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ROXBURY

Madison Park Development Corp. to mark 45 years of activism

Posted by Matt Rocheleau October 12, 2011 02:30 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Madison Park Development Corporation will mark its 45th anniversary with a public forum next week featuring stories of Roxbury community activism.

The event, called “We Saved a Community,” will feature stories from neighborhood residents who remember or were part of the 1960s community activism that “fought urban renewal, stopped the I-95 highway, helped found MPDC and saved a community,” said the nonprofit that has developed and preserved affordable housing since 1966.

Participants are encouraged to bring photos, news clippings, written memories, artifacts, flyers, documents or other mementos to be included in a time capsule that will be incorporated into the cornerstone of the organization’s next housing development.

The free event scheduled for Oct. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hibernian Hall, which the development nonprofit manages, will include speeches from State Representative Byron Rushing, activist and retired broadcast journalist, Sarah Ann Shaw, and Dudley Square Main Streets director Joyce Stanley, among others, organizers said. Light refreshments will be served.

For an hour before the forum, the evening will also feature an art exhibit of works created by Roxbury youth.

Anniversary celebrations will continue next month with a 1960s dance party and gala fundraiser on Nov. 4 at the same venue, which will also host choreographer Mickey Davidson and the Makanda Project jazz ensemble’s presentation of “Well I See: The Music in the Motion” the on Nov. 5 and 6, officials said.

In June, MPDC hosted a community cookout to kick off a series of celebratory events to mark its 45th year. More than 200 attended the event recognizing

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more than a dozen resident leaders. To see pictures and footage from the event, [click here](#).

MPDC says it among the state's largest, and among the nation's oldest, community development corporations. In its four-and-a-half decade history, the organization says it has produced or preserved 113 homeownership units and 1,117 apartments, much of which is located in the Dudley Square area. To learn more about the organization's history, [click here](#).

Next week's forum is co-sponsored by the development corporation in collaboration with Discover Roxbury, an announcement said. Sponsors include the Bay State Banner and Touch 106.1 FM among others. To RSVP call Kay at 617-849-6335 or e-mail kmathew@madison-park.org. There is limited free parking in the back of the hall.

For more information on 45th anniversary events, [click here](#).

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