

AGENDA

Please join us virtually for our November 2022 general meeting. Our agenda is as follows:

7:00 p.m. Welcome and brief updates (Board).

7:05 p.m. SEBA Holiday Stroll (Randi Lathrop). Randi will tell us about the South End Business Alliance's South End Holiday Stroll, happening Saturday/Sunday December 3rd and 4th.

7:10 p.m. What's up with the South End Library (Ashley Watson). In April, the South End Library suffered a major flood in the basement that destroyed essential equipment needed to run the branch, with a consequent closure estimated at 18 months or more. The City and Boston Public Library have decided to pursue rebuilding a new library and BPL has committed to additional temporary library services and programming in the community in the interim. A working group led by Friends of the South End Library is soliciting residents' views as to what temporary library services are most needed and wanted while the branch library remains closed. Ashley, BFSNA's representative on that group, will tell us about the current situation and the road ahead.

7:15 p.m. IBA's planned multipurpose community arts and cultural center at 85 West Newton Street (Vanessa Calderón-Rosado). Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, Inc. (IBA), the not-for-profit organization that runs the Villa Victoria housing community, is in the process of finalizing design and securing full City approvals for a new 26,000 square foot four story building to host arts education, gallery, performance, and community gatherings at 85 West Newton Street, between Tremont and Shawmut. The facility will replace and improve upon IBA's previous arts center, which was located in a former church demolished in 2020 after discovery of severe structural conditions. IBA CEO Vanessa Calderón-Rosado will give us an update on where the project stands and next steps.

A description of the project can be found here: <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/85-west-newton-st>

7:30 p.m. Alexandra Residences update (Pawel Honc and Marc LaCasse). Pawel and Marc, representatives of Alexandra Partners, LLC, will update us on the status of the redevelopment of 1767-1769 Washington Street, site of the former Hotel Alexandra, into a condominium residential building that preserves and restores the historical façade while incorporating a new 13-story structure.

7:45 p.m. Bike lanes on Albany Street (John Monacelli, Boston Transportation Department). The City of Boston will be constructing bike lanes along a section of Albany Street c. early 2024, as one element of a recently-announced bike lanes expansion by Mayor Wu. John Monacelli, a transportation planner for the Boston Transportation Department, will tell us about the plans and take questions and comments. The complete details of the bike lanes, including their exact extent and net impact, if any, on parking, are yet to be determined and will be shaped in conjunction with public input at this meeting and other meetings the City of Boston will hold prior to final design and construction. So this is a chance not only to learn about what the City's planning but also potentially influence its design and implementation. (Note: This topic was originally scheduled for discussion at our September meeting but was postponed to November.)

More information about the plan can be found here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a90bff933db94496b6c4214caf17c706>

8:30 p.m. Adjourn.