



# 2008-2009 CPIC Boston Resource Guide

Featuring information about housing, entertainment, and more!

## I. Introduction

So most of you probably already consider yourselves somewhat familiar with Boston, considering that you have spent at least one year living on the other side of the Charles (and some of you may even be from the greater Boston area). But how often during the school year do you actually get the chance to really take advantage of all that the city has to offer? Hopefully your CPIC position won't weigh you down too much, and you'll have the time and energy to have some fun in the historic Boston area. We just wanted to give you the heads up on some of our favorite activities.

***Please note that CPIC provides these materials to help you to get to know your host city. While we have spent time online researching this information, we cannot vouch for all of the information in this guide. Please use your own judgment when making a decision about the safety and affordability of the listings. These are suggestions about where to start when exploring your host city; you are not required to utilize the information about housing, restaurants, and entertainment.***

## II. Housing

Even though many of you are familiar with the housing options available to Harvard undergraduates, there is the whole other side of the Charles to explore in regards to housing options. Whether you want to stay in Cambridge or Boston, in a dorm or in an apartment, or with or without roommates, you should be able to find what you are looking for amidst the area's vast array of summer intern housing. However, the sooner you start, the better...

### **Boston - A City of Neighborhoods**

The following neighborhood descriptions come from the City of Boston official website: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/neighborhoods/>. If you want to learn more about specific areas this page contains helpful links for each neighborhood.

Boston's first resident, Reverend William Blaxton, lived alone on Beacon Hill for 5 years before settlers arrived in 1622. Now this neighborhood is home to over 10,000 people. Over the last 350 years Boston has been growing—literally! Its central landmass has more than tripled over the course of the centuries, a feat that cannot be attributed solely to the annexation of nearby towns. Boston's growth was the result of an ingenious landfill project that created Back Bay, a portion of the Financial District and the new face of Boston's waterfront.

**ALLSTON:** Once home to stockyards, slaughterhouses, and meatpacking industries, Allston today is a thriving mecca of activity. Largely populated by students and young families, Allston caters to the individual looking for something different—and cheap. It's hard to turn a corner in this neighborhood without running into a discount furniture or thrift store. Allston's Harvard Ave. boasts everything from upscale eateries and pool halls to local dives and mom-and-pop grocery stores. There's rarely a quiet moment in this neighborhood; everyone from students to the elderly traverse the streets of Allston through all hours of the day and night.

**BACK BAY:** The Back Bay, once a stagnant pool of water behind the Public Garden, now holds some of the most exclusive real estate in Boston. A stroll down Newbury St. will take you from high fashion to hip ice cream parlors, and a walk back up Commonwealth Ave. will let you take in some of the most elegant townhouses in the city. With its rows of historic homes and a vibrant commercial district to boot, Back Bay is an elegant and exciting place to live.

**BEACON HILL:** The beacon on this hill that used to warn settlers about foreign invasions is long gone, and today Beacon Hill is a close-knit community in a downtown location. The neighborhood's cobblestone streets and brick rowhouses directly border the Boston Common and the Public Garden, America's first botanical garden. The gold leaf of the State House Rotunda adorns the hill and shines across the Common. A great place for families, this historic neighborhood is a blend of classic Boston architecture and expansive green space.

**BRIGHTON:** Brighton, like neighboring Allston, was home to agricultural plots and stockyards in post-colonial days. The extension of street car lines in the 1800s, however, encouraged residential growth, and soon houses and apartments were built across the neighborhood. Unlike Allston today, Brighton is fairly quiet, especially at night. The neighborhood, which is primarily populated by graduate students, young professionals, and families, consists of an intricate network of streets lined with houses and small apartment buildings. Local family businesses mix with national chains of pharmacies and banks along Brighton's main drag, Washington St., which runs straight through Brighton Center to Oak Square.

**CHARLESTOWN:** The traditional home of employees at the now-decommissioned Navy Yard, Charlestown has experienced a shift in its population and industry. The Navy Yard, a national historic landmark, has been converted to residential and office space, and an increasing number of young professionals are joining the families who have lived in the area for years. These newcomers are discovering Charlestown's renovated rowhouses and its accessibility to downtown Boston and the North End. Many residents walk to work in downtown or simply down to the nearby waterfront, both of which are only five minutes away.

**CHINATOWN:** Chinatown may have been built on a landfill, but you'd never know it while walking around this neighborhood. What identifies this area of the city is the truly mixed uses of land. Residential properties co-exist with family owned and operated businesses, local institutions and, of course, some of the best Chinese restaurants in the country. With four community murals and old ads still adorning the sides of brick buildings, a walk through Chinatown is a cultural and historical journey. Chinatown is also unique in how accessible it is to residents and visitors alike with several nearby MBTA stations and major roadways.

**DORCHESTER:** Dorchester is Boston's largest neighborhood and also its oldest, founded a few months before the city itself. The neighborhood's historical diversity is exhibited in its architecture, from the old Victorian homes of wealthy Bostonians to the multi-family dwellings of later groups of immigrants. Today, Dorchester retains its diversity. Its main thoroughfare, Dorchester Avenue, connects many close-knit neighborhoods and thriving commercial districts. Dorchester is also home to the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the John F. Kennedy Library.

**DOWNTOWN:** Downtown is really the heart of the city. Many companies and agencies have their headquarters in the area, and City Hall and the State House are also located here. The area comes alive each weekday around noontime as thousands of corporate business folks and other downtown employees break for lunch and do some quick shopping or run errands.

**EAST BOSTON:** A lot of neighborhoods claim to be diverse, but East Boston is the real deal. East Boston has always been a neighborhood of immigrants and in recent years it has become home to people from all over South and Central America as well as South East Asia, Haiti, and Eastern Europe. Though it is well known as home to the airport, East Boston is full of wonderful stores and restaurants representing its different ethnic groups. Long-time Italian restaurants stand next to Brazilian cafes. Its housing is a mix of historic and new, with many three deckers lining its streets. In recent years, homeowners have been restoring the historic homes of the area to their former glory.

**FENWAY/KENMORE:** The Fenway, perhaps best known as the home for the “boys of summer,” is more than just a ballpark. It is actually a dense urban neighborhood with a considerable amount of green space (the “Fens”). Although the Fenway consists of a large number of college students, it also contains a significant population of professionals, young and old. The famous (or infamous) Landsdowne St., bordering the Mass Pike on the North and Fenway Park on the South, is home to many of Boston’s most popular clubs and watering holes. If you travel the street, however, keep your eyes open for the occasional home run ball that clears the green monster.

**HYDE PARK:** Hyde Park is a true merger of city life and suburban life. Hyde Park prides itself on its tremendous amount of useful, open space including the George Wright Golf Course, but it also retains the City’s character in its people and community institutions. Hyde Park is also the place Boston Mayor Thomas Menino calls home.

**JAMAICA PLAIN:** Yes, Jamaica Plain is a part of the City of Boston; no, it is not its own town. Diversity is the strength of “JP,” to which it is lovingly referred by residents. Every ethnicity, socio-economic stratum, and sexual orientation is well represented in this neighborhood sandwiched primarily between Roxbury and Brookline (Brookline is its own town). The rich diversity in JP has created a strong character of social awareness and tolerance among neighbors and residents.

**MATTAPAN:** Mattapan was annexed to Boston in 1870 as part of Dorchester. Like other neighborhoods of the time, Mattapan developed as the railroads and streetcars made downtown Boston accessible. Predominantly residential, Mattapan is home to a mix of single homes as well as two and three family houses. Mattapan Square, where Blue Hill Avenue, River Street, and Cummins Highway meet, is the commercial heart of the neighborhood.

**MISSION HILL:** Once filled with farms and most of the breweries in Boston, Mission Hill today is an architectural landmark district with a combination of freestanding houses built by early wealthy landowners, blocks of traditional brick rowhouses, and many three deckers. Many families and some students and staff from the nearby Longwood Medical Area come to Mission Hill for the affordable rents. A diverse community in proximity to downtown, Mission Hill offers its residents an excellent view of the city from an historic neighborhood.

**NORTH END:** How many other big cities can boast having a neighborhood where residents walk the streets, visiting local fruit stores, butcher shops, and corner markets for their groceries? The North End is most famous for its plethora of Italian restaurants and strong ties to Italian roots. With a different Italian Festival every weekend throughout the summer, there rarely is a dull moment in the North End.

**ROSLINDALE:** Roslindale, sometimes referred to as "Roslinopoulos" by residents for its large Greek population, began as a classic street car suburb. Today, one of the most unique characteristics of the area is the sheer number of people from all races, backgrounds, and countries who call Roslindale home. Roslindale Square, the heart of the neighborhood, is the subject of a National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street award. It is considered to be an example of the value of historic and aesthetic preservation in economic revitalization.

**ROXBURY:** A drive through Roxbury is both a history lesson and a tour of a modern urban neighborhood. One of the oldest neighborhoods in Boston, Roxbury has long thrived on its proximity to downtown while retaining its neighborhood qualities. Home to a great number of parks, schools, and churches, a visitor can see Boston's history in the architecture and landmarks of the neighborhood. At the same time, Roxbury is a thriving community with a multitude of housing options and a variety of ethnic shops.

**SOUTH BOSTON:** If the dictionary had a listing for neighborhood pride, there would be a picture of South Boston next to it. Its residents are famous in town for their love of and loyalty to their neighborhood. And it's no wonder. Southie boasts miles of beaches and waterfront parks that culminate in Castle Island. There, visitors can enjoy the Revolutionary War era fort, get a bite to eat at Sullivan's, play in the playground, fish off the pier, or simply take a stroll. South Boston is densely populated; known for three deckers and rowhouses, there are single family homes in the neighborhood, too. It is also home to a great variety of bars and pubs and, more recently, has been the location for some new restaurants. Year round, a visitor can find residents strolling up and down Broadway doing their shopping and greeting their neighbors.

**SOUTH END:** The South End, with its blocks of Victorian brick row houses, upscale restaurants, and art galleries, is swiftly becoming one of the most popular places to live in Boston. Many of the row houses underwent renovation starting in the 1960s, and today the neighborhood is filled with a diverse mix of families, young professionals, a gay and lesbian community, and a thriving artistic center. Trendy restaurants brush shoulders with coffee shops and Mom & Pop grocery stores along Tremont Street and its side streets all the way down to Washington Street, which is experiencing an artistic revival—a significant number of artists are moving in, and galleries are cropping up around the area to show their works.

**WEST END:** The West End, considerably impacted by Urban Renewal of the 1970s, is a small, but significant community tucked behind Beacon Hill. Historically an ethnically diverse and vibrant neighborhood, the West End today is economically anchored by Massachusetts General Hospital.

**WEST ROXBURY:** Originally part of the town of Roxbury, West Roxbury formed its own government in 1851 and was annexed by Boston in 1874. Bordered by Roslindale and Hyde Park, West Roxbury's main thoroughfare is Centre Street, lined with local restaurants and commercial establishments. Today, the neighborhood's tree-lined streets and mostly single

family homes give it a suburban feel in an urban setting. Life in the neighborhood centers around political and civic activism as well as local parishes and youth athletic leagues.

## Cambridge Neighborhoods

Very detailed maps of Cambridge and descriptions of the various districts can be found at: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/cp/neigh/maps/neighmapindex.html>

The following neighborhood descriptions come from:

[http://www.cambridgechamber.org/livework/living\\_neighborhoods.html](http://www.cambridgechamber.org/livework/living_neighborhoods.html)

**ALEWIFE/FRESH POND:** At the western edge of the city, the 370 acre Alewife area is known as "The Gateway to Cambridge." Bounded by Route 2, Belmont, and Concord Avenue along the Fresh Pond Reservoir, Alewife is a vitally important part of the city. It contains huge environmental resources, including the 115-acre Alewife Reservation, managed by the MDC. It is a transportation hub: the famed Red Line terminates at Alewife Station, which houses restaurants and services (dry cleaners, daycare, bank machine, and vendors) as well as access to the T and buses. And it is an economic development district, home to bio-pharmaceutical companies, high tech, and many shops, restaurants, and services.

**CAMBRIDGEPORT:** The neighborhood of Cambridgeport is attractively situated on the Charles River and is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue to the north, River Street to the west, and MIT to the east. Historically, Cambridgeport was primarily a working class neighborhood: residences were established close to the factories that populated the area to lower land costs and shorten travel-to-work time. Over the last twenty years, Cambridgeport has been making the transition from a traditional factory-based economy to a more modern and dynamic mix of commercial endeavors—by the 1980s, the majority of factories there had relocated, and their old buildings are now being demolished or converted to other uses.

Today, Cambridgeport is a very diverse residential area made up of small store owners, software and biotechnology executives, and mechanics and artists, among others. Its proximity to MIT has made the neighborhood attractive to entrepreneurs and professionals as well as students. In addition, the neighborhood is quite popular with the Cambridge arts community. Cambridgeport offers convenient access in and out of Boston via Memorial Drive, Storrow Drive, and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

**CENTRAL SQUARE:** Call it the center, call it the crossroads, Central Square is right in the middle of things. Historically the mercantile center of Cambridge, Central Square has seen a renaissance in the past five years, attracting crowds of shoppers, bystanders, cafe idlers, food lovers, and travelers near and far.

Central Square is proud of its large and growing collection of diverse eateries. In fact, you can take a virtual tour of the world's dining pleasures, sampling the cuisines of Asia, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and many other geographies along the way. Central Square is, as well, the seat of city government and thus, fittingly, it is also the home of the Chamber of Commerce and the Cambridge Business Development Center.

**HARVARD SQUARE:** Like Paris, Harvard Square is said to be one of those places in the world where, if you sit long enough, everyone you know will walk by. This is, of course, a way of noting that Cambridge (with Harvard Square as its international epicenter) is a very cosmopolitan place.

Home, of course, to Harvard University, Harvard Square is also home to upwards of 30 bookstores, hundreds of fascinating and unique shops, world-class restaurants, two major hotels, some smaller inns, and a world-famous repertory theater.

Summer and winter, the streets fill up with sidewalk performances of every stripe and taste, from seemingly every continent. From the time this was a colonial farmer's cow yard—hence the origin of one of the world's most exclusive parking spots, Harvard Yard—the "Square" has been a focus of diverse activity, always lively, often famous, sometimes infamous. Within its historic bounds converge deep thoughts, commercial fervor, and the ceaseless impetuosity of youth.

**INMAN SQUARE:** Like North Cambridge, Inman Square has long been an enclave of working and middle class residents—the people who have kept the factories and offices of Cambridge bustling for almost two centuries.

Like many other Cambridge neighborhoods that surround the city's squares, Inman Square has an eponymous, lively center, at the junction of two of the City's main thoroughfares. Inman Square began to distinguish itself as a place to congregate for good food, good drink, good entertainment, and good companionship back in the late 1970s. Today the tradition continues, with restaurants and coffee houses that some residents (and many repeat visitors) call the best in the country.

**KENDALL SQUARE:** Kendall Square is the epicenter of Cambridge's technology and biotechnology industries. This world-renowned area of commercial and industrial activity is home to firms such as Genzyme, Biogen, Draper Laboratory, and Akamai, as well as MIT. During the day, Kendall Square has a visibly professional population: laptops, cell phones, and tech chatter fill outdoor cafes in the warmer months, and the square's many indoor haunts cater to this crowd in the cooler months.

Kendall Square nightlife, though not as well known as that of Harvard or Central Square, is ever popular with avant-garde audiences. Kendall Square Cinema is known for its distinctive movie selection, which emphasizes first-run foreign, American independent, and sophisticated Hollywood studio films. Hip new restaurants are interspersed with more traditional bar and grill establishments. There is also a large pool hall that attracts the business-after-hours crowd. Kendall Square features one of the best panoramic views of Boston from its prime location at the mouth of the Charles River.

**MID-CAMBRIDGE:** Mid-Cambridge is the most densely populated area of Cambridge and claims as its most salient quality its diversity. It has diversity of citizenry, from new émigrés to established faculty of the prestigious institutions of Cambridge. It has diversity of architecture, from buildings of significance to nondescript brick apartment blocks, built in the 60s and 70s under eased zoning constraints to help relieve a severe housing shortage. In this respect, Mid-

Cambridge perhaps epitomizes the best and the worst of the effects of the importance and attractions of Cambridge to the rest of the world.

**MT. AUBURN/BRATTLE STREET:** More stately mansions proliferated here in the colonial period of our country, leading to the nickname of "Tory Row" for the houses along Brattle Street, where an enclave of Royalist sympathizers resided as the Revolutionary War began to rage in the farmlands just west of Cambridge. Today this is a much more sedate community, where political loyalties remain more private, and life seems dedicated to a more measured, perhaps even a kind of stately, existence. Home to governors, professors, and other professional gentry, West Cambridge is one of the more sought-after sections of the City for those who can afford the expansive lawns and commodious dwellings that predominate.

**NORTH CAMBRIDGE:** North Cambridge is a gateway to the suburbs of Arlington, Belmont, and other suburbs to the north and east of the city. It is also possibly the last vestige of the small town heritage of Cambridge prior to its incorporation as a city in the mid-nineteenth century. Neighborhoods of single- and multi-family dwellings, storefronts, churches, and high-rise affordable housing where North Cambridge borders West Cambridge at Fresh Pond form an enclave of working-class and middle-class values that persist to this day.

North Cambridge was also the political base of one of the most colorful, powerful, and humane of national figures in Washington in the last half of the 20th century. From these humble roots, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill rose through the ranks of the House of Representatives to the position of Speaker—confidante, advisor, and worthy adversary to a number of U.S. presidents. O'Neill is, of course, the author of the succinct political philosophy, "All Politics is Local." It's a phrase that perhaps best bespeaks the ongoing spirit of North Cambridge, even as it too begins to see the first signs of development and gentrification that characterize better publicized parts of the City.

**PORTER SQUARE:** Like Central Square, Porter Square is a former center of light industry whose importance to commerce has long been part of the city's history. Today it is a destination for homebuyers and merchants intent on expanding the prosperity that has added vitality to life in Cambridge for several decades.

Porter Square also has the distinction of being home to the first urban stop on the suburban commuter rail line that brings our neighbors to the west into the City of Cambridge, and further, to the terminal of North Station in Boston.

**RIVERSIDE:** Just west of Cambridgeport is the neighborhood of Riverside, which, as its name suggests, looks out over the Charles River. River Street serves as the boundary line between Cambridgeport and Riverside, though the two are often mentioned in the same breath due to their status as the two residential areas along the Charles between Harvard and MIT.

With many of its dormitories located in the northwest section of Riverside, Harvard University is a major presence in this neighborhood. Riverside is a predominantly middle class area and has seen no population growth since the 1960s. There are two large parks in this area, Holt Field and Riverside Press Park.

The main branches of the Cambridge Post Office and Police Department are also located in Riverside, on the eastern tip near Central Square. Riverside is a large and vital commercial and tourist area, and its residents enjoy easy access to both Central Square and Harvard Square.

## Web Resources

Here are a few websites that are good places to start in your search for that apartment or sublet you've been dreaming of. Please be aware that you should make your own decisions about whether or not to use these websites and the housing options they may provide. Please be aware that you should make your own decisions about whether or not to use these websites and the housing options they may provide. Similarly, please do your own neighborhood research to make sure you are comfortable living there.

<http://www.boston.com/realestate/>  
<http://boston.craigslist.org/>  
<http://boston.sublet.com/>  
<http://classifieds.bostonphoenix.com/>

These websites contain for the most part housing listings from all over the country.

<http://www.apartmentguide.com>  
<http://www.apartmentsearch.com>  
<http://www.chamberofcommerce.com>  
<http://www.collegesublease.com>  
<http://www.craigslist.org>  
<http://www.dailyjolt.com>  
<http://www.easyroommate.com>  
<http://www.esublet.com>  
<http://www.forrent.com>  
<http://www.homez.com>  
<http://www.housing4students.com/main.jsp>  
<http://www.internhousing.com>  
<http://www.metroroommates.com>  
<http://www.rentnet.com/apartments/home.jhtml>  
<http://www.sublease.com>  
<http://www.thehousingforum.com>  
<http://www.thesublet.com>  
[www.ymca.net/](http://www.ymca.net/)  
[www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)

## Harvard Resources

Make sure you screen these housing options yourself.

Harvard Undergraduate Housing Office 5-3377, maintains local rental listings including 10 DeWolfe Street Apartments.

### **Additional Information from the Harvard School of Public Health:**

Harvard University owns and manages a network of apartment buildings in and around Harvard Square in Cambridge. These apartments, known collectively as Harvard Affiliated Housing, are open to all Harvard affiliates—faculty, staff, and students (*note: affiliation requirements vary from building to building*). Short-term subletting opportunities may exist in some units, which may be rented out for all or part of the summer months. For specific openings and more information, visit <http://www.hres.harvard.edu/RRE/NewWeb/Brochure/Affiliated/about.htm> or call the Harvard University Housing Office at (617) 495-3377.

### Subletting in a Private Apartment

The most abundant and varied type of summer housing is a sublet of a private apartment. However, finding an appropriate situation will take some advance time and effort. The Harvard School of Public Health maintains an on-line bulletin board for housing at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/housing>. This site also contains a list of other resources for finding private housing, including other area bulletin boards and free on-line listing services.

### Guest Houses, Inns, Bed-and-Breakfasts

Many visiting scholars find that so-called "guest houses" (a term used interchangeably with "inns" and "bed-and-breakfasts") offer the comfort of a home atmosphere without the effort of finding a sublet, often at a lower cost. Facilities range from private apartments in which individuals rent out rooms, to larger buildings with more dedicated amenities, and stays can vary from a night to several months. Several are listed in the short-term accommodation listings at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/housing/>.

**Let's Go travel guides:** OCS maintains a collection of up-to-date guides that include tips on finding longer-term accommodations.

## Newspaper Listings

Be sure to check out the Square regularly for the latest editions of Boston newspapers (and their classifieds!). Many libraries on campus also have copies of papers.

US Newspapers List: [www.usnpl.com](http://www.usnpl.com) (Lists every US newspaper by city)

Internet Public Library: <http://www.ipl.org/div/news> (Another online newspaper resource)

### **Boston Phoenix:**

<http://classifieds.bostonphoenix.com/index.cfm?searchOnlineCategoryID=65&searchOnlineSectionID=660>

## Other Options

**Finding an apartment in Boston:** [www.apartments-in-boston.net](http://www.apartments-in-boston.net).

**MIT:** Apartments in Fraternities etc.: [http://ifc.mit.edu/summer\\_housing.php](http://ifc.mit.edu/summer_housing.php)

## More apartment hunting tips . . .

- Check out Craigslist. There are tons of apartments listed on it and it is free. There are services in the city that claim to offer access to unlisted apartments for a fee—some people have had luck with these and others have just wasted money.
- If you have a particular neighborhood you would like to live in, it is worth it to take a stroll around and look for the “for rent” signs in windows.
- Don’t think that just because you have submitted the security deposit the apartment is yours—it’s not over until you’ve actually signed the contract!
- Make sure to photocopy all records.
- Have your credit reports and reports for everyone moving in with you, ready. You can get free copies online.
- Set aside a pretty big chunk of time to look for an apartment—it can be time consuming! Consider subletting for your first month or so in the city to give you time to find your own apartment.
- Bring a digital camera and take pictures of apartments as you visit so that you can remember them later; believe me, after you’ve looked around at a bunch of them you definitely will not remember the first one you saw! Also bring a tape measure so that you can get room dimensions – most landlords do not have these readily available.
- Spend time with potential roommates and make sure you are compatible. You don’t have to be best friends, but you have to make sure that you feel comfortable and safe with them.

## Before You Set Off . . .

- Get information from your co-signer – name, address, occupation, and contact info – if you have one.
- Collect names and phone numbers of former employers, landlords, and others who can provide references for you.
- Work out credit status/settle debts – the smallest problems can affect your approval.
- Establish account(s) with a local bank. Options include SunTrust, First Union, or Bank of America, which are all national.
- Finally, don’t be discouraged by a lot of people at an open house. The market is tough, but many people agree to get the place and then, do not. Houses and apartments often go to the tenth (or even later) person on the list.
- Also, if you found a listing that you really liked, but the landlord says it is taken, don’t be afraid to call back in a week, to make sure nothing fell through.

## Housing Profile

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Safety

- Well-lit area? \_\_\_\_\_
- Well-traveled area? \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of locks/doors/intercom system for building entrance \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of locks on apartment door \_\_\_\_\_
- Smoke detector \_\_\_\_\_ Carbon monoxide detector (This can be purchased at a low cost and can be installed simply by plugging it into the wall.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Security, doorman \_\_\_\_\_
- Means of egress \_\_\_\_\_

### Condition

- Signs of radiator or pipe leakage \_\_\_\_\_
- Heater and/or air conditioner? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the refrigerator/freezer function well? \_\_\_\_\_
- Water pressure in kitchen and bathroom \_\_\_\_\_
- Look under the sink. Bug killing supplies are signs of pest problems. \_\_\_\_\_
- Screens in windows? \_\_\_\_\_
- Super's repair responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_
- How to contact super \_\_\_\_\_
- Working phone jacks \_\_\_\_\_
- Wiring problems around electrical outlets \_\_\_\_\_
- Working outlets, light switches \_\_\_\_\_
- Painting or floor waxing necessary \_\_\_\_\_

### Conveniences

- Cable-ready \_\_\_\_\_
- Laundry on premises – in apartment or in building \_\_\_\_\_
- Closet space \_\_\_\_\_
- Parking availability \_\_\_\_\_
- Metro/bus access \_\_\_\_\_
- Pool, fitness room \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Special Events

#### **The Fourth of July and the Esplanade**

Every summer Boston is transformed by the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Esplanade. For anybody who has never been to the Esplanade, you are missing the liveliest part of the Charles River. The **Esplanade** is located on the banks of the Charles across from MIT. It is accessible, from the Charles/MGH stop on the Red Line. With all the beautiful trees, flowers, benches and bridges everyone can find their own favorite nook in this area.

Walker/runner/biker traffic is consistent, but not overwhelming along the paved bike path. It is a short walk from the beautiful, historic Beacon Hill and Back Bay neighborhoods.

The main attraction in this area is the **Hatch Memorial Shell**—a beautiful outdoor concert venue. Keep an eye out for concerts there throughout the summer (local newspapers and radio stations announce shows a little bit in advance). On the Fourth of July the world famous Boston Pops Orchestra take over the Hatch Shell and put on an inspiring performance, including the greatly anticipated 1812 Overture and the magnificent fireworks display that occurs during this piece. People begin camping out on the lawn early in the morning before the show, and boats fill the nearby Charles for chances to view the fireworks, hear the music, and participate in the festivities. For more information on the Fourth of July celebration in Boston check out the (appropriately named) website [www.july4th.org](http://www.july4th.org) . The Boston Pops also perform in separate functions throughout the year, and **Symphony Hall** on Mass. Ave. makes for a great evening out. For more information on the Pops and Symphony Hall check out [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org) and <http://www.bso.org/armsOfBSO.jhtml?catName=Pops&area=pop> .

#### **Bayside Expo Center**

[www.baysideexpo.com](http://www.baysideexpo.com)

The expo center is a large building featuring 240,000 square feet of exhibition space and 19,000 square feet of conference space. It is the annual home of automobile, flower and boat shows as well as many trade shows. If you have never been to a trade show you should check one out. (Look at the schedule on the website.) You can always check out the latest products, load up on free samples, and explore luxury goods.

## IV. Entertainment

These listings have been compiled from online listings and former Fellows and Interns. For the most up-to-date information, please call these organizations directly.

### **AQUARIUM**

Central Wharf, Boston, (617) 973-5200

<http://www.neaq.org/index.flash4.html>

Blue Line to Aquarium

### **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

300 Congress St. Boston, (617) 426-8855

[www.bostonkids.org](http://www.bostonkids.org)

Red Line to South Station

10am-5pm Sat-Thurs, 10am-9pm Friday, 10am-5pm Sunday

This a great place to entertain and educate your children and a fascinating museum for all ages. Interactive exhibits focus on four themes: art, culture, science, and technology. Displays, such as the science playground, hall of toys, play space, weaving, and climbing sculpture are exceptional in their ability to teach children about their environment and the world they live in. Validated parking available at Farnsworth Garage. Admission for children ages 2-15 and senior citizens is \$6; for adults, \$7; for one-year-olds, \$2; on Fridays, 5pm-9pm all admissions are \$1.

### **MUSEUM OF SCIENCE/OMNI THEATER/LASER SHOWS**

Science Park, (617) 723-2500

<http://www.mos.org/>

Take Green Line to Lechmere

### **CHEERS BEACON HILL**

"Where Everybody Knows Your Name"

84 Beacon St. Boston, (617) 227-9605

Green Line to Arlington Stop or Park Street

<http://www.cheersboston.com>

11am-2am daily

Tourists still flock to this Beacon Street bar, which was the inspiration for the *Cheers* television series, which ran for 11 years and won a number of awards. Avid fans should be forewarned, however: the exterior is very familiar, but the inside is nothing like the TV version. Drinks and food are served here, but its icon status is what draws people in here. It is considered by many to be one of the top tourist attractions in Boston. A second site, named Cheers is located at Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

### **COMEDY CONNECTION**

[www.comedyconnectionboston.com](http://www.comedyconnectionboston.com)

Located on the second floor of Quincy Market by Faneuil Hall, this Comedy Club is a great place to go with a group of friends. During the weeknights tickets are cheaper, and the names aren't as well known, but that doesn't mean they aren't still funny! The tickets are often somewhat more expensive (about \$18-25) on weekends, but they get some pretty big names.

(Check out the calendar on the website.) A favorite among college students is the Thursday night R-Rated Hypnotist. Tickets are only \$12, and you might want to see a show first before you try and get hypnotized...

## **RED SOX**

[www.redsox.com](http://www.redsox.com)

This is Boston we're talking about so of course the Red Sox get their own section! Bleacher tickets are always cheap, but it is best to plan in advance. Catch Red Sox fever early in the season so that by the time the play-offs roll around you'll be both an expert and a die-hard fan. There is no better way to truly feel like a Bostonian.

## **CASTLE ISLAND**

South Boston, (617) 268-5744

Located in South Boston, which has 3 miles of public beaches and parks, the fort of Castle Island (which is now connected to the mainland) watches over the approach to the inner harbor. During Boston's early years, this fort provided necessary protection to the shipping trade. Walk the fort's periphery and enjoy great views of the harbor and islands, or sit back and watch the planes taking off from the nearby airport. The "sugar bowl" trail, roughly one mile around, is popular with rollerbladers. Local shops and bakeries in South Boston offer a pleasant diversion.

## **WHALE WATCH**

Most whale watches are either connected to the Aquarium or leave from nearby docks. All you have to do is head down to the Waterfront, and you'll be sure to find a whale watch or harbor cruise that is convenient for you.

## **BOSTON COMMON**

The Boston Common is surrounded by Beacon, Tremont, Charles, and Boylston Streets. It is open daily dawn to dusk and is free. It is the oldest public park in the U.S. and is the first stop on the Freedom Trail. There is almost nothing you can't do on the common. It is over 40 acres and in the summer the Frog Pond becomes a wading pool. (It is an outdoor skating rink in the winter.) Throw a Frisbee, get out that kite, take a stroll, read a book, or play a game.

## **BAY STATE CRUISES TO PROVINCETOWN**

200 Seaport Blvd (617) 748-1428

[www.boston-ptown.com](http://www.boston-ptown.com)

Bay State Cruises offers ferry service to Provincetown, both excursion and express service. Three bars, a large dance area, table seating for 160 passengers, an enclosed deck, and a sizable observation area are some of amenities on the Providence II, which is used for excursion trips. Provincetown is popular with tourists due to its quaint streets and pristine beaches. The beach town is also popular with the gay and lesbian crowd. Bay State Cruises also offers entertainment cruises on Boston Harbor. Call ahead for ticket and schedule information.

**Mentor, Alumni/ae,  
and  
Participant  
Information**

## Center for Public Interest Careers

### Mentor – Mentee Guidelines

#### ***Purpose of the Mentor Component***

A central feature of the CPIC Fellowship and Internship program is the formation of a mentoring relationship between Harvard alumni/ae and current Interns and Fellows. Many of the Fellows and Interns move to communities with which they are unfamiliar. They begin work in organizations that are also new to them. The Harvard alumnus/a mentor serves as a friend, adviser, listener, guide, and advocate. The mentor is a person with whom the Fellow/Intern can share concerns, discuss issues, and develop contacts. With the proper attention, this relationship can be an excellent learning experience for both partners.

**Please be certain to complete the Mentor – Mentee Agreement at the end of this section of the Resource Guide.** This agreement will act as the roadmap for the duration of your summer/yearlong relationship. The agreement should be seen as the starting point for the relationship, both as a point of departure and a point of return should the need arise. This is not to be seen as a static document, but something that can be renegotiated depending on whether or not it is useful! <sup>1</sup>

#### **Mentees**

As a mentee, it is your responsibility to take ownership of your learning and development needs. You must assess your areas of strength and development so you can establish a mentoring plan and grow as a person. This plan should include goals you would like to accomplish through a mentoring relationship, ways you will be held accountable for success or failure to accomplish those goals, and boundaries you want to place on the relationship, such as focusing it only on professional aspects of your life. It is also your responsibility to initiate contact with a mentor and ensure the mentor helps you attain your goals.

#### ***As a Mentee, You are Expected to:***

- Initiate and drive the relationship
- Identify initial learning goals
- Seek feedback
- Take an active role in your own learning
- Initiate periodic update meetings
- Allocate time and energy
- Follow through on commitments or renegotiate appropriately
- Maintain an appropriate, professional relationship with your mentor

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<sup>1</sup> Much of what follows is quoted at length from “Understanding What Is Expected Of Me As A Mentee Or Mentor” from Triple Creek’s Mentoring Newsletter April 2004, [www.3creek.com](http://www.3creek.com).

*A Mentee/ Should:*

- **Contact your mentor as soon as possible** to arrange a first meeting, possibly even prior to starting the Internship/Fellowship, to complete the Mentor – Mentee Agreement (below).
- Attend city events and educational functions. Follow up with your mentor on any questions/issues these functions may raise. **Please make an extra effort to attend the first scheduled meeting.**
- Take advantage of the resources the mentor has. Ask questions and come to meetings with topics you would like to discuss.
- Return calls and emails from your mentor in a reasonable time frame.
- Find out about your mentor's career path. How have they arrived to this point in their career? Visit your mentor's place of work, if deemed appropriate.
- Relax and have fun!

*As a Mentee, You are Not Expected to:*

- Be an expert
- Know all the questions you should ask
- Get things right the first time
- Fit all learning into one mentoring/advising relationship
- Look to the mentor for all answers about your work
- Be submissive in the relationship
- Feel it is imperative to develop a friendship with the mentor

*A Mentee Should Not:*

- Feel as if you have to be in constant contact with your mentor. The amount of contact you will have will depend on various factors.
- Expect that your mentor will pick up the bill when meeting over a meal or snack.
- Expect that the mentor will “fix” all of your problems at your Internship or Fellowship. Please contact CPIC if difficulties should arise at your placement.

## Mentor

As a mentor, it is your responsibility to provide guidance to your mentee based on his/her learning needs and development areas. You can accomplish this in several ways and through various roles. You could act as a resource, adviser, teacher, coach, model, sponsor, consultant, or guide. Yet, no matter what role you play, remember that you are responsible for being the professional in this relationship or, if need be, for helping the mentee find access to the appropriate experts. The points below provide a quick reference guideline of what is expected of you.

### *As a Mentor, You are Expected to:*

- Have reasonable expectations of the mentee
- Act as a resource
- Provide feedback
- Allocate time and energy
- Help the mentee develop an appropriate learning plan
- Follow through on commitments or renegotiate appropriately
- Maintain an appropriate, professional relationship with your mentee

### *A Mentor Should:*

- **Contact your mentee as soon as possible** to arrange a time to meet and complete the Mentor – Mentee Agreement (below).
- Provide guidance to your mentee based on his/her learning needs and development areas.
- In cities with multiple Fellows/Interns, participate in regular gatherings of Fellows/Interns to learn about various fields and agencies and to socialize with one another, as your schedule permits. **Please make an extra effort to attend the first scheduled meeting.**
- Communicate with your mentee on a regular basis, particularly at the beginning of the summer/year when everything is still new and uncertain.
- Use a combination of phone-calls, e-mails, visits, and group events to stay in touch with your mentee. See the Mentor – Mentee Agreement below.
- Visit the Fellow's/Intern's organization early on to meet the mentee's supervisor and other employees of the organization, if appropriate and if the mentee approves. This visit serves two purposes: to get a better sense of the work the mentee is expected to do and the issues he/she must address, as well as to increase Harvard's credibility with the agency for future placements.
- To the extent possible, assist your mentee in finding housing and other arrangements if needed.

- Expand, whenever possible, the Fellow's/Intern's experience by providing exposure to related aspects of the community and introductions to relevant individuals and organizations.
- Talk to your mentee about a variety of issues including:
  - His/her work situation. Is your mentee meeting his/her learning goals? If the mentee isn't finding the work interesting or challenging enough, brainstorm ways of trying to address the problem. Notify CPIC staff.
  - His/her career plans, next steps, graduate school, etc. and help connect your mentee with people who may be able to provide further insight.
  - Any other concerns he/she may have, including those articulated in the Mentor – Mentee Agreement, which should be completed within the first two weeks of the placement.
- Relax and have fun!!!

*As a Mentor, You are Not Expected to:*

- Drive the relationship
- Seek out the mentee
- Do the work for the mentee
- Manage the mentee as a supervisor would
- Be an expert in every imaginable development area
- Feel it is imperative to develop a friendship with the mentee

*A Mentor Should Not:*

- Feel as if you have to be in constant contact with your mentee. **Use the Mentor – Mentee Agreement as your guide.** The degree of involvement will depend in large part on the personalities of the mentor and mentee, how well the mentee has adjusted to your city, what sort of a social network the mentee has, etc. There are many instances in which there's not a whole lot of contact between mentor and mentee; **please just make the effort early** and continue to be available as a resource, in case you are needed. The mentee may want minimal contact, or he/she may welcome substantial contact.
- Try to help with a concern/problem troubling your mentee without first talking to him/her and getting his/her approval.
- Try to resolve a problem at the mentee's organization without first talking to the mentee and CPIC staff. There may be some other dynamic at work at the organization and/or with CPIC

## Mentor – Mentee Relationship

Now that you understand specific responsibilities for mentees and mentors, it is also important to realize that there are responsibilities you and your mentoring partner will accomplish together.

### *What do mentees and mentors do together?*

- Share past experiences, identify goals, design plans, and build skills.
- Debrief one another on meetings, projects, events, etc.
- Partner and brainstorm around projects and tasks.
- Role-play situations faced by the mentee.
- Share perspectives of a particular matter under discussion.
- Challenge each other on assumptions.

### *The on-going mentor-mentee contact may include discussion of such topics as:*

- Learning goals for the placement. How you are ensuring they are met and what ways the mentoring relationship can help meet them.
- Social adjustment to the host city and professional adjustment to life beyond Harvard.
- The pros and cons of the public interest sector compared to the private sector.
- For Interns: the academic coursework the Intern might consider that would be helpful in a public service career.
- General questions/concerns/issues about the host organization: What is the mission of the host organization? How is the organization's mission communicated to its staff? What strategies and tactics is the organization using to achieve its goals? How well is the organization doing – socially and financially? What are the organization's principal constituencies? How does the organization serve the needs and interests of its constituencies?
- What ideas can the mentor contribute from his/her own experiences that are relevant to the above questions and their possible answers?
- Any other topic the Fellow or Intern is interested in discussing. **Remember, it is the mentee's responsibility to drive the relationship.**

By understanding what is expected of you as a mentee or mentor, you can focus your attention on the mentoring relationship itself, rather than on whether or not you are correctly fulfilling your role. This will save you time and energy, which you can in turn focus on your mentoring partner.

## Mentor – Mentee Sample Introductory Activity

Here are some topics to get an initial conversation started. Both the mentor and mentee can share the following information. The initial discussion should not focus on professional experience or credentials, but instead the goal should be to **get to know one another as people**.

Name

Age

Number of siblings

Languages spoken at home

City of birth

Last book you read for pleasure

Most exotic locale visited

CD currently in your CD player

Current recreational interests

Now...find at least three things you have in common with each other.

For the mentor, think back to your undergraduate/graduate years...If you are the mentee, think about what your life is like right now...take turns completing these phrases, with as much detail as you like...

I chose to attend Harvard...

My public service experiences are/were...

Social life at Harvard is/was...

I selected my concentration because...

A faculty member I connect(ed) well with is/was...

One thing I will never forget about my undergraduate/graduate years is...

What attracts you to the public interest sector?

# The Center for Public Interest Careers

## Mentor – Mentee Agreement

Use this form as a guide to discuss your expectations for the mentor – mentee relationship. Feel free to skip those questions that you do not find useful or helpful.

### Expectations

We have reviewed/discussed the mentee's Host Organization Agreement Form, which includes his/her supervisor's name and contact information. The mentee's learning goals for the summer/year are...

1.

2.

3.

We also have reviewed the above expectations for the mentor and mentee. We have found the two most important features of these expectations to be...

1.

2.

Recalling what the mentee asked for in a mentor and in addition to support for his/her learning goals, the mentee hopes to gain the following from the mentor – mentee relationship...

1.

2.

3.

### Communication

Every time we meet or exchange emails/phone calls, I would like to be certain to touch on...

It is best for us to communicate by...

The best day of the week/time of the day for us to communicate is...

We will do our best to communicate at least every...

Generally, I am unavailable before/after...

I plan to be away for vacation this summer...

One article in the reading packet (below) we will plan to read and discuss the next time we meet is...

**Renegotiation**

If I am unable to meet these commitments, I will inform my counterpart, and renegotiate this agreement...

Other important items we would like to include...

Mentee: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
 Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Alumni/ae Networking Tips

In addition to your Alumni/ae Area Coordinator and your mentor, there are other alumni/ae in our network who have expressed interested in serving as contacts for you.

While your mentor might be able to provide you with additional contacts in your area of interest, this list provides you with another excellent resource by which to learn about and begin to build a network of contacts within the public interest sector.

The Alumni/ae Contact List is available by contacting CPIC staff. If you would like to reach out to alumni/ae, please contact Amanda Sonis Glynn ([asglynn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:asglynn@fas.harvard.edu)) or Travis Lovett ([tlovett@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:tlovett@fas.harvard.edu)).

We hope that you will reach out to them, regardless of their position, issue area, or geographic location.

What type of things might you ask these contacts? The Office of Career Services at Harvard University provides some great insight into networking. Here are some key points about networking and career conversations from their website.

### **Networking is NOT:**

- "schmoozing"
- just being friendly
- nepotism
- just a shorter way of saying "It's not what you know, it's who you know..."
- a personal sales pitch

### **Networking IS:**

- building relationships

Networking is attentively and consciously meeting people, being interested in them, remembering who they are and what they do, and exchanging information with them over time.

### **Why Network?**

Networking can be used in many ways in your job search and throughout your career to:

- *Conduct field research* - Learn about a specific field that you are interested in.
- *Explore careers* - Learn about what types of work exist in different fields.
- *Obtain information about organizations* - Learn about an organization for which you might want to work.
- *Obtain career advice* - Ask people in the world of work about how you might prepare yourself for a certain field or position.

- *Seek job-search advice* - Ask for suggestions of people you might contact for information about job or internship possibilities.
- *Create your own job or internship* - Identify an activity or a type of work that you would like to do and find someone who is willing to let you do it.
- *"Sanity-check" your approach* - Test your hypotheses about your "hire-ability" in a field or organization by asking the opinion of someone currently working within it.

### **Networking Etiquette and Guidelines**

No matter whom you contact, etiquette is important in building and maintaining relationships.

- Be well-prepared. Be able to articulate as much as you know about what you are looking for in your career, job search, etc.
- Always be professional, courteous, and considerate.
- Be interested in the people you meet. Most people enjoy the chance to tell you about their own careers and activities.
- Be genuine. Possess a sincere desire to learn. Be honest in asking for advice. If you are only interested in asking for a job, it will show, no matter how you disguise it.
- Be gracious. Write a thank you letter when people take time to meet with you.
- Stay in touch. Update people in your network when you make significant progress in your research or job search.
- Give back. Know enough about the people you meet to keep their needs in mind as you continue to network. You may be able to pass on ideas, articles, and contacts that will interest them.

Read more about networking on the OCS website at <http://www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu/students/resources/networking.htm>. Remember to use good judgment about the amount of time you request when you contact people. Do not overstay your welcome, and do not "return to the well" too many times.

## Informational Interviewing Tips

When writing or calling to request an informational interview, **be clear and direct** about the goal of your interview (information, *not* jobs) and the time commitment (suggest 30-40 minutes). Always cite your referral/source when introducing yourself by phone or letter. Try to meet with them at their workplace at their convenience, but be prepared to settle graciously for a phone interview, even on the spot if necessary (...so have your list of questions ready).

### DO . . .

- **Act professionally**, as you would for any interview. Call to confirm a day or so ahead, dress appropriately, and arrive a little early so that you can experience the work environment and relax before your appointment.
- **Listen attentively** and gear your questions to the flow of the conversation, without losing track of the time and your specific goals.
- **Jot down any special points**, clarify any terms you don't know or anything you don't understand, and keep track of any referrals or suggestions. Finish writing down what you have learned immediately after the interview.
- **Ask for additional referrals** from your contact. Expand your network of contacts.
- **Stay within your time limit**, unless the career adviser indicates otherwise. Be sensitive to nonverbal clues that it is time to end the interview.
- **WRITE A THANK-YOU NOTE.** The adviser should be thanked for his or her time and thought, even if he or she tried to discourage you or does not seem to be in a position to help you in the future. (A handwritten note is fine, but treat it as a *professional* correspondence.)

Even after the thank-you note, **keep your contacts informed** of your career development progress. Not only do they really appreciate hearing about you, but you maintain your relationships with them. Ask permission to keep in periodic contact.

### DON'T . . .

- **Ask them for a job**—even indirectly.
- **Forget to send a thank-you note**, even for a phone appointment.
- **Speak with only one or two people** and assume their views are representative of the field.

## Matters of Judgment

1. **Whether to write or call first.** Call first if they have indicated that they would like to be contacted by phone or to confirm information you need to write to them (such as address, title, or correct spelling of name). Write first if you think the contact would appreciate having a brief introduction by mail (or e-mail) and a sense of what you are exploring or if you are not confident about presenting yourself over the phone. Remember, even when writing, you must follow up with a call. Experiment to see what works best for you.
2. **How and when to present a resumé.** You should always bring copies of your resumé to an appointment with an adviser. Make sure that you treat it as an efficient way to give your contact a sense of your background or as something that you seek advice on, rather than as a ploy to get a job. It is best to present your resume near the end of the meeting.
3. **To pay or not to pay** (for the lunch, drink, etc.). A good rule of thumb is "S/he who invites offers to pay." So be prepared to offer to pay, or—as is more likely—to pay for your own meal or to graciously accept their offer to pay.
4. **Self-presentation and your own expectations.** Remember, first of all, to be yourself, but also be sensitive to the impression you make (career advisers have noted in the past the extremes of arrogance and self-deprecation). Make sure that your expectations are realistic: know what you hope to learn about their career field, and don't expect them to offer you a job or to provide you with general career counseling. (If you're feeling vague and unfocused, see a counselor at OCS.)
5. **Going back to ask for job-hunting help.** If you feel you have established rapport with someone, it is reasonable to re-contact the person *later* when you have narrowed your focus and begun a job search. Write or call the adviser and remind him or her of your previous contact, explain your current situation and goals, and ask if he or she would mind passing along your resumé or letting you know of job leads.

## A Final Note

Informational interviewing requires time, energy, and a positive and appreciative attitude. The investment repays itself many times over by generating invaluable information, skills, and contacts in a process you can use throughout your life. In the future be willing to be a career adviser for others who may be conducting informational interviews.

# **Familiarizing Yourself with Civic Indicators And the Public Interest Sector In Boston**

## Familiarizing Yourself with Civic Indicators And the Public Interest Sector In Boston

**The Boston Indicators Project** is a civic initiative coordinated by the Boston Foundation in partnership with the City of Boston/Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Its goal is to engage the general public as well as civic and community-based institutions, the media, business, and government in better understanding Boston's key challenges and opportunities through shared access to high quality objective data.

<http://www.tbf.org/indicators/>

**The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP)** is a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood-level information systems in local policymaking and community building.

<http://www.urban.org/nnip/>

**Independent Sector** is committed to strengthening, empowering, and partnering with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in their work on behalf of the public good. Its membership of nonprofit organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs collectively represents tens of thousands of charitable groups serving every cause in every region of the country, as well as millions of donors and volunteers.

[http://www.independentsector.org/Nonprofit Information Center/information\\_center.html](http://www.independentsector.org/Nonprofit_Information_Center/information_center.html)

**The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN)** promotes an efficient, viable, and inclusive nonprofit sector that supports the growth, learning, and development of young professionals. It engages and supports future nonprofit and community leaders through professional development, networking and social opportunities designed for young people involved in the nonprofit community.

<http://www.ynpn.org/>

**MassINC** MassINC is dedicated to renewing the civic life of the commonwealth. Through the Civic Renewal Initiative, we seek to understand better the possibilities for—and the obstacles to—the civic participation of ordinary citizens. What exactly does it mean—at this uncertain time in our nation's and state's history—to be called an "engaged citizen" of a commonwealth? That's the question that MassINC tries to answer.

<http://www.massinc.org/>