



For Immediate Release
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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS, FREE FUN FRIDAYS 2018 WILL PROVIDE NO-COST ADMISSION FOR
EVERYONE TO 100 MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL VENUES
THIS SUMMER

Since 2009, more than 1.2 million visitors have enjoyed no-cost access thanks to \$6.2 million in support from the Highland Street Foundation

Newton, Mass. (5/30/2018) – A record 100 cultural venues across Massachusetts will open their doors for free on Fridays this summer, marking the 10th anniversary of Free Fun Fridays, funded by the Highland Street Foundation to offer visitors no-cost access to museums, theaters, historic sites, archives and treasured collections.

Free Fun Fridays 2018 will take place for 10 consecutive Fridays — beginning June 29 and continuing through August 31— with 100 venues welcoming visitors in a free-of-charge public celebration of culture and history that is unprecedented outside of the national museums in Washington, D.C.

Over the course of the past decade, the Newton-based Highland Street Foundation, a family-directed organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for Massachusetts children and families, has invested \$6.2 million in cultivating a game-changing opportunity for families and the state’s cultural institutions, both small and large.

“When we started Free Fun Fridays, the goal was simple: make it free, make it fun and make it happen on Friday,” Highland Street Foundation Executive Director Blake Jordan said. “Now in its 10th year, Free Fun Fridays are here to offer enrichment, entertainment and education in every region of the state. In 2018, we are proud to offer the most extensive list of participating venues ever. It is going to be a great summer.”

Since it was launched in 2009, Free Fun Fridays have drawn more than 1.2 million visitors to a range of institutions celebrating arts, culture and history that ranges from classical to contemporary, from the official to the off-beat.

For visitors, there are an abundance of collected treasures, from the classical to the offbeat. Visitors can take in the Dutch Masters at the Museum of Fine Arts, trace the hunt for Moby Dick at the New Bedford Whaling Museum or learn more about early Boston at the Museum of African American History. Then there are unique collections of The Telephone Museum, in Waltham, the New England Quilt Museum, in Lowell, the Larz Anderson Auto Museum, in Brookline, and the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History, in Weston.

At the Children's Museum, Free Fun Fridays have helped bring more Boston-area children and families through the doors each summer. The Smith College Museum of Art says Free Fun Fridays attendance outpaces traditional Friday attendance. At the Griffin Museum of Photographer in Winchester, admissions quadruple.

This year there are free musical and dramatic performances at Jacobs Pillow, Berkshire Theatre Group, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood.

"It is very important to keep our children active and productive during the summer months," said Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. "Free Fun Fridays are a great opportunity for kids and families in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth to spend time together participating in fun activities while learning at the same time."

Each year, Highland Street Foundation partners with venues in every corner of the state to open their doors for free. Free Fun Fridays is one of many programs created and supported by the Highland Street Foundation to increase access and opportunities for children and families throughout Massachusetts.

"Free Fun Friday epitomizes true community spirit. The MFA is proud to have partnered with the Highland Street Foundation for the past decade, and we're truly grateful for their generosity," said Matthew Teitelbaum, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the MFA. "Every year, visitors of all ages embrace art and enjoy all the Museum has to offer – from experiencing the collection to creating masterpieces of their own. We look forward to continued collaboration with Highland Street in bringing art and families together in new and meaningful ways."

Here is a complete list of all participating venues and dates.

#FreeFun Fridays10
10th ANNIVERSARY
HIGHLAND STREET Foundation
FREE FUN FRIDAYS!

**10 FRIDAYS, 10 VENUES
 100 THINGS TO DO
 100% FREE**

DATE	VENUES
JUNE 29	Lyric Stage Company of Boston MT Museum Berkshire Theatre Group Nantucket Whaling Museum The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home Concord Museum Worcester Art Museum Clark Art Institute Children's Museum in Easton Edward Gorey House
JULY 6	Boston Children's Museum Peabody Essex Museum Cape Cod Maritime Museum Battleship Cove Annella Park Children's Museum Gore Place Falmouth Museums on the Green Hancock Shaker Village Pilgrim Hall Museum New England Quilt Museum
JULY 13	Edward M. Kennedy Institute Charles River Watershed Association Lutz Anderson Auto Museum Chestnutwood The Telephone Museum Westport Hall Museum & Gilded Age Museum The Sports Museum Children's Museum at Holyoke International Volleyball Hall of Fame Mahalwe Performing Arts Center
JULY 20	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Gloucester Stage Company The Gardens at Elm Bank (Mass Hort) Chatham Shawk Center New Bedford Whaling Museum Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History Springfield Museums Discovery Museum The Hall at Patriot Place
JULY 27	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood Commonwealth Shakespeare Company JFK Hyannis Museum Fitchburg Art Museum Old Colony History Museum Boston Athenaeum Sandwich Glass Museum Arnold Arboretum Museum of Russian Icons
AUGUST 3	Franklin Park Zoo Cape Cod Museum of Art Children's Museum of Greater Fall River Davis Museum at Walsley College Naumkeag, The Trustees Worcester Historical Museum Gaterville Historical Museum Historic Deerfield The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art Paragon Carousel
AUGUST 10	Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston Jacob's Pillow Cahoon Museum of American Art Nichols House Museum Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists Wadsworth Museum Fuller Craft Museum The Greenway Carousel Freedom Trail® Foundation
AUGUST 17	John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum Pinnoth Plantation Commonwealth Museum Lynn Museum New England Historic Genealogical Society Fort Devens Museum Fruitlands Museum, The Trustees Old State House Berkshire Museum Museum of the First Corps of Cadets
AUGUST 24	Harvard Museums of Science & Culture Buttrick Park Zoo MASS MoCA Heritage Museums & Gardens Cape Cod Children's Museum Smith College Museum of Art The Old Manse, The Trustees Emily Dickinson Museum Hull Lifesaving Museum Museum of African American History
AUGUST 31	Old Starbridge Village EcoTarium Norman Rockwell Museum Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Chatham Marconi Maritime Center USS Constitution Museum Cape Ann Museum Griffin Museum of Photography Provincetown Art Association and Museum The Mary Baker Eddy Library & Mapparium

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Please visit HighlandStreet.org or call 617.969.8900 for more information.

To learn more about the “Free Fun Fridays,” and the Highland Street Foundation, visit www.highlandstreet.org

About Highland Street Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Highland Street Foundation is one of the top 10 family foundations in Massachusetts. Committed to addressing the most pressing needs and concerns for children and families in Massachusetts, Highland Street Foundation provides access and opportunities in education, housing, mentorship, health care, environment, and the arts. In June 2018, Highland Street will mark the 10th anniversary of one of its signature programs, Free Fun Fridays and in 2019 will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the organization’s founding.

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