

Beyond Building

The Official Newsletter of YouthBuild Boston

December 2006 ♦ Volume 2, Issue 2

See Inside...



A new architectural model: p. 2



Safety in numbers: p. 3



Backed by unions: p. 3

UBuild, we help, everyone wins

Service partnerships combine efforts, maximize impact

YBB's UBuild Service Partnerships extended their record of success on a recent project with Boston Private Bank & Trust Co. (BPB). BPB funded a project to enhance the living quarters at the Boston Rescue Mission (BRM), a local homeless shelter and one of BPB's preferred charities.

BRM's rooms lacked adequate storage space and needed a personal touch. The Rescue Mission staff sought to brighten the mood and provide a more comfortable, functional living area. YBB's construction professionals helped the shelter's staff devise a solution: new cabinets, improved lighting, and vibrantly painted accents.

BPB volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to be active in the community, describing the day as a "powerful experience." YBB construction trainees worked alongside YBB construction



Cabinet assembly in progress at the Boston Rescue Mission.

professionals, learning valuable skills and helping facilitate the project for the volunteers.

"A lot of (the volunteers) really seemed to appreciate the fact that (the project) was helping the Rescue Mission *and* supporting the trainees and programs at

YouthBuild Boston," noted Ken Smith, Executive Director of YBB. "And that's what will happen. Among other things, we hope that the Rescue Mission will refer people to our training programs. Not many service projects are set up to do that."

Neighborhood Housewarming 2006 helps keep the cold out

Just in time for the delayed arrival of winter, Dorchester homeowner Pauline Bey received an energy-saving gift — brand new windows throughout her house.

On December 1, YBB staged its fourth annual weatherization day, *Neighborhood Housewarming 2006*. More than 200 volunteers installed 13 new windows in Bey's home and insulated drafty windows and doors in 51 homes of low income, elderly Bostonians, all free of charge. Weatherization of this nature yields an average savings of 10-12% on one's energy bill.



Volunteers with a happy homeowner.

YBB, Bank of America, Rebuilding Together Boston (RTB), the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND),



YouthBuild Boston trainees install windows.

and CB Richard Ellis New England (CBRE) teamed up for this year's event. Together, the five organizations provided all supplies for the

event, and the volunteers to get the job done. Waltham's Harvey Industries, Inc. donated the windows for Bey's home. The homes serviced are located primarily in Dorchester, Roxbury, East Boston, and Hyde Park.

Bank of America is a long-time YBB supporter, participating in this event for the last four years. YBB has also worked with DND and RTB to address the unmet needs in local communities.

Less than three days later, the temperature dropped sharply, and the season's first snow fell outside these newly sealed homes.

Design Renaissance

Teen architecture program revamps image, sharpens focus on local community



Sr. Designer Jennings Blanc (C) and Jr. Designer David Avelino (R) at Harvard's GSD.

"The mother art is architecture. Without an architecture of our own we have no soul of our own civilization."
—Frank Lloyd Wright

At times, the crime and poverty in some local neighborhoods can be overwhelming. Communities rich in tradition and culture start to become characterized primarily by the violence and negativity that plague them. But, as if guided by the above quote, one group on Roxbury's Dudley Street seeks to control and redefine the soul of their community.

This group is YouthBuild Boston's Designery, a program that introduces local teens to architectural concepts, so that they may learn from them, and apply them to the community. Designery students use various problem solving tactics to design and implement architecture related projects ranging from aesthetic interior work to functional landscape improvements. They are mentored and guided by college architecture students through AmeriCorps, professional architect volunteers, and by Program Manager, Simon Hare. Designery students visit architecture firms and schools, where they interact with architects and learn about the profession. They recently toured the

Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Formerly known as Teens for Positive Change (TPC), YBB's architecture exploration program has just begun its first full year, after a recent overhaul — a renaissance of sorts, starting from the top. Hare was hired as the Designery's Program Manager in October. He previously worked with TPC students during the summer through his own organization, Archventures. But as the program's great potential became clear, his new role as a staff member was created.

Upon Hare's hiring, the program's very name was one of the first obstacles he saw. "I real-

ized that for our various target audiences — students, employees, mentors, donors — to really identify with us, we needed our name to better reflect what we do and who we are," he stated. "(Teens for Positive Change) really didn't get at the heart of that."

As the renaming process began, the Designery's space was also overhauled. The classroom-style seating arrangement was replaced with a more open layout, complete with drafting lamps and large work tables. This format is commonly used in professional architecture firms where large-scale plans are drawn. In the Designery, this layout's key advantage is that it promotes collaboration on group projects. Best of all, it doesn't feel



A model from a recent Designery project.

like school, which can be critical in engaging teens in the afternoon.

While the Designery's curriculum maintains an architectural theme, its intent is to address much more. The aim, as Hare describes, is not necessarily to prepare these teens to pursue

careers in architecture. Instead, the Designery's mission is to challenge students mentally, to make them think creatively, and develop their problem solving skills in such a way that will benefit the community.

The Designery's new class has just finished work on their first group projects: visual enhancements within 504 Dudley Street.



Interior work in progress at 504 Dudley St.

They divided into groups, led by students from the Boston Architecture College. As the program progresses they will take on increasingly complex projects.

The Designery's future looks bright. A \$25,000 grant from the Hyams Foundation will help light their way through September 2007, with a potential \$30K extension for 2008. A recent visit to their workspace revealed students huddled around drafting lamps, the creative process underway — an indicator of good things to come.

Beyond Building will report on the progress of the Designery in our next issue.

YBB Staff Profile: Tim Tudor, General Superintendent

There's no need to beat around the bush — Tim Tudor makes things happen. Since he joined YBB in late July to lead the construction team, Tudor has proven to be a driving force both on and off the jobsite.

Most recently the head instructor at the New England Carpenters Training Center (NECTC) in Millbury, MA, Tudor offers a wealth of knowledge about the carpentry and construction industries. While at NECTC, he trained union apprentices who are undoubtedly some of the best young carpenters in the region. He led efforts for young involvement in community assistance and causes such as Homes for Our Troops.

Tudor has a reputation for his staunch attitude



Tudor (L) discusses plans on the jobsite with Boston City Councilor, Chuck Turner (C), and YBB Executive Director, Ken Smith.

towards jobsite safety. He is one of two YBB construction staff who has completed the advanced OSHA 500-hour "Train the Trainer" safety course, and he played a major role in securing a recent alliance between YBB, OSHA, and MA DOS.

Union support lends strength, opens doors

YBB construction staff, project managers, and trainees have put forth a great deal of effort in their project at 131 Ziegler Street. The project will yield seven units of permanent housing for disabled homeless people, through the Pine Street Inn. As the project nears completion, the accomplishment becomes more and more evident.

But YBB has not done it alone. When the project is finally finished, it will serve as a reminder of the tremendous possibilities that may be attained through collaboration and teamwork — in this case, between YBB and the Local 40 Carpenters Union.

YBB is the general contractor on this project, and on many others. This provides ample work experience for trainees, as well as the flexibility to host apprentices from the New England Carpenters Training Center (NECTC) in Millbury, MA. Together, the two groups are performing all of the carpentry on the job.

Jonah DeCola, YBB instructor and Local 40 member, explains, "We are able to give our students

a first hand look at the expectations, in terms of work ethic, skill, and attitude, of journey level workers in the union.

"To be a successful journey level worker, there is a certain level of training they need to come to the table with," notes DeCola. "On YouthBuild projects,



Banners announce the collaborative effort on the 131 Zeigler St. jobsite.

students are able to work on sites with a less aggressive schedule, so there is more time for instruction and training."

While the schedule may be less aggressive, the work is very real — working with union apprentices and instructors ex-

poses YBB trainees to some of the same experience that union apprentices receive, leaving them better equipped when they graduate from YBB and begin their own union apprenticeships.

Working closely with union carpenters fosters learning, but has also produced more concrete

notes, "It is easy to train (Rivera). He is interested in learning... it has really worked out well with him."

DeCola points out that stories like Rivera's are not out of the ordinary. Frantz Clarke, another of DeCola's students, recently graduated from YBB and joined Local 40 as an apprentice. Clarke now works for T.J. McCartney, Inc.

Dennis Sawyer, the company's drywall foreman has high accolades for Clarke. "In 25 years, Clarke is one of a handful of apprentices that I have met that you can tell right from the start is going to work out. The carpenters union needs guys like him and so does T.J. McCartney."

Daniel Mariano, a carpenter steward on Clarke's job and a Local 40 member, has similar praise. "He is one of the best first-year apprentices I've seen in a long time. One day he will probably run work here at the job; he picks things up quick. This kid is on the mark."

Special thanks to Molly Higgins of the NECLMP, who did the lead writing for this article.

Safety in numbers

OSHA, DOS, YBB form strategic alliance

Recognizing the exceptional safety practices maintained by YBB's construction leadership, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety (MA DOS) have recently forged an alliance with YBB. Through the alliance, OSHA and MA DOS will work with YBB to provide YouthBuild trainees statewide with OSHA's 10-hour basic construction safety courses. Certain YBB staff and students will also receive more advanced training.

This move anticipates a new law in the Commonwealth that will require all workers on public projects to have an "OSHA 10 Card", showing completion of the 10-hour course. The new law will take effect in July 2007.

This alliance will potentially serve as a model that will encourage other YouthBuild chapters to build relationships with OSHA's Regional and Area Offices. This is a particularly important move for YBB's young and minority workers, demographics who statistically



OSHA and YBB officials signed the alliance before YBB trainees and union apprentices.

are more vulnerable to hazards due to lack of resources and information.

YBB recognizes their inclusion in this alliance as a tribute to their good reputation for jobsite safety. YBB has previously received ac-

colades from inspectors, including Martin Lewiton of MA DOS, who recently wrote, "It was... a pleasure to...visit your work-site.... I would have to rate it as perhaps the most hazard-free construction site I've ever seen."

*“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost.
There is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.”*

—Henry David Thoreau



YBB trainees and union apprentices expand their horizons against the Boston skyline. For more about this joint effort, see page 3.



To support the people and programs at YouthBuild Boston, please visit us online at www.youthbuildboston.org/supportus.htm or call Garrett Butler-Hall at 617.455.8887 ext. 123

YouthBuild Boston, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

 **YouthBuild Boston**
504 Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Strengthening Youth, Rebuilding Communities