

Patch

Quincy

Mimi Huckins | June 28, 2021

Back to the beach with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay!



Kids and staff from IDIIL Learning Center celebrate a great day at Save the Harbor's East Boston Beach Bash and Splash on Constitution Beach



Boston's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Spaces Reverend Mariama White-Hammond joined Save the Harbor's Youth Environmental Education Program Staff at Constitution Beach in East Boston.

On Friday, July 16, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay brought more than 300 kids from more than a dozen youth and community groups back to the clean waters of Constitution Beach in East Boston for their first Youth Beach Bash & Splash of 2021, including more than 60 kids from the IDIIL Learning Centers with locations in Boston, Lexington, Malden, Newton and North Quincy.

Among the groups that participated from around the region were the Salesian Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA of Greater Boston, Colectiva NNT, Colectiva de Apoyo Neighborhood, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the East Boston Community Council, Castle Square Tenants Organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts, Youth Enrichment Services, IDIIL Learning Center, Institute for Pan African Cultural Education Inc., St. Stephen's Youth Programs and Braintree After-school Enrichment.

This summer's Splash included aerialists, acrobats and jugglers from the Boston Circus Guild, free kayak instruction from NOAA, sea shanties led by Save the Harbor's song leader David Coffin, and music and motion with a pop-up dance floor from a Trike Called Funk. It was "All Hands On Deck" for Save the Harbor's Youth Environmental Education program staff of 34, who brought sports and games, touch tanks, fishing, crabbing, face painting, food and unbridled enthusiasm to the beach.

"This was our first Beach Bash & Splash since the start of the pandemic," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive

Director Chris Mancini. "It is terrific to see such a diverse group of kids celebrate together again on one of the cleanest urban beaches in the metropolitan region."

"Our free beach events and programs would not be possible without the support of the Baker/Polito Administration, the Department of Conservation & Recreation, House Speaker Ronald Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, as well as Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chair's Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn and Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston and the Legislative leadership and community members of the Commission," said Mancini. "We truly appreciate their support."

"Great events like this bring people together to celebrate clean water and our community," said Rep. Adrian Madaro of East Boston, who Co-Chairs the Metropolitan Beaches Commission. "Thanks to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for taking the lead and making it happen, and for making Constitution Beach one of the cleanest urban beaches in the region."

Save the Harbor's Director of Development Patricia Salic took a few moments at the event to thank Save the Harbor's Better Beaches program and policy partners and event sponsors, including Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, P&G Gillette, National Grid, Comcast, Beacon Capital Partners, Mix 104.1,

Boston Centers for Youth & Families, The YMCA of Greater Boston, The Daily

Catch, Boston Event Specialists, the Blue Sky Collaborative, and Keezer Sportswear for their support, as well as the nearly 1,000 individuals who contributed to the support of the Harpoon Shamrock Splash.

According to Salic, the success of this program would not be possible without the support of Save the Harbor's Youth Program Funders, including the Cronin Group, LLC, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, The Boston Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, The Comcast Foundation, John Hancock Financial Services, Maine Community Foundation, Massachusetts Bay Lines, Boston Properties – Atlantic Wharf, The Boston Center for Youth and Families-Youth Engagement and Employment, Cell Signaling Technology, The Daily Catch, Eastern Salt Company Inc., Engie, Hood Business Park, The HYM Investment Group, IR+M Charitable Fund, Massachusetts Port Authority, National Grid Foundation, P & G Gillette, Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, William E. Schrafft & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, Clinton H. & Wilma T. Shattuck Charitable Trust, and Vertex.

The Back to the Beach Bash & Splash is one of scores of events planned for the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket this summer, as part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches program partnership with DCR.

For more information, visit <http://savetheharbor.org>.