



**Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**  
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August 2024

Message from the Executive Director & Senior Minister



We learn from history but we also live in the midst of history being made.

That's a lesson on UUUM's Roxbury summer tours.

Historian Thomas Plant highlights the history of important trees in John Eliot Square, including Roxbury Russet Apples and the Bartlett pear. But he also speaks of recent history when the community resisted plans to cut down trees on Melnea Cass Boulevard.

And a tour with visionary artist Dayenne Walters shows visitors the breathtaking public art all around us - like the Faces of Dudley mural created in 1995 and refreshed in 2015. And this summer she took a group to see a stunning new mural of Boston native Donna Summer as artist Cedric Douglas was in the midst of painting it.

And she spoke about visual and spacial justice in Roxbury.

Even in the midst of the joys of summer - being outdoors, socializing, savoring artwork and history - at UUUM we also keep our hearts on justice, always, That's our through-line.

As we make the most of the gifts of this season, and keep reaching toward justice, we thank each of you who makes this work possible with donations, volunteer time, and learning with us.

Summer blessings,

Mary Margaret

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[Make a Gift to the UU Urban Ministry](#)

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## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



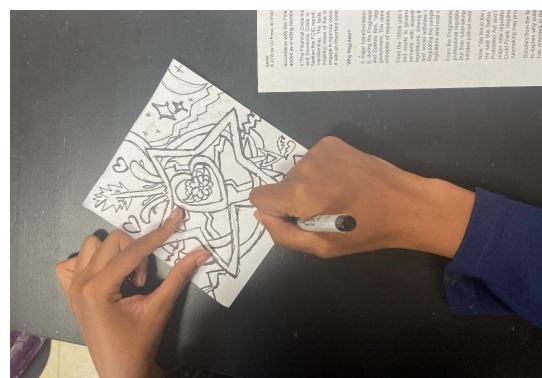


*RYP students head out on a tour of Boston Harbor*

The students in this year's RYP summer youth program have had opportunities to both learn - and have fun - together.

Throughout the semester, they have worked on a project that examines the issue of bullying, and the experiences each has had with the issue. This is a topic that they chose, and they are getting ready to present talks on the topic next Thursday, August 15th.

Students have also had workshops that focus on artistic expression. Recently, they were joined by Madeline Fine, a UUUM volunteer, who offered a jewelry creation workshop.



*RYP Intern sketches a design idea during a jewelry creation workshop, hosted by UUUM volunteer Madeline Fine.*

RYP students have also had a weekly field trip. Some trips have been local college visits where they explored local campuses and what these schools have to offer. And some trips have been for pure enjoyment, like a recent tour of Boston Harbor, and an upcoming trip to the New England Aquarium.

## Come Out to Support Our Students

Next week, the students from Roxbury Youth Programs will be hosting two events on Thursday, August 15th. They asked that we share an invitation to both with you (see info below).

If you can join us to support the efforts of our students, they would appreciate it - and so would we!



### [Ice Cream Social](#)

**Thursday, August 15, 2024**

**3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA**

Summer or not, what's better than ice cream?! Join UUUM staff, friends, and neighbors for an Ice Cream Social, hosted by the students of Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP).

Come for the ice cream, and stay for the final presentations from the students in RYP's summer program. From 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M., RYP students will be presenting talks based on their personal experience in terms of bullying to raise awareness of the long lasting effects bullying can leave on an individual. Their focus has been on the different forms of bullying that can occur through social media, school, workplace, and home.



# MY POV

# Roxbury Youth Programs

## [MY POV: Bullying](#)

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5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

RYP students will be presenting talks based on their personal experience in terms of bullying to raise awareness of the long lasting effects bullying can leave on an individual. Their focus has been on the different forms of bullying that can occur through social media, school, workplace, and home.

These talks are the final projects of the students in the RYP Summer Program, and it would be great to have you join us and support our students.

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## UUUM Walking Tours





*Historian Thomas Plant leads the Trees of John Eliot Square: A historical perspective tour*

This summer marked a new season of walking tours. These tours aim to tell a deeper story of Roxbury and engage visitors more in our mission to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture.

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

If you haven't had the chance to explore with us on a UUUM Tour, there are still opportunities in the coming weeks. Check out the [Tours Program](#) page of our website for upcoming dates.



*Local artist Dayenne Walters leading a Public Art in and Near Nubian Square" tour.*

## Upcoming Events

### UUUM Walking Tours

[UUUM Tours: Trees of John Eliot Square: A](#)



## [historical perspective](#)

**Sat. Aug 10th - 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

Join historian Thomas Plant to enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood focused on Roxbury's agriculture and horticulture and how these shaped the neighborhood over the years.



## [UUUM Tours: Public Art in and Near Nubian Square](#)

**Sat. Aug. 17th - 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

Join local artist Dayenne Walters to visit the murals in our neighborhood and appreciate the artists who address important topics to all who witness these large works of art in public spaces.



## Jazz on the Greenspace



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

Join us for world-class jazz music on the beautiful UUUM greenspace. There are still two upcoming opportunities to see The Makanda Project at the Urban Ministry this summer. Join us for these free shows in the heart of Roxbury.

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

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

## With Appreciation

## Thank you to KPMG

Thank you to the folks from the Boston office of KPMG, and international company offering audit services, who recently donated 150 book bags full of books to the Urban Ministry. Members of their staff delivered them and stayed for a tour led by a student



from Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP).

These book bags will be distributed by RYP students at their event on August 15th, and they will be shared with our neighbors and partners as well. Thank you, KPMG!



**Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse**

**Preparing for 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 continues. The plywood that has covered the organ's home was recently removed, and progress continues to be made assembling the organ's wood frame.

## A New Sound System





The Meetinghouse has wonderful acoustics, but to truly be a home for music and the arts in Roxbury, the building needed a sound system. In the past few weeks, this sound system has been installed. Above, you can see one of the new speakers that will enhance the experience at future events.

### Words for your consideration...

**Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others.**

— *Coretta Scott King*



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- all things UUUM
- our member congregations
- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

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