



Photo: Tanner Stening

Finding Inspiration At the Ballpark

by **Tanner Stening**

Anne McGhee can sometimes spend a whole day outside by Fenway Park. She said the architecture of the 100-year-old stadium fascinates her, which is evident in her paintings.

“I was kind of inspired by Peronesi, an Italian artist who lived in the 1700s,” said McGhee, a Cambridge artist working in Fenway Studios. “He did these imaginary paintings of prisons with lots of arches and stairwells.”

But McGhee, who taught at Harvard’s architectural school of design for 20 years, creates art that is far from imaginary. Since about 2007, she has been painting the exterior of Fenway Park — a creative spree that has yielded what she estimates is more than 50 original composi-

tions depicting the faded green stadium and all of its endearing qualities.

“I don’t really keep count,” she said from her third-floor studio off Ipswich Street. “It all began when I had been walking by Fenway Park to get to the art store one day. I just thought, I’ve got to paint this.”

McGhee describes her style as figurative, meaning it takes from real life. She is often seen with her canvas around the ballpark, delicately sketching the structure from a number of different angles. Painting outdoors and on-site, or “en plein air,” has brought her in touch with the surrounding community, including stadium security, scalpers, fans and vendors.

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Evening on Ipswich

Fenway residents and stakeholders gathered last Friday at the Boston Conservatory performance building for an annual Fenway Alliance fundraiser. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail party with performances by student musicians and dancers.



Photos: Tanner Stening

Kelly Brilliant addressing attendees



Cam Pierce, Chloe Louise Bouscaren and Ryan Sheine



Eileen Pembroke and Anemarie Lewis-Kerwin

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Boylston

Kilmarnock

Brookline



Bay Cove

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conditions including developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance abuse in an effort to combat homelessness.

"The common thread is that we focus on the needs of the individual," said Hirschberg, who has been with the organization for five years. "And that means different things to different people."

Added more recently is a division for senior services as well as for small children and families. Hirschberg said they also have a special professional employment initiative that helps people not just to find work but to pursue careers.

Center Club, an offshoot program for adults with psychiatric disabilities located behind the District A-1 police station, is the beneficiary of the donated goods. According to the Center's website, it is the "oldest and largest Clubhouse in New England for people with psychiatric disabilities."

"The five-day-a-week program combines employment, housing and education services with social activities, wellness initiatives and advocacy using a holistic approach," the website states. Individuals are generally referred by Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Hirschberg said that while the organization does receive some state funding for its core services, its private support allows it more flexibility in serving residents.

But, he said, the opioid crisis and increasing homelessness has added to the demand for services.

"There is definitely increasing need," he said. "People face a serious stigma. We have been very fortunate that the groups we partner with have been very supportive. We do seek relationships with local businesses and community groups. It's a very cooperative environment."

The agency has been around for more than 43 years, he said.

The BHCA will be accepting bagged donations, which can be dropped off at 74 Joy Street, until Thanksgiving.

Ellis Scholarship

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good sense because it will help local students remain in the South End working in jobs that help the entire community.

"We're looking to help people who work in jobs that often go begging for workers but pay well," she said. "The South End is different from when many of us moved in. We hope our scholarship benefits the whole neighborhood by helping local people find productive careers."


Public Meeting

115 WINTHROP SQUARE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

120 TREMONT ST, 4TH FL
Suffolk Law School's Moot Courtroom
Boston, MA 02108

PROJECT PROPONENT:
Millennium Partners

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Public Meeting for the proposed redevelopment of 115 Winthrop Square in Downtown Boston. The proposed redevelopment of the Project Site consists of a thoughtfully designed, iconic, tower of synergistic uses, up to 775 feet tall, built respectfully around a voluminous approximately 200 foot long by 60 foot wide by 60 foot high area that includes curated public gathering space (the Great Hall) that connects streets, cultures, ideas and people. The Project involves innovative office work space; residential units; retail, dining, and other commercial space; as well as residential and private commercial parking below grade. Design and programming of the Project continue to evolve through market analyses and discussions with the City of Boston and BPDA. The Project is anticipated to include approximately 1,100,000 to 1,500,000 square feet of gross floor area and the allocation of square footage among specific uses will be determined during the design process.

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Ballpark

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"When you're painting outside the light is changing constantly," she said. "The compositions are based on abstract shapes, so that is what I am looking at when I am composing or thinking about doing something. I like that sort of doorway between abstraction and realism."

Some of her paintings, which can span several feet, represent actual people. McGhee said she can sketch a scene in a matter of minutes and get the outlines of people waiting in line or standing around in conversation.

She has even made friends. "They are very

supportive," she said. "Occasionally people come up and ask what it is I'm doing."

McGhee's many portraits of the stadium have evolved as the structure has been upgraded over the years.

"I didn't know it, but I was unconsciously recording the changes at the park," she said.

When she is not painting portraits of Fenway Park, McGhee spends time on Martha's Vineyard and focuses her work on "vanishing landscape and structures."

Built in 1905 and designated a national historic landmark, Fenway Studios "is the oldest continuously functioning building in the country constructed for and dedicated solely to artists' space," according to the group's website.

Airbnb

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erty, and Ioannis Keramaris does not seem to be involved with it.

An online Airbnb advertisement describes the property as accommodating seven guests in "Boston's best location! 2016 remodel of gorgeous two-story apartment, three (bedrooms) ... Charming, incredibly quiet, high-end neighborhood. Perfect for families and tired business travelers."

The advertisement's "house rules" specify no smoking, pets or "parties or events" and asks renters to "respect the house as if it were your own. This is not a party house. We live here, as do our neighbors."

The neighbors said the apparent absence of owners living in the building has contributed to the bulk of the problems.

One neighbor said shortly after the Airbnb opened nearby residents called police to complain that a group of "two to three dozen" apparent students were holding a drunken party that appeared to include smoking marijuana.

The neighbor said residents have called police at least four times to complain about noise and other disturbances from temporary renters in the property or on the sidewalk.

However, a spokesman for the Boston Police Department said there was no record of any calls to that address between August and November 2016.

The Boston Guardian was not able to reach John or Nick Keramaris at their Woburn law firm by telephone or email.

The same resident said at least two other Airbnbs were operating in Bay Village without obvious problems because the property owners remained on site to supervise their guests.

First established in 2008, Airbnbs have proliferated like mushrooms across the US and hundreds, if not thousands, are operating in Boston without regulations or paying taxes.

"There has been too little focus on the issue of Airbnbs as they impact Boston regarding taxes, public safety and quality of life issues," said Steve Fox, chairman of the South End Forum.

He noted that some condo associations have added provisions prohibiting members from renting units as Airbnbs because a frequent turnover of visitors could affect security or peoples' peace of mind.

State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz plans to file a bill that would update the state's hotel taxes by imposing a charge on the short-term rentals, like Airbnbs.