

# N Northeastern City and Community Engagement

Spring 2022 Newsletter



As we conclude another academic year, we thank our community and campus partners, neighbors, and students for working together to build meaningful community connections, create valuable learning experiences, and pave the way for new opportunities to engage.

*In the newsletter you will find:*

- Highlights from Spring Semester like our 2022 Community Grants and Neighbors Award announcement, the Annual Fenway Flower Share, and a student and community partnership
- Upcoming engagement opportunities like our [Community-Based Data Trainings](#), [AmeriCorps service application](#), and Story Time with NUPD
- Campus Spotlights of community engagement and community stories
- More opportunities to get involved in our local communities

## Highlights from Spring Semester

### **CCE Welcomes New Assistant VP for Community Relations, Chimel Idiokitas**

CCE was proud to announce the appointment of Chimel Idiokitas as Northeastern's new Assistant Vice President for Community Relations.

Working closely with Vice President of City and Community Engagement, John Tobin and Assistant Vice President of City and Community Engagement, Dave Isberg, ChimeI will help lead Northeastern's efforts to enhance relations with the university's local community.

ChimeI joins us from Boston University, where he spent the last ten years as a highly collaborative and organized planner with a stellar record of successful outreach and relations with various community and political stakeholders. As the Community Outreach & Program Director, ChimeI led numerous highly effective outreach efforts, including the South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. Throughout his work, ChimeI has worked closely with university staff, community task forces, residents, and city agencies to address community concerns around research and campus activity.



ChimeI and his wife, Jasmine are proud parents of three young boys, Xaiden, Xander, and Xaire, and are residents of the Roxbury community. Given his extensive experience in higher education and passion for community engagement, CCE is thrilled to welcome ChimeI to our team!



## CCE Awards \$30,000 in Community Grants and Neighbors Award Funds to Local Organizations

City and Community Engagement is pleased to announce the recipients of our annual Community Grants initiative and the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award. This year, CCE awarded a total of \$30,000 in funds to 30 organizations - 20 of which were recipients of a Community Grant and 10 were recipients of the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award. City and Community Engagement was proud to support a diverse pool of proposals and nominations, whose missions include but are not limited to youth empowerment, arts education, accessibility for disabled communities, food security, and equitable development.

## CCE and Fenway Civic Association host 47th Annual Fenway Flower Share

On May 14th, we were proud to sponsor the 47th Annual Fenway Flower Share in partnership with the Fenway Civic Association. Since 1975, Northeastern University has teamed up with the [Fenway Civic Association](#) to spread spring cheer to our Fenway neighbors and help the FCA with their membership drive. For the second year in a row, CCE donated a portion of the flowers to our neighbors at the Alice Heyward Taylor Apartments in Roxbury. We had a beautiful day for this beloved tradition with our wonderful neighbors!





**NU volunteers clean up in the community for last "Breakfast Club" of the semester**

In April, students closed out the Spring semester by spending a sunny Saturday beautifying our local neighborhoods at "Breakfast Club". Breakfast Club is a weekly neighborhood clean up for student volunteers organized by the [Off Campus Housing and Support Services](#). For the last weekend of the semester, students weeded, planted flowers, mulched, and painted at multiple sites around Northeastern's campus - the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center in Roxbury, the Mission Hill Community Garden, and Southwest Corridor Park.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for your work and time this semester to keep our neighborhoods clean, and to our colleagues in the Off Campus office and community partners for leading this great opportunity!





## Community partnerships in the news!

A group of Northeastern students are partnering with [Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services](#) to designate Kevin Fitzgerald park as a level 1 arboretum. The students have already identified 21 different plant species and will also develop a master plan to help guide the Mission Hill NHS in maintaining the park. The team at Boston 25 news spoke to our students in April.



[Watch the Boston 25 news story here!](#)

"What makes an arboretum really important is access to community and providing green space for people." -Indira Holdsworth, NU student

## COMMUNITY FACES: Spotlights of our CAB members

feat.  
**Alphonse Litz,**  
Executive Director of  
**Boston Explorers**



Get to know our Community Advisory Board! The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is an active and thoughtful group of dedicated community members tasked with advising the work of the Office of City and Community Engagement. The CAB discusses and provides input about community engagement, the impact of CCE's work on local neighborhoods, and the university's development ideas and initiatives. Check out our CAB spotlight of

Director of Boston Explorers, Alphonse Litz, who shares the history and mission of his organization, his experiences on Northeastern's CAB, and much more. [Click here for the full interview.](#)

## CAMPUS SPOTLIGHTS

### Congratulations to the 2022 Community Service Leadership Award recipients!

In early May, the Community-Engaged Teaching and Research and Community Service & Civic Engagement teams honored 23 graduating seniors for their commitment to community engagement during their time at Northeastern.

Please join us in congratulating them for their service to the community, and learn more about the awardees on the [NU Community Service Instagram page!](#)



### Alternative Spring Break in Boston

Northeastern's Alternative Spring Break program (ASB) is an immersive service and learning opportunity for students to work alongside communities across the country and Latin America to understand different approaches to addressing critical social issues. Building on the success of the 2020 trip, the ASB program hosted its second local trip for students interested in spending their spring break in Boston to connect with organizations and individuals to learn more about the impact of the Opioid Epidemic and approaches to prevention.

This year's trip partnered with various nonprofit organizations across Boston to understand how organizations respond to the collateral consequences, methods of treatment, and build community and local networks of support for people in recovery.

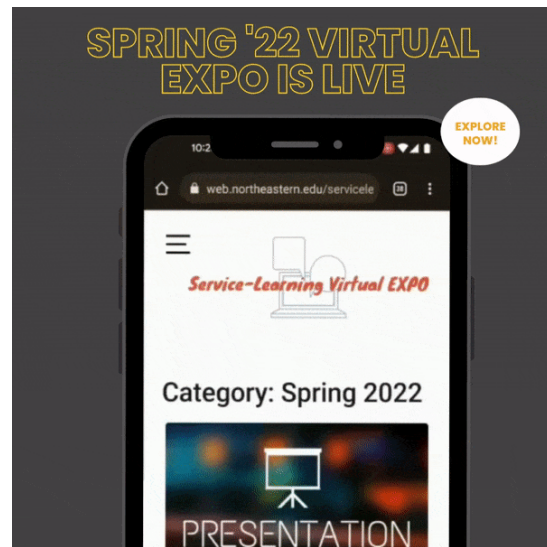


Community-Engaged Teaching & Research Spring 2022 Virtual Expo is live!

Check out all the great artifacts where service-learning students, faculty, and community partners collaborated to provide solutions to pressing issues that affect the Boston community. We encourage you to take a look and go through the artifacts from previous semesters as well as the artifacts from Spring 2022!

If you are interested in collaborating with NU students in Fall 2022, our Request for Partnerships will be released in mid-June! Keep an eye out or email [service-learning@northeastern.edu](mailto:service-learning@northeastern.edu).

View digital artifacts on the Virtual Expo website!



## Community Service and Civic Engagement Program Wrap-up

The Alliance of Civically Engaged Students (ACES) was thrilled to be back in person for the 2022-2023 academic year! Over 70 first-year students served weekly with 15 partner organizations in the community. Next year's student leaders have already started planning and we look forward to recruiting a new class of first-year students this summer!

During its second year, the Community Volunteers Program (CVP) continued to support local nonprofits by engaging Northeastern students in weekly volunteer placements during the fall, spring, and summer I terms. Working with 9 community partners, the Community Service Program Assistants/Co-ops recruited, placed, and supported 217 through their semester of engaged service. Each week the Community Volunteers supported academic enrichment through tutoring and mentoring youth in afterschool programs, prepared medically tailored meals for residents living with critical and chronic illness, created digital content to encourage outdoor engagement and nutritious meal choices, and inventoried construction supplies for affordable home improvement opportunities.

This year, Jumpstart was officially back in the classroom and we are excited to say we were able to enroll 49 Corps Members to serve over 90 preschoolers weekly at 6 different preschools in the Greater Boston area! We are looking forward to recruiting this summer and preparing for another



amazing program year!



## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities & Events

### The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is now recruiting for the 24th Cohort!

MPF believes that all young people in the Commonwealth have a right to the resources they need to be successful in life. Fellows lead academic enrichment and college and career exploration projects for host sites across Massachusetts during a year of service.

The deadline to apply is July 31st. More info and the application itself can be found [here](#). Please help spread the word to those who may be interested in being a 2022-2023 Fellow.

Reach out to Yuliya Lantsman with any questions at [y.lantsman@northeastern.edu](mailto:y.lantsman@northeastern.edu).

[Apply to Mass Promise!](#)

**BECOME A MASS PROMISE FELLOW**

Do you want to support young people in reaching their goals?  
You may be an AmeriCorps Mass Promise Fellow in the making!

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Have at least a high school degree or GED equivalent
- Be at least 17 years old
- Be a US Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident
- Be willing to comply with a criminal background check

Applications accepted on a rolling basis through July 15th  
Start Date: August 15, 2022  
End Date: June 30, 2023

**OUR BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- A living stipend of up to \$20,000
- FREE Classes at Northeastern's College of Professional Studies
- Monthly Professional and Personal Development
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$6,595
- Health insurance, federal loan forbearance, member assistance program

**APPLY NOW!** Visit [masspromisefellows.org/apply](https://masspromisefellows.org/apply)

### Book Northeastern Crossing for your next community event!

City and Community Engagement invites our local residents and organizations to reserve Northeastern Crossing for your next community event! Located at 1175 Tremont St., our space offers both conference and classroom space options for your event and program needs.

*Advance reservations are required for both spaces.*

*All programming must be free to participants.*

[Request a booking!](#)

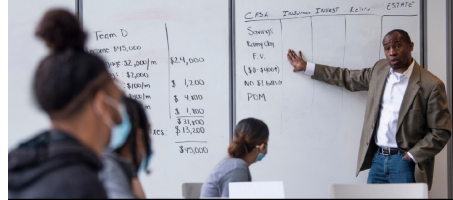


## Book your community event at Northeastern Crossing

We are excited to re-open our classroom and conference space reservations to organizations and individuals to host community programming!

Advance reservations are required for both spaces.  
All programming must be free to participants.

Please visit our website at [communityengagement.northeastern.edu](http://communityengagement.northeastern.edu) for all reservation policies.



Visit [bit.ly/NUcrossing\\_reservations](http://bit.ly/NUcrossing_reservations)  
or scan the QR code to request a booking

Follow us on social media @nuengaged



## Upcoming Community Informatics Training with BARI

Are you looking to become more comfortable with gathering and aggregating data? Do you want to take an urban informatics approach to tackling issues in your community?

In partnership with the [Boston Area Research Initiative \(BARI\)](#), City and Community Engagement regularly host trainings on the Boston Data Portal for community-based organizations. The training will cover the [Boston Data Portal](#), an online platform where visitors of all experience levels can browse, map, analyze, and download a variety of data describing the people, places, and neighborhoods of Boston. [Registration is now open](#) for our next session on Tuesday, June 14!

Northeastern  
City and Community Engagement

Boston  
Area  
Research  
Initiative

### Urban Informatics: Boston Data Portal Training with BARI

Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST  
Sessions to be held on Zoom

For questions contact [bari@northeastern.edu](mailto:bari@northeastern.edu)

Register here for the 6/14 Training!

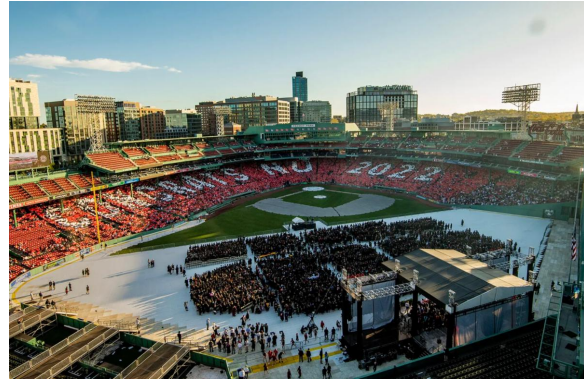
## Storytime in Carter Park is back!

Great news - With the return of warm temperatures, outdoor Storytime is back with NUPD! Northeastern officers will read stories to kids on Carter Park playground on Wednesdays at 10am, weather permitting.



## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PULL OFF A FENWAY PARK COMMENCEMENT? AT NORTHEASTERN, 'THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY.'

"After the 10 a.m. ceremony, everything seemed to go still. The graduates filtered out and met up with their guests to go their separate ways. The sun shined down over the diamond, and Fenway Park personnel came out with hoses to water the grass. Behind the scenes, however, Northeastern crews were hard at work to create another experience for the undergraduate ceremony a little more than five hours later. It was all hands on deck to make the 2022 Commencement a once-in-a-lifetime experience." [Read full article](#)



## URVASHI VAID, NORTHEASTERN ALUM, REMEMBERED AS LEGENDARY LGBTQ ACTIVIST

"At Northeastern, Vaid engaged with the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and served on the board of GLAD and Gay Community News, a weekly newspaper published by and for the LGBTQ community. After graduating from Northeastern, Vaid shot to the national stage, working on the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project in Washington, D.C., before joining the National LGBTQ Task Force, then known as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force." [Read full article](#)



## TOP D.C. LOBBYIST APPOINTED VP FOR FEDERAL RELATIONS AT NORTHEASTERN

"Jack Cline, an experienced Washington, D.C.-based higher-education lobbyist, has been appointed vice president for federal relations at Northeastern University. Cline is joining Northeastern from the University of Kansas, where he spent more than a decade advocating for the university's interests on Capitol Hill as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Federal Relations. He was named a "top lobbyist" by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics, among other organizations." [Read full article](#)



## HOW DO YOU TURN A COMMUNITY PARK INTO AN ARBORETUM? ASK THESE NORTHEASTERN STUDENTS.

"How do you turn a community park, tucked away among rows of housing in the middle of a city, into an arboretum? As it turns out, many urban parks may already meet the criteria—at least, to be a Level I arboretum. Such a designation requires, among other things, a minimum of 25 different species of plants be present on the grounds. A group of Northeastern students are working toward that first-level arboretum certification for Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park, a 5.5-acre slice of greenspace in the Mission Hill neighborhood that Northeastern has had a hand in maintaining for years."

[Read full article](#)



## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

[Boston Food Access Council's 1st Virtual Food Fair - Sat. May 28](#)

[Savor the Square in Roxbury](#)

[Love your Block Mini-grants - Deadline 6/10](#)

[Madison Park Development Corporation Summer Youth Academy](#)

[Fenway Porchfest - July 9, 2022](#)

*Want to learn more? There are a number of ways to stay engaged with Northeastern and our communities.*

[Search or Submit Opportunities to the Service Finder!](#)

Follow us on social media!

[Sign up for the Weekly Volunteer Digest!](#)

