

# The West End Museum

150 STANIFORD STREET, SUITE 7, BOSTON, MA 02114

## **New Exhibit Traces Evolution of Boston's Bridges; Unveils Old Face of City**

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Boston, MA—On January 15, *Connections North: Bridges of the West End* opens at the [West End Museum](http://www.thewestendmuseum.org) and will run through April 20, 2013 in the Main Exhibit Hall. The opening reception takes place from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on January 22, and complimentary light refreshments will be served. Both the exhibit and the reception are free and open to the public. Related films, walking tours, family workshops and lectures will occur throughout the run of the show. Concurrent program details can be found at [www.thewestendmuseum.org/whatson.html](http://www.thewestendmuseum.org/whatson.html).

*Connections North* tells a story that spans 300 years—from the time when Harvard College's main source of income was the Charlestown ferry, through present-day Boston and the \$253 million Longfellow Bridge reconstruction project. The exhibit reveals how the progression of bridges changed not just the area immediately surrounding the Charles River, but the entire face of the city.

“Historically, bridges are a very revealing indicator of the issues faced by a society,” says exhibition curator Duane Lucia. “Is a bridge a private investment? Should it have a toll or should it be free to all? Should it be purely practical or should it be making an artistic statement? Bridges are more than just a way to cross the river: they have social implications, too.”

*Connections North* delves into the social, economic, architectural and geographic impact of the first four bridges built from Boston's West End: the Charles River Bridge, West Boston Bridge, Canal Bridge and Warren Bridge. These structures opened up new markets for goods and enabled expansion along with residential and commercial development. In many ways, they were game-changers for the city. The exhibition features many historical pictures and maps that reveal the original shape of Boston (before it was filled in during the land-making programs of the 19th century) and recounts how the dynamic of transport was key to that evolution.

*Connections North: Bridges of the West End* is free and open to the public during regular Museum hours: Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.TheWestEndMuseum.org](http://www.TheWestEndMuseum.org) or call 617-723-2125.

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### **About the West End Museum:**

*The West End Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation and interpretation of the history and culture of Boston's West End neighborhood. The Museum's permanent exhibit, The Last Tenement, highlights the immigrant history of the neighborhood through its decimation under Urban Renewal in 1959; two additional galleries feature rotating exhibits. Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00pm - 5:00pm; Saturday 11:00am - 4:00pm. The Museum is located near North Station at 150 Staniford Street, Suite 7. Admission is free.*

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