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Hyde/Jackson Square Main Street to hold holiday-themed open house Thursday

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 4, 2012 03:59 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Hyde/Jackson Square Main Street will hold a holiday-themed open house this week for community members to meet with staff, including the nonprofit's new executive director.

The event, Thursday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Gail's Café on Centre Street, is billed as an "opportunity for residents, business owners, property owners, and representatives of neighborhood organizations to talk to staff, the Board of Directors, and volunteers of Hyde Jackson Square Main Street about the state of the neighborhood," a press release from the city-funded organization said.

"The commercial business district is critical to maintaining a healthy and livable neighborhood and Hyde Jackson Square Main Street is central to this," said a statement from board president Jason LaGorga.

"Hyde/Jackson Square Main Street would like to hear from attendees about their assessment of the neighborhood and any suggestions as to how the

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their assessment of the neighborhood and any suggestions as to how the neighborhood can be strengthened through business development, promotions, and events to encourage residents and non-residents alike to support businesses in the neighborhood," the organization said.

At the open house, officials from the Main Street nonprofit will announced the winner of the district's holiday window decorating contest. Afterward, guests will be led on a casual walk along Centre Street to view festive holiday storefronts.

The event is free, open to all and light food will be provided.

The announcement was sent by newly hired executive director Gerald Robbins. He replaces the group's former leader, [who faces embezzlement charges](#).

After going 10 months without an executive director, the nonprofit hired Katie Reed, who had led another Main Streets nonprofit previously, to fill the role on an interim basis this past spring.

In late summer, the nonprofit hired a new, full-time director, but the board's leaders [declined to publicly name the person](#), saying they planned to make a bigger announcement about the hiring later in the fall.

"We are happy to say that the city's collaboration with board during this difficult time has helped Hyde Jackson Square Main Street get back on track," said a statement in October from Sheila Dillon, the city's chief of housing and neighborhood development department director.

The Hyde/Jackson Square Main Streets organization is one of 20 nonprofits within Boston Main Streets, a program founded by the city in 1995 that uses city funding to support business districts by improving storefronts and public spaces. Each of the nonprofits works with commercial districts in specified parts of the city.

For more information, visit the organization's rebuilt website, www.HydeJacksonSquare.org.

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