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Party Planners,
Black-Tie Secrets
& Much More!

Kathryn Hahn

FROM FUNNY GIRL TO LEADING LADY

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ

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November 2018 Issue
Circulation: 49,299

SOCIETY & CULTURE

hot list



THE HOT LIST

It's time for our annual guide to Boston's best event planners, black-tie clothiers, galas and more!

By Erica Corsano

PUBLIC ART STILL RULES

The Punto Urban Art Museum is a social justice public arts program run by North Shore Community Development Coalition (northshorecdc.org). The museum's mission is to break down the stigma directed at the Point neighborhood in Salem. Visitors can experience 75 murals by international street artists within a three-block radius, the vast majority of which have been completed on historic buildings owned and operated by NSCDC as deed-restricted affordable housing. This program is unique in that the addition of stunning, world-class murals will not mean the displacement of this dynamic immigrant community. To further its cause, the organization will host The Art Party this spring at the NSCDC's dramatic, historic 7,000-square-foot loft, the Point. The space itself is a must-see; this home to NSCDC's offices is also a stunning gallery of street art.

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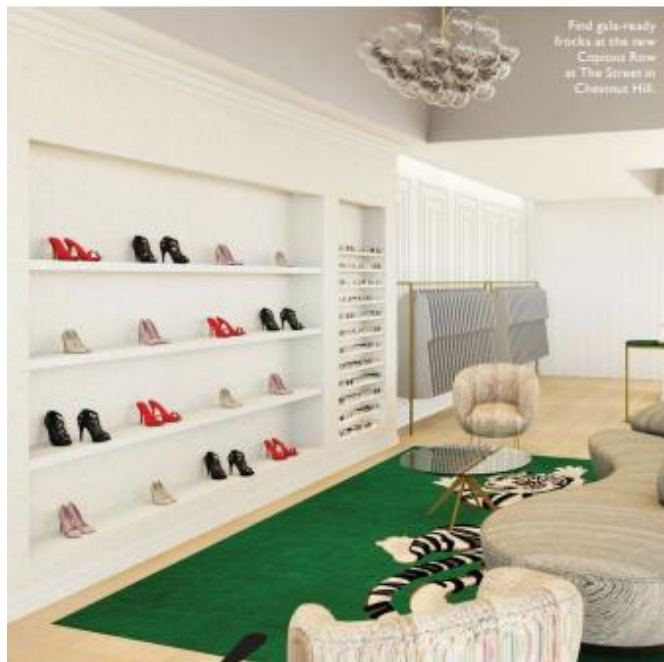
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STAR POWER Boston's red carpet this year could almost rival Hollywood with celebrity sightings. October's King Legacy Night at the MFA (produced by AJ Williams) featuring Earth, Wind & Fire, Taylor Dayne, Esperanza Spalding, Harry Belafonte and others was a clear example of Boston's star power. Or, take this year's Wonderball to benefit the Boston's Children Museum Nov 17. The educational establishment will be transformed for an exquisite celebration with guest masters of ceremonies Giuliana and Bill Rancic, and co-chairs Sam and Jessica Slater and Alex and Lianne Leventhal. As far as local celebrities (or sports gods) go, The Breast Cancer Research Foundation's Boston Hot Pink Party returns April 23, 2019 to the InterContinental Boston. This year's Carolyn Lynch Humanitarian Award will be presented to Linda Holliday and Bill Belichick for their unwavering support of BCRF over the years and their commitment to philanthropy through the Bill Belichick Foundation.

PUNTO URBAN ART MUSEUM PHOTO BY JACQUELINEY



3 SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE! It's no surprise that one of Boston's best dance parties involves some of the world's best professional dancers. The Boston Ballet Ball (bostonballet.org) is the esteemed organization's signature fundraising event. The black-tie soiree, scheduled for Feb. 2, gives patrons a chance to get up close and personal with company dancers via a series of live performances and a killer DJ bash where ballerinas bust serious moves among guests on the dance floor. Cocktails, dinner and live auctions are also part of the evening's festivities, but the real highlight is being part of the epic boogie-down session.



Find gala-ready frocks at the new Copious Row at The Street in Chestnut Hill.

BOSTON WINTER BALL PHOTO BY BLENK STUDIOS; NATASHA VERMA PHOTO BY TONY STEPHEN

4 A NEW HOME FOR GETTING GALA-GLAMMED

The Street in Chestnut Hill recently welcomed luxury boutique Copious Row (copiousrow.com), a chic new destination for women's ready-to-wear, fine and fashion jewelry and accessories. With outposts in Southampton and Greenwich, some jet-set Bostonians are already well-acquainted with the hard-to-find, unique pieces from Giambattista Valli, Brock Collection and Brandon Maxwell.

The shop also boasts a vast collection of necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings by designers like Delfina Delettrez, Raphaelle Cator, Walters Faith and more. "With our unique edit and point of view, we offer items that aren't available at other retailers," says CEO and Creative Director David Chimes. "Through our exclusive designer assortment and expert styling, shopping at Copious Row will ensure you are the belle of the ball for your next gala."



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

NBC Boston reporter and anchor Natasha Verma is making major waves in the HUB. The cancer survivor recently founded the Verma Foundation (vermafoundation.org), which raises money to provide high-quality cap wigs for those undergoing cancer treatment. She hosted Capwalk Boston in September, which saw New England Patriots Troy Brown, Devin McCourty, Rob Ninkovich and Duron Harmon, and WBC champ Heather Hardy, strut down a runway in cap wigs and looks from Lord & Taylor to raise money for Verma's efforts.

HAPPY TIN YEAR

The Boston Winter Ball (bostonwinterball.com) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year thanks to founders Alex Bain, Mike Kapos and Mike Huffstetler, who aim to bring together young, like-minded area influencers to leverage their connections and make a difference in causes they believe in. Proceeds from their fabulous, annual bash (held Feb. 9 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza) go to the Corey C. Griffin foundation, which supports area youth with scholarships and extended-stay facilities for families of Children's Hospital's long-term patients. The 2017 event raised a whopping \$1.2 million for the cause.





Interior designer Patrick Planeta with Mousa and Santiago Varela

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FURRY FRIENDS

Boston's philanthropy scene continues to grow in all kinds of new directions. This includes a crop of young do-gooders taking this town by storm. Interior designer Patrick Planeta (planetadesigngroup.com) is one to watch. The stylish dog lover recently co-chaired the MSPCA's annual Raise the Woof event and will continue to come up with creative programming throughout the year like Project Barkway, a spring fashion show, and Dogs on Deck, their annual summer "barktail" party.

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FIERCE FEMALES

Female event planners are on the rise. Among others, Julie Freed, Amy Kimball, Tamar Salter Frieze, Jen Hawkins and Tiffany Beer create, collaborate and congregate—all while running their own successful businesses.



"There are a handful of us—many with young children—who have paid our dues working for larger agencies in the event industry and are now off on our own.

There is plenty of business to go around, so we choose to connect and support each other rather than feel like competitors," explains Julie Freed of Freed Events. Whether that means sharing resources or even referring business, these powerhouse planners recognize and appreciate the ambition in one another.

**GREEN ORGS:
NEW LIFE**

Boston preserves its public green spaces with a vengeance.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (emeraldnecklace.org) launched a remarkable outdoor art installation this summer in collaboration with rock star curator Jen Mergel and artist Fujiko Nakaya to create *Fog x FLO*, an exhibition of "fog sculptures" in five sites along the historic urban parks in celebration of the organization's 20th anniversary.

The Friends of the Public Garden (friendsofthepublicgarden.org) celebrated the 21st anniversary of its annual Green and White Ball last spring (the next one is April 26) at Four Seasons Hotel Boston. Designed by Marc Hall, the event room was filled with chic palm decor and raised much-needed funds (\$650,000, to be exact) to provide care for the Boston Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.



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TRENDY CASH

Founded in 2012, Dipjar (dipjar.com) was initially designed for credit card tipping at coffee shops but has evolved into working for nonprofits to help people make donations. Found at various nonprofit events in Boston and across the country, Dipjars allow for fast donating by just dipping your credit card into one of their devices, a unique one-step donation process that doesn't need to feel like a transaction. In three seconds, your donation is processed and you are greeted with lights and sounds that make every gift special. Dipjars are mainly used at events for raffles, wine pulls, pure donation asks, merchandise sales and registration fees.

More than 2,000 charities, such as United Way and Dress for Success, as well as many small nonprofits, have gotten in on the action.



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FLO x FLO PHOTO BY FELISA OSTROW; PATRICK PLANETA PHOTO BY ROBERT TORRES

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Patrick Planeta
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