



**Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**  
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June 2024

## Message from the Executive Director & Senior Minister



Summer arrives with its music and sunshine, outdoors laughter and a different pace.

Summer has arrived at the UU Urban Ministry. The justice work continues. But justice work can be joyful, too.

And so we joyfully welcome young people who'll work in our summer employment program, learning new skills and celebrating the season with us.

We'll again offer outdoor concerts in our greenspace that welcome friends from our Roxbury community and across communities. We'll stand in partnership with neighboring organizations, and we'll lead tours to celebrate the history and richness of John Eliot and Nubian squares.

And, hopefully, we'll welcome you, too - on a tour, for art in the peace garden, or to sit beneath the canopy of trees we're blessed with - summertime daydreaming of the world we want to build.

In faith,

Mary Margaret



## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



*RYP Career Exploration Interns (left to right): Funmi, Sabrina, Sofia, and Sarah-Simone*

This past year was the first time that our youth program offered students a Career Exploration Internship opportunity. This internship was designed for students to work with UUUM staff members in order to learn professional skills they can take with them to college and beyond.

We are grateful for the work done by our four 2023-2024 Career Exploration Interns, Funmi, Sabrina, Sofia, and Sarah-Simone. Amongst their many accomplishments, our interns:



- Helped redesign our [Seeing Me in the World](#) program, making it an experience for youth, by youth
- Created the first sections of the [Examining Our History](#) section of the UUUM website, that looks at slavery as it relates to the history of First Church Roxbury
- Assisted with the curation of a tour of the Meetinghouse that examines the true history of First Church Roxbury that will be offered soon

These young women brought their voices and insights to our work, and truly made us a better organization.

## RYP Spotlights of the Month

To mark the end of the school year for Roxbury Youth Programs, we have two RYP Spotlights of the Month!

Sophie and Carlie have both been Learning Artists this year, and in these videos share a little about their experiences and what they've learned.

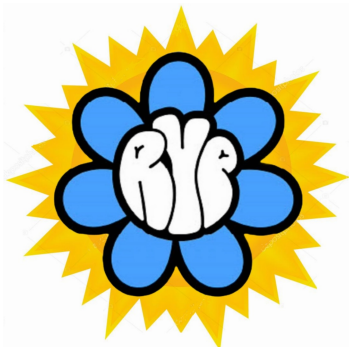
[Sophie, RYP Learning Artist](#)



[Carlie, RYP Learning Artist](#)



## RYP Summer Programming



### Summer Semester

The summer semester of RYP starts on July 8th, and we anticipate welcoming 15 - 17 young people to participate in the program.

We are excited to welcome these young people for a summer of workshops, field trips, and artistic expression.

Thank you to the Boston Private Industry Council and Boston After School & Beyond for their generous support of our youth summer programming.



## Seeing Me in the World



*Youth group from First Parish Brewster taking part in our Seeing Me in the World program.*

The [Seeing Me in the World](#) program is an opportunity for UU youth to meet across congregations, and to learn and reflect on the history of segregation and race in Greater Boston - and bring reflections back to their own communities.

Since we relaunched the program earlier this year, we have been delighted to welcome groups from our member congregations and beyond.

We recently welcomed a group of young people from First Parish Brewster. They were led by Sofia, the Roxbury high school student from our youth program who helped design the experience.

If you are interested in more information, email Reggie Walker: [rwalker@uum.org](mailto:rwalker@uum.org).





## Explore Roxbury



We are excited to share the schedule for our [Tours Program](#). The tours we offer explore the history and public art of Roxbury, and the businesses of Nubian Square.

Roxbury is a great place and the neighborhood UUUM calls home. We are proud to highlight:

- The Trees of John Eliot Square; An historical perspective. Led by historian Thomas Plant
- Public Art In and Near Nubian Square. Led by artist Dayenne Walters
- Nubian Square Economic Tour. Led by staff members including Curtis Santos

We hope you will join us for a tour and explore some of what makes Roxbury great!

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our Tours Program page for a full schedule of Summer/Fall tours.

## Upcoming Events

### The Makanda Project is Back!





### [The Makanda Project - 2024 UUUM Concerts](#)

Join us for world-class jazz music on the beautiful UUUM greenspace. We're happy to announce The Makanda Project will have three concerts this summer at the Urban Ministry. Join us under the summer sky for these free shows in the heart of Roxbury.

1. Saturday, July 13th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm
2. Saturday, August 17th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm
3. Saturday, September 14th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Events are free! | All are welcome | Bring a lawn chair

### A Can't Miss Musical Event

# ARIAS ON THE STEPS

UU URBAN MINISTRY MEETINGHOUSE  
10 PUTNAM ST. ROXBURY, MA



**FREE PERFORMANCE**

**JOIN US ON JULY 17<sup>th</sup>**



### [Arias on the Steps](#)

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Time: 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

This free concert features an amazing lineup of Boston's best musicians and performers. Don't miss a summer evening of amazing music!



Scheduled to perform:

- Sarah Cooper
- Marshall Hughes
- Isabelle Randall
- Alan Rias
- Michael Weinstein on piano
- Daniel Callahan, master of ceremonies

Arias on the Steps will feature opera coupled with Broadway and all that jazz! Join us for an evening of beautiful music under the stars.

## Volunteer Appreciation

### Thank you to our Green Team!

A big thank you to the folks who joined us to get our peace garden ready for summer. As you can see, our **Green Team** did a bang up job...and we are grateful!







## Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse

### The Return of the Historic Organ



The Meetinghouse's historic Hook & Hastings organ was removed during the early stages of the interior renovation. Thanks to a generous donor, the organ was disassembled and sent to Connecticut to be fully restored.

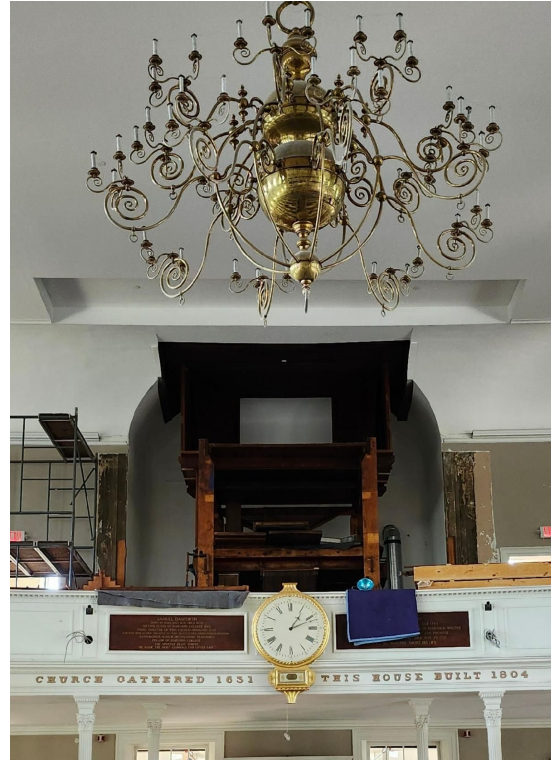


Now as we reach the final stages of work, the work of putting it back together has begun. The plywood that has covered the organ's home was recently removed, and the wood frame is being put back in place.

**Before**



**Today**



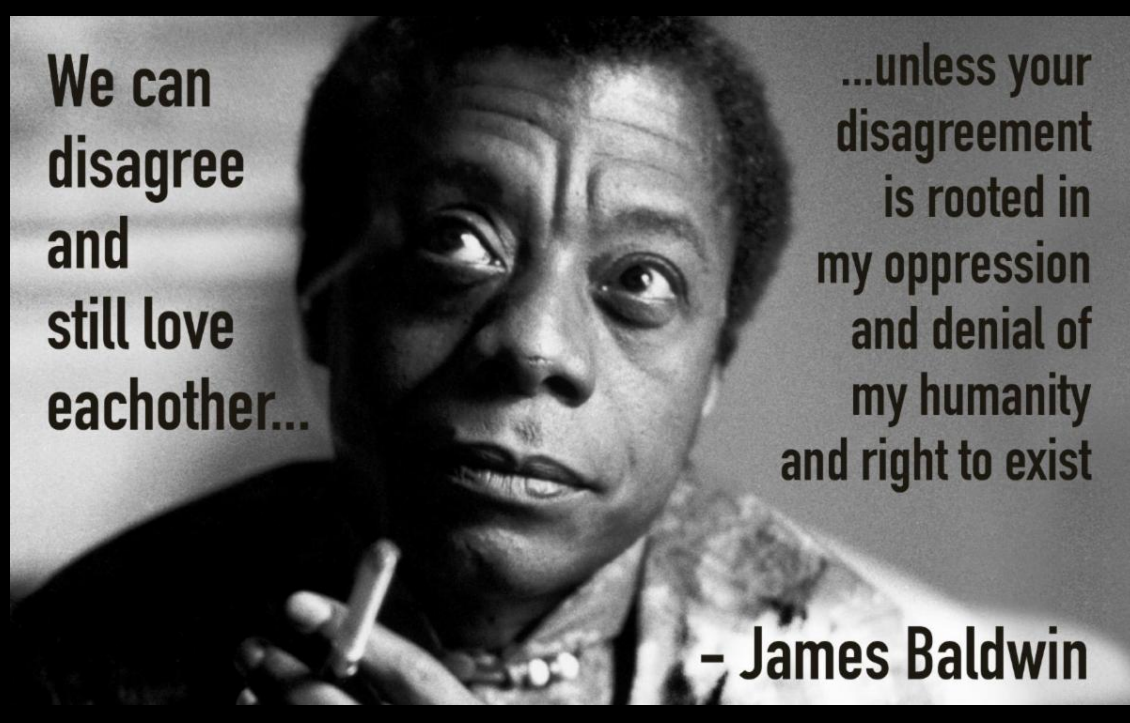
A closer look at the wood frame of the Meetinghouse's Hook & Hastings organ.





Also in the past few weeks, the sconces, now gleaming like new, have been reinstalled on the Meetinghouse walls.

### Words for your consideration...



### Stay Connected with Us

Stay connected and up-to-date about:

- all things UUUM
- our member congregations



- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

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