

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sylvia Salas
The Esplanade Association
Phone: (617) 227-0365 x100
Fax: (617) 227-0694
ssalas@esplanadeassociation.org
www.esplanadeassociation.org

AWARD FOR ESPLANADE IMPROVEMENTS HONORS FRANCIS W. HATCH, JR.

BOSTON, MA – December 5, 2011 – The Esplanade Association’s efforts to significantly improve the landscape of one of Boston’s most treasured parks have been given a big boost. The organization is pleased to announce that it has received an award, in the amount of \$1 million, to help revitalize and re-landscape the Eliot Memorial area on the Esplanade as well as aid in improving and maintaining the park’s overall landscape. “The size and nature of the award are a wonderful vote of confidence in our work and our vision for the Esplanade,” said Margo Newman, Chair of The Esplanade Association’s Board of Directors.

This award is made in memory of Francis W. Hatch, Jr. Mr. Hatch, a noted environmentalist and humanitarian, served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the 1960s and 1970s and as the Minority Leader from 1971-1979. Mr. Hatch authored the Hatch Act, the state’s 1965 landmark wetlands protection law. He served on the boards of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the John Merck Fund and was a supporter of many wonderful efforts to protect and improve our natural environment. Mr. Hatch died in April, 2010.

“This very generous gift will be used by The Esplanade Association to help make the Esplanade greener and healthier as well as increase the organization’s capacity to engage a broader community in efforts to improve the park,” stated Sylvia Salas, the organization’s Executive Director. “TEA is honored to receive this award in memory of Mr. Hatch and for the betterment of Boston,” she added.

The organization has been working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and a team of landscapers, designers, horticulturists and interested citizens to plan and design a Landscape Demonstration Project at the Eliot Memorial. This project will beautify and restore the health of the landscape at this popular area of the park and will serve, also, as a blueprint for future

landscape projects. Revitalization of the Eliot Memorial is one of numerous improvements recommended in the *Esplanade 2020* study, which is nearing completion.

Founded in 2001, The Esplanade Association is dedicated to restoring and enhancing the Charles River Esplanade, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and numerous community partners. Each year, The Esplanade Association brings nearly 2,000 volunteers to the Esplanade to help maintain and care for the park. The organization also runs free, health promoting programs for children and adults at the park each summer. The Esplanade Association office is located at 376 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

###