# CHAIN FORGE (CNY Building 105)

Community Meeting # 2 - RFP Visioning Session & EPA Brownfields Grant

3

October 29th, 2024

Yoon Cha, Real Estate Development Officer



CITY of BOSTON

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## PLEASE HELP US ENSURE THAT THIS CONVERSATION IS A PLEASANT AND PRODUCTIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL ATTENDEES.

- Be respectful of everyone's time
- Use kind language
- Keep the discussion focused on the topic
- Remain muted until called on (use the "Raise Hand" function on Zoom for comments or questions)
- · Wait to raise additional questions until all others have had an opportunity
- If we are unable to get to your question tonight, please enter comments on the project website: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/ChainForge">bit.ly/ChainForge</a> or email <a href="mailto:yoon.cha@boston.gov">yoon.cha@boston.gov</a>



Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question at any time – Planning Department staff will moderate the chat



To raise your hand, click on "Participants" at the bottom of your screen, and then choose the "Raise Hand" option in the participant box



Mute/unmute – Participants will be muted during the presentation – the host will unmute you during discussion if you raise your hand and it is your turn to talk



Turns your video on/off

- At the request of community members, this event will be recorded and posted on the project webpage for those who are unable to attend the zoom event live.
- It is possible that participants may be recording the meeting with their phone cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
- If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature at the end of the presentation.
- Note: These meetings are not subject to Open Meeting Law. Open Meeting Law also does not require that public bodies allow public comment or public participation during meetings.

## **SUMMARY**



## **CHAIN FORGE (CNY Building 105)**

**Assessing ID** : 0203510510

**UR Parcel ID**: NY-1, Charlestown Urban Renewal Area, Project No. MASS R-55

**Address**: 105 First Ave, Charlestown, MA 02129

**Lot size** : 75,515 sf

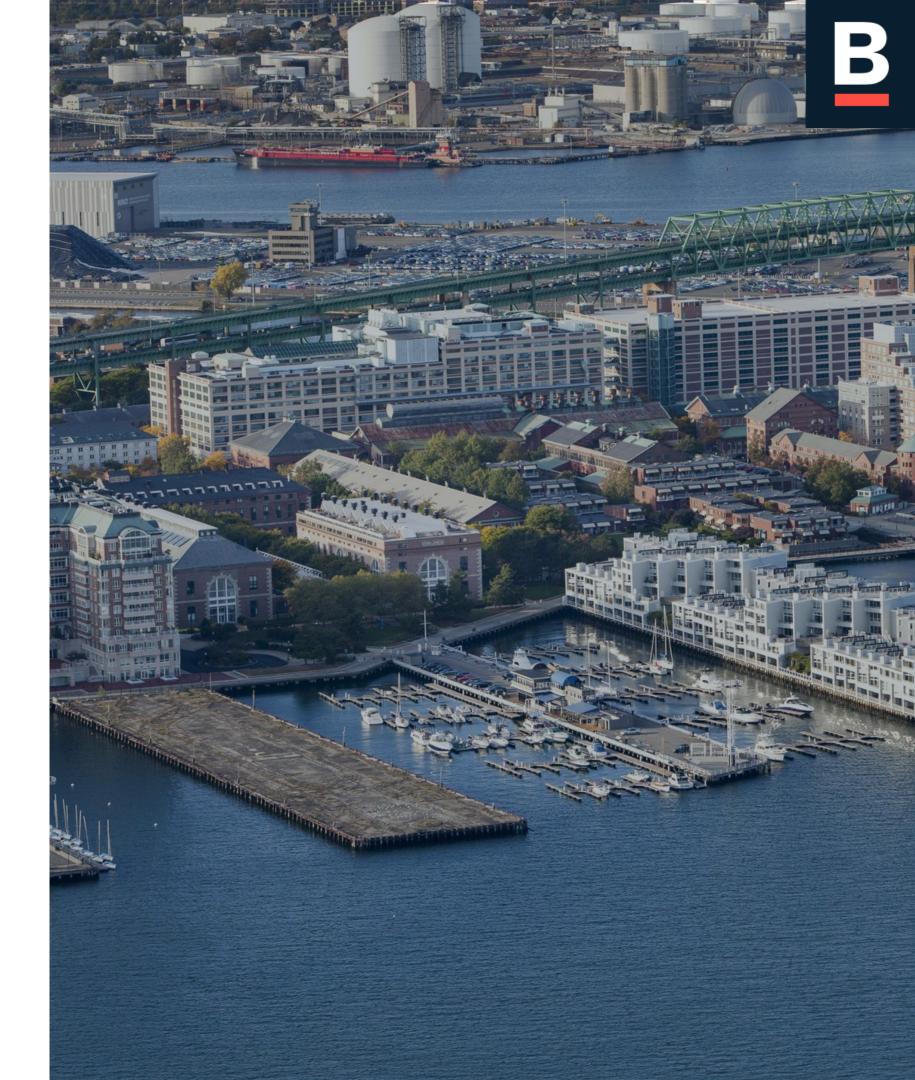
**Current GSF** : 58,800 sf

Chain Forge, a historic industrial building in Charlestown Navy Yard (CNY), is up for renewed disposition effort following termination of its previous lease. Considering presented challenges such as historic preservation requirements, flood risk, and environmental contamination it will be important to rehabilitate property in a way that can attract investment for the necessary improvements and transform the building into a centerpiece and destination for Boston. The Planning Department is seeking community input on the draft RFP Development Objectives and draft application for the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant.

## **AGENDA**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

- Continue conversation on RFP Visioning
   Review Draft EPA Brownfields Cleanup
   Grant Application & Draft ABCA
- **BACKGROUND & RECAP**
- RFP VISIONING: WHAT WE HEARD
- **EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT**
- DISCUSSION
- **NEXT STEPS**



## **DISPOSITION PROCESS**



Goal: Redevelop vacant or underutilized city-owned land to create more affordable, equitable, and resilient uses

Real Estate Division analyzes subject parcel and provides recommendation Real Estate Division drafts Request for Proposal (RFP) RFP is released and developers submit proposals Strongest proposal chosen based on evaluation criteria and community feedback

Developer secures all design, financing, permits and is ready to break ground

DUE DILIGENCE

RFP VISIONING

RFP DRAFTING RFP REVIEW RELEASE RFP DEVELOPER PRESENTATION

TENTATIVE DESIGNATION

FINAL DESIGNATION

DISPOSITION

Public Meeting to share recommendation, receive feedback, and gather ideas (Often multiple meetings)

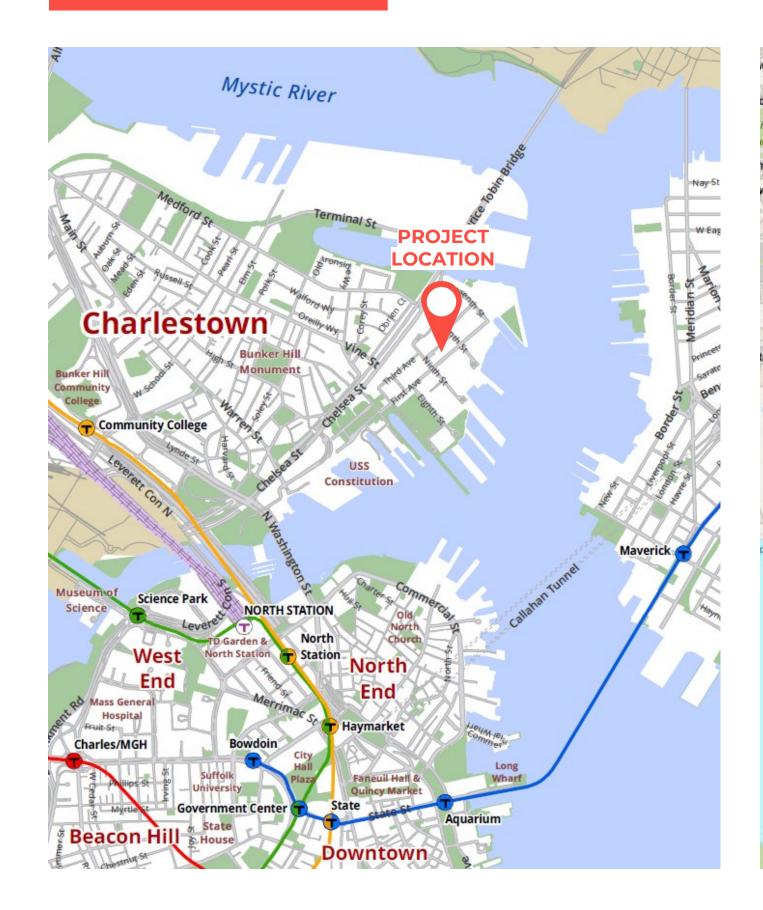
Public Meeting to review final draft of the RFP Public Meeting to review RFP proposals Public Meetings led by entitlement/ permitting process (Article 80, BCDC, IAG...) Ground lease or sale executed;
Development
breaks ground

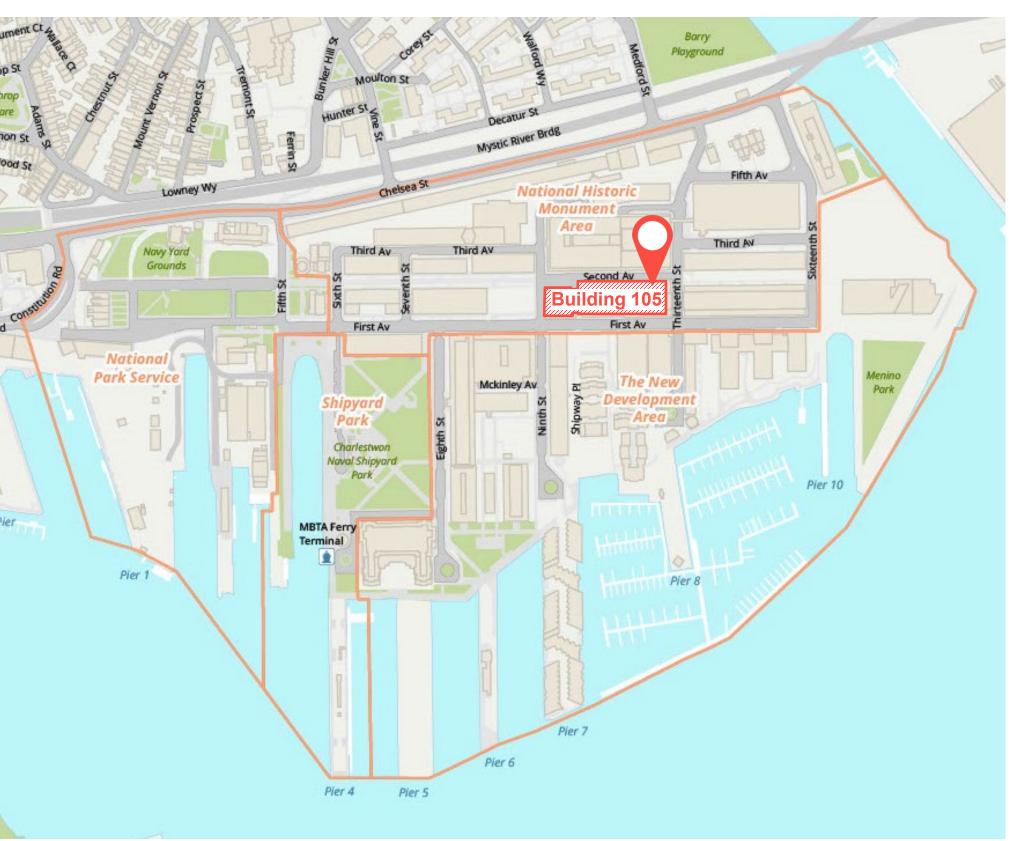
... and it's an iterative process!

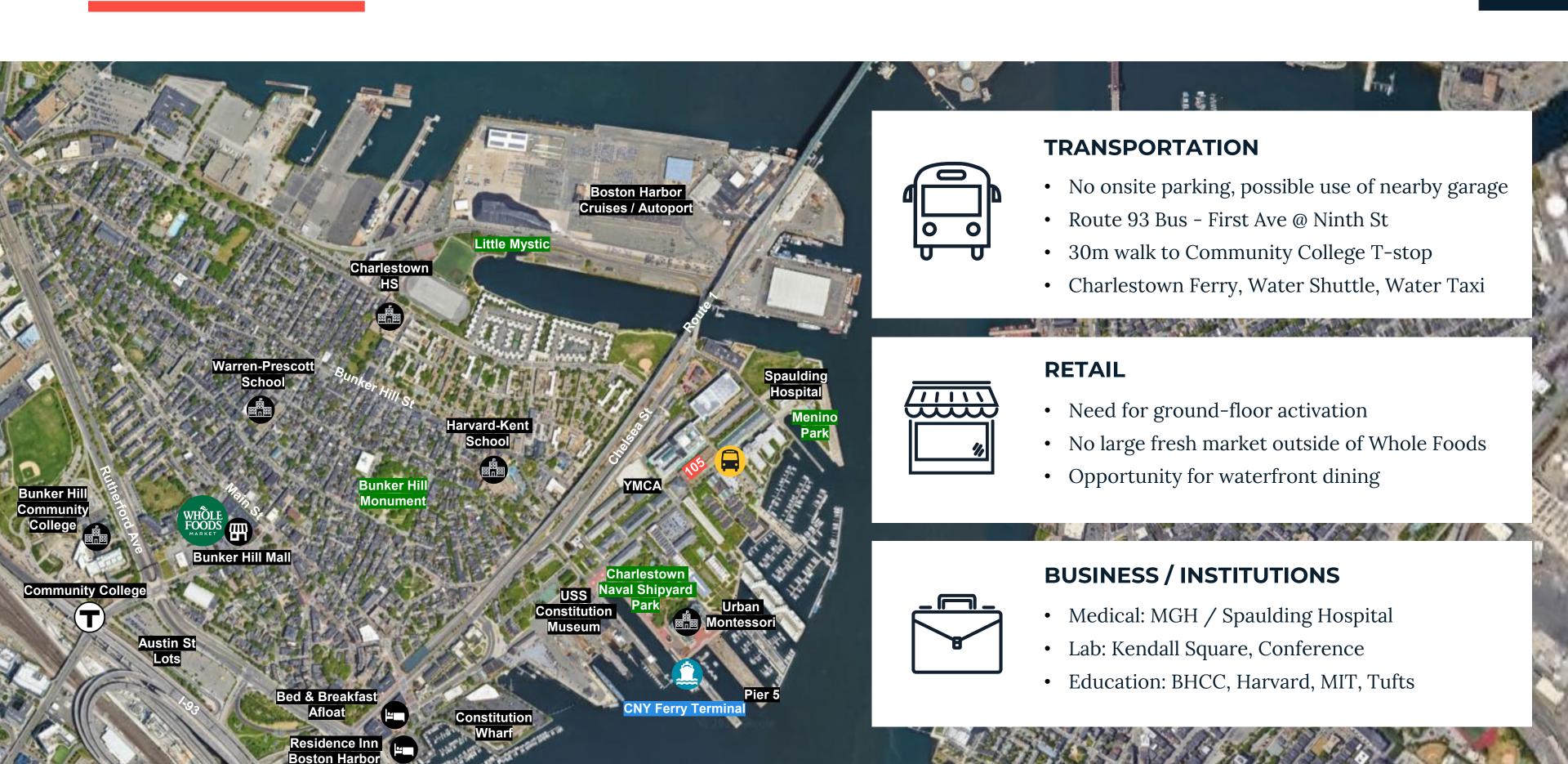


# BACKGROUND & RECAP

## PROJECT LOCATION







## SITE HISTORY



Charlestown Navy Yard (1957), BPDA Records

#### 1904: Chain Forge Opens at CNY

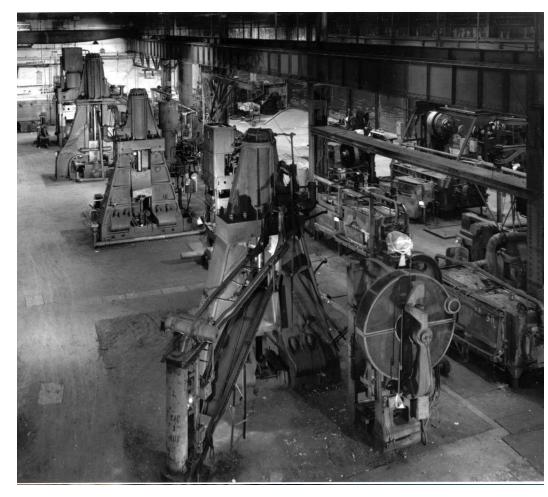
In 1904, the Charlestown Navy Yard added Building 105, also known as Chain Forge, to its complex. Designed in by Architect Louis Leach of Works Progress Administration, the building has an innovative steel frame covered with a brick veneer in Renaissance Revival style.



Women workers with a Die-Lock chain (c.1940), NPS

#### 1930-1940s: "The Cathedral of Industry"

Chain Forge produced nearly all the chains used by the Navy through WWII. Most notable of their production was Die-Lock chain, invented by James Reid, Albert M. Leahy, and Carlton G. Lutts, which remains unparalleled for its durability to this date.



Interior of Chain Forge (c. 1970s), NPS

#### 1975: CNY transferred to BRA

After the Navy Yard closed in 1974, the building was transferred to the BRA in 1975. Most of the historically significant equipment were transferred to NPS for Boston National Historical Park (BOST). Some equipment will be preserved on site.

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## **CHAIN FORGE (BUILDING 105)**



SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

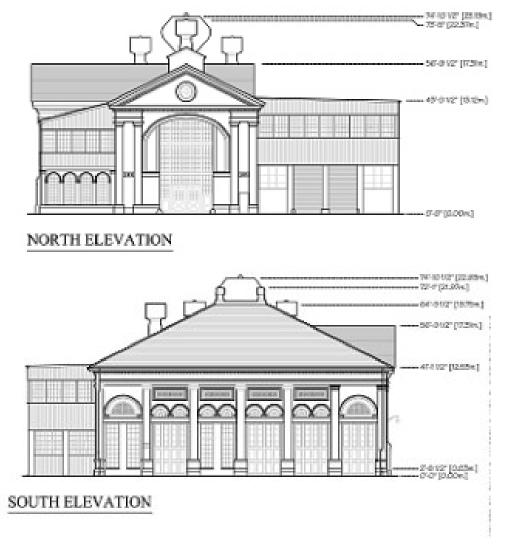


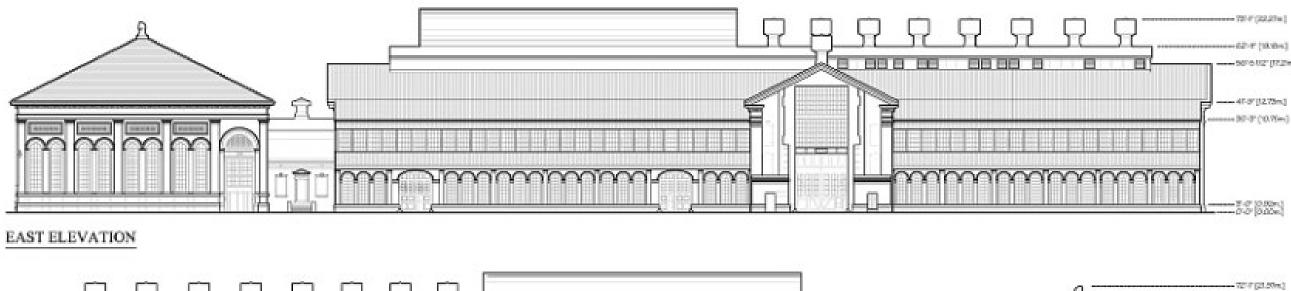
WEST ELEVATION

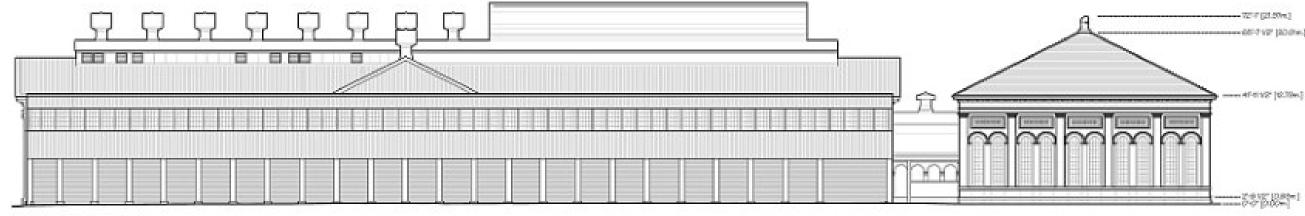




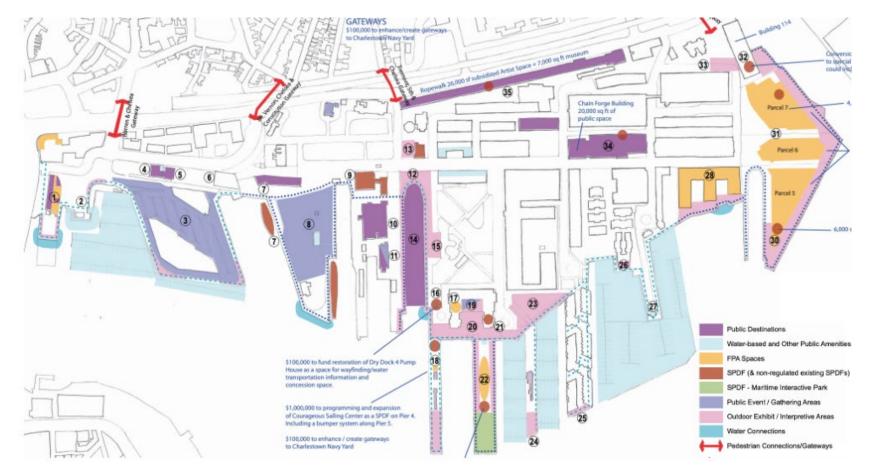












Waterfront Activation Map (PLAN:Charlestown, 2023)

#### **RELEVANT PLANS**

PLAN: Charlestown (2023)

- Improved Connectivity
- Waterfront Activation
- Adaptive Reuse and Preservation
- Economic Development
- Coastal Resilience

#### **ZONING DISTRICT**

- Article 42F Harborkpark-Charlestown Waterfront
   District
- Charlestown Navy YardSubdistrict
  - dimensional and use regulations (42F-13 & 14)

#### **OVERLAYS**

- Special Study Overlay Area:
   Historic Monument Area
  - Design Guidelines
- Urban Renewal Area Overlay
   District
- Coastal Flood ResilienceOverlay District
- FEMA Flood Hazard Area

#### WHAT IT MEANS FOR CHAIN FORGE...

- Priority: Ground-Floor Activation
- Redevelopment must preserve historically significant elements
- Limit to additional density
- No open space required
- Public use recommended
- Floodplain challenges for ground-floor use (residential, retail)
- Flood resilience measures needed
- Permitted uses: institutional, retail, hotel, residential
- No addition of onsite parking allowed

## **CHALLENGES**



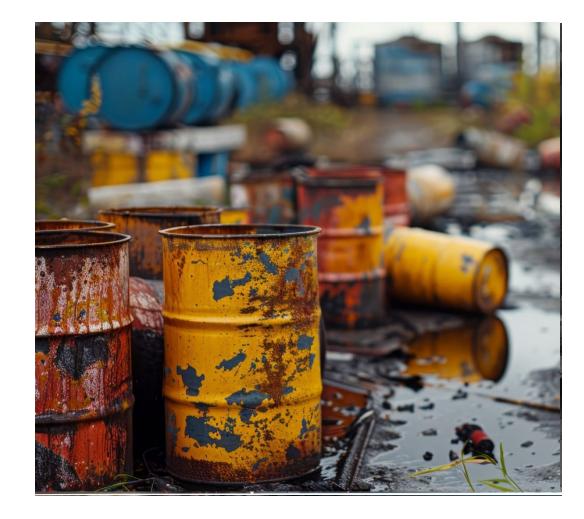
#### **HISTORICAL PRESERVATION**

- Nationally registered historical site
- Intervention must retain historical character of the building, especially on building exterior, as well as some chainmaking equipment in-situ
- May impact ability to add floorplates or windows



#### **FLOOD RESILIENCY**

- Project is in Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District (CFROD)
- Portion of site is in FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area
- Ground floor must be designed for flood resiliency
- May impact feasibility for residential use



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION**

- History of hazardous substances
   (asbestos, PCB's, oil-based substances,
   lead paint, contaminated piping and soil)
- Property underwent significant remediation, but more work remain
- EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant
- Planning Department Stabilization Funds



# RFP VISIONING

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## WHAT WE HEARD

"I would love to see this interesting building **preserved**. I love the idea of **multiple uses**."

"Sports recreation, like a skating rink, pickleball courts, or running tracks.

The die-lock chain assembly can be integrated in a creative way!"

"What will happen to **parking** spots in front of the building? Is it possible to create underground parking?

"The (Chain Forge) building is so stunning and there's nothing like it. Love the idea of incorporating **art**."

#### 9/17/2024 COMMUNITY MEETING

67 Attendees (more sent in comments in writing)
Comment Period: 9/17/2024 - 10/1/2024

"Charlestown needs **smaller**, **intimate spaces to gather** for holiday events, recital, birthday, or weddings."

"There are few options for **grocery and food** in Charlestown. Would love to see **Retail, Hotel, and Dining**. A good example would be Hood Park, which has restaurant, cycling studio, and parking garage."

"Would love to see **Hotel and Retail** again. With something this **costly to redevelop**, not surprised it will be a hard stop for any developer."

"What is the estimated cost of environmental remediation?"

"There is a real need for **Senior Housing**, such as independent living, assisted living, or nursing facilities.

"[Grocery store] would be fantastic.

Street parking continues to be in

worsening condition."

"Boutique hotels do not require as many rooms and would be a good here. Even large chains have boutique brands."

## **WHAT WE HEARD**



#### 9/17/2024 COMMUNITY MEETING

67 Attendees (more sent in comments in writing)
Comment Period: 9/17/2024 - 10/1/2024



#### **NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS**

- **Restaurant (7)**: High end restaurant, causal dining, sandwich, coffee, bar
- Hotel (6): Boutique / conference
- **Grocery Store (5)**: Trader Joe's concept
- **Housing (4)**: Senior housing, 3-4bd condos for families



#### **COMMUNITY & RECREATION**

- **Cultural (4)**: Museum, gallery, performance venue
- **Sports Recreation (3)**: skating, gym, pickleball, running track, cycling studio
- Community Space (2): intimate gathering spaces for community use





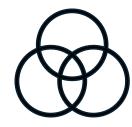
#### **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Mixed Use (10)**: There should be a mix of different uses on site
- **Parking (7)**: parking availability, enforcement of parking restrictions
- Historic Preservation (4): Historic
   character is important; Friends of
   Charlestown, Plaque of British Landing

## RFP DRAFTING: DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES



The Planning Department seeks to redevelop the Property in a manner consistent with the following goals:



#### **MIXED-USE ADAPTATION**

- Adapt the Property into a vibrant mixed-use destination
- Neighborhood Needs:
   Grocery Store, Restaurant,
   Retail, Hotel, Gallery,
   Performance Venue, Public
   Gathering Spaces,
   Residential (esp. Senior
   Housing), Institutional



#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

- Restore and preserve the exterior architectural character of the Property
- Preserve the required historic chain-making equipment on site
- In coordination with city,
   state, and federal historical
   preservation authorities



#### **PUBLIC DESTINATION**

- Create a public destination that attracts visitors and serves neighborhood residents
- Publicly accessible areas
   such as lobbies or lounges
- Exhibition of historic chain forge equipment



#### **RESILIENT DESIGN**

- Proposal should be designed in a way that is flood and climate resilient
- Selected proponent should continue to work with relevant authorities toward goals of Climate Ready
   Boston

## RFP DRAFTING: NEXT STEPS



## **DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

What are the goals we want to achieve in this RFP?

# DEVELOPMENT & URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Program, design, climate resiliency, and DEI goals proposals should follow

## COMPARATIVE EVALUATION CRITERIA

How proposals will be evaluated amongst themselves

#### **RFP RELEASE**

RFP released after final Planning Department review











# EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT

Paul Uzgiris, Weston & Sampson

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# welcome



transform your environment

# Former Chain Forge Site 105 1st Avenue Charlestown, MA

Draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) and Draft EPA Cleanup Grant Application



- Established in 1899
- Employee-Owned Company
- Municipally-focused
- Multidisciplinary Engineering & Design Firm
- EPA Brownfields since program inception









### MEET THE TEAM



Sarah R. DeStefano, ENV SP Brownfields Lead



**Paul Uzgiris, PE**Remediation Lead



Prasanta Bhunia, PhD, LSP
Site Assessment Lead



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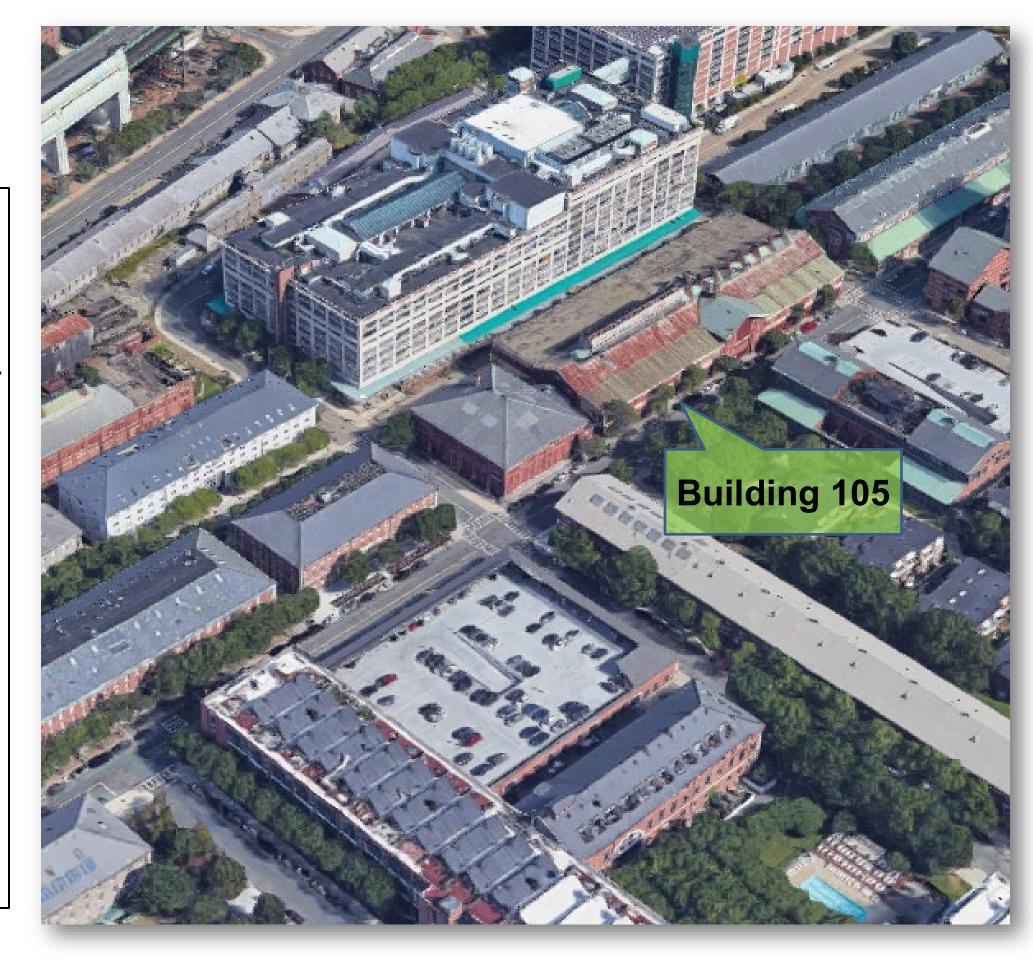
Our mission is to protect, improve, and sustain the natural and built environment to enhance the quality of life.

Our clients are our partners; in our municipal work, we remain sensitive to community concerns and understand the need to minimize impacts to residents, businesses, and visitors.

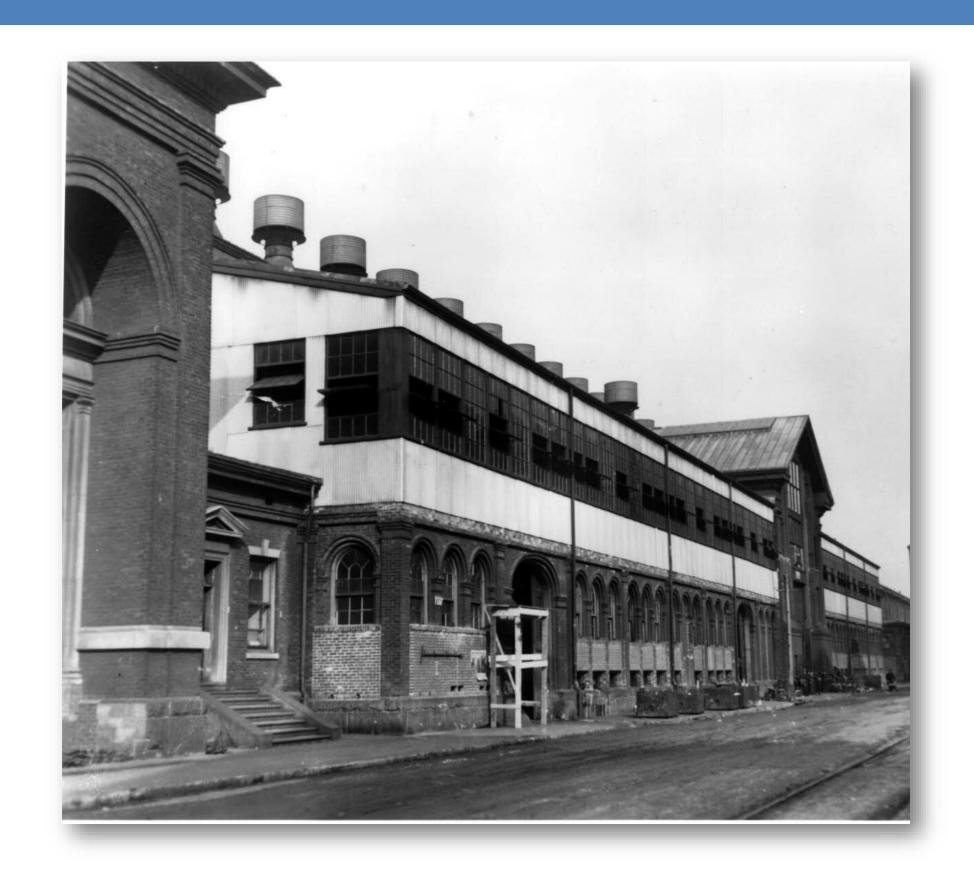
## CHAIN FORGE – BUILDING 105

A **brownfield** is a property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.





## SITE HISTORY



1904-1974: US Navy

Birthplace of the die-lock anchor chain

1974: Transferred from DOD | Vacant

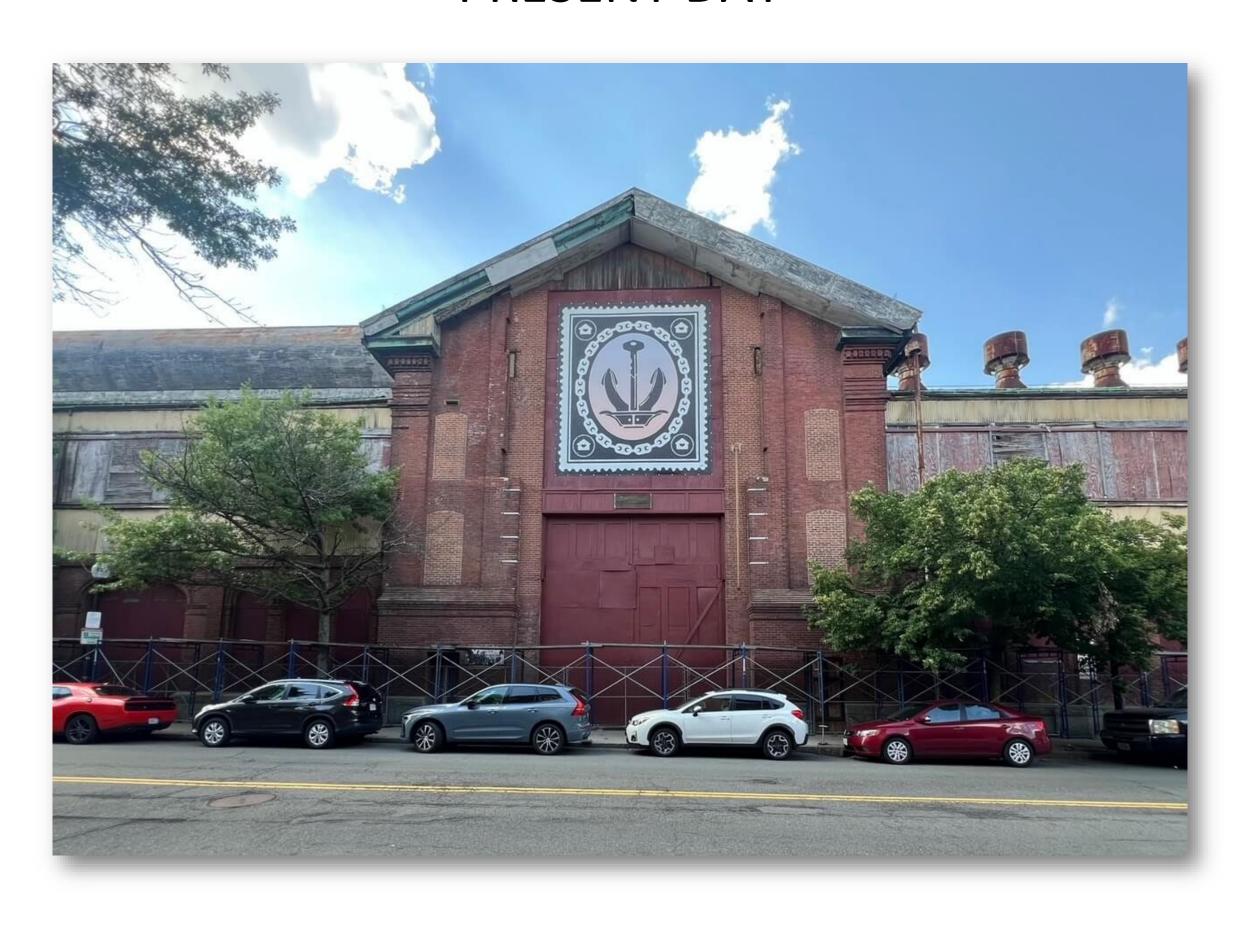
**BRA: Parcel** 

NPS: Equipment

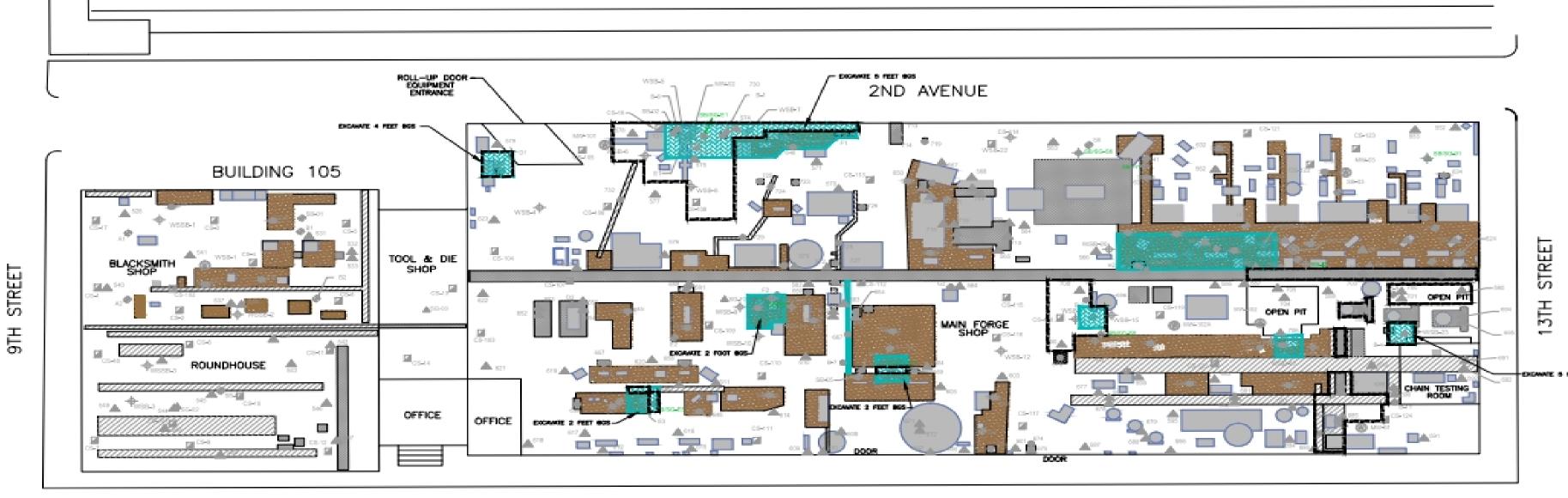
1966: National Historic Landmark & National Register of Historic Places

1992-Present: Regulated by MassDEP and EPA (TSCA)

## PRESENT DAY







#### 1ST AVENUE

LEGEND

#### OPEN TRENCH

STEEL PLATE COVERED TRENCH

AREA OF SOIL FLOOR

DISTING EQUIPMENT

USACOE AND METCALF & EDDY SOIL SAMPLING LOCATION (1992-1995) EXISTING MONITORING WELL LOCATION

STONE & WERSTER SOIL SAMPLING LOCATION (1998-2000)
STONE & WERSTER CONCRETE SAMPLING LOCATION (1998-2000)
WESTON & SAMPSON CONCRETE SAMPLE LOCATION

WESTON & SAMPSON SUB-SLAB WAPOR IMPLANT COMBINED WESTON & SAMPSON SOIL BORING LOCATION AND SOIL GAS LOCATION

WESTON & SAMPSON SOIL BORING LOCATION
WESTON & SAMPSON MONITORING WELL LOCATION
PROPOSED CONCRETE REMOVAL (PORe >50 PPM)
PROPOSED SOIL REMOVAL AREAS (SEE NOTE 7)

#### MOTES:

- 1. BASE MAP TAKEN FROM PLAN TITLED "SITE PLAN" PREPARED BY STONE & WEBSTER INC.
- THE LOCATIONS OF VALUES, TRENCHES AND PITS AND THE CLASSFICATION OF THE FLOGRING TYPES ARE APPROXIMATE. THE INFORMATION IS BASED ON BUILDING DRAWINGS THAT WERE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE (MPS) AND OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND STONE &
- INVENTORY OF PROCESS EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY NPS. EQUIPMENT LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.
- 4. LOCATIONS OF HISTORIC SOIL AND CONCRETE SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE FIGURES PROVIDED IN STONE & WEBSTER'S DATA SUMMARY REPORT DATED OCTOBER 2000 AND THE INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT II DATED AUGUST 2002.
- WESTON & SAMPSON SOIL BORINGS, MONITORING WELLS, CONCRETE SAMPLES AND SOIL WAPOR IMPLANTS INSTALLED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2014 AND MARCH 2015.
- WESTON & SAMPSON CONCRETE SAMPLES COLLECTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015.

7. DEPTH OF EXCAVATION MEASURED IN FEET BELOW THE BOTTOM OF CONCRETE SLAB IN AREAS WHERE THE CONCRETE FLOOR SLAB IS INTACT, AND DEPTH BELOW GROUND SURFACE IN AREAS WITH EXPOSED SOIL FLOOR. DEPTH OF EXCAVATION IS 1 FOOT IN ALL AREAS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. FINAL DEPTHS OF EXCAVATION TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON POST—EXCAVATION CONFIRMATORY VERIFICATION TESTING BESTING TO THE PROPERTY OF THE P

#### DRAFT

FIGURE 9
FORMER CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD
BUILDING NO. 105

SOIL & CONCRETE REMEDIATION PLAI MAY 2015 SCALE: 1" = 16"

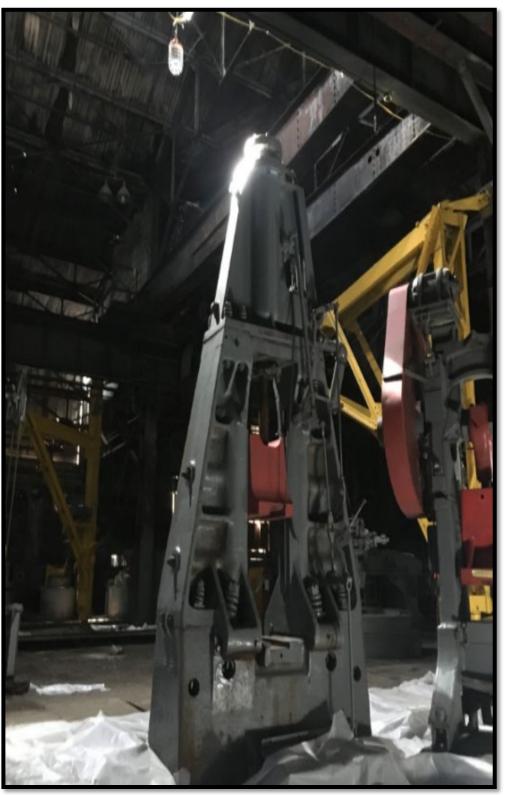
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## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS







Hazardous
Building
Materials (PCBs /
Asbestos / Lead)

Heavy Metals

Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Dioxins / Furans



Remove contaminant exposure pathways and reduce site risk to support future redevelopment



Reduce cost and uncertainty associated with redevelopment



Achieve regulatory closure with an AUL that supports future redevelopment

## Draft ABCA – Cleanup Alternatives

1) No Action

Does Not Meet Cleanup Goal

2) Selective Hazardous Building Materials Abatement & Soil Removal with Cap Installation and Activity & Use Limitation (AUL)

- Meets Cleanup Goals
- Keeps Costs Down by Focusing on Locations and Contaminants Driving Risk

3) Comprehensive Abatement & Soil Removal

- Meets Cleanup Goals
- Very High-Cost Relative to Risk Reduction

## WHAT'S NEXT



Draft ABCA and other grant application documents are available for review at <a href="https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/chain-forge-building-105-disposition-planning">https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/chain-forge-building-105-disposition-planning</a>



Public comments on the grant application and/or ABCA can be submitted to Yoon Cha at <a href="mailto:yoon.cha@boston.gov">yoon.cha@boston.gov</a> by 11:59 PM on November 1, 2024



**Grant Application timeline:** 

- Due November 14, 2024
- Award Announcement by EPA Late Spring 2024
- Funds Awarded October 1, 2025



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# thank you

westonandsampson.com

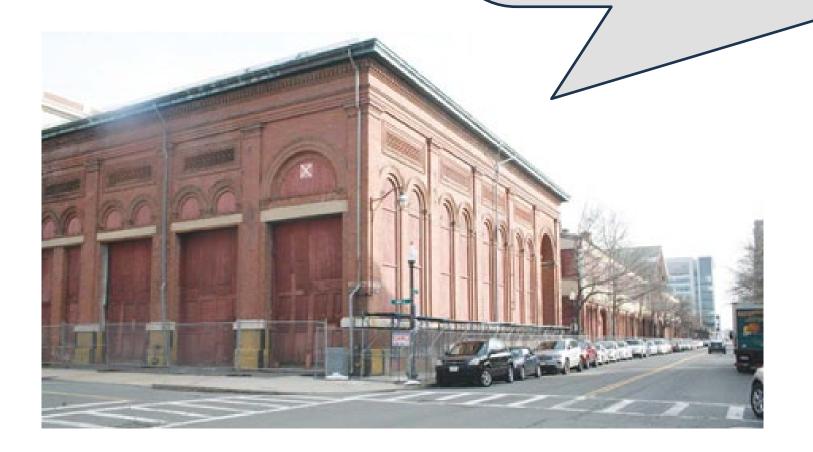


# DISCUSSION

## **DISCUSSION**

#### **POTENTIAL TOPICS**

- Feedback on draft RFP Development Objectives
- Questions/comments about the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant
- Ideas for Urban Design Guidelines & Comparative Evaluation Criteria
- Questions for Planning Department



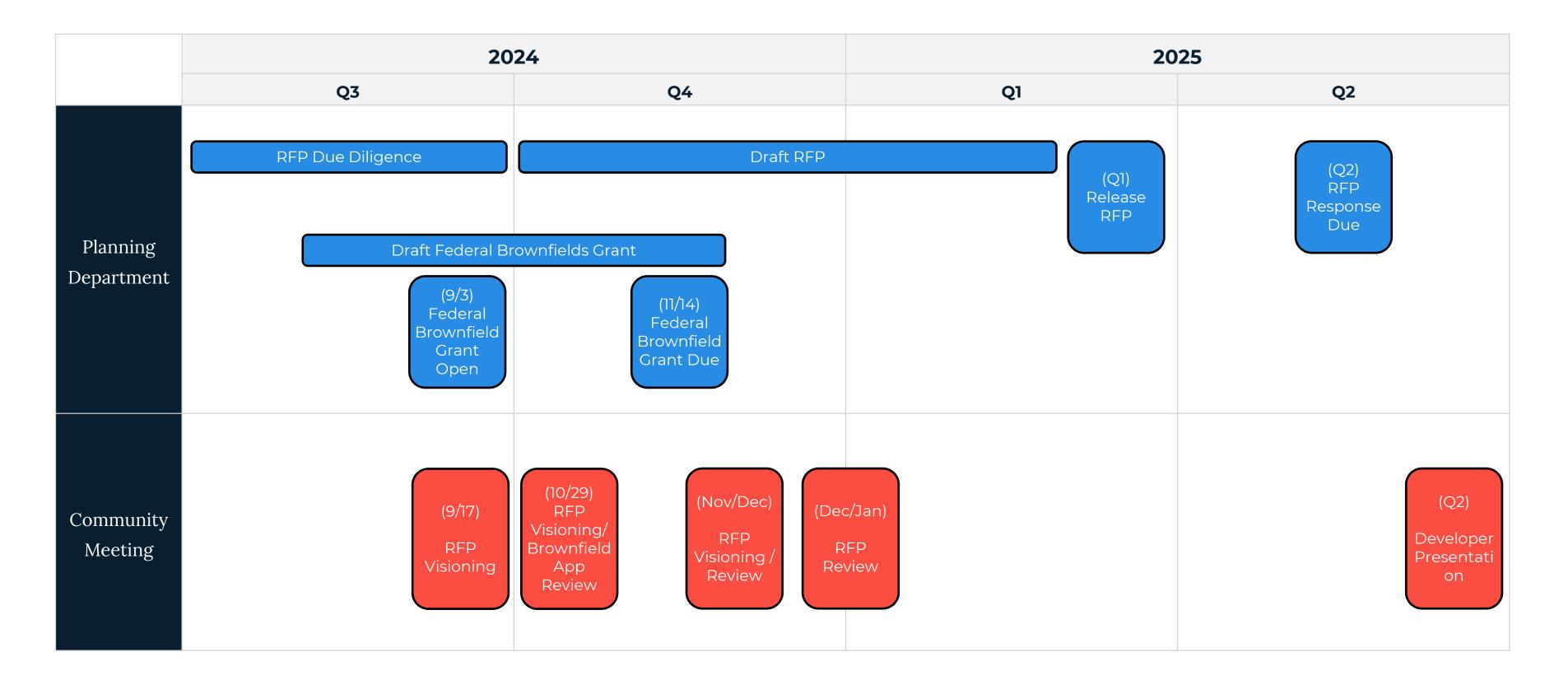


# NEXT STEPS

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## TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS





<sup>\*</sup>Timeline is tentative and subject to change

## **EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT**



Building 105
Former Chain Forge Site
105 1st Avenue
Charlestown, Massachusetts
DRAFT Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)

October 2024

DRAFT Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives
Building 105
Former Chain Forge Site
105 1st Avenue
Charlestown, Massachusetts

#### Introduction & Background

This Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) has been prepared to evaluate cleanup alternatives for Building 105 (also known as the former Chain Forge) property located at 105 1st Avenue in Charlestown, Massachusetts (the Site). This ABCA has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of the Boston Redevelopment Agency's (BRA's) application for a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Site.

#### Site Location

The Site is mostly occupied by an approximately 60,300 square foot (sf) former industrial building located in a developed mixed commercial and residential use area. Building 105 is a multi-story brick building comprised of two main sections that are connected by a small office and storage area. The eastern portion houses the Main Forge Shop (MFS), which is approximately 330-feet long by 135-feet wide, while the western portion contains the former Blacksmith Shop (BS) and Roundhouse (RH), measuring approximately 95-feet long by 110-feet wide.

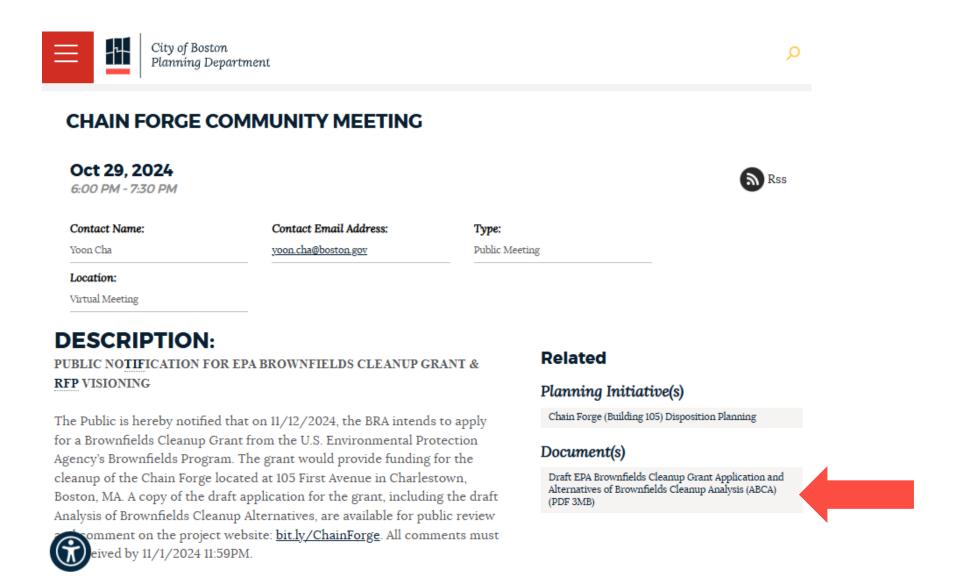
The Site is currently vacant, and access is restricted by a chain link fence, and boarded up windows and doors to prevent trespassing and contain potential releases due to contaminated materials inside the building. The building is mostly empty, except for several historically significant pieces of equipment, furnaces, steel plates, piping, and other miscellaneous building debris associated with former Chain Forge operations. A network of concrete trenches, pits and vaults also exist throughout the building.

The former Chain Forge building currently exhibits evidence of wear or deterioration. Roof gutters and downspouts are damaged or missing throughout, causing mold growth on the brick walls. Cracking and dislodged bricks, along with deteriorated mortar joints, throughout the building contribute to the compromised structural integrity of the building as well as safety risks, including a high risk of falling bricks.

#### 2. Previous Site Use(s) and Any Previous Cleanup / Remediation

Originally constructed between 1900 and 1904, Building 105 was historically used by the United States Navy for the forging of anchor chain and parts until 1974, when the former Charlestown Navy Yard was closed and declared surplus. Following the closure, ownership of Building 105 was transferred to the current property owner, the BRA, while ownership of the former forging equipment and machinery was transferred to the National Parks Services (NPS). During Building 105's seventy years of use by the US Navy, forging operations used materials and produced byproducts that contaminated the building structure, equipment, concrete floor slab, and soil and groundwater beneath the building. Contaminants detected at the Site include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), petroleum hydrocarbons,

Page 1



#### DRAFT APPLICATION (CLICK HERE FOR LINK)

- Public comments must be received by 11/01/2024 to be included in the application
- BRA (Planning Department) will apply for the grant by deadline on 11/14/2024.

## THANK YOU

### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

YOON CHA Real Estate Development Officer

yoon.cha@boston.gov

JAY RUGGIERO Community Engagement Manager

jason.ruggiero@boston.gov

PROJECT WEBISTE <u>bit.ly/ChainForge</u>

Public Comments close 11/01/2024

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING November/December

to further discuss draft RFP



# APPENDIX



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## **HISTORIC PHOTOS**





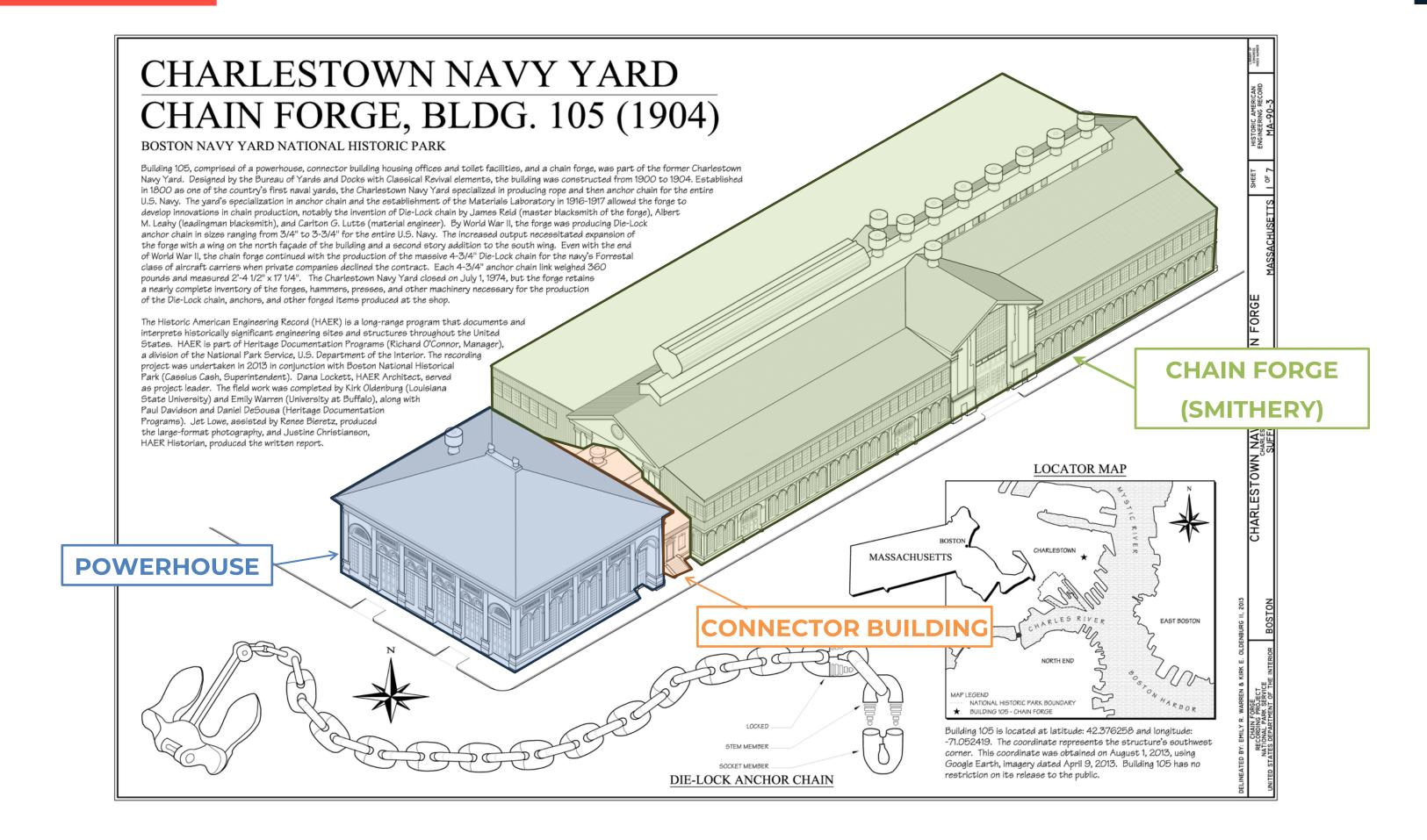


## **HISTORIC PHOTOS**





## **CHAIN FORGE (BUILDING 105)**



CHAIN FORGE (BUILDING 105)

