



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 26, 2011

Contact: Mac Daniel
617-954-2430

MCCA Distributes Annual Community Partnership Grants & Hospitality Scholarships to local non-profits and students

James Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, awarded \$116,470 in community grants and academic scholarships to 22 Boston non-profits and four Massachusetts hospitality students at the authority's annual awards luncheon today.

The awards were distributed as part of the MCCA's Community Partnership and Hospitality Scholarship Fund, a two-part program established and sponsored by the MCCA and State Senator Jack Hart. The goal of the program is for all of Boston's neighborhoods to benefit from the work of the MCCA as well as to provide opportunities for Massachusetts students entering the hospitality industry.

"Boston is a city of neighborhoods, and within every neighborhood are non-profits whose tireless work is essential to the growth and vitality of Boston and the Commonwealth as a whole," said Rooney. "With this program, we hope to ensure that these non-profits have the necessary funding to continue that work."

The 22 non-profits represented Boston and five of its neighboring communities – East Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Brighton:

- Boston – (6) Teenvoices; Everybody Wins!; Friends of Children's Trust Fund; Road to Redemption; Friendship Works; Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
- East Boston – (2) Salesian Boys & Girls Club; Zumix, Inc.
- Dorchester – (7) Mujeres Unidas En Acción, Inc. (MUA); Project D.E.E.P.; Codman Academy Foundation; Upham's Corner Community Center d/b/a Bird Street; Dorchester Historical Society; All Dorchester Sports League, Inc.; Elizabeth Seton Academy
- Roxbury – (4) Discover Roxbury; Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; Omega Men in Action; WEATOC, Inc.
- Jamaica Plain – (2) Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly; BalletRox
- Brighton – (1) The Fishing Academy

“We would like to thank the MCCA Community Partnership Grant Committee for realizing the importance our program has on the youth of Dorchester,” said Jared Blandino, executive director of All Dorchester Sports League, Inc., a recipient of a \$4,970 Community Partnership grant. “The grant will allow us to provide uniforms, sports equipment, healthy activities and improve our ADSL Summer Fun & Fitness Clinics, which focus on active lifestyles, health and nutrition.”

The four scholarship winners hail from communities from across the state:

- Everett - Svetlana Horner, Fisher College
- Lynnfield – Lauren Welter, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Spencer – Amy McInnes, Johnson & Wales University
- Wilbraham – Allison Loomis, Minnechaug Regional High School

“The grant and scholarship program allows us to reach out and give back to the neighborhoods of Boston and to communities from across the Commonwealth,” said Rooney. “We look forward to seeing the results of the incredible work being done by these non-profits and to someday working alongside these future hospitality leaders.”

Each non-profit was awarded grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and each student was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. Since the program launched in 2007, the MCCA has awarded more than \$450,000 in grants to dozens of non-profit organizations in Boston and \$39,000 in academic scholarships to local students.

For more information, please see the following:

- About the Community Partnership & Hospitality Fund link
http://www.massconvention.com/about_par.html
- MCCA Launches 2010 Community Partnership Program press release link
http://www.massconvention.com/about_new2_pre.html

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In 2010, the MCCA hosted 239 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 773,387 attendees, generating 585,528 hotel room nights and \$462 million in economic impact. The MCCA is currently in the midst of its Top 5 campaign to launch Boston into the top five convention destinations in North America. For more information, go to www.t5boston.com.

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