



## Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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July 2023

### From Our Executive Director & Senior Minister



*RYP graduates training to be guides for our Tours Program working with artist Dayenne Walters.*

Being grounded in a campus that includes Boston's oldest surviving wood frame church building means reckoning with history. But at the UU Urban Ministry we also lean into the future - and celebrate the young people who will lead us there.

This summer Boston high school students are present in all our work, and we are learning with them.

Young people are delving into our research into the history of enslavement at First Church Roxbury, and will help think about how we acknowledge that history. They are helping us reach out to the community to welcome more neighbors to our space and events. And they are preparing to lead tours of the neighborhood - and to help shape them.

Their questions and their ideas shine a light on the path before us.

Thank you for helping us create a welcoming learning space for young people, and for investing in the future.

Wishing you a peaceful summer,

Mary Margaret

[Click Here to Support the UU Urban Ministry](#)

## Special Message from our Executive Director

When we adopted a new mission and vision two years ago, we knew it called us to make change. We deepened our commitment to serve our proximate neighbors and began evaluating all our work.

One change we are making is to our Believe in Success online workforce development program for domestic violence survivors.

This year we decided to graduate a final cohort of the online program, and spend the months ahead building a new, in-person community-based economic justice program. We are transforming ourselves into a community-based organization that is grounded in local partnership, responsive to the proximate community, and whose doors are wide open to our neighbors. Through the fall, we will be meeting with Roxbury partners and community members to understand how we can best bring our resources to this neighborhood, so that people who live here can remain and thrive here. We hope that our healing-centered approach will remain a glowing coal at the center of new programming, and that what we build will be open to all who live in this community - including survivors.

## From Our Youth Program to Our Team



*Above pictured left to right: Bithyah Israel, coordinator of our Tours program, with Sofia and Sarah-Simone,*

In the past couple of weeks we have welcomed some familiar faces to the UUUM Team. Seven recent graduates from Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) have joined us as paid interns for the summer months.

As you will read below, they are working with us on all aspects of our work, and we are happy to have their voices, energy, and experience as part as our team this summer.

### **Sofia, Sarah-Simone, Sabrina, and Wintana**

Four recent RYP graduates, Sofia, Sarah-Simone (pictured above), Sabrina, and Wintana, are working with Tours Coordinator Bithyah Israel to become guides for our Tours program. Their work includes learning about various aspects of the neighborhood - both historical and modern - and then how to share that knowledge with tour participants.

**[Check out the dates for upcoming UUUM Tours offerings this summer!](#)**



### **Roydell**

RYP graduate, Roydell (left) is working this summer as the first ever peace garden coordinator.

Roydell will be developing events that will be held in the space and will work to maintain the garden.

In addition, Roydell will be building connections with the other area neighborhood gardens.

### **Funmi and Mya**

Funmi and Mya (pictured below) are working with us this summer to strengthen our communications. Together, they will be helping us improve how we use social media, as well as improving ways that we get the word out about UUUM events and offerings to our neighbors.

We are happy to have their talents and voices as part of our planning and communications.



*Subu Karmacharya (left), our new partnerships coordinator, working with Funmi (right), our summer marketing intern and past RYP participant.*



*Mya (above) is also working with us as an intern this summer, helping us sharpen our social media communication skills.*

# Program Updates

## Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



*RYP Summer Interns moved outside to the peace garden, to work and enjoy a beautiful morning.*

The summer semester of RYP started this week, and we welcomed ten interns - some who have been part of the program in the past and some joining for the first time.

RYP Interns who participate in the summer semester have one main project that they focus on. This summer, the theme of their project is "Names". Together, they will examine the names of streets and different locations in Greater-Boston. Together, they will look at and discuss the history behind some of the names that hang on buildings, street signs, and various neighborhoods. For example, the way Dudley Square was renamed Nubian Square in 2019.

This is in part, a continuation of UUUM's commitment to looking at our history. The interns will be working with Aabid Allibhai, PhD candidate in the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University who authored, "[Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury \(The Colonial Period 1631-1775\)](#)" that was published in February.

## Upcoming Events

### The Makanda Project - This Saturday!



## JAZZ ON THE GREEN

2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Featuring:

# THE MAKANDA PROJECT

**SAT. JULY 15<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

**SAT. AUG. 5<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

**SAT. SEPT. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

More information to come!

Updates and event info can be found on the UUUM website:

[www.UUUM.org/attend](http://www.UUUM.org/attend)

Events are FREE! | All are welcome | Bring a lawn chair or blanket

UU Urban Ministry - Greenspace  
10 Putnam St. | John Eliot Sq.  
Roxbury, MA 02119  
[www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)



### [The Makanda Project](#)

**Saturday, July 15th**  
**Saturday, August 5th**  
**Saturday, September 9th**

Join us for the 2023 Jazz on the Green Summer Series, featuring The Makanda Project. We are happy to again be hosting these concerts free of charge on our greenspace, and invite you to join us!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and stay for an afternoon of great music!

**Multifaith Community Gathering (w/ Louis D. Brown Peace Institute)**

[Multifaith Community Gathering \(w/ Louis D. Brown Peace Institute\)](#)

**Saturday, July 22nd; 9:30am - 12:30pm**

## UUUM Greenspace

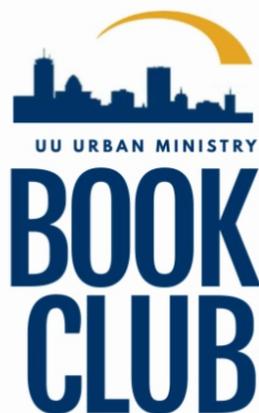
Our friends at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute are sending an open invitation to experience their healing modality, "Peace Play in Urban Settings", as they continue to seek the peace of our City.

Join staff members from both the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and UU Urban Ministry, and community members from Roxbury and beyond for this opportunity.



## Coming Soon

### Looking at Social Justice Issues Together



**COMING  
SOON**

Stay tuned to our  
website and e-newsletter  
for information.

[www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)

Would you be interested in being part of a book club that reads and discusses books by local, BIPOC authors that focus on social justice issues?

What if this club would also help drive business to a Black-owned business in Roxbury?

Stay tuned for information about this new, exciting initiative from the UU Urban Ministry.

More to come...

## Career Opportunity at the UU Urban Ministry



### [Roxbury Youth Programs Manager](#)

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is seeking an experienced, energetic Youth Programs Manager to join the UU Urban Ministry's program staff. The Youth Programs Manager (YPM) will supervise all aspects of Roxbury Youth Programs which include youth leadership and community engagement programming, tutoring, alumni engagement, and a scholarship process. The YPM will lead the collaborative planning, implementation, and facilitation of the youth programs with the support of the Youth Program Coordinator and other team members.

Visit the Career Opportunities page of our website [HERE](#).

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## In the Community

### Our Friends at Roxbury Heritage State Park



# Roxbury Heritage State Park/Dillaway-Thomas House

Department of Conservation and Recreation

## July-August 2023 Programs

All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children under 15. Park grounds are open daily, 9:00am-5:30pm. The house is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For more information, call **857-399-1225** or email [roxbury.heritage@mass.gov](mailto:roxbury.heritage@mass.gov).

coming events

<b>Wednesday-Sunday</b>	<b>DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE SELF-GUIDED TOURS</b> 10:00am - 5:00pm Inside this colonial-era house, an interactive exhibit tells the story of Roxbury's evolution across three centuries. Ages 8 and above.
<b>Thursday-Saturday (ongoing)</b>	<b>DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE GUIDED TOURS</b> 2:00pm-3:00pm This tour highlights events, people and objects from the exhibit. Ages 12 and above. Please call ahead for group tours.
<b>Friday</b> July 14, Aug 4	<b>WALKING TOUR:</b> <b>"Preserving an Inclusive History"</b> 10:00am-11:30am Join us for a one-mile walking tour of Roxbury's Highland Park neighborhood, revealing stories of resilience and community-building in the 1970s, layered into buildings from the 1800s. Meet at the Dillaway-Thomas House. Ages 12 and above. Please call ahead in case of inclement weather.
<b>Saturday</b> Aug 19, 9:30am-12pm	<b>WALKING TOUR (NEW!):</b> <b>"Exploring Roxbury's Wild and Green Spaces"</b> Put on your hiking shoes! This 2-mile tour visits natural and cultivated green spaces in Roxbury, including designated urban wilds, urban farms and community gardens, and striking puddingstone formations. Meet at the Dillaway-Thomas House. Inclement weather will cancel. Suitable for ages 7 and above
<b>Sunday</b> Aug 20, 1:00-3:30pm	
<b>Wednesdays, Thursdays</b> July 26, 27 Aug 16, 17	<b>ARCHEOLOGY POP-UP LABS</b> 10:00am—4:00pm Drop by for an engaging hands-on experience in archeology with our DCR archeologists! Participate in simulated dig activities and help us clean, document, and photograph actual artifacts found at DCR sites. All ages welcome, children (ages 7+) to adults. Groups of six or more, please call to schedule a visit.
<b>SPECIAL EVENT</b>	
<b>Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays</b> July 6—Aug 12 (no event July 8)	<b>SUMMER NIGHTS with AFRIKAI</b> 5:30pm—8:00pm Join AfriKai at Roxbury Heritage for vibrant evenings of live performances, games, free food, and more for youth and families! Events take place outdoors on the park grounds. DCR Summer Nights provides free programs for youth and young adults in urban areas across the Commonwealth.



Roxbury Heritage State Park  
183 Roxbury Street, Roxbury, MA 02119. Tel. (857) 399-1225

Our friends at Dillaway-Thomas House (Roxbury Heritage State Park) are offering programs this summer that include a new walking tour, as well as special evenings of live music, open mic, and games brought to you by AfriKai!

Check out their calendar above.

**Mission Hill Arts Festival**

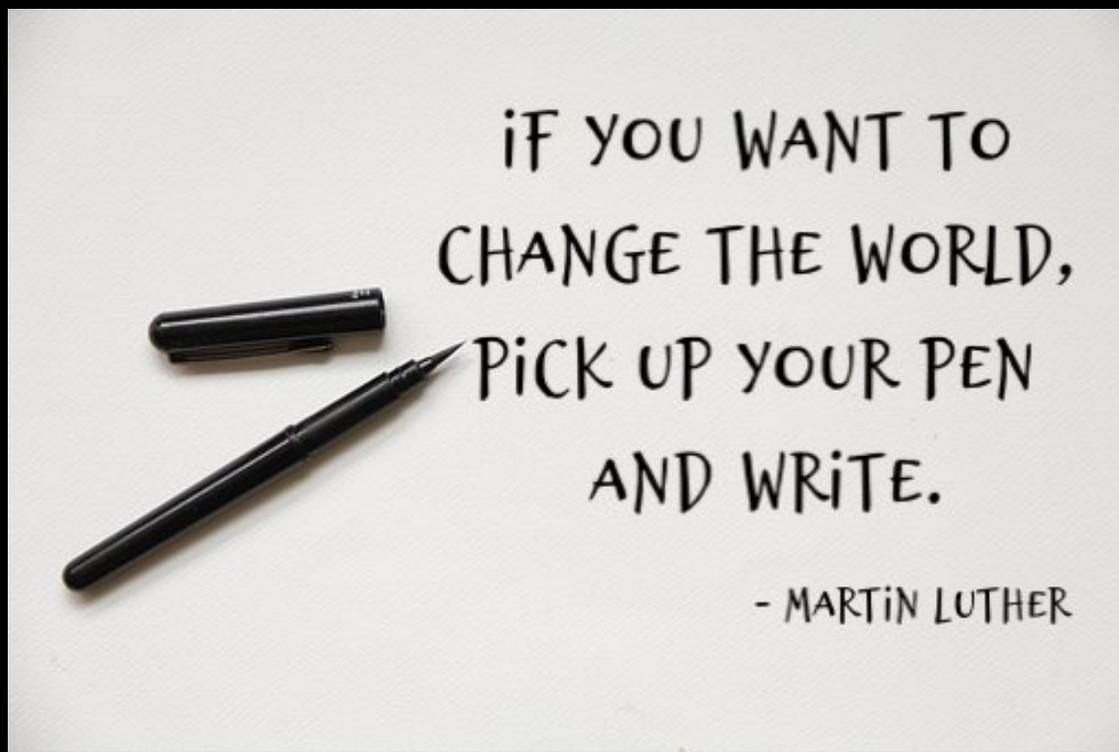
2023 **MISSION HILL**  
ARTS FESTIVAL

**EXUBERANCE**  
**EXUBERANCE**  
**EXUBERANCE**  
**EXUBERANCE**

The festival presents a diverse slate of shows - jazz, chamber music, dance, visual arts and more - and brings audiences even closer to these brilliant creators with fascinating and inspiring dialogue after every performance.

[CLICK HERE](#) for all of the information about the 2023 Mission Hill Arts Festival.

## Words for your consideration...



## Stay Connected with Us

Stay connected and up-to-date about:

- all things UUUM
- our member congregations
- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

Follow us on social media!

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