



FRA CONNECTOR

Volume 3 • May 2023

FRA GRANTS AWARDED

FATV AWARDED \$2,000 DESIGN GRANT

FATV used their grant funds to cover the costs associated with designing the space at their new location at 780 Main Street in Fitchburg.



JAMES PAPPAS AWARDED \$15,000 MAIN STREET HOUSING GRANT

Mr. Pappas was awarded \$15,000 for his redevelopment of 3 residential units at 651-655 Main Street in Fitchburg



THE FRA IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Through gifts and donations, the FRA is proud to support community organizations and civic activities in Fitchburg.

In 2022, we supported:

- Fitchburg Civic Days
- Fitchburg Open Studios
- The Arc of Opportunity Annual Charity Auction
- Chamber of Commerce Business Expo,
- Friends of Fitchburg Veterans 8th Annual 5K
- Rotary Breakfast for the Bands
- Fitchburg Holiday Lights
- Making Opportunity Count 400 Children

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FITCHBURG FOOD TRUCK FEST IS BACK! MAY 20 / NOON-7PM / FREE

WooTrucks Events returns to Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority's headquarters at 166 Boulder Drive and we're bigger and better than ever! Join your favorite food trucks, shop at dozens of artisans and vendors, and visit River Styx Brewery. Plenty of parking nearby and FREE admission!



The poster features a vibrant orange background with various food-related icons like a burger, pizza, and fries. At the top, it lists logos for Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority (FDA), WooTrucks, City of Fitchburg, Fitchburg State University, and intown fitchburg. The central text reads "SATURDAY, MAY 20TH NOON-7PM" and "FITCHBURG FOOD TRUCK FEST." Below this, it provides the location "166 Boulder Drive, Fitchburg MA" and the website "www.fitchburgfoodtruckfest.simple.ink". Callouts on the sides mention "DOZENS OF VENDORS", "CRAFT SHOW", "SEE WHO'S COMING ON OUR WEBSITE!", and "19 FOOD TRUCKS". The River Styx Brewing logo is also present at the bottom left.

CONFIRMED FOOD TRUCKS INCLUDE:

POTATO POTATO
THEE TACO DUDE
UNCLE JOEY'S CANNOLI
GRUB GURU
TRAVELIN' BONES BBQ
SAUCED AND TOSSED
CHICKEN CO.
BIG TS BBQ
SIMMY'S POLISH EXPRESS
MOESHMALLOWS

POPS SWEETHARTS LLC
CLYDE'S CUPCAKES
TROLLEY DOGS
KONA ICE OF SHREWSBURY
NOM NOM HUT
SABROSA VENEZUELA INC
THE DOGFATHER
EASY STREET TACOS
BREAKFAST BUS
MOE SWEET EATS

FREE EVENT WIFI



PROVIDED BY



FRA WELCOMES MIRABEL CRUZ



In January, the FRA welcomed Mirabel Cruz as our newest member of our Board of Directors. She brings valuable experience and community commitment to the Board and was recently voted to be our Treasurer for 2023.

Maribel Cruz was born and raised in Fitchburg. She works as the Economic Development Manager for the North Central Massachusetts Development Corp. an arm the NCM Chamber of Commerce. Previously, she was the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Gardner and has an 18 year history in business banking. Maribel is an advocate for small business with a focus on Latin / Minority and women-owned businesses.

PAYING IT FORWARD

by Meagen Donoghue

In early 2022, Senator John Cronin proposed an earmark of \$750,000 for the FRA in the State's Economic Development Bill. The earmark was to be used for general economic development activities. Senator Cronin worked diligently to secure this earmark among many others throughout the region, which was later approved by Governor Baker in December. While fighting for the earmark, he worked with executive director Meagen Donoghue to think creatively on how to use the funds toward incentivizing development at 520 Main Street, the former Johnsonia lot, which the FRA acquired in January of 2022.



Photos courtesy of Fitchburg Art Museum

While sites were set on the redevelopment of the Johnsonia lot, the FRA was also open to other possibilities throughout our Urban Renewal District. With that in mind, Senator Cronin once again reached out looking to see if we could use those funds to help out Fitchburg stakeholders, NewVue Communities & Fitchburg Art Museum, with their artist housing project located at the former B.F. Brown School called the Fitchburg Arts Community.



Photo courtesy of Fitchburg Art Museum

ICON Architecture's rendering of a restored and repurposed B.F. Brown building, part of the planned Fitchburg Arts Community



At the FRA's March Board of Directors meeting, the idea was proposed to use the earmarked funds towards advancing the artist housing project. In the true spirit of collaboration and without hesitation, the Board voted unanimously to transfer the entirety of the earmark to NewVue Communities.

The NewVue project is not only in line with the FRA's Urban Renewal Plan's goals and objectives but is also going to continue the momentum of the positive changes recently seen in the downtown. Because of this, the FRA is honored to help such a catalyst changing project.

The FRA joins MassDevelopment to view some of Fitchburg's Most Promising Properties

The FRA was excited to join Senator Cronin, Rep. Kushmerick, Marc Dohan from NuView Communities, Liz Murphy from Planning & Community Development, and Matthew Darche from Iver Mills Residences on a walking tour with MassDevelopment's CEO Dan Rivera on a walking tour highlighting Fitchburg's most promising properties on Friday, April 7th. The tour included Iver Mills Residences (87-91 River Street), Fitchburg Arts Community (188 Elm Street), Johnsonia Building Lot (520 Main Street), Putnam Place Developments Building 3 (200 Boulder Drive).



Did you know...

Our Parking Lot at 166 Boulder Drive is available for free to local community organizations to rent evenings and weekends!

[Click here for more information,](#)
[or give us at call.](#)

Let's stay in touch...

www.fitchburgredevelopment.com

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