

## SUMMER/FALL 2019 SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK MINI-GRANT PROGRAMS

PMAC, in partnership with the SWCPC and with support from Northeastern University, offers mini-grants to support youth and family activities in the park. Activities that we have supported through mini-grants include nature study, playground events for mothers and toddlers, painting in the park, photography, video production, arts and crafts, mural painting, a zumba series with local police, bicycle excursions in the SWCP and other nearby parks, book publishing and youth leadership projects. Each summer, over 200 youth and adults participate in activities supported by these mini-grants, raising visibility and awareness for the Southwest Corridor Park while providing a variety of high quality park activities.

We are pleased to present this summary of the programs for 2019, including six summer programs and one school year program.

We are grateful to be able to share this funding and grateful and always delighted with the creativity of the organizations with whom we partner in these projects.

Boston Explorers.....	2
Friends of the Hernandez / Hernandez After School Program.....	3
IBA – Exploring Community .....	4
Mom’s Café at Mildred C Hailey Apartments.....	5
Mom’s Café at South Street Development.....	5
United South End Settlements.....	6
Zumba With A Cop (With Tree of Life and E-13).....	7

## Boston Explorers



Boston Explorers is an urban day camp, where daily, youngsters ages 7-17, play and experience the natural world along the many public spaces that comprise the Southwest Corridor Park (SWCP). It is not an overstatement to say that the SWCP is our camp's Main Street. From Green Street to Back Bay, Explorers' traverse nearly the length of the Corridor on foot, bike or T daily. The following camp activities connect our Explorers in significant ways to the SWCP:

- Boston Explorers maintains a Follen Street community garden plot. Camper's plant and harvest a variety of vegetables that are served at daily snack/lunch –our camp's version of *Farm to Table!* In an age of growing childhood obesity, the garden is an antidote to this national crisis.
- No day at camp is complete without getting wet. 2-3 times per week, youngsters cool off at the Green Street and/or Stony Brook sprinklers.
- Interage play happens daily at one of three SWCP playgrounds. Basketball and wholecamp games are popular activities at Green and Stony Brook sections; swings are always a draw at Green Street as is the climbing maze, zip line, merry-go-round and four-square court at Jackson Square.
- 2-3 times per week, Explorers take to the bike paths along the SWCP.
- In August 2017, Boston Explorers ran a pilot, *Bike Week*, where 25 children explored Boston on what else, but bikes! We ran the week again in 2018. On one of the days, we partnered up with the Boston Police Bike Unit. Using the Southwest Corridor as our mainline into the city, Lt. David Murphy and three of his officers escorted our 25 explorers roundtrip from Roxbury to Cambridge. Along the way we stopped at playgrounds, played in sprinklers, and enjoyed the natural environment. We plan on doing this again this year. We will hire four senior staff and two teen Leaders-in-Training.
- We want to deepen kids' awareness and appreciation for the urban natural environment. This year, we are partnering with the Boston Nature Center who will provide programming for our explorers to help them realize all the natural wonders that the Southwest Corridor has to offer. In addition, they will be training our staff so that they can be equipped with the tools, knowledge, and interest that they can share with explorers on a daily basis.

Friends of the  
Hernandez /  
Hernandez After  
School Program



The PMAC Mini Grant will fund the partnership of the Hernández After School Program with Farrington Nature Linc, a partner organization that provides outdoor programming for 1st-3rd graders to encourage a sense of wonder in nature.

“15-45 minutes a day in a city park, even one with pavement and street noise, are enough to improve mood, vitality and feelings of restoration,” reads the Farrington Nature Linc website. In 2018, The Hernández After School Program began a partnership with Farrington Nature Linc, providing over 50 students in grades 1-3 consistent, structured outdoor time. The sessions are led by Program Director Sarah Kacevich and supported by Hernández After School Program Group Leaders (adult staff) and volunteers.

The partnership between Farrington Nature Linc and HASP is unique to student needs and location, providing an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the Southwest Corridor Parkway. Based out of the Hernández School in Roxbury, students trek through local parks, learn about the natural world that surrounds them, and create nature-derived crafts. This spring, K2 students planted daffodils in a nearby community garden, gaining some hands-on knowledge of plant life.

PMAC mini grant funds will cover one semester of the \$900 partnership fee with Farrington Nature Linc, ensuring HASP students can continue to enjoy the Southwest Corridor Park with structured, engaging activities. As a result of this funding, more young people will be able to experience a community green space and gain the benefits of an urban oasis.

This program serves youth based in the vicinity of SW Corridor Park. Their experiences will be shared not only through word of mouth, but through our quarterly newsletters and daily social media posts that reach over 500 members of the local community. We will be sure to make the convenience and benefits of the Southwest Corridor Park central to our message. In the fall, HASP hosts an open house at which Farrington Nature Linc will share information about the program activities and park. FOH partners with over 200 volunteers from the surrounding community and nearby universities (Northeastern, Boston University, Harvard University, Simmons College, etc). We also welcome high school students to provide volunteer homework help to kindergarten students. FOH collaborates with the Hernández School, and the wide network of teachers and dedicated families connected to the school.

## IBA – Exploring Community



During IBA's 5-week program, students will visit the SWCP and create artwork reflective of their exploration of the multiple gardens and areas that the park has to offer. Last year, IBA's program participants created two mobile murals on canvas that were displayed on fences in the Park. The children were enthusiastic about creating large-scale artwork that reflected their exploration of the question, "What is Community?" and their visit to the Park. This year, if available, we would like to create a mural on an existing wall in the park or, alternatively should the mural wall not be feasible, we would like to create an installation using wood and paint to be hung or displayed in the park through the late summer and into the fall. Either project would give students more extended opportunities to explore the park and create an artwork that can be shared with the community over a longer period. The process of the creation of the project will be documented and photos will be published in our annual book project. The funds requested in this application will go towards purchasing art supplies, including the paint and brushes, as well as part of the cost of publishing the book.

For the past three summers, participants in IBA's program visited the Southwest Corridor Park as part of their exploration of the question "What is Community?" Every summer, we learn that many of our new students have not yet been introduced to this part of the community and are excited to explore all that the SWCP has to offer. We want to continue channeling students' excitement for learning about the park and creating artwork to share with their families and the community. The opportunity to create a large-scale group art installation or mural will help students to build teamwork skills, while drawing positive attention to the area of the park in which the artwork will be displayed. As mentioned above, the process will be documented and photographs will be added to our annual book project. All students and funders will receive copies of the finished book with photographs of the children in the park, as well as their art, and a copy will be donated to the circulating collection of the Boston Public Library. Additionally, IBA's marketing team will feature the students' exploration and process on its social media: Twitter (over 2,000 followers) and Facebook (over 8,000 followers) and community-wide communications.

<p>Mom's Café at Mildred C Hailey Apartments</p>   	<p>Families from the Mildred C Hailey Apartments will explore the Southwest Corridor Park. On Thursday mornings after gathering with the families in the park near Heath Street we will engage them in a series of activities throughout the park ( mainly from Heath to Stoney Brook).</p> <p>The goal for this summer is to increase the use of the park by families from the MCH Apartments not just for events. We envision more parents with their children in park engaged in all kinds of family activities.</p> <p>Each Thursday we will plan a set of activities from art/nature projects to games/tennis to walks. The day will end with a healthy snack.</p> <p>We will invite a volunteer from PMAC to come and make a presentation at the MCH Moms Café. During the sessions we will talk about the different opportunities the park offers, right outside their doors or just a short walk away.</p> <p>We will publicize on the BHA website and share with partners to share on their sites. We also plan to post pictures of the sessions in the Management Office.</p> <p>We will engage Martha Eliot and DCF Dimock in referring families.</p>
<p>Mom's Café at South Street Development</p>   	<p>Families in the South Street Development will learn about the different parks along the SWCP by participating in weekly summer fun activities planned for the family and the many new fun things these parks have to offer such as tennis courts, exercise equipment, playgrounds, water fun and more green space for nature exploration.</p> <p>These activities will include art in the parks, water play, tennis in the courts, nature discovery/exploration and games. A healthy snack will be provided.</p> <p>Tree of Life will post on their Facebook page as part of daily updates along with pictures and comments. These will also be added to the BHA facebook page and shared with all of our active community partners especially those who service children and families such as health centers, daycares, schools and DCF offices. We will also have ABCD summer youth workers assist and collaborate with our E13 community resource officers.</p>

United South End  
Settlements



United South End Settlements' out-of-school-time program, club48, proposes to host two "Paint Outs" this summer in the Southwest Corridor Park as a part of our summer day camp program, through which our 60 youth participants will have their own canvas and choose their favorite part of the park to paint.

This funding will support two "Paint Outs" events at the Southwest Corridor Park for the youth who participate in our club48 summer day camp. For each Paint Out, we will pick out a different part of the Southwest Corridor: our 60 youth participants (ages 5-12) will have the opportunity to choose and focus in on painting their favorite part(s) of the park. At the end of the summer, we will host a paint sale at USES featuring of the work that our youth create during the Paint Outs. This will be a meaningful way for our program to venture out further into the community, engage families, and build an appreciation for the beautiful outdoor spaces along the Southwest Corridor that are right here in our neighborhood. The Parkland Management Advisory Committee has generously supported USES's arts programming in the Southwest Corridor for the past three summers, and each year has been a great success. We would be thrilled at the opportunity to partner in this way again to make this meaningful opportunity available to our youth!

These Paint Outs will not only help our youth participants become more attuned to the beauty of the Southwest Corridor as they pick out what they want to paint, but will encourage whole families and the greater USES community to continue using the park throughout the summer and school year. Many of our participants live close to the Southwest Corridor in the South End and Lower Roxbury, and it is a resource that we believe all should know about. Furthermore, the art sale we host after each of these events will bring a piece of the Southwest Corridor into the home of everyone who purchases a painting.

To promote the activity, we will create a blog post about it on our website and feature it in our agency newsletter (which reaches over 8,000 contacts, many of whom are local to our neighborhood), Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram, and will plan to tag the Southwest Corridor Park's social media pages in these posts. We plan to take photos during the Paint Outs and at the sale which we can share through these posts.

Zumba With A Cop  
(With Tree of Life  
and E-13)



Our goal is to showcase the Southwest Corridor Park as a great setting to incorporate fitness in a healthy environment for youth and families and to build and foster positive relationships between police and community. We also want to familiarize our families with this great resource.

With your support the Police/ Youth & Family Relations will be able to provide an eight week instructed Zumba class beginning June 20th , and ending August 15th. During this time water and a healthy snack will be provided. Child care will available so that moms with small children can join in the exercise.

This activity will promote the benefits of outdoor physical fitness within our local park. The Zumba class will take place in the field behind English High between Williams and McBride Streets The activity will be publicized through flyers distributed at meetings and events attended by youth and families. It will be posted on the Police website BPDNEWS.com and the Tree of Life Facebook page. People passing by will be encouraged to join in. During this time many people frequent the outdoors and most of all enjoy the music and dancing

One session will include time for a presentation by a PMAC volunteer and we distribute any available printed material about the Park or PMAC to participants.