

# Navy Yard Community Association (NYCA)

## Pier 5 Committee RFI Proposal

### ***2.1 The NYCA proposed top level design and activity for the activation of the Charlestown Navy Yard waterfront and water's edge***

#### Our proposal background:

Boston's oldest neighborhood – Charlestown, including the Navy Yard, has been very much left behind during the last 20 years of public spaces development – in downtown Boston, the waterfront and other areas. Many Boston residents are unaware of the Navy Yard's existence, its unique waterfront, the potential for recreational activities--let alone tourists visiting Boston.

We have a unique world class opportunity to correct this.



Together with the other NYCA proposals for public use improvement, the NYCA Pier 5 Committee focuses on reclaiming the prominent pier after 40 years of neglect and turns it into **one of the major modern attractions in Boston!**

Despite Boston's long waterfront, the central part of the city lacks public access to the waterfront, due to intensive commercial, residential and industrial development of the harbor.

Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard offers a unique opportunity for place-making at the head of Boston's harbor. We imagine the reclamation of Pier 5 into a popular visitors' waterfront gathering spot. The extraordinary location of Pier 5 also offers the potential to give birth to a creative nexus of art, culture and education inspired by the historic maritime history unique to this pier and surrounding Navy Yard.

## Pier 5: The Head of the Harbor



Located at the head of Boston harbor, Pier 5 provides an unparalleled nearly 360° waterfront perspective. The panoramic view along the water's edge begins on the inner harbor's eastern perimeter from Chelsea and East Boston, southward to the Harbor Islands, Seaport district and downtown, then westward toward the historic North End and Charlestown. From Pier 5 one sees the sun rise at dawn over Logan Airport and set behind the Zakim Bridge and Bunker Hill Monument.



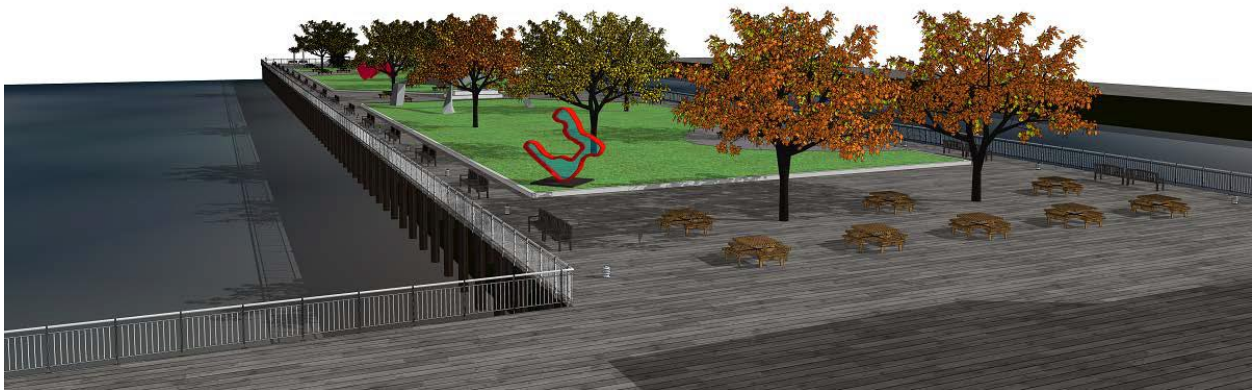
Our proposal re-imagines this neglected pier as offering distinctive public access to Boston's dynamic urban waterfront. A restored Pier 5 has the ability to expand and enhance public enjoyment of the waterfront at the very head of the city's harbor.



Proposed general design



The present fence between the Harbor Walk should be removed to enable seamless link of the public space to the entire pier

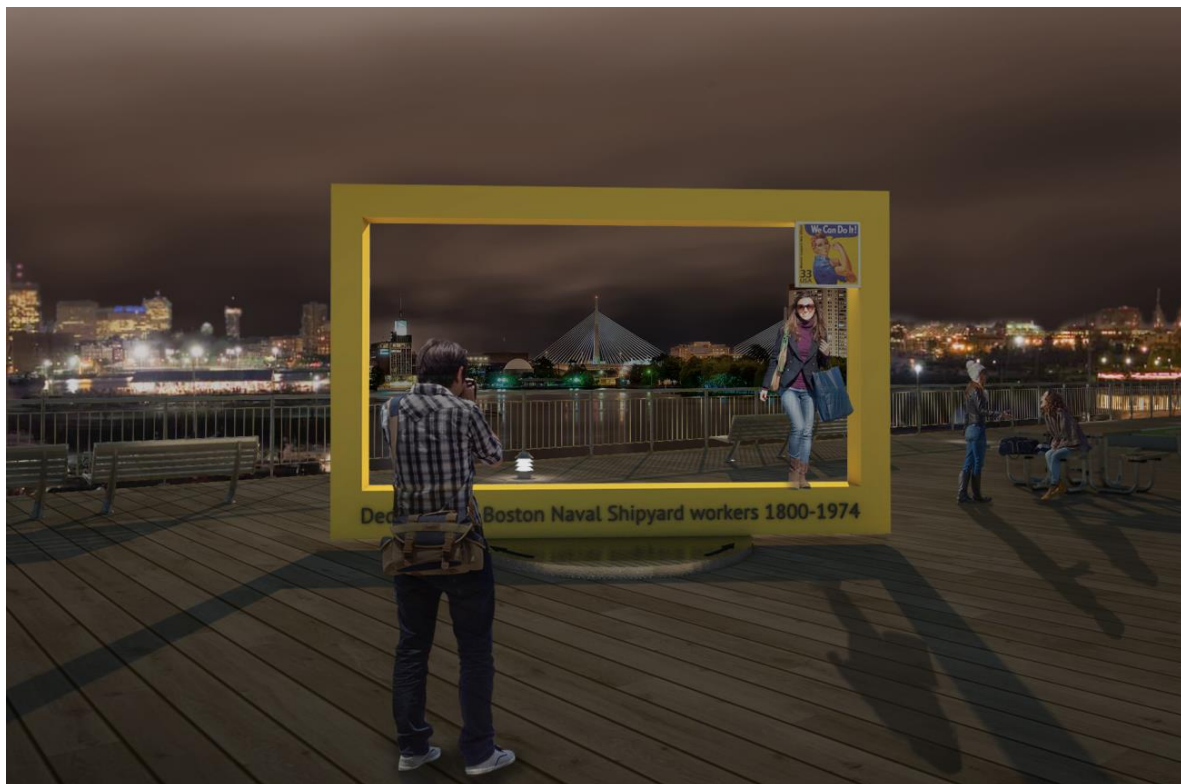


From the unique location of Pier 5, visitors experience a constant flow of recreational sailing, commercial traffic to and from the Mystic and Chelsea rivers, recreational vessels as they enter and exit the Charles River, continual flights in and out of Logan, skyscrapers rising in the Seaport district and downtown Boston, the iconic Customs House clock tower, the fleet of U.S. Coast Guard Base Boston, the USS Constitution berthed at the Navy Yard, Zakim Bridge - one of the world's widest cable-stayed bridges - and the monumental Bunker Hill obelisk silhouetted in the sky.



*There is no other place in the city from which one can experience Boston in such fullness as from the vantage point of the Charlestown Navy Yard Pier 5.*

In the accompanying renderings, the NYCA Pier 5 Committee proposes developing the pier as a unique outdoor venue from which every person can experience the beauty and bounty of Boston, in numerous temporary and permanent ways, during all seasons of the year, and at any time of the day or night.



## Our Proposal:

*Simple, relatively inexpensive, and profoundly meaningful  
Public uses of Pier 5*



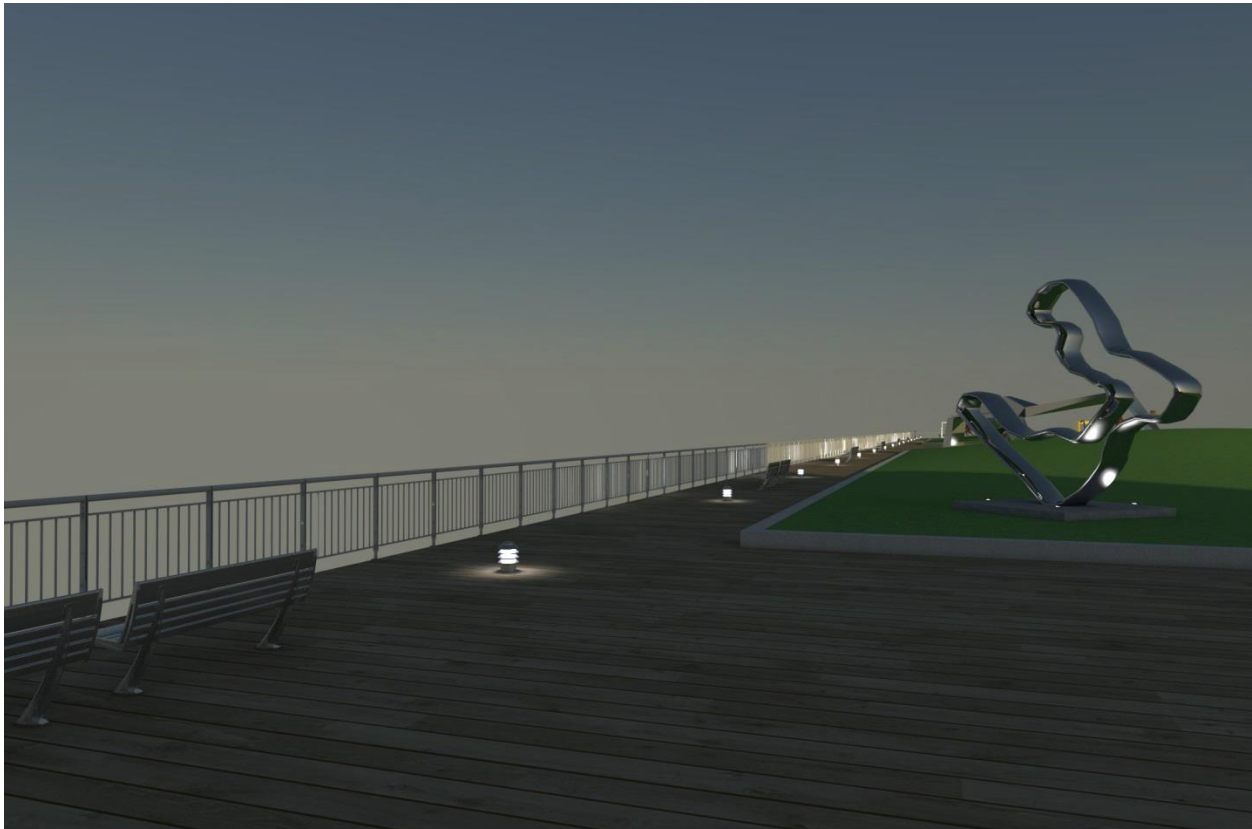
### A “Head of the Harbor” park with shaded areas and xeriscape plantings.

- **Solid foam based ‘hills’** creating elevated spaces for activities without loading the pier with excessive weight
- Picnic and viewing areas with telescopes
- Commemoration area on Pier 5 to **honor Boston shipyard workers**
- **Pop-up sculptural art** installations in conjunction with annual waterway inspired competitions
- Attractive, modest stage for operatic, dance and dramatic performances, including children’s theater and puppet shows
- Outdoor class space for yoga, tai chi
- Tables permanently installed for chess games



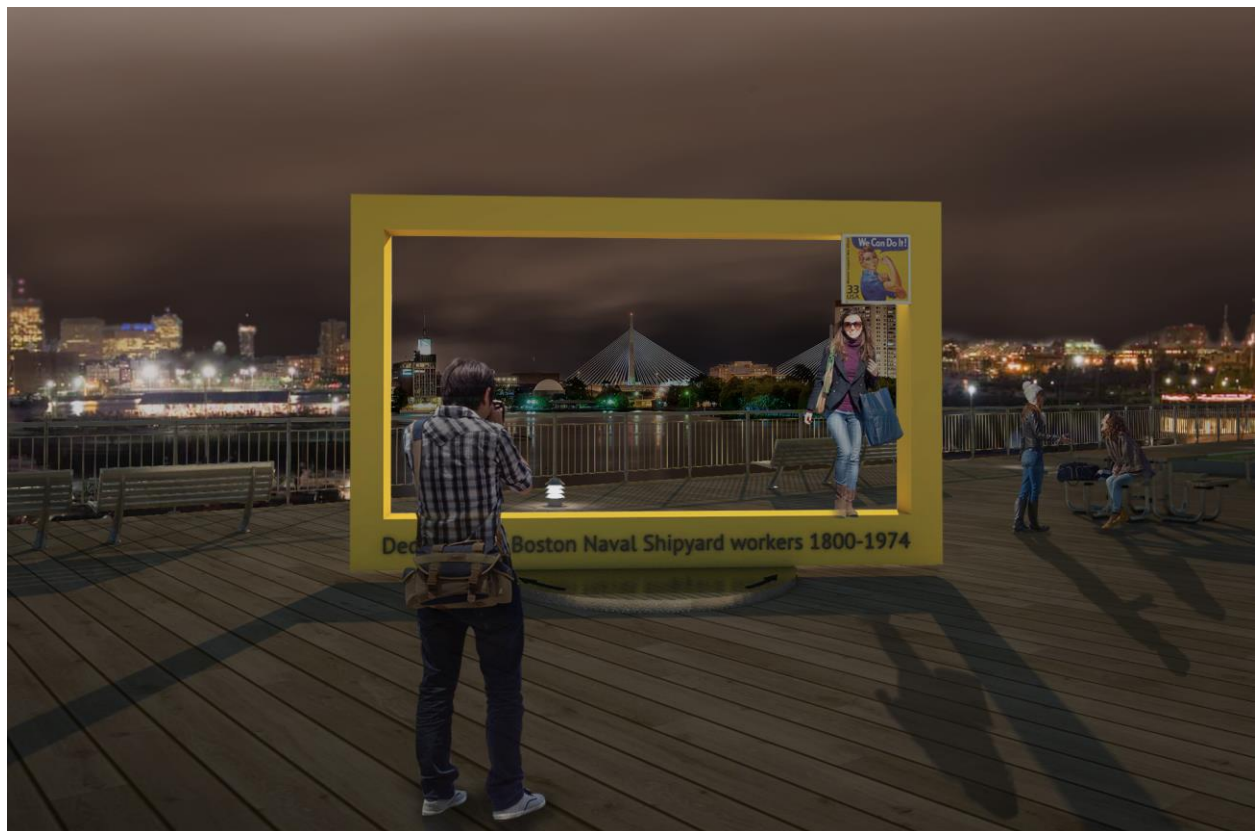


- Year round nocturnal urban **stargazing from a small dome**
- Educational activities focused on the growing impact of climate change on the urban environment
- Story boards displaying the maritime history of Boston Harbor and the Navy Yard



## Boston Shipyard Workers Memorial

The NYCA Pier 5  
Committee proposes to  
lead on gathering  
support to dedicate an  
appropriate memorial on  
Pier 5 to former Boston  
Shipyard workers



This frame is one possible execution

It is designed to represent a “postcard from Boston” to attract visitors and tourists and incorporate the Boston Shipyard Workers memorial as part of it:



- **A unique swivel base**, enabling taking photos with different background views by rotating the frame in the desired direction
- **This could easily become a “must-do and post” to social media** (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) attracting visitors to the Navy Yard with ripple benefits to the Bunker Hill Monument, USS Constitution, the Freedom Trail not to mention local restaurants and other businesses.

Memorials to maritime workers exist in many parts of the world, but as far as we are aware there is no memorial in the United States specifically dedicated to honoring the shipyard workers who were the backbone of so many significant events in our nation’s history during wartime and peace. The Boston Shipyard Workers Memorial would educate by highlighting the history of the contributions of the shipyard workers over the centuries and integrate educational activities with US Park Service initiatives to honor all maritime workers, servicemen and servicewomen.



An alternative or additional commemoration could be in the form of a **large permanent public art piece**. Its role would be similar to the “Bean” in Chicago as an iconic place-making interactive icon.

Boston lacks a single icon that visually and indelibly telegraphs “this is Boston.”

Pier 5 offers the ideal location for such a bold installation. Some cities make this kind of art interactive either literally (a climbing structure or massive swings inspired by the local rope and chain forge operations?) or figuratively such as the Bean (the interactions are with the reflections and photographic compositions.)

Examples from other cities:



Cloud Gate AKA The Bean, Chicago



La Grande Vitesse, Grand Rapids, MI



Spire of Ireland, Dublin



Forest Loops, Climbable Art in Hamakita Japan

## Implementation

The NYCA Pier 5 Committee proposes to help in education and fundraising with the public to gather support for creation of Pier 5 as a platform for these activities, as well as financial support for their continued maintenance.



Programs and facilities can be developed in cooperation with Boston's abundant educational, cultural and artistic institutions.

These ideas are a sampling of the educational, cultural and artistic possibilities for recreating Pier 5 as a new and innovative waterfront venue that would be a major city attraction for locals as well as international visitors.

In recent years international tourism to Boston has increased dramatically, as Logan Airport continues to offer non-stop flights between Boston and cities around the world including London, Frankfurt, Tel-Aviv, Istanbul, Beijing, Tokyo, Amsterdam and Dubai among others.



The Massachusetts Port Authority, Aviation Administration, Logan International Airport reports that in 2016 international flights were up 19% for a total of more than 6.5 million international passengers.

According to *Boston Business Journal*, the state's ten largest museums ranked by attendance for 2016:

Include three within easy proximity of Pier 5:

#1 Museum of Science, #2 New England Aquarium, and  
#5 USS Constitution Museum.

The NYCA Pier 5 Committee anticipates working in partnership with Navy Yard and city organizations that have the shared goal of increasing public access to the waterfront.

To invigorate and implement some, or all, of these ideas NYCA welcomes the opportunity to **collaborate with:**

- Boston Harbor Now
- Courageous Sailing Center,
- Charlestown Waterfront Coalition,
- Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard,
- National Park Service,
- Friends of the Harbor Walk,
- Mayor Walsh's Imagine Boston 2030 initiative,
- Trustees of Reservations,
- Sasaki Associates

and of course Boston Planning and Development Agency

