prize, studio equipment and whatever exposure Save the Harbor can offer.

The competition is open to anyone, but Smith, who manages the substantial grants program for Save the Harbor, is proud to have secured funding for artists of color like Rilla Force, LDER, and Ximena to work on the administrative team. Smith has made supporting local creators of color financially a key tenet for Beats On The Beach.

“Unfortunately, in our society, that’s what is most impactful and helpful,” Smith says. “I feel lucky to be in a position to amplify people’s work and empower them through money.”

Those funds support the Beats On The Beach team, which represents the deep talent and range of Boston producers: There is LDER, a Haitian-American boom bap beatmaker who found his first year on the team to be a challenge. “I was like, ‘Aw man, how am I supposed to make a beat out of this pipe and some ocean waves?’” He laughs. “But having that experience opened my mind.” Joining him is Rilla Force, a multi-genre producer and DJ, who prides himself on using odd samples like the sound of toaster popping as a hi-hat. “Being a part of this [competition] felt second nature,” he says.

And last but not least, there’s Ximena, who joined the team in 2021. She’s a producer from South Florida and the first to graduate from Berklee with the “electronic digital instrument” as her primary instrument. She says she’s learned a lot from watching Rilla Force, LDER and the many other Beats On The Beach collaborators work. “It’s opened my mind to how sample packs are structured, how to think about loops, subdivisions and part writing,” she says.

Since 2020, Beats On The Beach has grown into a platform spotlighting a group of upcoming local artists that are usually behind DJ booths and computers. Previous years’ guest producers-turned-samplers have included venerable local mainstay producers like [Lightfoot](#), [Dephrase](#) and [Haasan Barclay](#).

This year, samples were recorded and provided by producer and songwriter, Jiida and beatmaker, rapper and co-founder of the Cambridge beat night “Knobs,” [Pink Navel](#). In early Summer, they met with the Beats On The Beach team in Revere for an experience that has changed the way they write music.

[Jiida](#) usually leans on online sample libraries like Splice. “I’ll typically go to the same places to find sounds,” he says. “It just comes down to habit. That’s what appealed to me about [the competition], mixing up my workflow and finding something unique.”

Recalling the experience of collecting samples, he remembers the joy of finding the sound he dubbed “[dogshells](#)” by serendipitously catching the barks of a dog while tapping on some shells. “It was the perfect random circumstance that gave the sound a texture I could not have recreated on purpose,” he says.

“It’s something I don’t really do, go out and collect field recordings,” says Pink Navel. “I wouldn’t have gotten out of my comfort zone like that if I wasn’t asked to. I still use those samples now.” To prove it can be done, the samplers each took a stab at creating tracks with their own sounds. The results were surprisingly varied but somehow reminiscent of the beach where the samples were gathered. Pink Navel produced an off-kilter yet serene [trip](#), and Jiida took his samples in a different direction, landing on a bassy [trap beat](#).

The various motives at work, from local music to beats and community building to racial and environmental justice, coalesced in the first Beats on the Beach Block Party in 2022. It included a concert, which was important to the organization because the competition is not just about spotlighting and supporting musicians but also giving their listeners a space to enjoy the art. “It was so gratifying last year to not only put money into the hands of local Black and Brown creatives,” says Smith. “But to also invite community members down to their local beach in Dorchester that so many folks have not accessed before.”

The Beats on the Beach crew have deliberated for weeks since the submission deadline ended on July 25 to narrow down the competition’s winners. It was not an easy task. “It’s a struggle to narrow it down every year,” says LDER. “And that’s just a testament to how strong some of the beatmakers from Boston are.”



Featured producers Pink Navel and Jiida at Revere Beach

Boston Herald

Splashing for a Cause

Boston Herald Staff | March 12, 2023



Elaine Howler, from Waltham, wears a sunflower themed and peacock inspired headdress during Sunday's Shamrock splash at Constitution Beach in East Boston. (Staff Photo By Nancy Lane/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)

It was a Shamrock shiver for a colorful crew of beach lovers who took the plunge at Constitution Beach Sunday to raise money for Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program Partnership.

The so-called "Shamrock Splashers" have already raised more than \$45,000 of their \$50,000 goal to protect the beaches of Boston Harbor.

Since it's founding in 2008, the Save the Harbor program has invested over \$2 million to clean and protect the beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, according to organizers.



Shamrock splashers race into the water during the Save the Harbor Save the Bay Shamrock Splash on Constitution Beach on Sunday. (Staff Photo By Nancy Lane/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)



Eliza Cerveira and Erica Maymi run out of the water during the Save the Harbor Save the Bay Shamrock Splash on Constitution Beach on Sunday in East Boston. (Staff Photo By Nancy Lane/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)



Shamrock splashers race into the water during the Save the Harbor Save the Bay Shamrock Splash on Constitution Beach, Sunday. (Staff Photo By Nancy Lane/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)

East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

August 30, 2023

Over 5,000 community members joined Save the Harbor for free harbor island cruises this summer

This summer over 5,000 community members joined Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for free harbor island cruises to Georges and Spectacle Islands, including around 40 teens from Eastie Farms in East Boston.

“There’s no better way to beat this summer’s record-breaking heat than to spend the day out on the harbor and the islands,” said Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini.

“Swimming in the clean waters off Spectacle Island and exploring the ‘Dark Tunnel’ in Fort Warren are two of the best places to be during a heatwave.”

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 300-500 kids from around the region meet at the Leader Bank Pavilion or Fan Pier where Harbor Historian David Coffin tells them how Spectacle Island went from a landfill on fire to the beautiful park it is today. “It’s one of my favorite stories to share with the kids,” said Coffin, “and it emphasizes the importance of the park’s carry-in, carry-out policy. They take that experience home with them and become the next generation of environmental stewards.”

The trips are organized and run by Boston Public



Local groups join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for their final summer 2023 trip to Georges Island.

School students in Save the Harbor’s Youth Jobs program. Once on the island, they lead fun, STEAM-based education activities like Fishing 101, the Treasures of Spectacle Island archaeology exploration, and hikes through Fort Warren on Georges or to the top of Spectacle’s drumlins for a great view of the Boston skyline and the outer harbor.

“We’re particularly proud to have added guided audio tours and information in six languages this year,” said Deputy Director Kristen Barry. “This way, native speakers in Mandarin, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole can more easily participate in our programs.”

“All of these free cruises are only made possible with leadership support and partnership from Cronin Development, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Protection, Bay State Cruise Company, and Mass Bay Lines,” said Mancini.

Mancini went on to thank partners and funders for their sustained support, including the Healey/Driscoll Administration, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Champions Liberty Mutual Foundation, Coca Cola Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Eastern Salt Company, Executive Office of Energy and

Environmental Affairs, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massport, the Mass Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the National Grid Foundation, and the hundreds of individual donors who support the organization.

They also thanked Alexandria, Amazon, Bay State Cruise Company, BXP - Atlantic Wharf, City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, Boston Consulting Group, the Comcast Foundation, Constellation Generation, the Cronin Group, Hood Park, HYM Investment Group, Income Research and Management Charitable Trust, Leader Bank Pavilion/Live Nation, Massachusetts Bay Lines, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, National Development, Nutter, P&G Gillette, Pembroke Real Estate, Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, RWE Clean Energy, William E. Schrafft & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, Clinton H. & Wilma T. Shattuck Charitable Trust, Copeland Family Foundation, Equinor, Lovett Woodsum Foundation, Mass Marine Trades Education Trust, Pabis Foundation, Rockland Trust, Ms. Wallace M. Leonard Foundation and Vertex.

The Quincy Sun



Historic Quincy's Hometown Weekly Newspaper Since 1968

August 3, 2023 | Sun Staff

Quincy Kids Join Save The Harbor/Save The Bay's Beach Bash

On July 12th, as heat and humidity soared, 500 kids beat the heat at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual Youth Beach Bash on DCR's Constitution Beach in East Boston, including over 30 kids from the IIDiL Learning Center in Quincy. While JetBlue volunteers served sandwiches and drinks, the kids played soccer, made sand art, got fishing lessons from Save the Harbor's youth staff, kayak rides with Piers Park Sailing Center, and heard tales of the high seas from drag performer Big Ohh as the infamous pirate Mary Read. The event culminated at noon with Grooversity Boston's Drumline, aNova Brazil, leading a 400-kid strong parade along the shore to the lifeguarded swimming area, where they cooled off with a big splash into the waters of Constitution Beach. "This event was designed and voted on by East Boston kids as part of our participatory budgeting process in this year's Better Beaches Program," said Save the Harbor Better Beaches Director Maya Smith. "This program is a democratic process where community members decide how part of a budget is spent, allowing them to vote on and pitch their own events." "Any opportunity to shift power into the hands of the



YOUNGSTERS FROM IIDiL Learning Center in Quincy and Save The Harbor/Save The Bay's partners from JetBlue at the annual Beach Bash July 12 at Constitution Beach. Photo Courtesy Irka Perez

people of Boston makes a positive impact among our constituents," said Lydia Edwards, vice chairperson of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission. "Our community members share ownership of so many incredible beaches, so it is exciting to create programming that empowers people to harness that ownership and directly select events that reflect them."

"This fantastic annual event directly addresses the feedback we heard on how we can make these spectacular public places more equitable and welcoming to everyone," said Representative Adrian Madaro, co-chairperson of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission. "Plus it's so fun to see all the kids out on the beach after all our work towards more accessible, clean, and safe beaches."

"We couldn't do events and programs like this without the sustained and generous support of our partners and funders, especially the Healey/Driscoll Administration and the Department of Conservation and Recreation," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini. "We're so grateful, too, for our incredible donors at Liberty Mutual Foundation, Coca-Cola Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Eastern Salt Company, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massport, the Mass Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the National Grid

Foundation, and of course the hundreds of individual donors who support us every year."

Mancini went on to acknowledge donors Alexandria, Amazon, Bay State Cruise Company, BXP - Atlantic Wharf, City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, the Comcast Foundation, Constellation Generation, the Cronin Group, Hood Park, HYM Investment Group, Income Research and Management Charitable Trust, Leader Bank Pavilion/Live Nation, Massachusetts Bay Lines, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, National Development, Nutter, P&G Gillette, Pembroke Real Estate, Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, RWE Clean Energy, William E. Schrafft & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, Clinton H. & Wilma T. Shattuck Charitable Trust, and the Vertex Foundation.

The group also thanked the Boston Consulting Group, Copeland Family Foundation, Equinor, Lovett Woodsum Foundation, Mass Marine Trades Education Trust, Pabis Foundation, Rockland Trust, Ms. Wallace M. Leonard Foundation and Vertex.

To learn more about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the great work they do to restore, protect and share Boston Harbor, the waterfront, islands, and the region's public beaches with all Bostonians and the region's residents, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org and follow @savetheharbor on social media.