

*“My guide brought history to life!”*



# BOSTON BY FOOT<sup>SM</sup>

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2016

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Boston By Foot is dedicated to promoting public awareness and appreciation of Boston's rich history and architectural heritage by offering a wide range of guided tours and programs conducted by a dedicated corps of highly-trained and enthusiastic volunteer tour guides.

[bostonbyfoot.org](http://bostonbyfoot.org)



*“In 40 years what has never changed is the quality, the enthusiasm and the spirit of the tours. This wonderful sense of dedication and fun still continues!” - Polly Flansburgh, Founder*

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Tourees	316	1,743	2,588	3,411	4,215	3,555	4,315	4,116	4,422	4,625	4,748	5,773	6,179

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## 40th ANNIVERSARY 2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Boston By Foot volunteers, trustees and staff gathered for a 40th anniversary celebration at the Samuel Adams Brewery.

**2016 was a milestone year** for Boston By Foot! Our 40th season kicked off May 1st, which was declared Boston By Foot Day by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Boston. State Representative Daniel Hunt presented the official proclamation to Board Chair Libby Dilling at Old North Church as part of our graduation ceremony for our 2016 Class of docents. In June, we held a celebration at the Samuel Adams Brewery, a long-time corporate partner. We were thrilled to have our Founder Polly Flansburgh at this event to honor our fourth decade and the countless contributions of our volunteers and supporters. In November, we held an Awards Reception at the historic Omni Parker Hotel where we premiered a documentary on BBF created by filmmaker and BBF docent **Pam Pacelli**. Used throughout the year, our anniversary logo was designed by **Sheila Frazier**, another talented member of our docent community. Our 40th anniversary gave us plenty of reasons to celebrate and share our profound gratitude for the people, places and passion that makes Boston By Foot so special.

### Record Breaking

2016 was a year of new records. We provided public and private tours to 19,000+ people — a 22% increase over 2015. Bob Perkins, our Guide of the Year for the past three years, continued his own record-breaking ways by delivering 160+ walking tours.

### Customized Walking Tours

In addition to our regular and special tours, Boston By Foot is proud to offer a menu of 100+ tours for private groups and families. These tours feature Boston's neighborhoods, various historical topics and other aspects of the city's cultural fabric. We also customize these tours to suit specific needs or interests. In 2016, we hosted 235 private tours ranging from families, schools, corporations, alumni gatherings and other affinity groups, including international Naval Officers from the Naval Command College, scholars from the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders program, families and staff of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, as well as a group from Warner Brothers who requested a tour of Whitey Bulger's Boston to complement their Black Mass production.

### Cruising

Architecture Cruises continue to be a spectacular way for us to display Boston's evolving skyline and waterways. In 2016, nearly 6,000 people enjoyed a cruise, which we offer in partnership with Boston Society of Architects and the Charles Riverboat

Company. We expanded our schedule to include daily cruises from Memorial Day through Labor Day and twice-daily cruises on weekends through mid October.

### New Funding Support

Boston By Foot is proud of the support we receive from state and local cultural councils. In 2016 we were invited to join the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Gateway Program, which sets us on the path for inclusion in the Cultural Investment Portfolio.

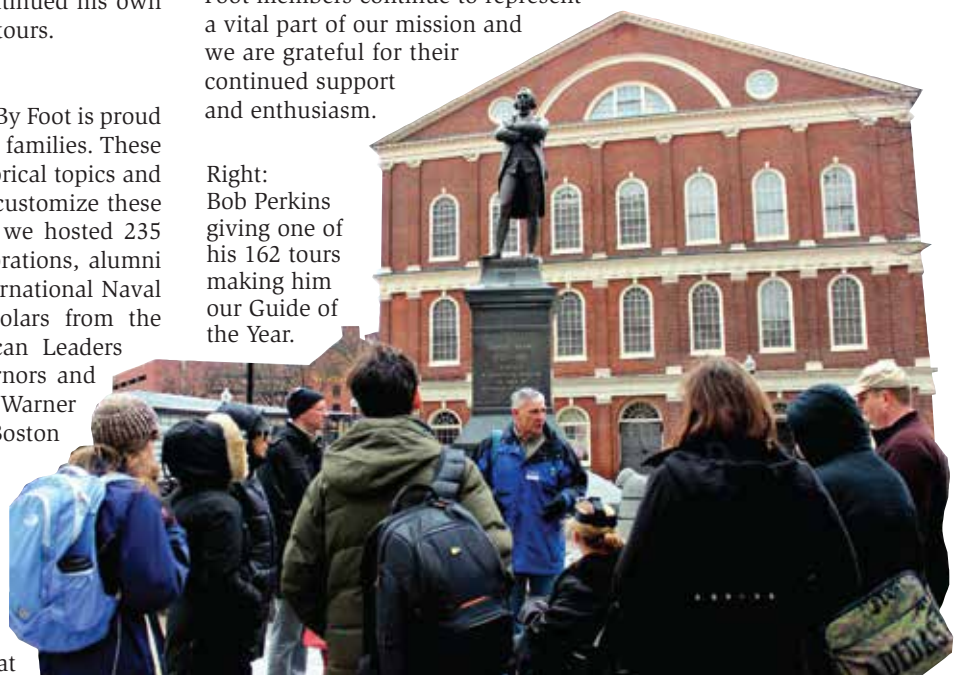
### Welcoming Graduates

We welcomed 34 talented docents to our volunteer corps, including educators, librarians, a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse, an urban planner and many already active in community volunteerism. Our Class of 2016 graduated May 1st following rigorous training coordinated by our Academic Affairs Committee.

### Looking Ahead

Our 40th anniversary gave us an opportunity to reflect on our past and plan for the future, including our educational programming, docent training, community outreach and membership. Boston By Foot members continue to represent a vital part of our mission and we are grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm.

Right: Bob Perkins giving one of his 162 tours making him our Guide of the Year.



1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
6,275	6,022	6,151	6,084	5,803	5,641	5,823	6,855	8,543	9,788	10,516	10,163	9,026

## VOLUNTEERS

*Boston By Foot* would not exist without the time and talent of 200+ dedicated volunteer guides. They generously prepare content, present tours and support each other in our ongoing efforts to engage audiences in meaningful and memorable ways.

### Volunteer Committees

Thanks to the collective efforts of our volunteer committees, our programming is creative, extensive and thoughtfully evolved, our tours are well promoted, and our guides are trained and provided with opportunities to collaborate. We applaud our 2016 committees and committee chairs.

Academic Affairs: Doug Upton and Dayl Cohen  
 Continuing Education: Justina Chu and Patricia Sabbey  
 Publicity Committee: Lynn Smiledge and Rebecca Camerato  
 Special Tours: Margaret Bratschi and Nancy Heywood  
 Tours of the Month: Andrea Bonanno and Mike Bauer

### Flansburgh Travelers

Since 2009, longtime friends and BBF supporters Bill and Lia Poorvu have funded the *Flansburgh Traveling Fellowship* to honor Earl & Polly Flansburgh. Each year *Boston By Foot* volunteers are invited to apply for this fellowship for the purpose of travel, research, and personal growth in a city best experienced in our favorite way: by foot! For 2016, three fellowships were awarded.

Dayl Cohen — Bath, England  
 Jeff Doucette — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 Liz Morgan — Milan, Italy

### Distinguished Service

All of our volunteers give so much to BBF, and each year we honor volunteers who truly go above and beyond. The 2016 Distinguished Service Awards were presented to three remarkable volunteers.



Steve Kluskens

**Steve Kluskens** does as much work behind the scenes for *Boston By Foot* as he does on the front lines leading tours. In Steve's 20 years with BBF, he has delivered hundreds of tours, as well as provided invaluable technological support. This was especially helpful in 2016 when BBF made major system upgrades. From building and maintaining databases and fixing computers, Steve has helped BBF use technology to make the most of our limited resources.



Pam Pacelli

A multitasking guide who tells stories on the trail and on the screen, **Pam Pacelli** has documented what is great about *Boston By Foot* on video. Several years ago she recorded a series of interviews with guides, and in honor of BBF's 40th Anniversary, she and her husband Rob Cooper created a documentary about the history of *Boston By Foot*. The video serves as a record of BBF's remarkable story and introduction for new guides and members.



Dina Vargo

Always coming up with new and clever ideas, **Dina Vargo** is one of our most prolific manual writers. *True Lies and False Facts*, one of her brilliant ideas that truly turns the tour concept on its head, has become one of *Boston By Foot*'s signature events for the past five years. We are so proud to kick off the BBF season with this clever and innovative tour that she spearheads each year!

### Foots Pins

Boston By Foot acknowledged 29 volunteers for their years of dedicated service at our Awards Ceremony.

**40 Years**  
Charles Maurer

**25 Years**  
Renee Miller

**20 Years**  
Dayl Cohen  
Sheila Frazier  
Nancy Stutzman

**15 Years**  
Diane Burkhardt  
Lucinda Gorry  
Meg Macri  
Eleanor Rosellini  
Christine Shirey  
Laura Sitterley

**10 Years**  
Angela Carbone  
Jeff Doucette  
Steve Engler  
Kent Hewitt  
Steve Loher  
Doug McDonald  
Chris Randolph  
Michele Steinberg

**5 Years**  
Bill Connors  
Caitlin Dickinson  
Martha Felch  
Carolyn Howe  
Carl Kaplan  
Joe Kelly  
Melissa Morrow  
Veronica Olsen  
Patricia Sabbey  
Martha Vicinus

### Footly Fortitude

Boston By Foot recognized 37 guides who conducted 20 or more tours in 2016.

**Guide of the Year:**  
Bob Perkins, 162 tours

**60 – 120 Tours**  
Laurel Perkins (112)  
Tom Revay (97)  
David Coviello (62)

**50–59 Tours**  
Tom Coppeto  
Gretchen Grozier  
Steve Kluskens

**40–49 Tours**  
Margaret Bratschi  
Jeff Doucette  
Sharon Fogarty  
Tom McNamara  
Elisabeth Piquet

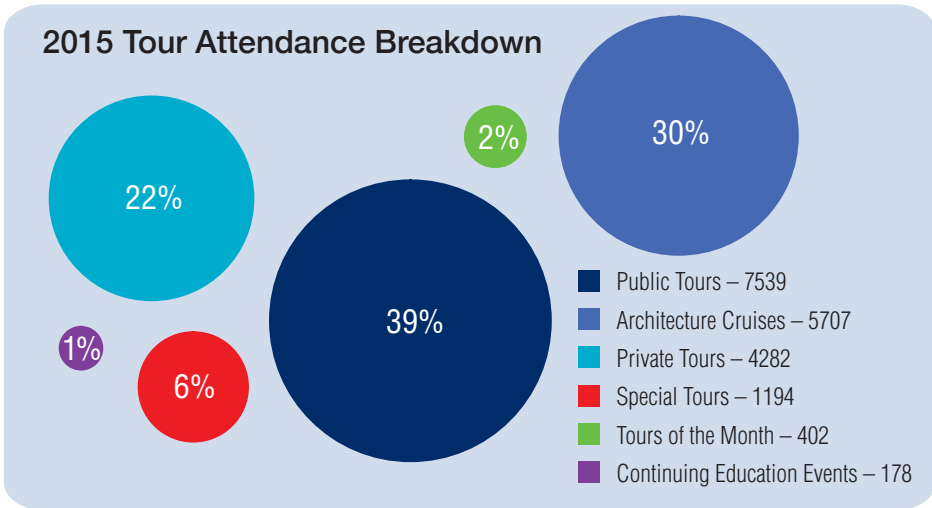
**30–39 Tours**  
Regina Cockerill  
Jan Engelman  
Aline Kaplan  
Lisa LeBlond  
Steve Loher  
Kurt Morris  
Sigourney Street  
Liam Sullivan

**20–29 Tours**  
Andrea Bonanno  
Rebecca Brooks  
Beth Charney  
Dayl Cohen  
Harvey Cohen  
Barry DeVincke  
Hannah Diozzi  
Sheila Frazier  
Marylee Gilchrist  
Ronda Grodberg  
Dennis McCarthy  
Gene Moulton  
David Phillips  
Michele Steinberg  
Dina Vargo  
Nancy White  
Joni Youngwirth

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
8,740	9,351	9,449	8,533	8,293	12,888	12,963	12,853	13,184	13,954	12,039	13,077	15,015	19,302

## PROGRAMMING

217 Docents • 1351 Tours • 235 Private Tours • 19302 Tour Participants



### Special Programming & Events

#### Tours of the Month

Chinatown  
 East Boston: Maverick Square and Beyond  
 Fort Point Channel  
 Grave Undertakings: Boston's Burying Grounds  
 Longwood and Cottage Farm  
 Roxbury Highlands

#### Continuing Education Events

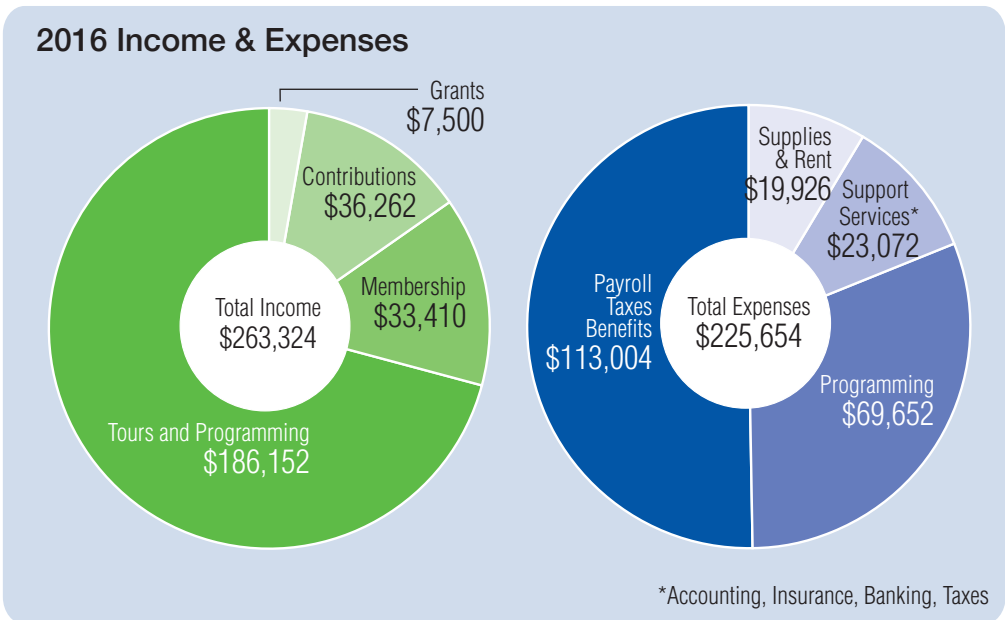
Archaeology of the North End  
 Boston's Post-War Architecture  
 Boston Common, America's First Park  
 Cyrus Dallin Museum, Arlington  
 Dorchester: From Early Settlement to Streetcar Suburb  
 Murder, Martyrs and Mysticism

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

### Partners

*Boston By Foot* proudly presented programs in partnership with the following organizations:

- ArtWeek Boston
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay
- Boston Book Festival
- Boston Harborfest
- Boston Literary District
- Boston Lyric Opera
- Boston Society of Architects
- Brookline Adult & Community Education
- Cambridge Center for Adult Education
- Charles Riverboat Company
- First Night
- Historic New England
- Old South Meeting House
- Massachusetts Teacher Association
- Revolution 250
- UMass Boston OLLI



\*Accounting, Insurance, Banking, Taxes

### Staff

Samantha Nelson, Executive Director • Cortnee Bollard, Program Coordinator

### Board of Trustees

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Please excuse any unintentional errors or omissions.

\* Volunteer  
† Trustee

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Boston By Foot wholeheartedly thanks its volunteers, members and supporters for their tireless commitment to promoting awareness of Boston's history, architecture and distinctive neighborhoods.