



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2010

Contacts: Allentza Michel at mytown
617- 536-8696 ext 15
Jeffrey Gonyeau at Historic Boston
617-227-4679



Fields Corner Collaborative Launches MyDotTour Fields Corner Walking Tours on Dorchester Day Weekend

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Fields Corner Collaborative Members:

*Dorchester Environmental
Health Coalition*

*Dorchester Historical
Society*

Dotwell

*Fields Corner Main Street,
Inc.*

*Historic Boston
Incorporated*

Mytown Inc

*Vietnamese American Civic
Association*

The Fields Corner Collaborative, in partnership with **mytown**, is pleased to announce the launch of the first annual **MyDotTour** in Dorchester on Saturday, June 5th, 2010. The tours are 1-hour long informational, youth-led walking tours—the first of their kind in Dorchester. Tours also will be run, by appointment only, each Saturday during the month of June.

The Fields Corner Collaborative is a collective of community groups whose goal is to empower youth and community through celebrating Dorchester and Fields Corner's multicultural history. **mytown** is a citywide youth organization that employs teens to design and lead historical walking tours of Boston neighborhoods. **MyDotTour** represents a unique opportunity to engage new constituencies—including youth, local service agencies and non-profits, history and preservation organizations, and neighborhood residents and business owners—in learning about the rich history of Fields Corner, honoring the achievements of its diverse cultures, and promoting neighborhood pride. (For details on the history of the Collaborative, please see the 2nd page of this release.)

MyDotTour youth have created the content of the tour by selecting the sites to highlight, researching their history, and writing scripts to deliver at each tour stop. Tour goers will learn how African American, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Vietnamese, and many other groups came together to build a thriving business district and will see newly identified historic buildings, including the 215 year-old home of the Field family, after whom the district is named.

The tours, which last approximately 1 hour, begin in the lobby of the Fields Corner T station, where a registration table will be set up. The two tours begin promptly at 10:00am and 1:00pm. The suggested ticket price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. (All ticket sales proceeds are used to support **MyDotTour**'s innovative youth programming in Dorchester.) Register in advance by calling 617-536-8696, ext. 15, or in person on the day of the tours. Tours will also be run by appointment only each Saturday during June.

Show your commitment to neighborhood pride and Dorchester youth by taking a **MyDotTour** tour or by joining our list of generous financial supporters (see list attached)! **Questions?** Call Allentza Michel at 617-536-8696, ext. 15, or Jeffrey Gonyeau at 617-227-4679.

#



**Fields Corner
Collaborative
Members:**

*Dorchester Environmental
Health Coalition*

*Dorchester Historical
Society*

Dotwell

*Fields Corner Main Street,
Inc.*

*Historic Boston
Incorporated*

Mytown Inc

*Vietnamese American Civic
Association*

More about MyDotTour and the Fields Corner Collaborative

Historic Boston Incorporated (HBI) has been working in Fields Corner since 2008 as part of its Historic Neighborhood Centers Program. HBI's primary partners in the neighborhood are Fields Corner Main Street and Viet-AID. One of the goals of the program is to increase knowledge of and appreciation for community history and to build new constituencies for historic preservation.

In light of this, HBI and its local partners reached out to **mytown** to determine whether **mytown** could expand its successful youth development program beyond its primary service area in Boston's South End. These partners then reached out to a variety of organizations working in Fields Corner to plan a partnership involving Fields Corner history.

In the spring of 2009, **mytown** led a focus group with youth participants from several Fields Corner youth programs. The participants named many issues in their community that they wanted to address and listed several history related projects they were interested in having developed into programming, including youth-led tours. They also wished for more opportunities for youth from these different programs and backgrounds to come together, as they found many of their interests and project suggestions were similar.

Based on this, the partner organizations formed the Fields Corner Collaborative in order to continue planning for the programming that youth identified, and to serve as a platform for new collaborations among these several groups, many of which had not worked together closely before. Members of the Collaborative include:

Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC)

Dorchester Historical Society

Dotwell

Fields Corner Main Street, Inc.

Historic Boston Incorporated

mytown

Vietnamese-American Civic Association (VACA)

The group has forged ahead, and the members have devoted youth, funding, technical assistance, historical data, curriculum support, fundraising assistance, and meeting space, materials, and tools to this effort. The Collaborative launched a weekly youth training program in Fields Corner based on **mytown** models in January 2010. Since then, the participating youth have created and developed **MyDotTour**, which consists of 1-hour long informational, youth-led walking tours—the first of their kind in Dorchester—which will be formally debuted on June 5, 2010.

#



**Fields Corner
Collaborative
Members:**

*Dorchester Environmental
Health Coalition*

*Dorchester Historical
Society*

Dotwell

*Fields Corner Main Street,
Inc.*

*Historic Boston
Incorporated*

Mytown Inc

*Vietnamese American Civic
Association*

MyDotTour Wishes to Thank Its Generous Financial Supporters:

Ashmont Hill Association

Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC)

Dorchester Historical Society

Dotwell

City Councilor Maureen Feeney

Fields Corner Main Street, Inc.

Historic Boston Incorporated

Mass Humanities

McCormack Civic Association

Mount Washington Bank

mytown Inc.

Trinity Financial

Upham's Corner West Side Association

Vietnamese-American Civic Association

State Representative Martin Walsh

All contributions, grants, and ticket sales proceeds support **MyDotTour's innovative youth programming in Dorchester. To become a supporter, please call Allentza at 617-536-8696 ext. 15.**

#