

Boston Sunday Globe

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A landmark for the future or the past?

Museum expansion plan sparks rift

By Mark Shanahan
GLOBE STAFF

PORTLAND, Maine — In order for the Portland Museum of Art to thrive into the future, Mark Bessire believes it needs to dramatically change.

“Our buildings are dedicated to viewing art in a more traditional sense,” said Bessire, the museum’s director. “And traditional museums are, to a certain extent, elitist. We don’t want

that feeling, we don’t want that look. We’ve changed.”

But a grandiose expansion plan that would radically remake the museum is sparking a fierce debate as decision-makers in Maine’s largest city weigh the museum’s desire to build a multimillion-dollar “landmark for the future” with the need to protect another of Portland’s prized cultural assets — its historic

MUSEUM, Page A15

‘There’s a lot of stuff in the plan that is problematic.’

ALEX JAEGERMAN, *Greater Portland Landmarks trustee*



Rendering of the Portland Museum of Art expansion.

Real estate lobby flexes muscle on housing tax

Bill had early support on Beacon Hill, then the industry geared up

By Andrew Brinker
GLOBE STAFF

In the entryway of an old stone church in Roxbury in late May, about a dozen faith leaders and advocates gathered to make a plea.

The housing crisis, they said, is driving their con-

gregants out of their communities. The church, St. Katharine Drexel Parish, is doing what it can, proposing to build affordable housing on the parking lots next to its Ruggles Street building. But that takes time, and lots of money, and it won’t be nearly enough to address the

vast need.

“We are here because our communities are in crisis,” said the Rev. Ashley Popperson, an associate minister at Old South Church. “Something must be done.”

They were here to ask the Legislature for help, specifically by passing a new fee on high-dollar real estate sales that advocates say would bring Boston

TRANSFER, Page A15

PARENTING BY SIGHT NOT SOUND

DEAF COUPLE REWORKS AUDIBLE SIDE OF MEDICINE

STORY BY AMANDA MILKOVITS | PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK | GLOBE STAFF



PROVIDENCE

Eduardo Escudero and Lydia Hernandez didn’t need to hear the doctor’s words to know the message was devastating.

As Lydia’s sister frantically translated in American Sign Language for the couple, they began to cry.

It was a few days before Christmas 2022. Lydia, pregnant with their first child, was just 23 weeks along when her water broke. She had spent the last two weeks at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence. She had developed a fever and was getting weak, but she was only at 25 weeks — too soon to give birth.

Her baby would likely die, the doctor was saying, and she needed an emergency cesarean section, otherwise she might die, too.

Eduardo, whose last name means “shield bearer,” felt the need to protect both his wife and his unborn child. Save them both, Eduardo begged, as the doctor rushed Lydia into surgery.

A half-hour later, Daniel was born. He weighed just 1 pound, 9 ounces. His skin was translucent and he was so small he fit in the palms of his parents’ hands. He was barely breathing.

BABY, Page A16



Above, D.J. strolled the halls of Franciscan Children’s hospital on his discharge day. Left, Eduardo Escudero taught D.J. the sign for “rabbit.”

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Suggested retail price
\$6.00

Sol-less

Sunday: Rainy, storm possible.

High: 67-72. Low: 57-62.

Monday: Cloudy.

High: 72-77. Low: 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:07 Sunset: 8:20

Complete report, **A24.**

Deaths, **A18-23.**

Black actors are getting an opportunity to play classic roles, and it is long overdue, writes Don Aucoin. **SundayArts, N1.**

Milton Academy students’ end-of-year project — transforming an old bus into an RV — has gone viral, with 2.2 million followers along for the ride. **SundayTravel, N11.**

The plus-one who adds to Tatum’s game

By Adam Himmelsbach
GLOBE STAFF

The Celtics have just completed a four-game sweep of the Pacers in the Eastern Conference finals and star forward Jayson Tatum is at a news conference to discuss the accom-

plishment. He is wearing a black collared shirt with silver pinstripes, matching shorts, and a crisp new “NBA Finals” hat that was handed to him during the celebration.

After taking questions for five minutes, Tatum walks to-

ward a long hallway that will lead him to the team bus in the bowels of Indiana’s arena. Because of his lengthy postgame recovery routine, he is usually the last Celtic to leave, but he never goes alone.

SANG, Page C11

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