

WHO WE ARE

Madison Park Development Corporation's community center, The Dewitt Center, opened its doors in Madison Park Village in July 2018 to serve as a **welcoming home** for many MPDC programs for people of **all ages**.

The Dewitt Center features daily programs & classes including **financial literacy, workforce development, Zumba, knitting,** after-school **youth development,** and much more.

The Dewitt Center also features a **state-of-the-art technology lab,** a **summer camp,** and health & wellness programs including **sports & fitness activities in the gym.**

The Dewitt Center is also home to an array of **arts activities** with art classes, events, and a **gallery featuring** exhibitions by **Roxbury artists.**

DEWITT CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday: 10:00 am-8:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Sunday: Closed



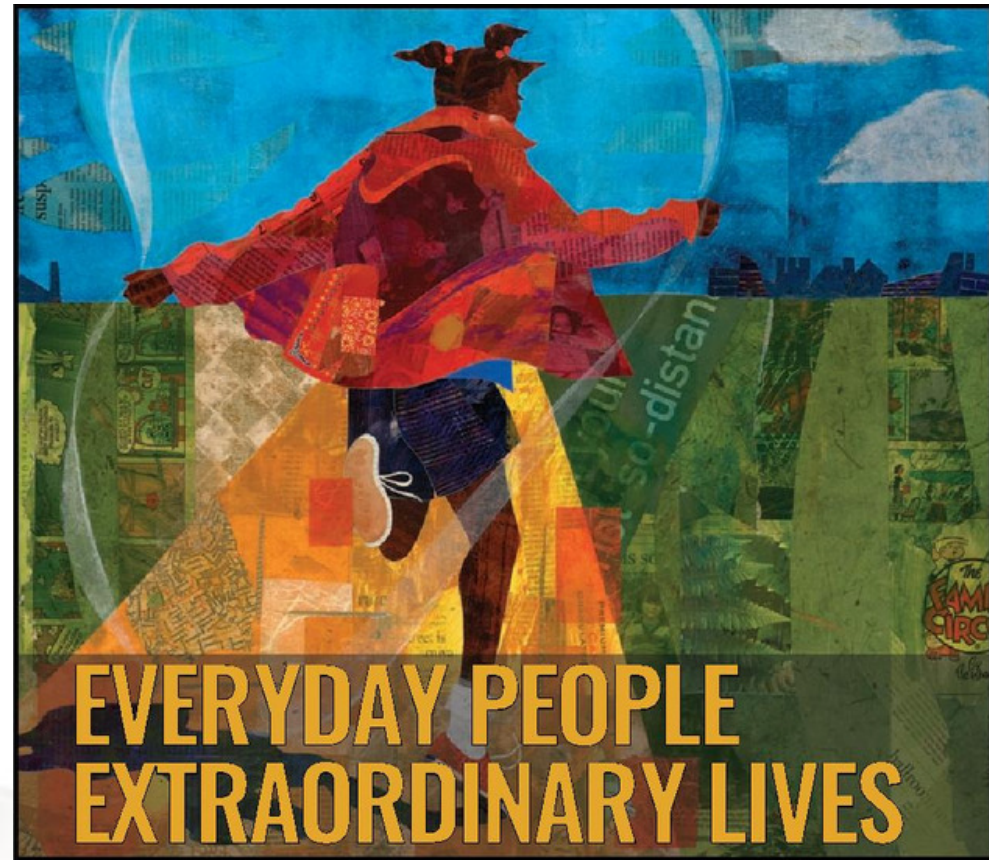
edavis@madison-park.org



<http://bit.ly/DewittCenter>



The Dewitt Center
122 Dewitt Drive
Roxbury, MA 02110
617.275.7080



The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

Self-Guided Tour Companion



Welcome to The Dewitt Center Art Gallery!

ABOUT THE CURATORS

LOLITA PARKER, JR. & LONDON PARKER-MCWHORTER

In collaboration with London Parker McWhorter, Lolita Parker, Jr. curated the Dewitt Center with respect born of combing through archives, listening to stories and above all honoring the elders to whom thier work is dedicated.



Oral Historian, photographer and curator Lolita Parker Jr, seen here with the late C. Vincent Haynes, one of the founding MPDC board members, circa 2001

ABOUT MPDC

At **Madison Park Development Corporation**, we are building healthy communities. **MPDC** is a leading developer of **affordable housing** and one of the largest community development corporations in Massachusetts. We take a multi-dimensional approach to community development by offering **impactful programming for youth development, health and community wellness, public safety, resident leadership, civic engagement, and arts & culture.**

Our mission today remains true to our history—to **foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury** neighborhood that **supports the well-being** and **advancement of the community.**

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Patricia Thaxton (b. 1950)

African Fashion

2014

Reproduction of Mixed Media Collage

ABOUT THE ARTIST

PATRICIA THAXTON

Patricia Thaxton is a Boston based visual artist, fashion designer and educator. She taught for 35 years and retired as the last Home Economics teacher within the Boston Public Schools system.

Following her retirement, she embraced the opportunity to focus on her artwork. Thaxton's work is a collection of ideas and images from sketchbooks dated from the 1970's to the present. She is influenced by moments of everyday life. Her background in family and community development is an evident theme throughout her work.



Wilton Tejada (b. 1994)

The Blue Line

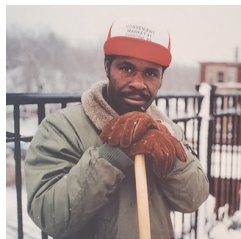
2015

Reproduction of acrylic and resin on canvas



The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



David Akiba (b. 1940)
Snow shoveler, Green St. Station
 1986
 Reproduction of Chromogenic print

Lucilda Dassardo-Cooper
Floating Office
 2008

Reproduction of oil on canvas
 Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public Library
 Print Department



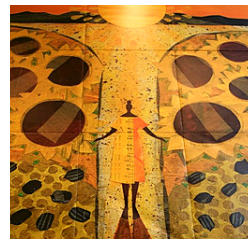
ABOUT THE ARTIST

LUCILDA DESSARDO-COOPER

Lucilda Dassardo-Cooper paints, designs and exhibits her art in the United States, the Caribbean, India and Egypt, countries that traverse the cultural and geographic boundaries of her origin and ancestry. Her layered style in painting reflects her own background as an immigrant whose consciousness retains images of her birthplace alongside those of her adopted country. Lucilda was an instructor at Massachusetts Bay Community College in Wellesley and at Roxbury Community College in Boston. At Fillmore Arts Center, the nation's only art school for elementary and middle school students, she helped to design the visual arts curriculum and directed students in the creation of Underwater World, a ceramic and glass mural. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the D.C. Commission on the Arts, the mural graces the facade of the Hyde School in the Georgetown section of the District of Columbia. Another set of murals, Faces of D.C., were created with faculty and students of Fillmore for the General Services Administration. A graduate of Massachusetts College of Art, Lucilda lives in Boston and retreats to the studio of her own design in Jamaica to paint.

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

FOYER



Ekua Holmes
Flowers for Fannie
 2018
 Reproduction of collage on canvas

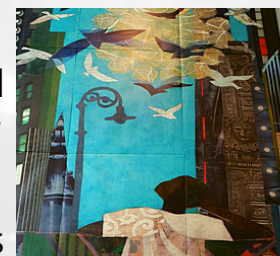
ABOUT THE ARTIST

EKUA HOLMES

Ekua Holmes is a native of Roxbury, MA and a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, who has devoted her practice to sustaining contemporary Black Art traditions in Boston, as an artist, curator of exhibitions, and as an active member of Boston's art community. Currently Holmes serves as Assistant Director of MassArt's Center for Art and Community Partnerships, and manages sparcl! the ArtMobile, the institution's vehicle for community outreach pursuing a mission of "igniting art and design in the neighborhood!"



Ekua Holmes
Big World
 2011
 Reproduction of collage on
 canvas



The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

LOBBY



Ekua Holmes

Free to Be

2008

Giclee print of collage on paper

Limited Edition print (number 5 of 10)

Wilton Tejada (b. 1994)

Broken Music

2016

Reproduction of oil on canvas



Jaypix Belmer (b. 1988)

Neighborhood Soulboy

2010

Photography

ABOUT THE ARTIST

JAYPIX BELMER



Jaypix is a Boston-based documentary photographer whose work captures the “visual soul” of her subjects. Born in Boston, she focuses on the unnoticed people and places in our everyday lives. Her professional style combines innovative design and artistically bold portraits that shine a light on individuals, enabling confidence toward the pursuit of their own vision. Being able to capture a feeling rather than a moment is a unique aesthetic evident throughout her work. Jaypix has an extreme commitment to storytelling. Through dialogue she establishes a strong relationship with the people she photographs, which results in creative image-making.

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Students pose for the camera during an after school computer class

United South End Settlements Records

Courtesy of Northeastern University

Libraries Archives and Special Collections

Beresford St. Clair Corbin (1919-2002)

Kwame Ture Stokley #6

Courtesy of the Artist Estate &
Spectrum Creatives



ABOUT THE GALLERIST

TESSIL COLLINS



A creative director and designer, Tessil Collins produces audio, video and graphic media products. He is a management consultant and educator who advises individuals and organizations on the development of products, services, materials and programs. Tessil is President of Spectrum Broadcasting and producer of the internet music station, Sun-Music.net. He is also the managing director of the Jazz 24/7 online station for WGBH. Born in Boston, Tessil Collins is a graduate of Tufts University and the Boston Latin School. As the media have converged and times have changed, Mr. Collins has emerged as an innovator and leader.

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR

Winifred Irish Hall (1924-2013)
**Four unidentified individuals pose in front
of a dentist's office on Tremont Street**

ca. 1935-1945

Lower Roxbury Black History Project Records
 Courtesy of Cheryl Hall & Northeastern
 University Libraries Archives and Special
 Collections



ABOUT THE ARTIST

WINIFRED IRISH HALL

Winifred Irish Hall, known to her neighborhood friends as “Wini Irish” was born in Boston to William and Lillian Irish in March of 1924. She grew up on Haskins St. and spent much of her pastime with friends in the neighborhood of what is now Madison Park Vocational High School and Madison Park Village! She was an active member of St. Cyprian’s Church until her passing in March of 2013. As a young adult, she enjoyed taking photos of her friends! After church on Sundays, she would head out with her Brownie camera to enjoy an afternoon of “picture taking”!

Her photos captured and unintentionally helped to chronicle the spirit of the neighborhood surrounding Haskins and Ruggles St. in the 1940’s and early 1950’s. Captured in many of her photos is the pride of young neighborhood residents along with their stylish fashion and some of the architecture evident during that time!

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

LOBBY



Rixy Fernandez (b. 1995)

Peek

2017

Reproduction of acrylic, mixed media on canvas

ABOUT THE ARTIST

RIXY FERNANDEZ

Rixy is a Boston-based artist, freelancing and instructing Visual Arts, aiding in our creative and therapeutic healing. In her personal work, she conceptualizes feminine forms with several illustrative touches. These images speak on physical fluidity, emotional behaviors, and street senses, all intertwined with urban growth; she sculpts work that shape a sense of selves. Her interdisciplinary mixed media work ranges between 2D images, to interactive installations, and Public/Street Art – created to tell infinite stories of divine energy via the same intentions cartoons have had. The image “Peek” is the visualization of a neighborhood child, peeking to see their way through to their desire – or find their friend in “Hide & Seek”.

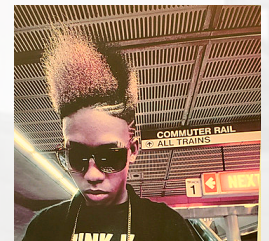


Jaypix Belmer (b. 1988)

Forest Hills Plat

2011

photography



Stephen Hamilton (b. 1987)

Osetura

2017

Reproduction of acrylic on canvas
 From Itan: Part 1

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

LOBBY



Cagen Luse (b. 1976)
Dot Bike
2012
Digital Illustration

ABOUT THE ARTIST CAGEN LUSE

Cagen Luse is a visual artist and entrepreneur. He is the artist and author of LunchTime ComiX, a comic series about life, love, family, and the issues people of color face in today's world. The Series has been published in the local Alt-weekly DIG Boston and various social media platforms. He also runs his own business, 950design, (950design.com) that produces hand-made items such as tee shirts, art prints, buttons, and note cards featuring his original art work. Cagen is also the co-host of Comics in Color, (comicsincolor.org) a monthly meet-up of enthusiasts, artists, and writers of comics by and about people of color.



Peter Bass (b. 1986)
Sky Color Study #75
2016

Reproduction of watercolor on paper



Peter Bass (b. 1986)
Dudley Station
2016
Reproduction of acrylic and resin on canvas

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Jack Lueders-Booth (b. 1935)
F. Jackson Movers Inc. Boston, MA
ca. 1985-1987
Reproduction of silver gelatin print
Courtesy of the Artist & Gallery Kayafas Boston

Winifred Irish Hall (1924-2013)
Miscellaneous Portraits
ca. 1935-1946

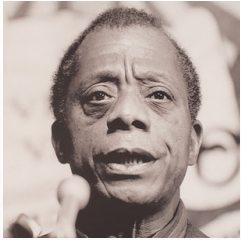
Lower Roxbury Black History Project
Records

Courtesy of Cheryl Hall & Northeastern
University Libraries Archives and Special
Collections



Charles H. Bruce (1884-1975)
**Group photograph in front of the South
End Lease Hold Real Estate
Improvement Co**
ca. 1910
Courtesy of Northeastern University
Libraries Archives and Special Collections

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery SECOND FLOOR



James Baldwin, the opening speaker at a Black History Month event

February 13, 1986

Reproduction of silver gelatin print
Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public
Library Print Department

Junction of Washington Street and Warren Street, Ferdinand Building

Boston Landmarks Commission Image
City of Boston Archives, Boston



Pete Souza (b. 1954)

President Barack Obama and Massachusetts Governor, White House

February 28, 2012

Official White House Photo
President Barack Obama and Massachusetts
Gov. Deval Patrick listen as students from
Orchard Gardens K-8 School in Roxbury,
Mass., perform Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I
Have a Dream" speech in the Diplomatic
Reception Room of the White House

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery SECOND FLOOR



Ekuia Holmes

Golden

ca. 2009

Reproduction of collage on canvas

Keitha L. Hassell (b. 1960)
1988

What's Next Under Northampton Station

Reproduction of color photograph



ABOUT THE ARTIST KEITHA L HASSELL

Keitha "Llyn" Hassell has a Bachelor of Fine Art in Art from Howard University. A native of Boston, she is a photographer who has enjoyed local artist association membership over the years. Of note is her series on the old elevated Orange Line particularly in Lower Roxbury. The project began in 1987 and continued to capture the Silver Line "Rapid Transit Bus" in 1991. A large piece was installed for months in collaboration with FIGMENT Boston at Bartlett Yard, Roxbury, in 2013. Exhibition includes group shows and solo exhibits. In Boston at the Mayor's Gallery (2010) and the Scollay Square Gallery (2000), Art in the Park exhibits in Roxbury and Copley Square; Roxbury Community College Resnikoff Gallery (2008); both the Chelsea and Charlestown Campuses of Bunker Hill Community College; and the Grove Hall and Dudley branches of the Boston Public Library. Group exhibit locations also include Roxbury Open Studios, the Piano Factory, Haley House Bakery Café, LynnArts, Providence, RI, Springfield, MA, and Washington, DC

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Yohansy Garcia (*b. 1990*)
**Aerial Drone Photographs of Madison
 Park & Dudley Square**
 2017

Vinnie Haynes (1921-2003)
**Boston Dodgers Baseball Team at Carter
 Playground**
ca. 1960
 Courtesy of the Estate of C. Vincent Haynes



Spencer Grant (*b. 1944*)
**TV Cameraman covers baseball game at Fenway
 Park, Boston**
 1975
 Photograph
 Spencer Grant Collection
 Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public Library Print
 Department

Winifred Irish Hall (1924-2013)
Miscellaneous Portraits
ca. 1935-1947
 Lower Roxbury Black History Project Records
 Courtesy of Cheryl Hall & Northeastern University
 Libraries Archives and Special Collections



The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



**75th anniversary Ruggles Street Baptist Church,
 1870-1945. Roxbury Mass. Banquet & roll call**
November 14, 1945
 Reproduction of photographic print
 Courtesy of Boston Public Library Print Department

Charles H. Bruce (1884-1975)
**Group portrait, young women and football
 players**
ca. 1910

Charles H. Bruce Photograph Collection
 Courtesy of Northeastern University Libraries
 Archives and Special Collections



David Akiba (*b. 1940*)
Dudley Station
 1986

Reproduction of Chromogenic print
 Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public Library
 Print Department

ABOUT THE ARTIST

DAVID AKIBA

David Akiba was one of five photographers who were commissioned to photograph the Elevated Orange Line and its environs from 1985-87. Each photographer was accompanied on their shooting days by a photo student from Heg Robinson's photography class at the Hubert Humphrey Vocational Center. Over 300 photographs by the photographers and the students may be accessed on the Digital Commonwealth website, www.digitalcommonwealth.org. Search for "Along the Elevated."

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Linda Swartz
Near Dudley Square
1985

Reproduction of silver gelatin print
Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public
Library Print Department

Charles H. Bruce (1884-1975)
**Nine Freemasons pose for a group
photograph**
ca. 1910

Charles H. Bruce Photograph Collection
Courtesy of Northeastern University
Libraries Archives and Special Collections



Jack Lueders-Booth (b. 1935)
Two female MBTA employees
ca. 1985-1987

Reproduction of silver gelatin print
Courtesy of the Artist & Gallery Kayafas
Boston

The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Linda Swartz
Northampton Station
1986

Reproduction of silver gelatin print
Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public
Library Print Department

Kevin Bernardez (b. 1994)
Summer Time Memory Lane
2017

Digital Photography
Courtesy of the SELCOUTH SZN Artist



Walter Clark (b. 1954)
Ralph: A Portrait of Ralph Dewitt Smith
2018

ABOUT THE ARTIST

WALTER B. CLARK

Walter Clark, a renowned artist, hails from Roxbury. His work includes African masks, abstract steel sculpture, water colors, aesthetic steel furniture, as well as pencil drawings. Clark's prolific body of work illustrates the pride and enduring strength of African-American experience and African diaspora.



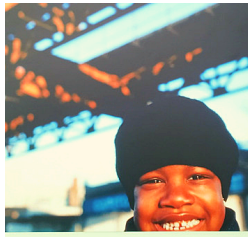
The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Lower Roxbury Community Corporation Logo
ca. 1966
 Lower Roxbury Community Corporation Records
 Courtesy of Northeastern University Libraries
 Archives and Special Collections

Lou Jones (b. 1945)
Girl on Washington Street at MBTA Elevated
Orange Line
1987
 Reproduction print of Kodachrome slide film
 35mm



Four girls smile and embrace in an athletic field in Roxbury, at a recreational sporting event sponsored by La Alianza Hispana
ca. 1970
 La Alianza Hispana Records
 Courtesy of Northeastern University Libraries
 Archives and Special Collections

Jack Lueders-Booth (b. 1935)
Six young people stand, some wearing shirts that read, Boston Redevelopment Authority Summer
'86
1986
 Reproduction of silver gelatin print
 Courtesy of the Artist & Gallery Kayafas Boston



The Dewitt Center Art Gallery

SECOND FLOOR



Charles H. Bruce (1884-1975)
Men and women pose in car (facing left)
ca. 1910
 Charles H. Bruce Photograph Collection
 Courtesy of Northeastern University Libraries
 Archives and Special Collections

Linda Swartz
Washington St. at Dudley Sq
1986
 Reproduction of silver gelatin print
 Courtesy of the Artist & Boston Public Library Print
 Department



ABOUT THE ARTIST

LINDA SWARTZ

Linda Swartz was active as a documentary photographer from the late 1970s through the early 1990s. Major projects included photographing the last years of the Columbia Point housing project in Dorchester, MA, and the conception, development, and administration of the project to document neighborhoods, residents, and ridership along Boston's elevated Orange Line subway system. Her work has been exhibited at the Rose Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, IL, the Creative Photography Gallery at M.I.T., and many other venues, and is in several public and private collections including the Rose Art Museum and the Boston Public Library. Ms. Swartz studied photography at Project Art Center in Cambridge, MA, the Maine Photographic Workshops, and the Art Institute of Boston. She currently lives in Brookline, MA, with Chuck, her husband of forty-six years.