

Save the Harbor Awards Over \$200,000 to Support Free Beach Programs



Jonathan Gladstone and Kellie Latimer of L Street Ice Swimmers, Alicia Simpson of BCYF Curley Community Center, Bryan Van Dorpe of YES, David Biele of Rep. Nick Collins's office, Save the Harbor President Patty Foley, Representative RoseLee Vincent, Helen Lin of L Street Ice Swimmers, DCR Deputy Commissioner Sam Overton, Joanne McDevitt of City Point Neighborhood Association, Save the Harbor Board Chair Joe Newman, Ken Brissette of the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment, Kathy Lafferty of South Boston Neighborhood House, Donnie Todd of JetBlue, Max Havlin of Quidditch Club Boston, and Jeremy Reger and Jean Dunoyer of Mass Kiting

On Saturday morning, June 6th Save the Harbor/Save the Bay awarded more than \$200,000 in Better Beaches Program grants to over 35 groups in beachfront communities. Eight groups from South Boston were awarded grants to jumpstart their free beach programs and events to be held throughout the summer.

BCYF Curley Community Center was awarded \$5,000 for their Beach Jam, the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment was awarded \$20,000 for their Boston Beach Bash, Mass Kiting was awarded \$2,064 for their International Kiteboarding Film Festival, South Boston Neighborhood House was awarded \$5,000 for family fun nights, Quidditch Club Boston was awarded \$500 for Quidditch on the beach, YES was awarded \$5,500 for Stand-Up Paddleboard instruction, L Street Ice Swimmers was awarded \$1,000 for their cold water swim, and City Point Neighborhood Association was awarded \$1,500 for their Summer Sizzle.

This year's Better Beaches Program grants will fund traditional beach events like free concerts and sand sculpting competitions,

family fun nights and beach festivals, including a late season beach party hosted by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. It will also include a Quidditch tournament, story telling with the pirate Mary Read, a coastal illumination and sand painting by noted California coastal artist Andres Amadore.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay also announced the expansion of their free Boston Harbor Explorers program at DCR's Carson Beach in South Boston, which is now one of the cleanest urban beaches in America. The program will be based at the McCormack Bath House on Day Boulevard, and run five days a week for 8 weeks in July and August.

Activities at DCR's Carson Beach will include free swimming and kayak lessons and beach soccer clinics, as well as environmental exploration, fishing, and art on the shore. Save the Harbor expects more than 2,000 youth and teens from area youth development and community organizations to take part this year.

"The region's public beaches are an extraordinary asset to the residents of Boston's waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront

communities from Nahant to Nantasket" said Save the Harbor's spokesman Bruce Berman. "It was a wicked winter. We want to thank the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and all our program sponsors and partners for making this a spectacular summer for the more than 1 million people who live just a short ride or drive from the coast.

Funds to support the Better Beaches Program come from the proceeds of the Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash pledge fundraiser, which was held this year on the first snowy Saturday of spring. Over the past 7 years, Save the Harbor's community partners in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull have leveraged \$205,000 in small grants received from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay with \$815,722 in cash and in-kind contributions from local government and small businesses for a total investment of \$1,020,722 in 214 free events and programs for the region's residents and visitors alike.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay would like to thank the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their support of the Better Beaches Program. We would also like to thank the more than 600 people who participated in this year's Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash, and all our Better Beaches program, policy and event sponsors, including Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, The Boston Foundation, Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, P&G Gillette, Comcast, National Grid, The Department of Conservation & Recreation, BCYF Curley Community Center, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, YMCA of Greater Boston, Food Should Taste Good, Mix 104.1, Sullivans and Russo Marine.

For more information about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org their blog Sea, Sand & Sky at www.blog.savetheharbor.org or follow savetheharbor on Facebook and Twitter.