EMBRACE

HIGHLIGHTS 2025-2026



BUILDING TOGETHER

OUR MISSION

To dismantle structural racism through our work at the intersection of arts and culture, community, and research and policy.



OUR VISION

A RADICALLY INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE BOSTON WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS AND BLACK PEOPLE PROSPER, GROUNDED IN JOY, LOVE, AND WELLBEING.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BELONGING IS SOMETHING WE BUILD

This past year has reminded us that belonging is not abstract. It is something we build, protect, and practice together.

Dear Friends,

We are living in an age of fracture. Across our communities, division, isolation, and distrust continue to challenge our connection to one another. Meeting this moment requires more than responding to what divides us. It requires investing in what brings us together.

What began with a vision for a monument has evolved into a broader commitment to building the social and civic infrastructure that belonging requires. Through radically inclusive placemaking, storytelling, community, and research and policy, we are creating more opportunities for people to engage with our history, encounter one another across differences, and participate more fully in civic life.

This year, that vision took another significant step forward with the acquisition of our permanent home at 33–41 West Street in Downtown Crossing — a permanent place for art, history, ideas, culture, and community to meet.

We are deeply grateful to those who have believed in Embrace, grown with us, and helped make this next chapter possible. The work continues, and so does our belief in what we can build together.

With gratitude,

Imari K. Paris Jeffries, PhD
President & Chief Executive Officer

BECAUSE OF YOU

THANK YOU.

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
33–41 West Street

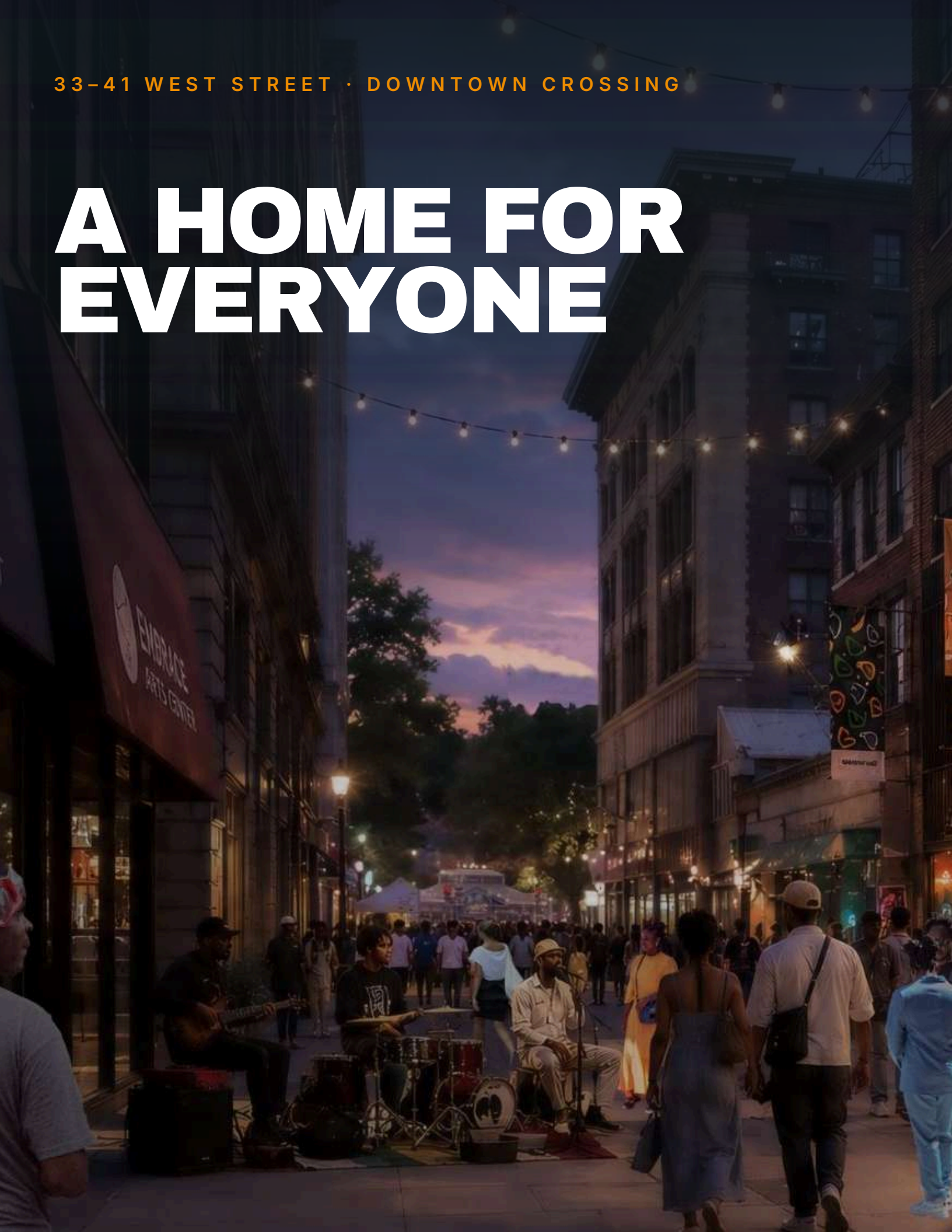
OUR STORIES IN BRONZE
Commemorating the country's 250th

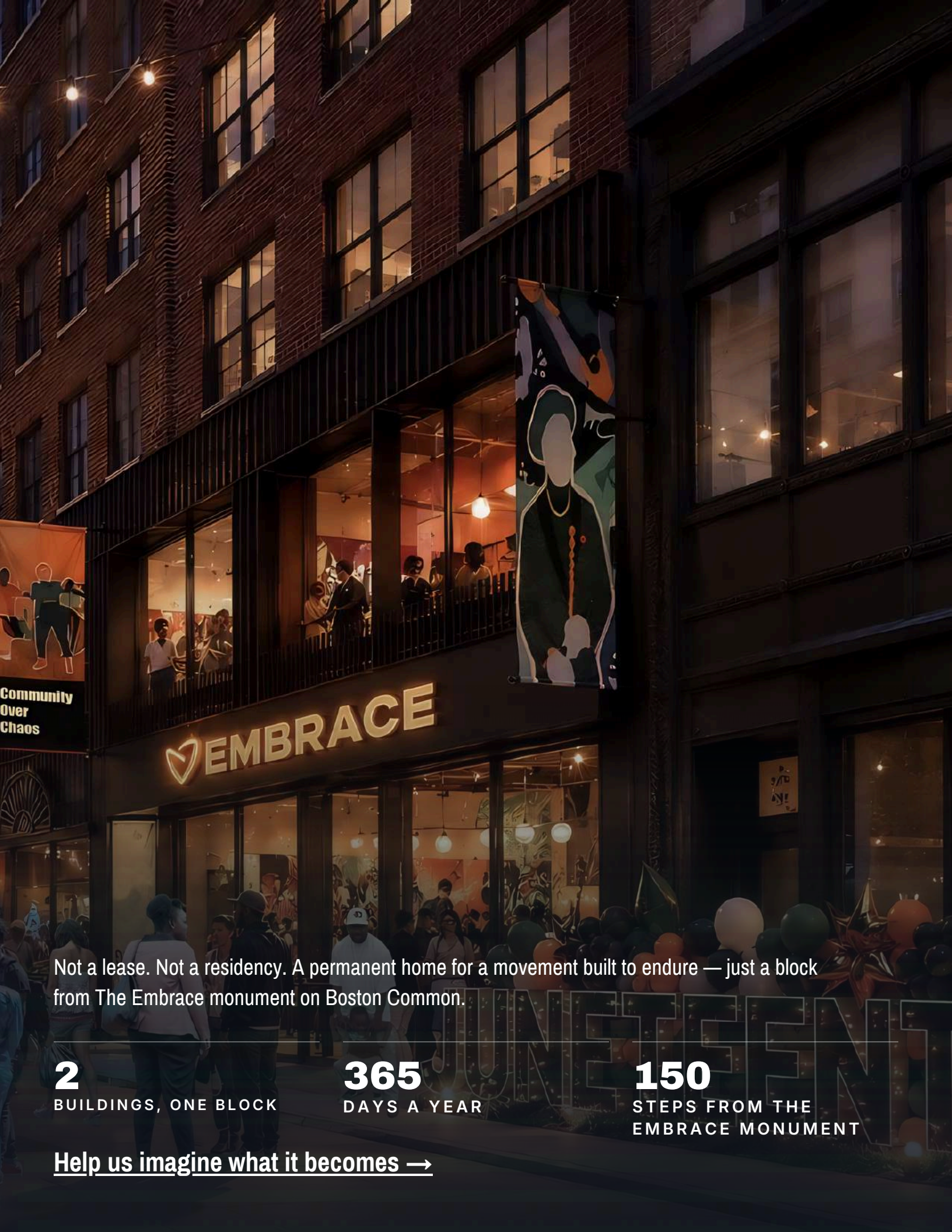
LIVING LEGACIES
Growing multicultural and multigenerational gatherings

TRUTH TELLING
Expanding our digital communities

33–41 WEST STREET · DOWNTOWN CROSSING

A HOME FOR EVERYONE





Not a lease. Not a residency. A permanent home for a movement built to endure — just a block from The Embrace monument on Boston Common.

2
BUILDINGS, ONE BLOCK

365
DAYS A YEAR

150
STEPS FROM THE EMBRACE MONUMENT

Help us imagine what it becomes →



33–41 WEST STREET

WELCOME TO A HOME FOR EVERYONE.

In Downtown Crossing, just a block from The Embrace and the 1965 Freedom Plaza, Embrace Boston now owns 33–41 West Street. A permanent address. A lasting presence. A home for the work—and for what we are building together.

THE HUB: TWO BUILDINGS, ONE BLOCK
37,000 square feet steps from Boston Common, the Freedom Trail, and four transit lines.

WE THE PEOPLE
A place to gather, where civic life is not an idea but a practice.

A DEMONSTRATION SITE
An economic and cultural hub designed for partners.

THIS IS A PLACE MEANT FOR YOU.

The doors opened in May 2026, and the house is already at work. Our new rental program is up and running, opening 33–41 West Street to the community for gatherings, cultural events, and creative experiences.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS
Meetings and celebrations

CULTURAL EVENTS
Performances and exhibitions

CREATIVE EXPERIENCES
Workshops and pop-ups

Book the house →

THE LODESTARS

The visionaries who brought to life this constellation of belonging: The Embrace, The 1965 Freedom Plaza, and 33-41 West Street.

The Barr Foundation · Katie and Paul Buttenwieser · Eastern Bank Foundation · Sandy and Paul Edgerley · Barbara and Amos Hostetter · Demond and Dr. Kia Martin

THE CORNERSTONE

Founders of the house, whose bold generosity unlocked ownership of two buildings in May 2026.

Terence Anker · Kevin Barry · Reverend Jeffrey Brown · Michael Curry · Paul and Betty Francisco · Kate Guedj · Mai Luo · Linda Mason and Roger Brown · Kevin McGovern · Patrick Mitchell and Renee Chan · Alison and Frank Quirk · Dr. Brandon Terry · Janet Tiampo and David Parker · Andrew and Mariann Youniss

BUILD A HOUSE FOR EVERYONE

Become a builder →

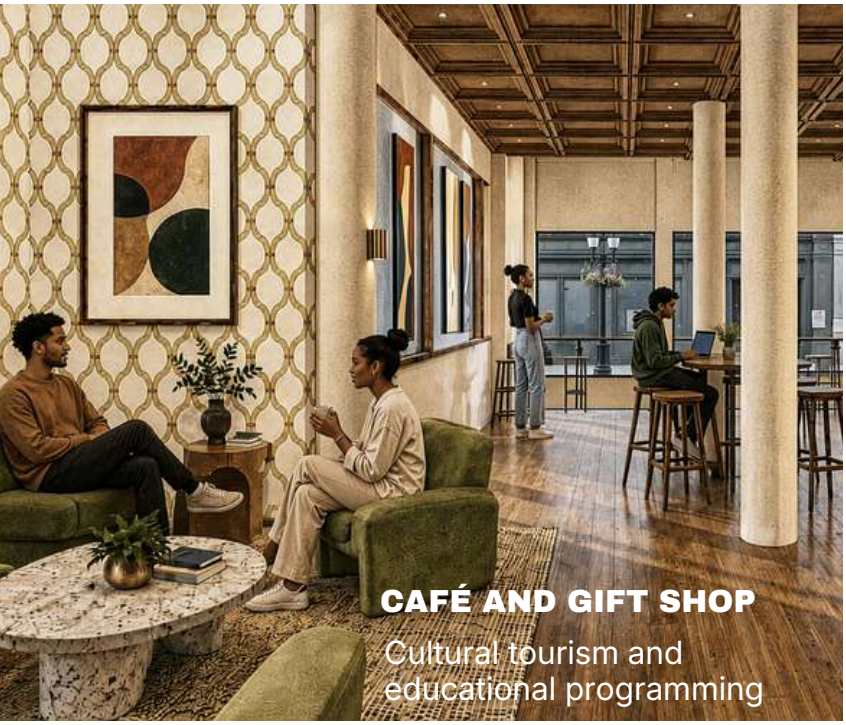
WHAT IT CAN BECOME.

CONCEPTS IN DEVELOPMENT WITH MASS DESIGN GROUP



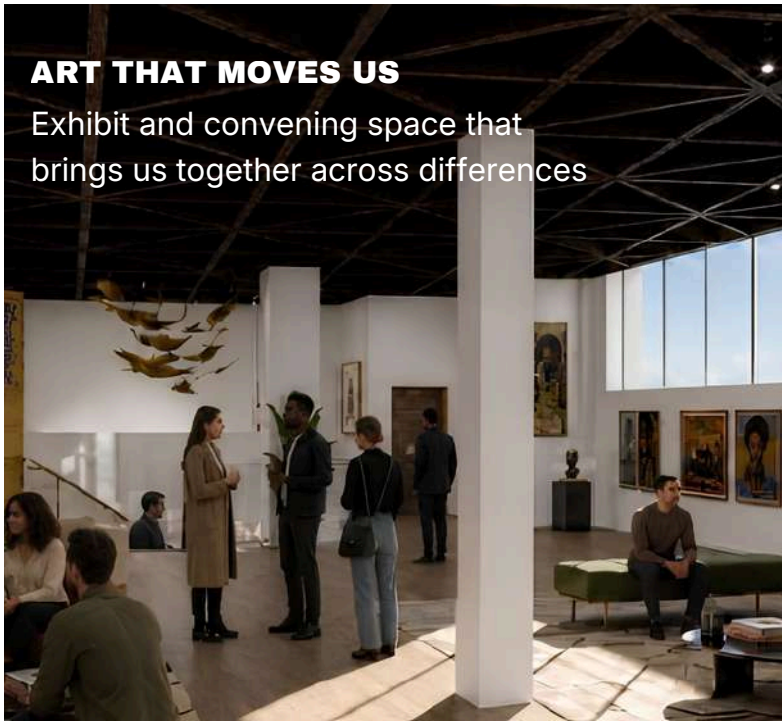
PERFORMANCE SPACE

Multi-purpose large hall and performance venue



CAFÉ AND GIFT SHOP

Cultural tourism and educational programming



ART THAT MOVES US

Exhibit and convening space that brings us together across differences

HELP BRING IT TO LIFE.

Every gift turns a concept into a room. Choose how you want to build the house with us — a cultural and civic center for generations.

NAME A SPACE

Put your name, or someone you honor, on a gallery, studio, or room.

BUILD A FLOOR

Fund the build-out of one floor of the house, from art to civic center.

SEE THE SPACE

Book a tour of 33–41 West Street with our team.

HELP US IMAGINE

Join a community design session and dream with us.

Get Involved in the transformation →

**Renderings by MASS (Model of Architecture Serving Society)*



BUILDING MONUMENTS · SIGNATURE ACTIVATIONS

LIVING LEGACIES

Legacy is not something we inherit and set on a shelf. It is something we carry into the street. Across our performances and events, we honor the enduring legacies of leaders who advance justice, strengthen belonging, preserve cultural memory, and help shape a more loving and equitable Boston. Each year, we recognize honorees who carry that spirit forward through civic courage, community care, artistic power, public service, and a commitment to lasting change.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & CORETTA SCOTT KING

JOSÉ MASSÓ III

HARRY HOM DOW





CELEBRATING YEAR FIVE

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE

EMBRACE HONORS MLK

For five years, Boston has gathered each January to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King — a full weekend of service, music, and celebration, built with a coalition of partners across the city.



IN HONOR OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND CORETTA SCOTT KING

A WEEKEND OF EVENTS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MONDAY
YMCA of Greater Boston MLK Breakfast	Project 351 Launch & Service Day Embrace Honors MLK	Boston MLK Breakfast Boston Children's Chorus MLK Tribute Concert

COALITION MEMBERS

BCC Boston Children's Chorus · MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast Committee · Project 351 · 175 America's First · the Y YMCA of Greater Boston · Everyone250 · Union Combined Parish



SAVE THE DATE · THE SNEAKER BALL

YEAR FIVE. LACE UP FOR:
ONE NIGHT. ONE BOSTON

Saturday, January 16, 2027
Information, sponsorships & tickets



A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER.



BLOCK PARTY · DOWNTOWN CROSSING

EMBRACE HONORS MASSÓ ¡CON SALSA!



IN HONOR OF
JOSÉ MASSÓ III

Named for José Massó III, Boston's salsa festival turned Downtown Crossing into one big dance floor — music and dancers from across the Afro-Latinidad diaspora, shops and sidewalks full, and a reason for people to come back downtown and stay. When we celebrate each other's culture, we build belonging and that lifts up everyone.





12,000
PEOPLE DANCED DOWNTOWN

8
BIPOC VENDORS AND ARTISTS

14
COALITION ORGANIZATIONS



JOY FUELS THE MOVEMENT.



THE LEGACY OF ASIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC ACTIVISTS

EMBRACE HONORS HARRY HOM DOW

Harry Hom Dow was the first Chinese American admitted to the bar in Massachusetts. In the 1950s, he was an advocate who was persecuted for fighting for immigrant families. He wielded the law as a tool of justice for communities the system was designed to exclude. This year, in the spirit of his sacrifice for others, we honored local heroes who work tirelessly for equity in education, policy, arts, and transportation.



IN HONOR OF
HARRY HOM DOW





7
HONOREES

26
COALITION MEMBERS

200+
AT THE FREEDOM PLAZA



PLANTING SEEDS FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS.



ART, CULTURE & MONUMENTS

REMEMBERING, IN PUBLIC

From The Embrace on Boston Common to bronze markers across the city, public art and monuments are places to gather, learn, and carry history forward.

1M+
VISITORS TO THE EMBRACE

22
EVERYONE250 MARKERS

220+
EVERYONE250 EVENTS

50
MARKERS BY 2030

EVERYONE250 → EVERYONE400
FOR EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

For the nation's 250th, we convened a coalition that set 22 permanent bronze markers to tell a more complete story of the making of our country. It was never only bronze: from marker unveilings to community celebrations, more than 220 events hosted by our 280+ community partners brought people together across cultures and generations. Now the work carries forward to 50 markers by Boston's 400th anniversary in 2030.

Learn more about our Historical Markers →





EVERYONE250 IS MADE POSSIBLE BY LEAD SUPPORTERS:
State Street Foundation · Boston250 / City of Boston · MA250 · Klarman Family Foundation · The Barr Foundation



THE EMBRACE & THE 1965 FREEDOM PLAZA
The Kings' memorial on Boston Common, and the plaza around it, hosting gatherings all year.



W.E.B. DU BOIS MONUMENT
A life-size bronze monument of W.E.B. Du Bois outside the library in his hometown of Great Barrington, MA.



RIXY'S MIDNIGHT RIDE
Commissioned by the Rose Kennedy Greenway in partnership with Embrace and Everyone250



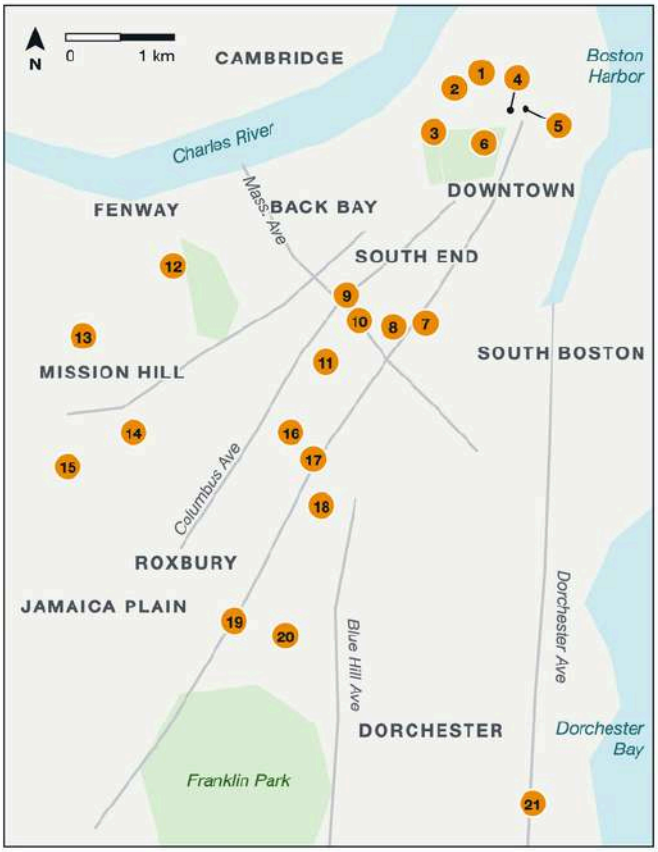




Everyone250

THE QUILT OF OUR STORIES:

22 Everyone250 markers, from Beacon Hill to Dorchester, and where to find each one.



22 **Beyond the map: W. E. B. Du Bois Monument**
Honoring the Great Barrington native, unveiled 2025.

Map is illustrative; pin placement is approximate. Source: everyone250.org/historical-markers

1. **Old West Church**
   West End · 131 Cambridge St
2. **The Vilna Shul**
   Beacon Hill · 18 Phillips St
3. **1965 Freedom Rally Square**
   Boston Common · Beacon & Charles Sts
4. **A Dedication to the Boston Public Schools Desegregation Movement**
   Beacon Hill · 15 Beacon St
5. **Unbound: A Memorial to Enslaved Persons at King's Chapel**
   Downtown · 58 Tremont St
6. **The Embrace**
   Boston Common
7. **Plaza Betances**
   South End · 100 W Dedham St
8. **United South End Settlements**
   South End · 48 Rutland St
9. **Union Church**
   South End · 485 Columbus Ave
10. **League of Women for Community Service**
    South End · 558 Massachusetts Ave
11. **Peoples Baptist Church**
    South End · 830 Tremont St
12. **Fenway Health**
    Fenway · 1340 Boylston St
13. **Temple Israel**
    Longwood · 477 Longwood Ave
14. **The Baker Center for Children and Families**
    Mission Hill · 53 Parker Hill Ave
15. **North American Indian Center of Boston**
    Jamaica Plain · 105 S Huntington Ave
16. **Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center**
    Roxbury · 100 Malcolm X Blvd
17. **Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts**
    Roxbury · 88 Warren St
18. **Twelfth Baptist Church**
    Roxbury · 160 Warren St
19. **Daniel and Marlena Richardson Open Space Community Garden**
    Roxbury · Walnut Ave
20. **Alma Wright Zen Garden**
    Roxbury · 20–21 Holworthy St
21. **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**
    Dorchester · 1452 Dorchester Ave
22. **W. E. B. Du Bois Monument**
    Great Barrington, MA · off map



EDUCATION & RESEARCH

THE CITY IS OUR CLASSROOM.

We use Boston's public places and our own research to help people learn about the history that surrounds them, and to test what actually builds belonging.

Learning. This summer we piloted Youth Civic Storytellers: high school students studied Boston's civil rights history and designed walking tours of The Embrace, the State House, and the Robert Gould Shaw & 54th Regiment Memorial. What we learned is how vital young people are to keeping alive that spirit of civic engagement and understanding.

Research. Our research partners and fellows deepen our understanding of equity, history, and community — and turn it into public-facing work. At our events, we listen too, interviewing the people who come about what it means to them to have public gatherings where they see themselves.



2026–27 DU BOIS FORUM: EMBRACE FELLOWS

Jovonna Jones, Ph.D. · Kyera Singleton, Ph.D. · Chad Williams, Ph.D.

With the Du Bois Forum, three Boston-based scholars carry forward the Black liberatory tradition of Du Bois's convenings, treating memory as an active force that can shape the future.

4
RESEARCH REPORTS

5
STUDENT CIVIC STORYTELLERS

3
DU BOIS FELLOWS

TRUTH TELLING· OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY

READING THE FINE PRINT.



OUR VOICE · SOCIAL MEDIA

WHO IS TELLING OUR STORIES?

Social media has become a civic space. We use it to tell truths, offer perspective, and call people in — from Boston's neighborhoods to the world. Our digital app at The 1965 Freedom Plaza has over a thousand visitors a month.

12,000+
FOLLOWERS ACROSS PLATFORMS

@embraceboston

Our flagship newsletter — analysis, interviews, recommended reading, and what's happening around the city, every week.

11,000+
READERS

6,000
UNIQUE WEEKLY VIEWS

52
ISSUES A YEAR

Subscribe to The Fine Print →



BUILD IT WITH US

Dear Friends,

This year, Embrace grew from a monument into a movement with a permanent address. As a board, we have watched belonging become something Boston can visit, study, and practice — on the Common, in our neighborhoods, and now at 33–41 West Street.

None of it happens without you. Your gifts commissioned the artists, trained the young storytellers, funded the research, and opened the doors. The next chapter asks more of all of us.

We invite you to embrace this moment — and to give.

REV. JEFFREY BROWN
CO-FOUNDER & CO-CHAIR

ALISON QUIRK
CO-CHAIR

EMBRACEBOSTON.ORG/DONATE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reverend Jeffrey Brown	Alison Quirk	Michael Curry, Esq.
Terence “TK” Ankner	Pat Mitchell	Paul Francisco
Kate Guedj	Linda Mason	Kevin McGovern
Dr. Brandon Terry	Janet Tiampo	Andy Youniss
Paul English (emertus)	Reverend Liz Walker (emeritus)	Dr. Joan Reede (emeritus)



BECAUSE OF YOU

YOU. US. WE.

Thank you for being part of this work.

Everything we build is made possible by people who show up, give, partner, and believe in what Boston can become. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helps us preserve our stories, create spaces for connection, advance equity, and build a stronger sense of belonging across our city.

Together, we are building a Boston where belonging is something we all have the power to shape.

WITH GRATITUDE TO

OUR DONORS
Every gift, from first-time to leadership.

OUR PARTNERS
The coalition that said yes to the same table.

OUR VOLUNTEERS
Who welcomed you at each of our events

OUR ARTISTS & STUDENTS
Who told Boston's story in their own voices.

OUR STAFF & BOARD
Who carry the work every day.

OUR COMMUNITY
Who show up, share their stories, and shape this work.

GIVE.
embraceboston.org/donate

BUILD.
A leadership gift to West Street

SHOW UP.
Volunteer or host a gathering



Celebrating the unveiling of the Everyone 250 bronze marker honoring the League of Women for Community Service and its legacy of civic and social service since 1920, including providing a home for Coretta Scott King when Black women were not welcomed in their college dormitories.





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