

Statement of Principles for the Improvement of White Stadium and Franklin Park

Overview

Franklin Park is one of the preeminent parks in America and is considered the “jewel” of Boston’s Emerald Necklace designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Franklin Park is a nationally registered landmark, and White Stadium is a historic facility, much beloved and in dismal condition. The Franklin Park Action Plan, approved in 2023, includes numerous areas needing investment, including improvements to White Stadium and its facilities. The Mayor’s Office has identified \$50 million for the improvement of the stadium and these funds are well spent renovating the current facilities.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, a for-profit private company, and the City of Boston recently unveiled the details of a proposal for the stadium and areas of parkland surrounding it. This proposal would grant the rights to a 30-year lease to a professional for-profit sports team, build dedicated private facilities and other uses like offices, private boxes, restaurants, and shops, and displace Boston Public School (BPS) students and the general public for 20 games and 20 practices on key Fridays and Saturdays each season from April-November. The proposal would also displace all current BPS football games for the regular season. This proposal has not undergone the legal and regulatory processes for projects in protected open space and **environmental justice*** communities, including The Public Land and Protection Act (Article 97), Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and others. It does not follow the Franklin Park Action Plan developed in collaboration with the community. For these and other reasons the proposal has raised concern with many community leaders, advocates and members of the public.

**Franklin Park is a geographic, recreational and environmental justice center of Boston's oldest, largest and most vulnerable minority and low-wealth census-tracks. Reeling from decades of deep municipal neglect and disinvestment, residents today continue to be harmed and displaced through individual, cumulative, and disproportionately adverse projects, which often include unfair community engagement practices and do not follow existing state and municipal legal protections.*

Statement of Principles:

We, the undersigned, support the renovation and much-needed improvements of George Robert White Stadium in Franklin Park for the benefit of all Boston Public School (BPS) student-athletes, the communities surrounding Franklin Park and all park users.

We feel strongly that the proposed redevelopment and private 30-year lease of the George Robert White Stadium planned by the City of Boston and Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC must be reconsidered. A new proposal for renovating the stadium and surrounding areas, in thoughtful coordination with the surrounding park areas, should be pursued in accordance with the approved Franklin Park Action Plan and established public processes.

33 Organizations

<u>ArborwayMatters</u>	<u>Hancock Street Civic Association</u>
<u>Authentic Caribbean Foundation Inc.</u>	<u>Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition</u>
<u>Bay Staters for Creative Well-Being</u>	<u>Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute</u>
<u>The Black Lotus Cooperative Inc.</u>	<u>Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition</u>
<u>Boston Bengals Pop Warner program</u>	<u>Methunion Manor Cooperative Corporation</u>
<u>The Boston Committee</u>	<u>NAACP Boston Branch</u>
<u>Coalition for Regionwide Services Beyond Franklin Park (CORES)</u>	<u>Neighborhood Schools, Inc.</u>
<u>Community Health Partnerships</u>	<u>Olmsted Network</u>
<u>Contemporations, Inc.</u>	<u>The People's Academy</u>
<u>The Enviro Show</u>	<u>Polonia Auto Sales</u>
<u>FACTS Association/Xchange</u>	<u>Power of Skirts Collective</u>
<u>Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard</u>	<u>Quick Erruns</u>
<u>Friends of the Notch Forest</u>	<u>Roxbury Neighborhood Council</u>
<u>Garden Club of the Back Bay</u>	<u>Trees as a Public Good Network</u>
<u>Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Council</u>	<u>The Trustees Collaborative for Parks & Open Space</u>
<u>Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council</u>	<u>The Urban Biodiversity Project</u>
<u>Greene & Greene Realty</u>	

706 Public Individuals

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Jerrold Abelow	Lauren Adams
Charlean Abrams	Tayrickia Adams

Juan Aguilar	Sontaya Banyen
Randall Albright	Dira Barbosa
Nancy Aleo	Kelly Barbosa
Charlotte L Alger	Luz-Dary Barlow
Sundus Ali	Kay Barned-Smith
Gracyn Allen-Ingle	Stephen Basden
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Priscilla Andrade	Aya Belayachi
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Chris Antonowich	Elizabeth Bender
Antony Arango	Traven Benner
Rebecca Arellano	Kay Benson
Marilyn Arsem	David Bent
Job Artero	John Berezney
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Jesse M. Ateek	Misty Bergeron
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Sandra Bailly	Ben Bernard
Tanya Baker	Natalya Bethel
Arina Bakradze	Lagernia Beverly
Jon Ball	Sonya Bhabhalia
Ruth Ball	Rob Van Der Bijl
Alma Balonon-Rosen	Donna Blythe-McColgan
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Hannah Bansil	Dolores Boogdanian

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Hannah Bowman	Robert Bussewitz
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Victor Brogna	Alison Canfield
Julia Brown	Theresa Cannistraro
Lauren Brown	John Amson Capitman
Mary Brown	Kyle Capogna
Melissa Brown	Dylan Carneiro-Kakkanad
Susan Hardy Brown	Tales Carneiro Passos
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Brianna Bryant	Ethan Carr
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Maria Burton	Tyhgita Céspedes

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Raymond Cheek	Juanita Cox
Yvette Cheeks	Donna Maria Coyle
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Jeff Cohen	Linda Davis
Nikki Cohen	Michelle Davis
Israel Collazo	Reginald Davis
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Breanna Duffy	Lucia Flaherty
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Antonia Edwards	Chris Foran
Priscilla Ellis	Pat Foran
Christina Englund	Connie Forbes
Michael Epp	Sarah Fox
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Orlando Espinal	Lila Francis
Nona Evans	Nigel Francis
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Linda Gerry	Marjorie Greville
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Sherry Golden	Julia Halperin
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Matt Saundess	Rodney Singleton
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Sarah Saydun	Katie Slyman
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Dale Schneider	Nat Smith
Gretchen G Schuler	Sherley Smith
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Benjamin Taylor	Fredericka Veikley
Jeffrey Taylor	Michelle Visser
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Mark Thomsen	Catherine Walker
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Donna Wilkes

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