‘The Wong Street Journal’ shares story of African journey and inspiration

BY SARA BROWN

Performers Kristina Wong shares her story in “The Wong Street Journal.” (Image courtesy of Kristina Wong.)

“I want to be a voice for the marginalized but there came a point in my life where I realized all I was doing was social justice on social media,” Wong said. “That’s great but at some point you actually have to do the work. You can’t just block everyone who doesn’t have the same opinion as you. That’s not real life. You have to live through it. Africa taught me that.”

Wong is most interested to see how audience will react to her one-woman play post election.

“The social media stuff is still obviously very relevant,” Wong said. “However, I think America likes to see itself as the savior of the world so I think people will still be interested in this.”

For Wong, reliving her experience in Africa keeps it fresh as a performance.

“These are real people who I still have connections with,” she said. “I always keep that in mind.”

This is especially true about the men she created the rap album with.

“My songs are still played on the radio there,” Wong said. “It was something I got to check off my bucket list that I never expected I would do on that trip.”

Josiah Quincy students experience American history firsthand

BY RUOBING SU

The Freedom Trail Scholar Program visited third graders at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on March 2. Students enjoyed an interactive history lesson on the Boston Tea Party, experiencing the spirit and fervor of the American Revolution.

The presenters Arielle Kaplan and Conor Burke did not lecture the students to sleep. Instead, they portrayed multiple roles and interacted with the students, bringing the nation’s fight for freedom to life in an engaging way.

By constantly changing costumes, the presenters went through key facts and introduced important figures. Students participated in reenacting historic events, such as dumping tea into the Boston Harbor to protest the British for taxation without representation in Parliament.

Freedom Trail Scholar Program presenters Arielle Kaplan and Conor Burke visited the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on March 2. (Image courtesy of Ruobing Su.)

The one-hour presentation was more than a history lesson for the students, as they actively engaged in the performance. The fun format helped them learn American history more effectively.

The Freedom Trail Scholar Program will make more exciting visits during the 2016 to 2017 school year, providing interactive history lessons to better educate students throughout Massachusetts.
Chinatown Resident Association banquet
Friday, March 10
6 p.m.
9 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown Resident Association banquet will take place at the China Pearl.

Mulan Society classes
Saturday, March 11
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Mulan Society Center for Women’s Empowerment classes will take place at the Asian American Civic Association, 4E.

Refreshments provided. Register with Hongyi Gong at (617) 426-9492 x 216 or hgong@aaca-boston.org.

Citizenship workshop
Monday, March 13
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Asian American Civic Association naturalization workshop provides free instruction on filing naturalization applications, translated study material and much more. Please register with Melody Tsang at (617) 426-9492 x 0 or melodyv@aaca-boston.org.

Free evening meals
Every Tuesday to Friday
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
54 Eastern Avenue
Malden, MA 02148
Bread of Life offers free evening meals for low-income families and individuals in the metro North area. Evening meals are served Tuesday at Bread of Life, Wednesday and Thursday at 368 Pleasant Street and Friday at 493 Main Street. For more information, call (781) 397-0404.

Citizenship classes
March 17 to June 2
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
38 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111
Are you applying to be a U.S. Citizen? BCNC offers classes to help prepare you for the civics and English tests, your citizenship interview, and submitting your application for citizenship. $40 textbook fee. Sign up in person at BCNC.

‘Facing Exclusion’
March 17 to 18
7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
(Fri)
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(Sat)
559 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Christina R. Chan’s production of “Facing Exclusion” observes the 150th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 at the Emerson/Paramount Center, Black Box Theatre.


First-time homebuyer classes
March 18 to 19
9:30 a.m.
38 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111
ACDC offers HB101 classes in English, Cantonese and Mandarin. Each session is a nine-hour class over the course of a two-day weekend. Tuition is $50, Registration required, by calling (617) 482-2380, emailing CHOP@asiancdc.org or visiting www.asiancdc.org/content/first-time-homebuyer-workshop-hb101.

MBTA NOTICE TO BIDDERS

- Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Bid Express until the date and time stated below, and will be posted on www.bidx.com forthwith after the bid submission deadline.

- No paper copies of bids will be accepted.

- Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects.

- Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Bid Express at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

The work consists of the rehabilitation of existing arch bridge, part of which includes the placement of prestress and a corrugated steel arch plate underneath the existing arch. The work includes partial demolition of existing abutments and construction of the abutment extensions. The abutment extensions are to be anchored to the existing abutments by drilling and grouting. Bearing seats of the proposed steel arch plate are to be constructed on the wall and construction of the reinforced concrete retaining wall to the Southeast of the bridge. The work also includes installing rip-rap protection as shown on contract drawings. The work also includes restoration of the eroded downstream river bank on adjoining property, and removal of various types of debris in the river and adjacent wetlands. Other work includes installation of a steel pipe by trenchless method and construction of its headwalls.

This Contract is subject to a financial assistance Contract between the MBTA and the Federal Transit Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation. FTA Participation 80 percent.

Bidders’ attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity, and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of Appendix 3, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation Provision, Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bids that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated DBE goal of two percent (2%).

Additional information and instructions on how to submit a bid are available at http://www.mtba.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/
Castle Square residents celebrate Year of the Rooster

BY RUOBING SU

Castle Square Tenants Organization (CSTO) held its eighth annual Black History Chinese New Year celebration on Feb. 24 at the Benjamin Franklin Institution of Technology. Castle Square perform a fan dance. (Image courtesy of Ruobing Su.)

Castle Square Tenants Organization (CSTO) held its eighth annual Black History Chinese New Year celebration on Feb. 24 at the Benjamin Franklin Institution of Technology. The event featured multiple cultural performances and free dinner.

CSTO executive director Deborah Backus and CSTO board president Ann Moy wished everyone a happy Year of the Rooster. The celebration was kicked off by the lion dance by Woo Ching White Crane, which is consisted of performers of different races and ages.

The residents of Castle Square performed a Chinese fan and martial arts dance. Children in the Square Roots after school program for K2 to eighth grade students told the story of the Chinese zodiac and the meaning of the rooster, 2017’s zodiac animal. A video made by CSTO Teen Program youth of 14- to 19-year-olds introduced the history and traditions of Chinese New Year, vividly showing Chinese culture for attendees unfamiliar with it.

February is Black History Month, which commemorates important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. The Teen Program’s presentation highlighted how African Americans fought for freedom and equality during the Civil War. An exciting part of the evening was the African drummer show, celebrating African culture.

The menu featured soul food and Chinese classics, including “cha siu” barbecue pork, fried chicken, corn, salad and oranges. Oranges are eaten as a symbol of prosperity in Chinese culture.

Castle Square is a 500-unit affordable housing complex on Tremont Street with more than 1,500 residents. The event is in its eighth year, bringing together diverse cultures through art and food.
Boston City Council President Michelle Wu spoke about civic engagement on March 3 at her monthly media meeting at City Hall. (Image courtesy of Ruobing Su.)

Councillors Wu and Linehan discuss voting and public input
BY RUOBING SU

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu’s monthly media meet-up was held March 3 at City Hall. She invited District 2 City Councillor Bill Linehan to discuss ongoing projects around Boston.

Every 10 years, voting precincts are updated based on U.S. Census population data to make sure each precinct has an equal number of voters. Boston is an exception. The city of Boston has 255 precincts. The smallest one has less than 500 registered voters (Ward 8, Precinct 6 in Chinatown) has more than 500 registered voters (Ward 3, Precinct 8 in Chinatown).

The unequal voter distribution means there is an exception. The city of Boston has 255 precincts. The smallest one has less than 500 registered voters (Ward 8, Precinct 6 in Chinatown) has more than 500 registered voters (Ward 3, Precinct 8 in Chinatown). Wu’s ordinance would require the Boston City Council to hold a public hearing on the subject of any group petition signed by 250 or more residents within three months. She said the goal was to provide another outlet for the residents of Boston, regardless of voter registration and immigration status.

Wu said a list of subjects cannot be heard through free petition to keep the Council’s work efficient, such as internal affairs within City Hall or issues irrelevant to public interest. “This will be a way for everyone to feel that city government is a place that they can make an impact,” Wu said.

Linehan said the number of City Council meetings will be reduced from 12 to 10 in 2018.

The Chinatown Safety Committee met at BCNC on March 24.

“More than 40 robberies occurred in the neighborhood in 2016. There were 14 assaults, three robberies, three break-ins and one stabbing. Fong said there has been significant drug activity in the Chinatown area.

“The cameras in the neighborhood have been helpful to target hot spots,” Fong said.

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The Chinatown Coalition met at BCNC on March 9. Boston Chinatown Heritage Project presentation took place.

Boston Transportation Department Commissioner Gina Fiandaca spoke about Vision Zero to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries.

Chinatown meetings: CSC, CRA, TCC
BY SARA BROWN AND LING-MEI WONG

The Chinatown Safety Committee met at the DoubleTree Hotel on March 1.

Boston Police District Department A-1 Capt. Ken Fong said there has been a slight uptick in crime in the past few weeks. There were two aggravated assaults, three robberies, three break-ins and one stabbing. Fong said there has been significant drug activity in the Chinatown area.

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Joslin talks the ‘skinny’ on Asian American diabetes
BY SARA BROWN

The Joslin Diabetes Center hosted the first Lawrence and Evelyn Wong Family Lectureship on Diabetes on March 1. The lecture series was established in memory of Lawrence “Larry” and Evelyn Wong, founders of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Larry was a Joslin member for more than 40 years. Larry was a Joslin patient as well as a member of Joslin’s board of directors for many years and Evelyn was a fixture at the ADA’s signature fundraising event, “A Taste of Ginger.” Their children hope the series will enable the memory and legacy of their parents to live on, for the ADA to flourish.

“Joslin’s initiatives to improve diabetes care in the Asian-American community for more than 40 years which is especially important as diabetes is occurring at a much higher rate in that population compared to others,” said Dr. George King, chief scientific officer at Joslin. “Dr. Maria Rosario G. Araneta, professor of epidemiology at the University of California San Diego, wrote the Joslin Diabetes Association (ADA) position paper on Type 2 Diabetes among Asian-Americans: Revised screening guidelines and the UCSF Filipino Health Study, was presented by Maria Rosario “Happy” G. Araneta, professor of epidemiology at the University of California San Diego.

Araneta co-authored the American Diabetes Association (ADA) position statement to revise diabetes screening guidelines among Asian Americans with Dr. William Hsu, medical director of the Asian Clinic at Joslin Diabetes Center. She was appointed to the Massachusetts Partnership for DIVERsity in EDUCATION.

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Chinatown residents urged to support Neighborhood Slow Street Zone petition

**BY ASIAN CDC, BCNC, CHINATOWN MAIN STREETS**

Sign to support Chinatown’s request before March 24 to become a Neighborhood Slow Street Zone at BCNC, 38 Ash Street, Boston, MA 02111 or online at [http://ow.ly/KlmA309I57J](http://ow.ly/KlmA309I57J). The petition requires 500 signatures.

The City of Boston will work with Chinatown residents to:

- Increase city resources devoted to redesigning streets and enforcing safety measures.
- Design safer pedestrian crosswalks for children and elders to cross.
- Almost every intersection in the Slow Street Zone will be studied to increase safety.

Examples:

- Increased signage
- Ensure 20 mph speed limits
- Wider sidewalks and raised, more visible crosswalks
- More time to cross

Chinatown crime for Feb. 24 to March 10

**BY THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

All reports are submitted by the Boston Police Department. The time period is from Feb. 24 to March 10 for District A-1, which includes Chinatown.

To report a crime or suspicious activity, call 911. Interpreters are available for Chinese speakers.

**Breaking & entering motor vehicle**

March 4, 5:12 p.m.: The officer responded to 40 Beach Street on a breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. Upon arrival, the officer met and spoke with the victims, who stated someone broke into their motor vehicle and removed several items. Upon viewing the video, the officer observed the suspect on Washington Street. He was placed under arrest and transported to the district.

**Investigate person**

March 6, 1:30 p.m.: The victim reported an unknown male entered the restaurant on Tyler Street and started harassing the patrons. He left prior to the officer’s arrival.

Affordable Housing Lottery

**The Westerly (formerly the Key in Franklin)**

1350 West Central St, Franklin, MA

First units will be ready in June/July 2017!

- 1BRs @ $1,290*, 2BRs @ $1,533*, 3BRs @ $1,769*

*Rents subject to change in 2017. Utilities not included. Tenants will pay own Gas Heat, Gas Hot Water Electric Cooking, and Electricity.

The Key in Franklin is a 248 unit rental apartment community located in Franklin. 62 of these apartments will be made available through this application process. The project includes residential amenities such as a resort-style pool, firepit area and BBqs for outdoor grilling. Units will have modern kitchens with quartz countertops, frameless cabinets, porcelain tile flooring, and stainless steel appliances. The living areas incorporate carpeted flooring and expansive windows, while the bedrooms have ceiling fans, large walk-in closets, and carpeted flooring. The finish packages have 9’ ceilings and accent color walls.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits: $51,150 (1 person), $58,450 (2 people), $65,750 (3 people), $73,050 (4 people), $78,900 (5 people) and $84,750 (6 people)

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by 2 pm on April 17th, 2017.

A Public Info Session will be held on March 6th, 2017 at 6 pm in the temporary location of the Franklin Public Library (25 Kenwood Circle). The Lottery will be held in the same location on May 1st, 2017 at 6 pm.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.s-e-b.com/lottery or call (617) 782-6900 (x1) and leave a message. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

Applications and Information also available at the Franklin Public Library on 25 Kenwood Circle.

Library Hours (M-Thurs 9-8, Fri-Sat 9-5, Sun 1:30 to 5)
NIH study: Obese couples may take longer for pregnancy

BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH

Couples in which both partners are obese may take from 55 to 59 percent longer to achieve pregnancy, compared to their normal weight counterparts, according to a study recently published in the journal, the National Institutes of Health. The findings appear online in Human Reproduction.

A lot of studies on fertility and body composition have focused on the female partner, but our findings underscore the importance of including both partners,” said Rajeshraj Sundaram, a senior investigator in the Division of Intramural Population Health Research at NIH’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. “Our results also indicate that fertility specialists may want to consider couples’ body compositions when counseling patients.

The couples in the study were part of the Longitudinal Investigation of Fertility and the Environment (LIFE) Study, which examined the relationship between fertility and exposure to environmental chemicals. The study enrolled 501 couples from Michigan and Texas from 2005 to 2009. The women ranged from 18 to 44 years of age, and the men were over 18 years old. Women kept journals to record their monthly menstrual cycles, intercourse and the results of home pregnancy tests. The couples were followed until pregnancy or for up to one year of trying to conceive.

Researchers also calculated body mass index (BMI) for each participant, categorizing couples with obesity into two subgroups: obese class I (with a BMI from 30 to 34.9) and the most obese group, obese class II (a BMI of 35 or greater).

The researchers compared the average age to achieve a pregnancy among couples in the non-obese group (84 men and 225 women) to that of the obese class II group (75 men and 69 women).

The researchers then calculated the probability that a couple would achieve pregnancy by using a statistical measure called the fecundability odds ratio (FOR). The measure estimates couples’ probability of pregnancy each menstrual cycle while trying for pregnancy, relative to their BMIs.

The researchers found that the class II couples took much longer to achieve pregnancy than couples not struggling with obesity. Couples in the non-obese group had a FOR of 1. Obese class II couples had a FOR of 4.5—indicating that they took 55 percent longer to achieve pregnancy than their normal weight counterparts. When the researchers took into account other factors known to influence fertility — such as age, smoking status, physical activity level and cholesterol level — the ratio for obese class II couples dropped to .41, or a 59 percent longer time to achieve pregnancy.

Previous studies have focused largely on the female partner’s BMI or self-reported height and weight. In addition to the health benefits of a healthy weight for reducing risk of other diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer, taking steps to lose weight may help reduce the time needed to conceive.

The dangers of e-cigarettes

BY SARAH BROWN

Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes have become popular, perceived as a fun alternative to traditional cigarettes. However, they are just as dangerous.

Electronic cigarettes are battery-operated devices that have been developed as an alternative to normal cigarettes. They first became popular as a safer way to deliver nicotine. However, they are filled with chemicals that are unhealthy. Electronic cigarettes are found to contain an antifreeze component known as diethylene glycol. It is toxic to humans and can cause health problems from inhalation. They also contain nictamines, which are known to cause cancer. E-cigarettes contain tetramethylpyrazine as well. If humans are exposed to this chemical too often, it can cause brain damage.

E-cigarettes also contain nicotine. The U.S. Surgeon General found exposure to nicotine during pregnancy harms the developing fetus, and causes lasting consequences for the developing brain and lung function in newborns. Nicotine exposure also affects maternal and fetal health during pregnancy, and can result in low birth weight, preterm delivery and stillbirth. It can also cause sudden infant death syndrome.

The American Lung Association found nicotine has a negative impact on adolescent brain development. E-cigarettes have become trendy for teenagers, with flavored options such as “Candy Crush” and “Gummy Bear” targeting youth. Between 2011 and 2015, the U.S. Surgeon General found e-cigarettes use among high school students increased by 900 percent, with more teens now using e-cigarettes than cigarettes.

Experts say that a puff of a traditional cigarette is more toxic than an e-cigarette, and should be avoided to achieve ultimate health.

Study finds U.S. premature death rates diverge by race

BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH

Premature death rates have decreased in the United States among Hispanics, blacks, and Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs) — in line with trends in Canada and the United Kingdom — but increased among whites and American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs), according to a comprehensive study of premature death rates for the entire U.S. population from 1999 to 2014. This divergence was reported by researchers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and colleagues at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), both part of the National Institutes of Health, and the University of New Mexico College of Nursing. The findings appeared Jan. 25 in The Lancet.

Declining rates of premature death (such as deaths among 25- to 64-year-olds) among Hispanics, blacks and APIs were due mainly to fewer deaths from cancer, heart disease, and HIV over the time period of the study. The decline reflects successes in public health efforts to reduce tobacco use and medical advances to improve diagnosis and treatment. Whites also experienced fewer premature deaths from cancer and, for most ages, fewer deaths from heart disease over the study period. Despite these substantial improvements, overall premature death rates still remained higher for black men and women than for whites.

In contrast, overall premature death rates for whites and AI/ANs were driven up by dramatic increases in deaths from accidents (primarily drug overdoses), as well as suicide and liver disease. Among 25- to 30-year-old whites and AI/ANs, the investigators observed increases in death rates as high as 2 percent to 5 percent per year, comparable to those increases observed at the height of the U.S. AIDS epidemic.

“The results of our study suggest that, in addition to continued efforts against cancer, heart disease, and HIV, there is an urgent need for aggressive actions targeting emerging causes of death, namely drug overdoses, suicide, and liver disease,” said Meredith Shies, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), NCI, lead author of the study. “Death at any age is devastating for those left behind, but premature death is especially so, in particular for children and parents,” emphasized Amy Berchel, also of DCEG and senior author of the study. “Our study can be used to target prevention and surveillance efforts to help those groups in greatest need.”

The study findings were based on death certificate data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Bedford Village Apartments
Bedford, MA
781-275-1038
WAITING LIST OPEN

Income restrictions apply
1BR rents start at $882
2BR start at $1061
3BR start at $1176

Includes heat, hot water, and cooking gas.

Equal Housing Opportunity

BURLINGTON AFFORDABLE RENTALS
The Tremont
32 Second Avenue, Burlington
One 3 Bedroom Apartment
Rent: $1,544/mo

For Info and Application Availability:
Pick Up: Burlington Town Hall, - Selectmen’s Ofc, Public Library & Leasing Office
Phone: (978) 456-8388
TTY/TTD: 711, when asked 978-456-8388
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

For Information Meeting:
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Burlington Town Hall Annex
25 Cambridge St., Annex Room B

Application Deadline:
April 25, 2017

Tufts Medical Center

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.mcohousingservices.com

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Maximum Allowable Income

1 person household: $51,150
2 person household: $58,450
3 person household: $65,750
4 person household: $73,050
5 person household: $79,900
6 person household: $84,700

Applications must be submitted or post-marked on or before the application deadline. Applications can be returned by mail. The Application includes all submission information.

Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities

Units available to all eligible applicants.

No smoking. Pets Are Allowed.

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‘Precious Little’ commands with humor and sensitivity

BY CONNIE WANG

Central Square Theater opened its doors on March 2 for the presentation of Madeleine George’s play “Precious Little.” The unique tale ignites dialogue on language, science and animals, and the finer intricacies of their relationship to each other. This all-female cast acts out eight different characters (including a gorilla) and their original perspectives on life.

Directed by Melia Bensussen, “Precious Little” follows the story of Brodie, a research linguist, and her internal conflict regarding genetic test results that reveal an unexpected possibility for her unborn child. The life-altering circumstances affect every aspect of her life: her work in linguistics, her personal life and intelligence, sure to spark many post-show conversations. This all-female cast acts out eight different characters (including a gorilla) and their original perspectives on life.

“Precious Little” teaches us that there are multiple ways to interpret communication and connection. It also challenges the audience to think beyond simple concepts and ask deeper questions. As the play synopsis reads, their question to us is, “When does too much knowledge get in the way of our basic instincts?” The play delves into genetics, relationships and intelligence, sure to spark many post-show conversations.

“Precious Little” is now playing until March 26 at Central Square Theater.

Kwong Kow Chinese School celebrates 101 years

BY THE SAMPAN EDITORIAL TEAM

Kwong Kow Chinese School celebrated 101 years in the community and the Chinese New Year Feb. 24 at Empire Garden.

Students performed a lion dance, followed by Chinese dumpling and dance demonstrations. The afterschool program offers Chinese instruction for Mandarin and Cantonese, along with programs for music, dance and kung fu.

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu attended the event, wishing the staff, students and parents well.

MBTA Public Announcement of Request for Letters of Interest for Design Build Services for the Red Line and Orange Line Signals Systems Upgrades Project

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (the “MBTA”) hereby solicits Letters of Interest (LOI) from firms or teams (the “Design Build Entities”) interested in providing Design Build (DB) services for the Red Line and Orange Line Signals Systems Upgrades Project (the “Project”) in Boston, Massachusetts under MBTA Contract No. Q09CN01.

“The MBTA intends to enter into a DB contract with the best-value Design Build Entity identified through a two-phase selection process including a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) with a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFQ will be utilized to identify qualified Design Build Entities to submit a proposal pursuant to Section 19 of M.G.L. c. 149A. The best-value selection criteria detail will be provided in the RFP. Respondents to this request for LOI will receive future notifications of the RFQ’s availability and its amendments.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal is 7%. Design Build Entities shall affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this solicitation, minority and female construction contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin in consideration for award. Design Build Entities will also be required to comply with FTA Civil Rights Provisions including EEO, DBE, Labor Work Force and Title VI. Because the MBTA reserves the right to use federal funding, respondents should assume that FTA requirements for federally-funded projects will apply.

The Project is being procured using a two-phase best-value DB procurement process pursuant to M.G.L. c. 149A, s. 14, et seq. and consistent with the MBTAs Design Build Procurement Procedures.

The MBTA will award a DB contract with an estimated value of up to $100 million. The work will include the design and construction of the Red Line and Orange Line Signals Systems Upgrades Project.
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