

Keith Spencer | June, 2015

## Better Beaches Program Awards \$200,000 to 35 Groups in 9 Waterfront Communities



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay launched the Better Beaches Program with the support of The Boston Foundation in 2008 to help local communities and beaches friends groups create and sustain free events and activities on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, as recommended by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission.

"We were proud to be there at the beginning to help found Save the Harbor/Save the Bay nearly 30 years ago," said Metropolitan Beach Commissioner Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "And we applaud and support their Better Beaches Program. It activates our beaches and enhances their value to urban families, and provides another incentive for young professionals to settle in Greater Boston."

MASSACHUSETTS – Save the Harbor/Save the Bay announced earlier this month that they have awarded more than \$200,000 in Better Beaches Program grants to more than 35 different groups in 9 beachfront communities from Nahant to Nantasket to support over 70 different free public events this summer.

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.

"At hearings from Nahant to Nantasket we heard repeatedly that modest investments in free events and programs can put these beaches to work for our communities" said Senator Tom McGee of Lynn, Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chair.

"The people of this region love their beaches," said Commission Co-Chair Rep. RoseLee Vincent of Revere. "Thanks to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for making this happen."

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.

This year, with additional funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay awarded over \$200,000 in grants to groups in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

"These Better Beaches Program grants offer a tremendous amount of value by financially assisting free, public events that are both enriching and engaging," said DCR Commissioner Carol Sanchez. "By partnering with organizations like Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, DCR continues to seek different ways to make our beaches a fun, unique, and enjoyable experience."

In addition to the grants given out on Saturday, each group was also given a small bag of marbles to scatter along the shore as a part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and JetBlue's summer-long "Simply Marble-ous" Treasure Hunt. If you find a marble on the beach this summer, send a picture along with your contact information to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to be entered to win a free round-trip flight courtesy of JetBlue.

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, Sea, Sand & Sky blog, and Like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

COMMUNITY	GROUP	EVENT	AWARD
Lynn/Nahant	Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach	Red Rock Summer Concert Series	\$10,000.00
Lynn/Nahant	Friends of Heritage State Park	World Music Festival	\$2,000.00
Revere	Revere Beach Partnership	International Sand Sculpting Festival	\$20,000.00
Winthrop	Friends of Belle Isle Marsh	Around Belle Isle: Come Play and Learn	\$5,000.00
Winthrop	Friends of Winthrop Beach	Youth and Family Programs	\$5,000.00
East Boston	Harbor Arts, Inc.	HarborArts Festival	\$2,500.00
East Boston	East Boston YMCA	Campfires, Dancing, Summer Food Service	\$5,000.00
East Boston	Neighborhood of Affordable Housing	Kayak Week at Constitution Beach	\$3,000.00
South Boston	BCYF Curley Community Center	Beach Jam	\$5,000.00
South Boston	Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment	Boston Beach Bash	\$20,000.00
South Boston	Mass Kiting	International Kiteboarding Film Festival	\$2,064.00
South Boston	South Boston Neighborhood House	Family Fun Nights	\$5,000.00
South Boston	Quidditch Club Boston	Quidditch on the Beach	\$500.00
South Boston	YES	Kid's Stand-Up Paddleboard Instruction	\$5,500.00
South Boston	L Street Ice Swimmers	Cold Water Swim	\$1,000.00
South Boston	City Point Neighborhood Association	Summer Sizzle	\$1,500.00
Harbor Explorers at Carson Beach	Greater Boston YMCA	Free Swimming Safety & Aquatics	\$17,500.00
Harbor Explorers at Carson Beach	America SCORES	Free Beach Soccer Clinics	\$10,000.00
Harbor Explorers at Carson Beach	Boating in Boston	Free Kayak Program	\$15,000.00
Harbor Explorers at Carson Beach	Storyteller Norah Dooley as Mary the Pirate	Storytelling on the Beach & Shore	\$5,000.00
Dorchester	Friends of Savin Hill Shores	Dorchester Beach Festival	\$10,000.00
Dorchester	Port Norfolk Civic Association Dorchester	Family Fun Day/Night	\$5,000.00
Dorchester	MassBike -Bowdoin Bike School	Slow Roll To The Beach	\$5,694.00
Quincy	Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.	Beach Party	\$10,000.00
Quincy	Friends of Wollaston Beach	Kid's Fest	\$2,500.00
Hull	Hull Lifesaving Museum	Harbor Illumination	\$8,000.00
Hull	Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce	Endless Summer Waterfront Festival	\$2,000.00
Hull	Friends of Paragon Carousel	Friday Morning Storytime	\$1,500.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Alice Vogler - Islands Art Initiative	Islands Arts Initiative	\$3,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Rhythm Room Events	SoundWaves Blues Concert at Spectacle	\$2,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	The Fishing Academy	Youth Fishing in the Harbor Islands	\$1,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Community Boating	Youth Sailing Program	\$1,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Courageous Sailing Center	Youth Sailing Program	\$1,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Piers Park Sailing Center	Youth Sailing Program	\$1,000.00
Boston Harbor Island Beaches	Harry McDonough Sailing Center	Youth Sailing Program	\$1,000.00
All Metropolitan Beaches	Joseph Prezioso - Documentary Photography	Images From Nahant to Nantasket	\$4,000.00
All Metropolitan Beaches	Artist Andres Amadore	Art In The Sand	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$204,258.00</b>