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

“Our guide was absolutely amazing! He made the revolution, and the people who fought in it, come alive. We learned so much.”
New faces, community partnerships and record-setting attendance. By all accounts, 2015 was an exciting year for Boston By Foot. The Class of 2015, made up of educators, architects, engineers and others, joined our volunteer community and took their first steps as BBF guides as the season began in May. We also welcomed five new Trustees to our Board in 2015 bringing expertise in communications, finance, project management, fundraising and law to the table, along with fresh insights and passion for our organization’s educational mission.

In April, we bid a fond farewell of long-time Program Manager Veronika McDonald King who stepped down to care for her newborn twins. While her hands are full, she continues to help us as a member of our volunteer community. After an interim period managed by former intern and docent Katie Schinabeck, we welcomed Cortnee Bollard to BBF as our new Program Coordinator. Cortnee joined us from the MFA and Old North Church with a strong background in museum education and public history.

2015 brought new opportunities for developing partnerships to deliver programming to further extend our reach. We were invited to participate in the Boston Book Festival and take part in their new children’s festival, Hubbub. BBF lent support to Revolution 250’s Liberty Tree Ceremony by leading local community groups in an artistic procession replicating the historic ceremony. Additionally, we offered tours in partnership with Old South Meeting House, Discover Roxbury, Cambridge Center for Adult Education and Brookline Adult and Community Education.

All this and Toto too as we were pleased to present dog-friendly tours with our friends at Urban Hound. Our ongoing partnership with the Boston Society of Architects and the Charles Riverboat Company remained a vital part of our ongoing efforts to bring Boston’s architectural gems to life as part of our successful Architecture Cruise series which continues to attract increasing numbers each year.

As we reflect on the successes of 2015, we are looking ahead to the potential 2016 holds for us. 2016 marks Boston By Foot’s 40th anniversary so we have much to celebrate as we continue a unique educational mission that connects people through guided tours to the historic neighborhoods, public spaces and distinct skyline that define Boston.

“The guide’s ability to communicate with children … is beyond belief. We have done quite a bit of travel/tours with our kids and he is definitely the greatest guide we have seen.”
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 guides are well trained and provided with multiple opportunities to collaborate and further their learnings. We thank and acknowledge our 2015 committees and committee chairs.

- Academic Affairs: Martha Vicinus & Doug Upton
- Continuing Education: Katie Kelly & Justina Chu
- Public Relations: Carl Kaplan
- Special Tours: Margaret Bratschi & Nancy Heywood
- Tours of the Month: Terri Evans & Andrea Bonanno

Distinguished Service

All of our volunteers give so much to BBF, but each year we honor a volunteer who truly goes above and beyond. The 2015 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Jan Engleman. Having played an active role on nearly all of our committees, Jan led over 80 tours in 2016 including 29 Architecture Cruises and nearly 20 private tours. She also served as Volunteer Liaison to our Board of Trustees and was key in restructuring and expanding this role for improved impact and transparency. Among her many contributions, she advocated for the creation of this publically-available Annual Report.

Flansburgh Travelers

Since 2009, longtime friends and BBF supporters Bill and Lia Poorevu 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 2015, two fellowships were awarded.

- Bob Dermody – Vancouver, Canada
- Barry DeVincic – Florence, Italy

Footly Fortitude

At the same ceremony, Boston By Foot recognized the following guides who conducted 20 tours or more in 2015.

- 156 Tours
  - Guide of the Year
    - Bob Perkins
- 80–89 Tours
  - Jan Engelman
  - Laurel Perkins
- 70–79 Tours
  - Tom Revay
  - Sigourney Street
- 50–59 Tours
  - Margaret Bratsch
  - Dayl Cohen
  - Tom Coppeto
- 40–49 Tours
- 30–39 Tours
  - Andrea Bonanno
  - Jim Boyd
  - Rebecca Brooks
  - David Coviello
  - Harvey Cohen
  - Barry DeVincic
  - Sally Ebeling
  - Mike Fitzgerald
  - Sharon Fogarty
  - Kate May
  - Kurt Morris
  - Gene Moulton
  - Michele Steinberg
  - Liam Sullivan
  - Martha Vicinus
  - Joni Youngwirth

“...We had a very enjoyable tour with a knowledgeable and easy going guide. She knew lots of interesting information and inspired us to return on our own to explore the sites.”
PROGRAMMING
205 Docents • 1208 Tours • 173 Private Tours • 15015 Tour Participants

2015 Tour Attendance Breakdown

- 24% Public Tours – 6379
- 24% Architecture Cruises – 3601
- 5% Private Tours – 3596
- 2% Special Tours – 818
- 2% Tours of the Month – 228
- 2% Continuing Education Events – 193

Tours of the Month
- Fort Point Channel
- Carruth’s Hill, Dorchester
- Boston and the Law
- Roxbury Highlands
- Cambridge Common
- Chinatown

Continuing Education Events
- Evolution of Quincy Market
- Boston Common Archaeology Tour
- Columbia Point and UMASS Boston
- Boston’s LGBT Past
- Death and Life of a Great American City
- Boston Reborn: After the Great Fire

2015 Income & Expenses

- Total Income $223,444
- Tours and Programming $164,855
- Membership $27,367
- Contributions $26,722
- Grants $4,500

- Total Expenses $183,204
- Payroll, Taxes, Benefits (88% program support) $101,328
- Rent & Supplies $17,918
- Support Services* $20,994
- Programming $42,964

*Accounting, Insurance, Banking, Taxes

Partners
In 2015 Boston By Foot proudly presented programs in partnership with the following organizations:
- Boston Book Festival
- The Boston Harbor Association
- Boston Harborfest
- Boston Literary District
- Boston Society of Architects
- Brookline Adult and Community Education
- Cambridge Center for Adult Education
- Charles Riverboat Company
- First Night
- Discover Roxbury
- Old South Meeting House
- Revolution 250

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

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.

Staff
- Samantha Nelson, Executive Director • Veronika McDonald King, Program Manager, Cortnee Boillard, Program Coordinator
- Katie Schinabeck, Interim Program Coordinator

Board of Trustees
- Barbara Berenson • Polly Carpenter, Secretary • John Cinkala, Treasurer • Anne Cowie • John Currier • Libby Dilling, Chair
- Jan Engelman, Volunteer Liaison • Lori Karas • Susan Pepin • Laureen Pfizenmaier • Betsy Thompson • Jane Weinzapfel