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Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston Announces March 2015 Opening

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By Matt Rocheleau

Boston.com Staff

MAY 7, 2014 1:14 PM

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, a center

■ being built in Boston and designed to educate the public about the Senate, will open next March, officials leading the project announced today.

The “heart and soul” of the [65,000 square-foot facility](#) will be a full-scale replica of the Senate chamber, officials said.

The [project](#), which broke ground three years ago, is under construction next door to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus in Dorchester.

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It will also honor Kennedy, who died of brain cancer in 2009.

His widow, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, co-founder and president of the institute's board, called the institute's mission "as clear as it is urgent."

"It will offer a real time perspective on how government should work," she said in a statement.

"It will show how throughout our history, men and women of goodwill and both parties came together to address the greatest challenges facing our nation," she continued. "And by shining a light on our past, it will help

illuminate the path forward for addressing challenges we face today and in the future.”

Designed by architect Rafael Viñoly, the institute will offer “cutting-edge” technology to teach the Senate’s history.

The replica Senate chamber, at certain times, will broadcast debates and votes of bills currently before the Senate. At other times, up to 100 guests will be able to play the roles of senators in an educational simulation allowing them to study, debate, negotiate and vote on either current or historic issues.

Visitors touring the chamber will get to use handheld tablet devices to interact with content and each other.

The institute will also feature sections that will give basic educational information about the Senate, its role in government, the 2,000 or so men and women who have served on the Senate, major legislative struggles and accomplishments and citizens who inspired legislative and societal change.

There will be a multi-player game for visitors to work toward finding

common ground to pass a bill, while simultaneously learning about how bills become law.

The center will include a “pledge wall” designed to encourage visitors to become more active.

And, it will feature a full-scale replica of Kennedy’s Senate office and reception room, complete with historic furnishings, pictures, photos and artifacts from his 47 years in the Senate.

Leading up to its opening and public dedication next March, the institute plans to roll out activities and programming as part of its outreach efforts.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).



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Panel finalizes recommendations to ease drug abuse



BOSTON (AP) — A state panel charged with finding ways to address Massachusetts' drug abuse epidemic is set to finalize its recommendations for Gov. Deval Patrick this week.

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Holder: Subtle Racism Worse Than Bigoted Outbursts



Attorney General Eric Holder says subtle, institutionalized racism has a more “pernicious” effect than the occasional bigoted outburst.

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Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.’s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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Three people were shot at KC’s Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

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Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

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Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-



sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

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10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

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Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’



Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

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Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences





of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

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Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident



Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

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Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500

The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

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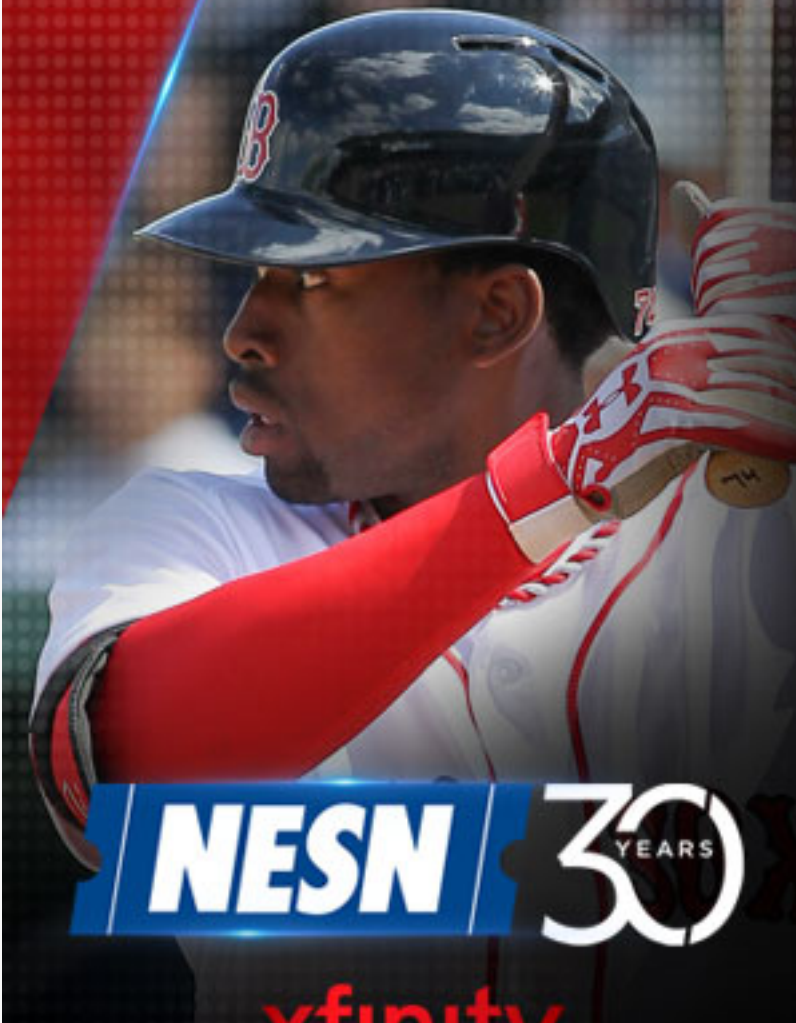


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