

# TURN IT AROUND YOUTH GROUP JUNE NEWSLETTER



# TURN IT AROUND

## This Month in Turn It Around

During the month of June, the Charlestown Coalition will host a Turn It Around Class of 2021 Graduation Party to honor the graduates who have worked so hard in such a strange time to achieve one of their greatest feats, high school, and middle-school graduation!

TIA Members & Alumni are invited to Turn It Around's Graduation Party

When: June 17, 2021 at 5pm-6:30pm  
Where: First Church in Charlestown (10 Green St. Charlestown, MA. 02129)

View Evite Invitation Here:  
<http://evite.me/39gS1HJpHC>

## Peace Park Update

The Charlestown Peace Park was an abandoned urban park three years ago with empty plant beds, run-down park furniture, and peeling paint on the fencing. Owned by the MA Department of Transportation, maintenance and upkeep were minimal. Seeking a place to honor and memorialize those impacted by violence and substance use disorders, the Charlestown Coalition's youth program, Turn It Around, began reclaiming the park in 2018. The teens, most of whom attend Charlestown High School and live in the nearby housing developments, regularly picked up litter, raked leaves, planted flowers, and did what they could to keep the park looking tidy.

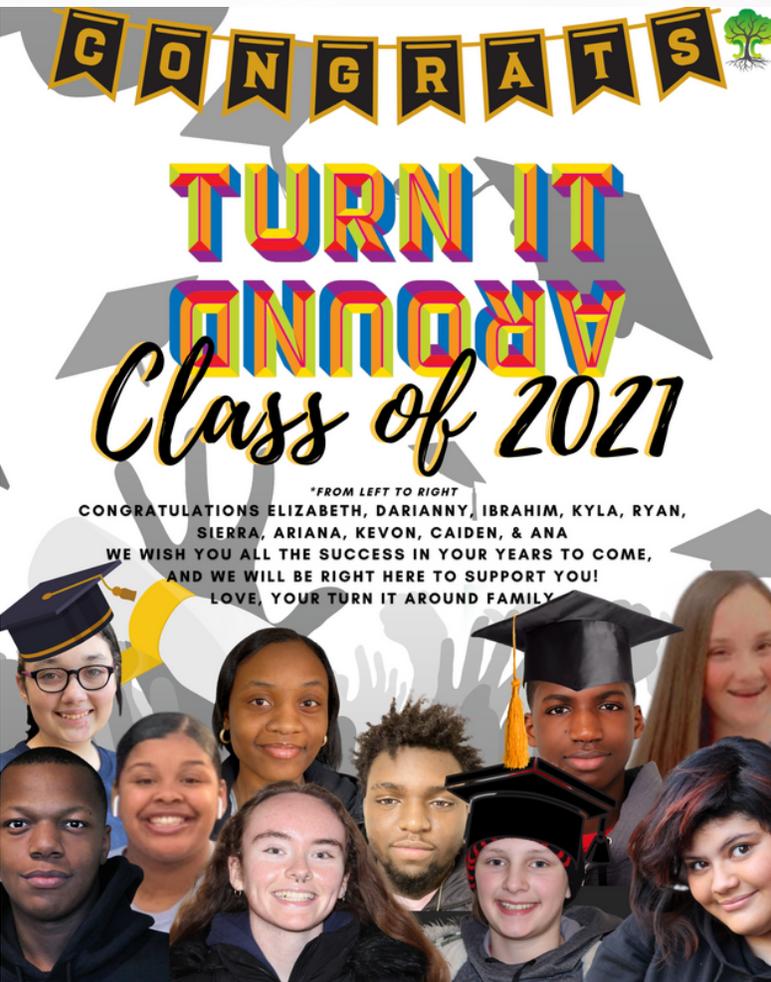
A recent grant from the City of Boston's Community Preservation program and an MoU from MA DOT, current owners, offers the Charlestown Coalition, Turn It Around, and community members a unique opportunity to fully design and rebuild this special park.

Currently, we are looking for a landscape architect (or firm) to address all project needs, including survey work, drainage, lighting, utility, engineering, and landscape design, with a short- and long-term maintenance plan at project completion. The architect will assess and evaluate all existing site conditions with respect to the conceptual design and will work with stakeholders' programming needs and any neighborhood concerns to complete the project.

## Happy Birthday to June Babies



Happy Birthday to Ana! Our only June baby!!  
We hope you have a wonderful B-day!



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## Last Month in Turn It Around

Last month, we held our first in-person Race and Equity Discussion post covid! It was an incredible and insightful evening at the Charlestown Peace Park with City-Councilor Lydia Edwards, Boston Police A1 officers, the Charlestown community, and the Charlestown Coalition discussing matters of race, equity, ethnicity, and unity.

Thank you to Carolyn Chou the ED of the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) for coming to describe the AAPI experience and provide a comprehensive history of the AAPI community in Boston.



## Ways to get Involved:

Want to join in on the fun during one of our virtual meetings? We'd love to have you! There are many opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved in *Turn It Around*. All are invited and welcome. Please reach out to Mswati Hanks for more information at [MHanks1@partners.org](mailto:MHanks1@partners.org).

## Prefer Email?

To receive our Family & Friends Newsletter email instead of a paper copy, please contact Ginaya Greene Murray at [Ggreene-Murray@Partners.org](mailto:Ggreene-Murray@Partners.org) or call her directly at 617-726-6684

## May's Youth of the Month:

May's Turn It Around you for the month is Josviel Diaz! For the past month and a half, Josviel has been engaged and coming regularly to meetings and events, lending a helping hand. And at last week's Turn It Around team building challenge, Josviel was even voted his team's MVP by his peers! We're so happy to have him in our group and think he he's our MVP for this month too!



-Mswati Hanks  
(Youth Prevention Coordinator)

## Have Questions?

If you need assistance with your youth regarding school, job placement, risky behaviors, or anything else, please contact the Charlestown Coalition. We will be happy to help with any questions regarding you and your child.

Find us online:     

Visit us online: [www.CharlestownCoalition.org](http://www.CharlestownCoalition.org)

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