

August E-Newsletter



Yo Yo Ma to receive 2009 We Are Boston Leadership Award

Each year the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians awards the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions embracing Boston's diversity. This year world renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma has been chosen to receive the We Are Boston Leadership Award.

Yo Yo Ma was born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris. He began to study the cello with his father at age four and soon came with his family to New York. Later, his principle teacher was Leonard Rose at the Julliard School. He sought out a liberal arts education to expand upon his conservatory training, graduating from Harvard University in 1976. He has received numerous awards including the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the Glenn Gould Prize (1999), National Medal of the Arts (2001), the Dan David Prize (2006), the Sonning Prize (2006), and the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award (2008). Appointed a Culture Connect Ambassador by the United States Department of State in 2002, Yo Yo Ma has met with, trained and mentored thousands of students worldwide including Lithuania, Korea, Lebanon, Azerbaijan and China. He has performed with and conducted master classes for members of the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra. In 2006, Secretary general Kofi Annan named him a U.N. Messenger of Peace and in 2007 Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon extended his appointment. Yo Yo Ma lives in Belmont, Massachusetts with his family.

A corporation, individual and youth will also be selected and recognized for their contributions at this event.

WE ARE BOSTON TICKET INFORMATION

This year the Office of New Bostonians is thrilled to offer heritage tables where guests are invited to showcase their cultures. Heritage tables are invited to include a heritage quote in the program book.

Individual Ticket: \$100

Individual Sponsor: \$500

Table Sponsor: \$1,000 per table. Each table seats ten guests

Heritage Table Sponsor: \$1,000 per table. Each table seats ten guests

Please make checks payable to the: Boston Educational Development Foundation

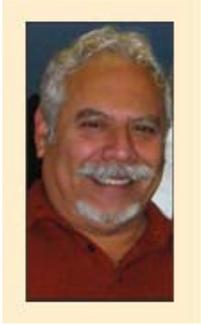
Mayor's Office of New Bostonians



2008 Event Photos

Boston City Hall, Room 803
Boston, MA 02201

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Q&A WITH ARMANDO SILVA, CONSTITUENT ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Armando is the coordinator for the New Bostonians Community Day. The New Bostonians Community Day features activities including free immigration clinics, multilingual tours of the city department, resource tables on topics ranging from immigration to job opportunities, and performances by a variety of musicians and dancers from different countries.

Q: Can you tell us about the New Bostonians Community Day? What is the Day Like? How does the talent show fit into the day?

New Bostonians Community Day (NBCD) is aimed at increasing community members' access to city and community resources. Traditionally, multicultural performances and over 90 resource tables are made available to the community, including free immigration clinics. The event also aims to increase understanding of how city government works and highlight New Bostonians civic participation. NBCD has been an annual success since 1999. To celebrate our 10 year anniversary this year we have created the New Bostonians Talent Showcase as a key component of the event, with the purpose of identifying talented youth and members of Boston's multicultural communities to showcase their diverse talents. The event is attended by more than 2,000 people from diverse communities. This year the event will be held on September 23 from 11:00am-2:30pm on the Boston City Hall Plaza. The event is free and open to the public.

Q: Can you tell us about the talent show? How do you choose a winner?

Auditions for the talent show were held on July 17th and 18th at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. There were 40 performers and a panel of judges chose 10 winners to perform at NBCD. There were dancers, singers and musicians. We saw everything from modern dancers to hip-hop troupes.



Q: Who will be performing at the We Are Boston Gala?

One Winner will be chosen at the New Bostonians Community Day. The winner will have the opportunity to take courses at the Berklee School of Music or the Boston Conservatory and be invited to perform at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center for the 2009 We Are Boston Gala.

Thank you to our generous [sponsors](#)

For more information about the We Are Boston Gala [click here](#)