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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Harvard to give another \$500k in grants to Allston, Brighton nonprofits

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 20, 2013 11:25 AM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Harvard University formally announced this week it will give \$100,000 in grants annually for the next five years to nonprofits that serve the Allston and Brighton neighborhoods of Boston, duplicating an identical program it launched in 2008.

The prior initiative, which the university created in collaboration with the city and residents, gave out its last round of grants [in January](#).

Harvard officials had said the school would extend the program for another five years during recent negotiations with residents and city officials for their support for [a project](#) the university is planning in Allston as part of the first phase to expand the school's campus in the neighborhood.

On Tuesday, the university formally announced plans to extend the Harvard Allston Partnership Fund program, which will now run through 2018.

In its first five years, the program gave half a million dollars in grants to 20

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In its first five years, the program gave more than a million dollars in grants to 20 local organizations, helping a range of educational and social support nonprofits serve more than 3,500 residents in Allston and Brighton, according to Harvard.

“Over the past five years, the Harvard Allston Partnership Fund program has worked to improve quality of life for thousands of Allston-Brighton residents,” Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement. “I’m pleased that Harvard has recommitted to the partnership for another five years, and will continue to serve our residents through this important work.”

The program helps fund neighborhood improvement projects, cultural enrichment, and educational programming that serve children, families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Several organizations, including the Gardner Pilot Academy, the Honan Allston Library, and the Vocational Advancement Center, have received several grants over the years.

Each year, applications are reviewed and recipients are chosen by a volunteer board of community members.

“I think I speak for all the members of the HAPF advisory board when I say that I’m proud to be part of an effort that has had such a widespread impact on people in our community who needed it most,” said a statement from John Bruno, a member of the program’s advisory board and a Harvard Allston Task Force member.

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