



Email any comments or additional information for the BUZZ to [buzz@bostnet.org](mailto:buzz@bostnet.org)



## BOSTnet Information

### September 26, 2007

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### Special Announcements

Welcome to the September 2007 edition of the BUZZ! Please send your feedback and ideas on the BUZZ to [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org).

- **BOSTnet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2007!** Please watch the [BOSTnet website](#) and the next BUZZ for updates on our 20th Anniversary special events. See BOSTnet's work through the "[BOSTnet Milestones](#)" timeline, which highlights year-by-year activities since 1987.
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Leadership Roundtable, Forums & Conference Calendar**  
For ten years, BOSTnet has been providing free, monthly Leadership Roundtables for directors, managers and supervisors of out-of-school time programs. [View the schedule.](#)

If you would like to contribute to one of our Roundtables, please contact us at [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org).

- **State of the Field** - BOSTnet is pleased to announce the publication of the first State of the Field report for 2007. Beginning with this issue, the State of the Field will be published quarterly and will cover topics relevant to the out-of-school time field. This issue explores the connections between promoting positive behavior and access in out-of-school time and looks at BOSTnet's Afterschool Access project to build the capacity of OST staff to address behavior problems. We hope you find this document useful and we encourage you to let us know what you think. To read this State of the Field report, [click here](#).
- **BOSTnet's Inclusion Network has recent updates!** BOSTnet's website hosts the Inclusion in OST Network where you will find resources to improve inclusive practices in your programs such as the Toolkits from our Inclusion Leadership Roundtable Series with topics on Inclusion and the Arts, Inclusion and Sports, and Inclusion and Literacy; A way to connect to others interested in Inclusive practices by joining the Inclusion Network listserv; and An Inclusion Referral and Resource Network. There are new maps now available on the the Inclusion Referral and Resource Network. Out-of-School Time program staff and others serving children and youth may use the Inclusion Referral and Resource Network to find appropriate resources for families of children with disabilities. Visit the site by [clicking here](#). Please provide us feedback as we work toward keeping this information up to date.
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Special 20th Anniversary Edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After-School Programs*** is now available at libraries, community centers, just in time for the new school year! To request a copy, please contact [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org) or 617-720-1290 x232. To search for programs online in your neighborhood, please visit [webguide.bostnet.org](http://webguide.bostnet.org).

### Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **Leadership Roundtable: Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs**  
Thursday, October 4, 2007  
10am - 12noon  
Yawkey Club of Roxbury, 115 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA

Based on 10 years of BOSTnet's Facilities Initiative, the October Roundtable focuses on an important issue in out-of-school time field: Youth Leadership. [Click Here for Directions](#). Contact BOSTnet for more information or to RSVP at [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org) or 617-720-1290 x232.

### Out-of-School Time Field Announcements:

- **Lights On Afterschool!** The only nationwide campaign to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for our children and communities. For 20 years

BOSTnet has been working hard to enhance the quality and improve the accessibility of afterschool programs for all kids in the city of Boston. We are pleased that this year's Lights On Afterschool! celebration will coincide with our own celebration of two decades of promoting positive youth programs.

Come help us celebrate **Lights On Afterschool!** at an After School and Out-of-School Time Resource Fair on Thursday, October 18th from 5:30-7:30 in the lower cafeteria of Madison Park Cardinal Hall, 75 Malcolm X Boulevard, Roxbury, MA 02120. Organized by Boston Public Schools, the City of Boston, Boston After School & Beyond and BOSTnet, the Resource Fair will include:

- vendors representing a range of programs including youth development, tutoring, enrichment, arts, sports, and recreation programs;
- mini-workshops on how to select a quality afterschool program;
- and
- information about BOSTNavigator, a new citywide database of youth resources developed through a partnership of the City of Boston, BOSTnet and Boston After School & Beyond.

All families of children and youth in Boston Public Schools are invited to the event. If you currently have the capacity to serve additional participants and would like to have a table at the Resource Fair, please fill out a [vendor application](#) form and return it to Denita Washington, [dWASHINGTON6@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:dWASHINGTON6@boston.k12.ma.us) on or before October 5th. For more information, contact Denita at 617-635-7750. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Approximately fifty vendors are anticipated.


- **Get Kids Excited about Science!** The Intercultural Center for Research in Education (INCRE) is seeking applications from after-school programs throughout the City of Boston that would like to use the award-winning Sunflower science discovery curriculum. Sunflower was developed by INCRE with a grant from the National Science Foundation, has been endorsed by the US Department of Education, and has been field tested in after-school programs in 2002 and again in 2006 with very positive results. All materials and training will be provided free of charge.

If you are interested in using Sunflower with your children in grades 2-4, you must complete an application form. For information, please contact John Zuman at [jzuman@incre.org](mailto:jzuman@incre.org). Applications will be considered on a first-come basis, so please respond right away. If you have any questions you can call INCRE at 781-643-2142.

Workshops will begin in October once a sufficient number of programs have been enrolled. The first Sunflower unit offered will be Water, followed by Air and Trash. Program staff will not be expected to be science teachers and know a lot about science. This is a VERY user-friendly and kid-friendly curriculum. INCRE asks that programs commit to using the Sunflower curriculum on a regular basis throughout 2007-08.

- **YouthReach Application Deadline** - Since 1994, the Massachusetts Cultural Council's YouthReach Initiative has funded rigorous, out-of-school programs that unleash the potential of our state's greatest resource - our young people. Application deadline is

February 6th, 2008. For guidelines, application forms and the schedules of information and training sessions, please visit [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).



Strengthening Programs...

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### ***Improving Teen Youth Spaces***

On Thursday, October 4th, BOSTnet will host a leadership roundtable on "Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs." Based on 10 years of BOSTnet's Facilities Initiative, the October roundtable focuses on an important issue in out-of-school time field: Youth Leadership.

Many programs try to incorporate some youth input, however, in most instances the youth input is superficial with youth selecting between a couple of options that adults have already decided on. The basis of the "Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs" guide and roundtable is not just that youth need to have a voice in creating their own environments, but that youth need to be actively engaged in developing programming and the day-to-day activities of any program. Youth engagement goes beyond a few surveys every year, and it goes beyond a quarterly youth council. Youth Engagement is about involving and engaging youth at every decision making level of the organizations.

"Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs" Leadership Roundtable will include representatives from Hyde Square Task Force and will be moderated by Roosevelt Smith, Executive Director of Urban Dreams. The focus will be how to engage youth in developing spaces that are about them, rather than about what the adults want to see in their space. In researching the material for this guide, most programs were surprised at how insightful youth can be about their space and how much their ideas are aligned with the program outcomes that adults want to see.

Youth engagement guarantees program success by creating an environment that truly belongs to the youth.

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Out-of-School Time Landscape...

### ***BOSTONavigator-A new Resource for Boston's Families***

BOSTnet, Boston After School & Beyond and the City of Boston have partnered to create a new resource for parents and youth in Boston! BOSTONavigator is an online directory of the most current information about Boston's rich out-of-school time opportunities. Whatever your interests - sports, arts, academics, community service, or the environment - you can find out what opportunities are available for Boston youth.

As many of you know from our email messages over the past few weeks, we want information about your program in BOSTONavigator. If your program is listed in our 2007/2008 Guide then it is already in BOSTONavigator. Please visit [BOSTONavigator](#) to make sure your program information is complete and accurate using the user names and passwords we sent to you. If you need assistance or do not have a user name and password, please contact us at [Help@BOSTONavigator.org](mailto:Help@BOSTONavigator.org) or call (617) 720-1290 x 240.

By listing your programs on BOSTONavigator you will reach thousands of young people, parents, guardians and other caring adults. This searchable online database will also increase awareness of your program among referral sources and funders. To be included, your programs must:

1. be located **in the City of Boston**;
2. provide **staff supervision for youth age 5 to 18**; and
3. operate during **out-of-school time** (including before school, after school, summers, weekends and school vacations).

Together, we can make BOSTONavigator a great resource for Boston's children and families.

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Access for All...

Thank you to everyone who made the **3rd Annual BOSTnet All Means All Conference** such a huge success! A special thanks to Commissioner Ann Reale of the Department of Early Education and Care for her wonderful Keynote address, The Boston Dammann Fund for underwriting this year's conference, Eli Wolff from Center for the Study of Sports in Society at Northeastern University for hosting this conference, and Dr. Gil Noam for presenting the Behavior and Emotional Support Assessment tool that came out of BOSTnet's Afterschool for All Project. Because of you, this conference was a success.

On Friday, September 21, 2007 over 170 out-of-school time professionals attended the 3rd Annual *All Means All* Conference to learn about inclusion and promotion of positive behavior in OST programs. The participants left the conference with a large array of tools and ideas to create a more inclusive environment in their programs. Here are what some participants said about the conference and the workshops:

- "Excellent! Great techniques and ideas not only for special needs children but all"
- "Many different inclusion activities to use inside and outside the classroom"
- "Very useful to discuss behavior problems and how to make a lasting impact"
- "Great morning speaker [Ann Reale] and excellent presenters"
- "Workshops were great and very informative"
- "Felt very inspired"
- "The keynote address, workshop, and opportunities to collect resources and connect with colleagues left me inspired and even more committed to inclusive programming."

The *All Means All* Conference is one of the many ways that BOSTnet promotes Inclusion in the OST field. In addition to this annual conference, BOSTnet also holds three Leadership Roundtables on Inclusion every year and provides technical assistance to OST programs to increase inclusion and promote positive behavior through such projects a Lead to Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities (LOYD) and the Afterschool Access Project. For more information on creating more inclusive activities visit [www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org) or call (617) 720-1290.

policy update...



### ***Thank You for Supporting Afterschool!***

The Tenth and final public hearing of the Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Commission was held last night, September 25th, at the Josiah Quincy School in Chinatown. Over 100 parents, youth, providers and other advocates came to support afterschool and the work of the commission. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino opened the hearings with a challenge to the commission - return the ASOST funding to its previous \$11 million level! Mayor Menino spoke of the special need for afterschool in a city like Boston with a majority minority population to create opportunities for children and youth, stating "It's the most important thing we do for kids ... Lets all understand this is about the future. We must pick up this challenge now."

Many themes came out of the hearing, including the need for programs that address the developmental issues of older youth, the special needs of children with emotional, behavioral and physical disabilities, the need for stable and consistent funding streams, the need for access to professional development and career opportunities for staff, and the challenges parents and programs face transporting children. Perhaps the most poignant moment of the hearing was provided by an 8th grader from St. Patrick's School in Roxbury who spoke of developing a love a teaching younger children in her afterschool program, stating, "Afterschool is about learning, helping and understanding."

**Please submit your written testimony:** The public hearings of the Afterschool and Out-of-School Time commission may be over, but you can still make your thoughts known to the commission. We encourage those of you who could not attend any of the public hearings to submit written testimony. The commission is accepting written testimony until mid-October 2007.

Written testimony can be submitted in multiple ways:

1. Post your testimony on the Commission Blob:  
· <http://massafterschoolcomm.blogspot.com>
2. Send your written testimony by US Mail to:

The Honorable Thomas McGee  
The State House, Room 112  
Boston, MA 02133  
ATTN: ASOST Commission

The Honorable Marie St. Fleur  
The State House, Room 238  
Boston, MA 02133  
ATTN: ASOST Commission

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*To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, [www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org), to view our Resources Page.*

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## Quick Links

- [Our website](#)
- [Newsletter Archive](#)
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- [Connecting You to Resources](#)

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## Contact Information

email: [buzz@bostnet.org](mailto:buzz@bostnet.org)

phone: (617) 720-1290

web: [www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org)