Boston By Foot is dedicated to promoting public awareness and appreciation of Boston’s rich history and architectural heritage by offering a wide range of guided tours and programs conducted by a dedicated corps of highly-trained and enthusiastic volunteer tour guides.

bostonbyfoot.org
### Welcoming Newcomers

**Expanding Our Staff**
Through a partnership with Northeastern University, Boston By Foot was able to expand our staff to include a full-time Co-Op student for both the first and second half of 2017. Our Co-Ops, *Claire Pettit* and *Matt Schick*, assisted with tasks related to communications and program administration.

**New Docents**
*Boston By Foot* welcomed 29 new docents into our annual training course. New docents celebrated with friends and family in a festive graduation ceremony at Old North Church on May 7th. Our new docents jumped into their role quickly, taking on private tours and helping out with new projects. Remarkably, five members of the class of 2017 earned *Footly Fortitude* recognition.

![Twenty-nine new docent graduates.](image)

### Honoring Our Future

**An Extraordinary Honor and Opportunity**
In the fall of 2017 BBF received an unexpected and extraordinary gift from its most vested patron, *Polly Flansburgh, Founder and President Emerita*. The contribution was dedicated to the memory of her husband, the late *Earl Flansburgh*, a loyal friend, former Trustee, and lecturer of BBF.

The gift — significant in every aspect from its source to its implications — presents a unique opportunity to BBF to enhance and strengthen our resources and ensure our vitality in the future. In response to this extraordinary gesture of generosity and support, our Board of Trustees announced its plan to initiate a **$100,000 Challenge Match Campaign** in 2018 to leverage this potentially transformational gift *and* to salute the Flansburghs’ lifelong dedication and commitment to BBF.
New Tours
Boston By Foot guides are always adding new tours to the library. In 2017 no fewer than six new tours made their debut. New offerings included three new neighborhood tours, SOWA, Kendall Square, and the South Cove, a tour on women in the labor movement, Boston Women Finding their Voice, a tour based on sea-faring narratives, Adventures at Sea: Bostonians in the Age of Sail, and a tour that features Art Deco in the Back Bay.

Universal Participation
Boston By Foot was invited to participate in the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Universal Participation (UP) Innovation and Learning Network. The purpose of the UP program is to educate organizations and individuals about the value of creating inclusive programming and spaces for people of all ability levels. Throughout the spring of 2017, Boston By Foot staff attended monthly training workshops in collaboration with fellow organizations to learn how we can make our tours accessible for visitors of all abilities. This training has informed how we adjust our communications, institutional policies and volunteer training.

Training Workshops for Our Volunteers
In our ongoing efforts to train and prepare our volunteers to lead the best tours possible, Boston By Foot continued our Winter Workshop series for all guides. This year our workshops focused on using descriptive language to make our tours more accessible to people with visual impairment and on techniques to better engage tourees and handle challenging situations.

New Docent Emeritus Position
Boston By Foot is fortunate to have over 200 dedicated volunteers within the organization who devote many years to learning and sharing their knowledge on their tours. In 2017, a new Docent Emeritus position was created to honor the contributions of longtime volunteers and enable them to have a lifetime connection to the organization after they have decided to end their active involvement. Docent Emeriti are self-selected and may choose to transition from active volunteer to Docent Emeritus at any time by meeting the eligibility requirements, which include serving Boston By Foot for 10 years or more. In 2017, five guides became Docent Emeriti.
Volunteers

Boston By Foot would not exist without the time and talent of our 200+ dedicated volunteer guides. They spend countless hours preparing content, presenting tours and supporting each other in their efforts to engage audiences in ways that are meaningful and memorable.

Volunteer Committees

Thanks to the collective efforts of our volunteer committees, our programming is creative, extensive and thoughtfully promoted; and our guides are well trained and provided with multiple opportunities to collaborate and further their learning. We thank and acknowledge our 2017 committees and committee chairs.

Academic Affairs: Dayl Cohen and David Phillips
Continuing Education: Nancy White and Patricia Sabbey
Publicity Committee: Lynn Smiledge and Rebecca Camerato
Special Tours: Shawn McGuinness and Dina Vargo
Tours of the Month: Mike Bauer and Susan Tweed
Volunteer Events: Diana Vaughn and Liz Morgan

Distinguished Service

All of our volunteers give so much to BBF, and each year we honor volunteers who truly go above and beyond. The 2017 Distinguished Service Awards were presented to two remarkable volunteers:

**Rebecca Brooks**

While co-chair of the Publicity Committee, Rebecca Brooks had the idea to promote BBF to local hotels, allowing us to better get the word out to tourists visiting the city. By establishing a list of key hotels and coordinating a team of volunteers to make regular visits to their concierges, Rebecca has established a whole new way of getting the word out about BBF to an influential audience. The Concierge Team, now in its 4th year, has been a great success and has introduced many hotel concierges and their guests to our tours.

**Carl Kaplan**

When Carl Kaplan served as Publicity Committee co-chair, he recognized the importance of creating a lasting first impression with prospective guides. For the past few years, he has managed the guide interest email inquiries, serving as a friendly electronic face to those interested in learning more about our training and becoming a guide. His passion and insight has motivated many to learn more about joining BBF.
Since 2009, longtime friends and BBF supporters Bill and Lia Poorvu have funded the Flansburgh Traveling Fellowship to honor Earl and Polly Flansburgh. Each year Boston By Foot volunteers are invited to apply for this fellowship for the purpose of travel, research, and personal growth in a city best experienced in our favorite way: by foot! In 2017, three fellowships were awarded:

Nancy Heywood, Dublin | Lynda McNally, Bologna | Laura Sitterley, Vienna

**Flansburgh Travelers**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
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<td>9,351</td>
<td>9,449</td>
<td>8,533</td>
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**Foots Pins**

BBF acknowledged 28 volunteers for their years of dedicated service in 2017:

- **35 Years**
  - Sally Ebeling

- **30 Years**
  - Margaret Bratschi • Jan Engelman

- **25 Years**
  - Fran Lanouette

- **20 Years**
  - Sharon Fogarty • Heather Pence

- **15 Years**
  - Beverly Davis • Steve Kluskens
  - John Morrison • Kathy Vorse

- **10 Years**
  - Jim Boyd • Rebecca Brooks
  - Mary Margaret Griffin • Hue Holley
  - Matt List • Dina Vargo

- **5 Years**
  - Anna Marie Bracco • Kate Briggs
  - Mersine Florio • Beth Greenwood
  - Aline Kaplan • Betsy Kimball
  - Dennis McCarthy • Peter Micheli
  - Bob Perkins • David Phillips
  - Liz Ranelli • Diana Vaughn

**Footly Fortitude**

BBF recognized 35 guides who conducted 20 or more tours in 2017:

- **Guide of the Year**
  - Bob Perkins, 178 tours

- **70–90 Tours**
  - Tom Revay (90) • Laurel Perkins (80)
  - Tom McNamara (72) • Gretchen Grozier (70)

- **50–59 Tours**
  - Margaret Bratschi • David Coviello
  - Elisabeth DiCicco

- **40–49 Tours**
  - Tom Coppeto • Steve Kluskens

- **30–39 Tours**
  - Dennis McCarthy • Kurt Morris
  - Joni Youngwirth

- **20–29 Tours**
  - Andrea Bonanno • Rebecca Brooks
  - Beth Charney • Dayl Cohen • Jeff Doucette
  - Neil Dugas • Sally Ebeling • Jan Engelman
  - Terri Evans • Sharon Fogarty
  - Beth Greenwood • Ronda Grodberg • Aline Kaplan
  - Steve Loher • Bob Malsberger • Gene Moulton
  - Elisabeth Piquet • Linda Poznauskis
  - Michele Steinberg • Lauren Sterling
  - Ron Tate • Nancy White

**Docent Emeriti**

The following volunteers became Docent Emeriti in 2017:

- Janell Fiarman, Class of 2004 • Mary Klatt, Class of 2001
- Renee Miller, Class of 1992 • Fred Paulsen, Class of 1997 • Linda Perlman, Class of 2001
Programming

206 Volunteers • 1,396 Tours
249 Private Tours • 19,302 Tour Participants

2017 Tour Attendance Breakdown

- Public Tours – 8,119
- Architecture Cruises – 5,538
- Private Tours – 3,879
- Special Tours, Tours of the Month, Continuing Education Events – 1,594

Special Programming & Events

**Continuing Education Events**
- Adventures at Sea: Bostonians in the Age of Sail
- Anne Hutchinson’s Boston Walking Tour
- Anne Hutchinson’s Boston Slide Show
- Back Bay Art Deco
- Boston Women Finding Their Voice
- South Cove

**Tours of the Month**
- Bay Village
- East Boston: Maverick Square and Beyond
- Grave Undertakings: Boston’s Burying Grounds
- Kendall Square
- SOWA: South of Washington Street
- Longwood and Cottage Farm
Administrative Report

2017 Income & Expenses

Partners
Boston Book Festival
Boston Harborfest
Boston Literary District
Boston Society of Architects
Brookline Adult and Community Education
Cambridge Center for Adult Education
Charles Riverboat Company
Historic New England
Old South Meeting House
Revolution 250
Vilna Shul

Corporate Members
The Boston Beer Company
Boston Society of Architects
Cambridge Trust Company
Dimeo Construction Company
Flansburgh Architects
Goodwin
Leers Weinzapfel Associates

Staff
Samantha Nelson, Executive Director
Cortnee Bollard, Program Coordinator
Claire Pettit, Communications Assistant
Matthew Schick, Communications Assistant

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Polly Carpenter, Secretary
Tom Chung
John Cinkala
John Currier
Libby Dilling, Chair
Nancy Heywood, Volunteer Liaison
Lori Karas
Susan Pepin
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Betsy Thompson

‡ Includes one time $100,000 challenge gift

*Accounting, Insurance, Banking, Taxes

Boston By Foot is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit founded in 1976.
Boston By Foot wholeheartedly thanks its volunteers, members and supporters for their tireless commitment to promoting awareness of Boston’s history, architecture and distinctive neighborhoods.

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