



Plan Your Day

Suggested Itineraries

There are 18 locations to visit during the 2026 Opening Our Doors festival. We hope you can visit all of them! Below, we have created a few **suggested walking itineraries** to make the most of your day. Depending on your particular interests, we have grouped some within short or nearby walking distances. There are open houses and drop-in activities at all the sites; however, *please refer to the OOD 2026 schedule for the most up to date times for specific performances and activations.*

Kick-off:

It all starts here from 10AM – 11:15AM at the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' Youth Center for Music on The Christian Science Plaza - join a terrific group of speakers and performances to kick start your OOD including a welcome from elected officials and representatives from Mass Cultural Council and the City of Boston, a reading from Boston's Youth Poet Laureate, Ailin Sha, and performances by: Boston Children's Chorus; New England Conservatory Prep's Honors Woodwind Quintet; Handel + Haydn Society Ambassador Ensemble; Northeastern University's Eon Dance Troupe and the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras Honors Brass Quintet.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist: There are numerous sites to visit in and around

the Christian Science Plaza including two free organ concerts in The Mother Church Extension, with one especially for kids! Catch the youth demonstration from 11:30AM – 11:50AM and the community concert from 12:15PM – 12:45PM. The Christian Science Plaza is also offering free guided tours of The Mother Church and Sunday School; free admission to the *How Do You See the World?* experience and the world-famous Mapparium™ globe in the Christian Science Publishing House; and storytimes in English and Spanish at the Christian Science Reading Room. Be sure to pick up a “passport” and get it stamped at each location!

Mass Ave and Huntington Ave: After the Kick-off, walk across the street to Symphony Hall for an Instrument Playground, the historical instrument collection, and live music by NEC students (12:30PM – 1:30PM). **Note: enter at 251 Huntington Ave. Activities are in the Cohen Wing.** Check out hidden gem Kaji Aso Studio at 40 St Stephen Street for a special display, ceramic sale, and performances by mezzo-soprano Chihiro Asano at 1PM and 2PM. Then walk just around the corner on Huntington Ave to the Huntington Theatre for a free open house (11AM – 2PM): take a self-guided tour with a sneak peek at the set for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, try on costumes, and enjoy free coffee. Finish this tour at the historic YMCA Huntington Avenue to celebrate 175 years of the Y in Boston: explore the pool, gym, and programs, and catch the Northeastern University Madrigal Singers at 12PM in the Atrium!

Mass Ave and Boylston St: Visit the Massachusetts Historical Society (12PM – 4PM) to celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day with activities and discussions inspired by the Indigenous philosophy of Seven Generations. The Fenway Gallery is just a few blocks away, where you can see the Annual Fenway Studios Group Exhibit (12PM – 4PM). Nearby, join SIDE Presents and Berklee College of Music at the Haviland Street Patio (7 Haviland St, 12PM – 5PM) for “The Story Bar,” where you can create your own journal with prompts on memory, home, and belonging. Stay for live performances by Orlando Dixon, Keeme Tajudeen, Aniyé Music, Brooklynn, and Lourde Childs, plus cider and donuts.

Art Exhibitions:

Head over to the MFA (10AM – 5PM) and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (12PM – 4PM), but

be sure to register in advance to avoid long lines. There are also other great, smaller galleries in the Fenway, such as the Fenway Gallery at the historic Fenway Studios, Kaji Aso Studio, MassArt Art Museum (MAAM), Tufts University Art Galleries at SMFA, and Trustman Gallery at Simmons University. Don't forget to check out the Interactive Aluminum Pour at MassArt between 11:30AM – 2PM! MAAM, MassArt, Trustman Gallery, and Tufts University Galleries are all within easy walking distance of each other.

This year, Tufts University Art Galleries at SMFA presents *Looking Back*, an exhibit celebrating 150 years of SMFA's history, and Trustman Gallery presents *I'm here If you need me*, a solo exhibition of sculpture by Kate Holcomb Hale. Visit MAAM for hands-on art-making for all ages in the Barkan Family Big Ideas Studio.

Music:

Opening Our Doors is a celebration of music of all genres: classical, jazz, a cappella, show tunes, spoken word, soul, and more. Here are some highlights of performances during OOD. *Please review time and location specifics on the OOD main schedule page.*

10:00AM – 11:15AM, Kick-off Ceremony at the BYSO Youth Center for Music, 235

Huntington Avenue

Boston Youth Poet Laureate Ailin Sha; Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras Honors Brass Quintet; Boston Children's Chorus; New England Conservatory Prep's Honors Woodwind Quintet; Handel + Haydn Ambassador Ensemble; Northeastern University's EON Dance Troupe

12:00PM, YMCA Huntington Avenue Atrium

Northeastern University's Madrigal Singers (a cappella group).

12:00PM – 5:00PM, Haviland Street Patio (SIDE Presents / Berklee College of Music)

Live performances by Orlando Dixon, Keeme Tajudeen, Aniye Music, Brooklynn, and Lourde Childs.

12:00PM – 5:00PM, New Edgerly Plaza

Artists perform "in the round" on a door-themed stage, and visitors are welcome to decorate a

tile for a community mosaic. This program is presented by *junkyard.

12:30PM – 1:30PM, Boston Symphony Orchestra (Cohen Wing, enter at 251 Huntington Ave)

NEC student musical performances.

1:00PM & 2:00PM, Kaji Aso Studio

2 musical performances by mezzo-soprano Chihiro Asano. Register by emailing administrator@kajiasostudio.com

1:00PM – 3:00PM, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) Youth Center for Music

BYSO student performances and instrument demonstrations.

Time TBD, The Mother Church Extension

Two free organ concerts, one especially for kids (youth demonstration 11:30AM – 11:50AM, community concert 12:15PM – 12:45PM). The organ in the Mother Church is one of the largest organs in the world, with a total of 13,384 pipes, ranging from the size of a pencil to a height of 32 feet.

Children's Activities :

Opening Our Doors is an inclusive and interactive festival with lots of children's activities at locations throughout the Fenway. Here are a few highlights.

10:00AM – 4:00PM, Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Emerald Necklace-themed coloring pages and activities.

11:00AM – 2:00PM, Huntington Theatre

Kid-friendly costume corner and coloring station.

11:00AM – 5:00PM, MassArt Art Museum (MAAM)

Hands-on art-making for all ages in the Barkan Family Big Ideas Studio.

11:30AM – 2:00PM, MassArt Art Museum Plaza

Interactive Aluminum Pour: carve your own design and take home custom cast-metal art.

11:30AM – 3:00PM, The Mother Church Reading Room

Storytimes in English and Spanish.

12:00PM – 2:00PM, Boston Symphony Orchestra (Cohen Wing, enter at 251 Huntington Ave)

Try your hand at strings, brass, percussion, and woodwinds at the Instrument Playground.

12:00PM – 4:00PM, Massachusetts Historical Society

Indigenous Peoples' Day activities inspired by the philosophy of Seven Generations.

12:00PM – 5:00PM, New Edgerly Plaza

Decorate a tile for a community door-shaped mosaic.

1:00PM – 3:00PM, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras

Tours of the building, youth performances, instrument demos, and arts & crafts.

Time TBD, The Mother Church Extension

A free organ concert especially for kids.