

Office of Global Programs

April 5th, 2024



KEEPING UP WITH THE BEACONS

YOUR GUIDE TO (UMASS) BOSTON'S
CULTURAL SCENE
REMINDERS, & UPDATES FROM THE
OFFICE OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Hello Beacons! I hope your semester is treating you well, and that you are enjoying Boston! Spring is finally here meaning our days have more sunlight and the city is in bloom! We want you to make the most out of Boston's spring, so here are some events and attractions we believe you will enjoy.

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Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University



Home to more than 15,000 plants from over 4,000 different species, the Arnold Arboretum in Boston is considered one of the best arboretums in North America! Several of the plant species are endangered or even extinct in the wild. Head to the arboretum with a group to see beautiful blooms or even attend one of their many annual events like Lilac Sunday on May 12th.

When: Monday through Sunday, 7 am – 9 pm, Lilac Sunday May 12th

Where: 125 Arborway, Boston, MA

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take Bus 16 to Forest Hills via South Bay Center—this bus runs every 30 minutes. Get off at the Forest Hills stop and walk about 15 minutes.

Tickets: Free of charge!

“Le Bleu Du Caftan” Screening



Join the Aga Khan Documentation Center, MIT, and Boston’s Center for Arabic Culture for a Moroccan film screening titled “Le Bleu Du Caftan/The Blue Caftan” with a discussion and guest speaker after! The film is in Arabic with English subtitles.

When: Friday, April 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Where: Room 4-237 at MIT, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at the Kendall/MIT stop.

Tickets: Free of charge!

Kelleher Rose Garden



Did you know there are hundreds of varieties of roses? The Kelleher Rose Garden in Boston's Fenway neighborhood is home to over 200 varieties of roses and home to over 1,500 plants!

When: Open 7 am—5 pm during the week and 10 am—5 pm on the weekends.

Where: 73 Park Drive, Boston, MA

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at Park Street and transfer to the Green Line, E towards Heath Street. Get off at the Museum of Fine Arts stop. Walk about ten minutes.

Tickets: Free of charge!

Arabic Festival and Bookfair



Join Boston's Center for Arabic Culture for the 10th Arabic Festival and Bookfair! This event features everything from poetry readings to Arab fashion to food vendors. The Boston Dabke Troupe will also be performing! This is an event you won't want to miss.

When: Saturday, April 27th, 3 – 9 pm.

Where: 191 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at Park Street and transfer to the Green Line, E inbound to Medford/Tufts. Get off at Magoun Square and walk for 8 minutes.
Tickets: Free of charge!

Japanese Festival Boston 2024



Learn about Japanese culture and food, from incense appreciation to tea ceremonies and try delicious cuisine like traditional ramen and more from the many Japanese (locally based and based out of Japan) booths!

When: 11 am – 5 pm April 27th – April 28th

Where: Boston Common, 16 Charles Street

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at the Park Street stop and you are in the Commons.

Tickets: Free to attend! ...But bring spending money for goodies from the vendors!

Commuter Appreciation Day!



UMass Boston is once again celebrating its commuter students before the end of the semester. Stop by the Campus Center Terrace for some snacks and cool swag. Relax and have a massage from a massage expert or take a massage chair for a spin. Take your chances to win at the IKEA table!

When: Tuesday April 30th @ 11am – 12pm

Where: Campus Center Terrace

Tickets: Free to attend!

Cambridge Dumpling Festival



Can you imagine tens of thousands of dumplings all at once, combined with traditional Chinese dancing? The Cambridge Dumpling Festival presents attendees with so many kinds of dumplings and a strong Asian theme.

When: May 18th

Where: Central Square, Cambridge

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at the Central Square stop and you have arrived.

Tickets: Free to attend!...But bring spending money for goodies from the vendors

Spanish Conversation Hour



Come and practice your Spanish, meet people, and enjoy fun activities! All levels (and native Spanish speakers) welcome. Hosted on Thursday afternoons.

When: Every Thursday, until May 2nd from 1pm – 3pm

Where: Global Programs Campus Center 2100

Rent a Kayak, Canoe, or Paddleboard



When: Open by appointment seven days a week, beginning the first weekend of May (tentative date).

Where: 15 Broad Canal Way, Cambridge, MA 02142

Directions: From the JFK/UMass station, take the Red Line inbound to Alewife. Get off at the Kendall/MIT stop and walk for five minutes.

Tickets: Reservations are required for harbor rentals <https://paddleboston.com/>. Rates vary by boat choice and number of hours.

French Conversation Hour



Come and practice your French, meet people, and enjoy yourself! All levels (and native French speakers) welcome.

When: Every Friday from 1pm – 2pm, until May 3rd

Where: Global Programs, Campus Center

Atwa Jaber Lecture by UMB and MASSART



Join this public lecture titled “Dispersed Memories of a Fading Past: The Israeli Occupation of the Jordan Valley Remembered Through Oral History” by Atwa Jaber, a professor in Geneva, followed by a conversation with Rabea Eghbariah, a Palestinian attorney, and UMB professor Rania Said.

When: Wednesday, April 17th 1 – 3 pm

Where: UMass Boston, McCormack Theater, 2nd floor of McCormack Hall