

walkBoston

Waterfront walking connections

Terrific routes—via land and harbor—lead to the Institute of Contemporary Art [ICA]. We've highlighted waterfront art installations along interesting walking routes from MBTA stations. Times include no stops.

- Silver Line/Courthouse—5 min.
- Silver Line/World Trade Center—6 to 8 min.
- Red Line/South Station—15 to 20 min.
- Blue Line/Aquarium—20 to 25 min.
- Orange Line/Downtown Crossing—25 to 30 min.

This map was prepared as part of WalkBoston's 2007 Annual Meeting and Walk and is distributed as a gift to walkers who enjoy art in urban settings. Thanks to our many sponsors for making it possible.

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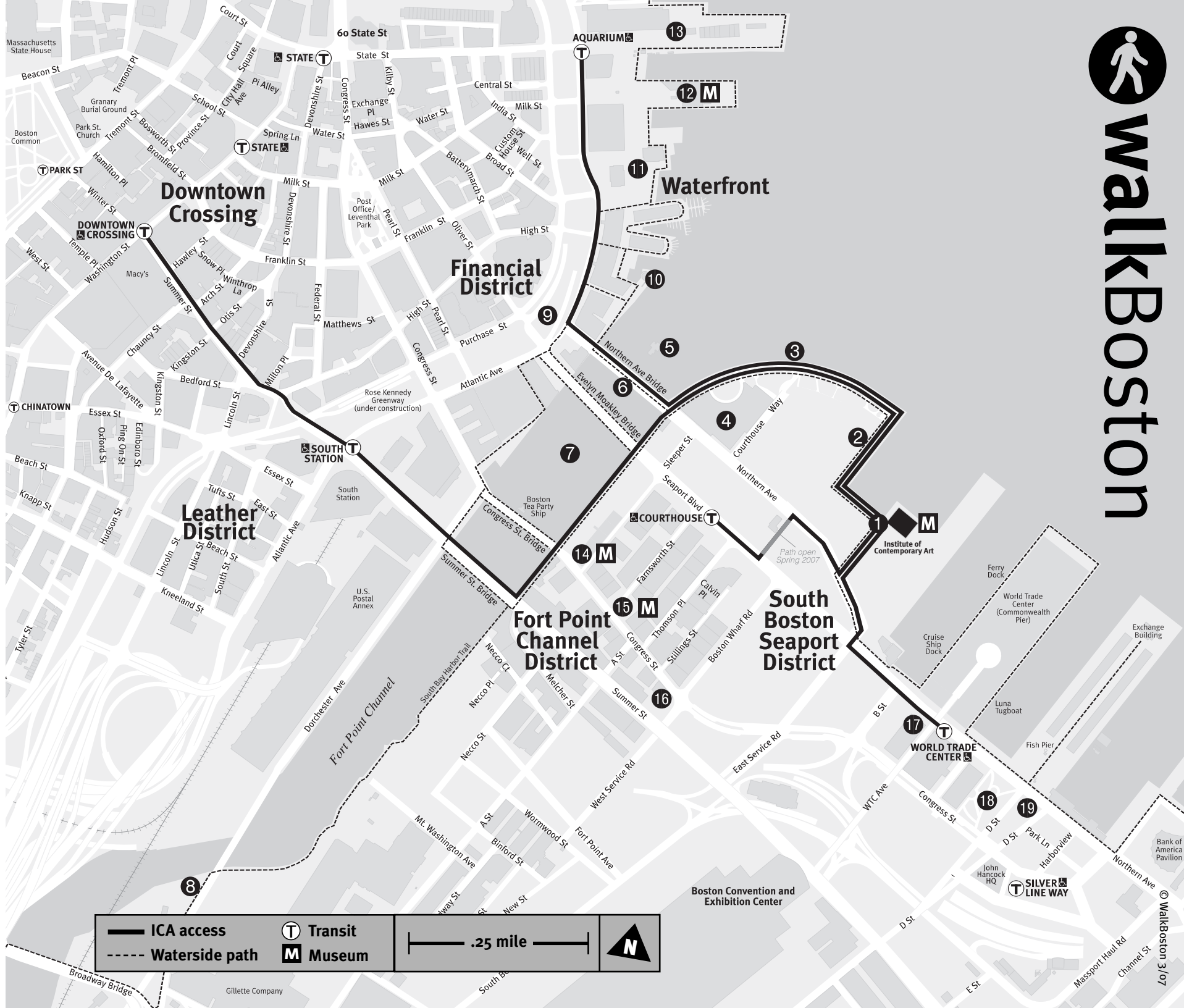
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Connecting land, water and art

Boston’s Seaport District and Downtown waterfront are home to an emerging art scene where land, water and art meet. Walking along the harbor’s edge gives bracing salt air views of the water and the distant open ocean, with backdrops of bridges and skylines. The piers are worn by the sea’s constant motion and the presence of an active port. Paths at water’s edge lead to art of all kinds—paintings and sculptures of the 21st century, exhibits interpreting local history, and venues for outdoor and indoor performances.

The Seaport and Fort Point Channel District are fast becoming a great place to live, work and play. Gardens, fountains and pedestrian promenades will provide places to stroll, read and meet, amid cultural facilities, outdoor cafes and large-scale events.

❶ Institute of Contemporary Art [ICA] – The first art museum built in Boston in almost 100 years, the ICA has become a cultural centerpiece of the waterfront and one of the city’s most recognized landmarks. Opened Dec. 10, 2006, the building has a dramatic cantilevered design by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, integrating the HarborWalk into the museum and offering magnificent views of the harbor.

As a new home of contemporary culture, the ICA offers multidisciplinary programming of art and ideas, diverse exhibitions and performing arts. Outdoors, a public performance/viewing area is tucked under the giant cantilever of the building. The seating rising up from the water’s edge provides a theatrical maritime backdrop for performance events.

❷ Fan Pier – The ICA site was part of a seaside railroad yard laid out in the shape of a paper fan [hence called Fan Pier]. Office buildings, hotels and residences will surround the ICA and the Federal Courthouse.

Along the harbor path between the Courthouse and the ICA are 3-dimensional models of the now-vanished Fan Pier railroad layout, and a 3-tiered sculpture of the evolution of Fan Pier from harbor flats to the new development proposed for the site. Some of the best views of the ICA are from the Fan Pier portion of the HarborWalk.

❸ Boston HarborWalk – An inviting public walkway at water’s edge, the HarborWalk includes parks, art, cafes, exhibit areas, interpretive signage, water transportation facilities and a wide range of other amenities. This 46.9-mile path stretches past wharves, piers, bridges, beaches and shoreline from Chelsea Creek to the Neponset River. The Boston Harbor Association, an advocacy group promoting a clean, alive and accessible harbor, and the Boston Redevelopment Authority [BRA] are nurturing the creation of the HarborWalk as waterfront land is gradually upgraded by public and private property owners.

❹ John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse – The most striking architectural element of this building, designed by Pei Cobb Freed and Partners, is a 9-story sloping glass wall facing the harbor. Ellsworth Kelley’s 21 “color-field” paintings grace the huge interiors along the glass wall and in the atrium [open to public]. The building hosts “Courts and Community” exhibits of local artists’ work.

The courthouse portion of the HarborWalk, designed by landscape architect Laurie Olin, features a dramatic promenade landscaped with trees and shrubs indigenous to the New England coastline. Harbor-edge silhouettes celebrate past and present ships – from curiously light and beautiful sailboats to functional cargo ships carrying freight into the harbor.

❺ Fort Point Channel – Once a water connection to Roxbury’s busy South Bay [now filled in], this waterway is a focus for residents, artists, offices, cultural destinations/ events, and a growing network of paths. The 2002 BRA/ community watersheet activation plan suggested a basin for floating art, more waterside paths to build on the existing HarborWalk and South Bay Harbor Trail, docks for historic vessels and public landings with floating walkways.

❻ Northern Avenue Bridge – This link between the Financial District and the South Boston Seaport is now a pedestrian-only crossing at the heart of the city. It is the focus for the Friends of Fort Point Channel’s seasonal programs of jazz, gospel, swing, classical and soul concerts and a blues barge/floating stage.

❼ Four Bridges – The Channel boasts a living outdoor exhibit of four types of bridges:

- Northern Ave. Bridge [1908] – horiz. pivoting swing
- Evelyn Moakley Bridge [1996] – fixed modern span

- Congress St. Bridge [1930] – counterweights balance vertical pivoting bascule lift bridge
- Summer St. Bridge [1899] – rare retractable drawback bridge on rails

❽ Rolling Lift Bridge Park – A brightly painted remnant of the Scherzer bascule railroad bridge (1898) was part of the Old Colony Railroad entrance to South Station and the largest rolling drawbridge of its kind in the U.S.

❾ Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway – Working with 27 acres of public land made available by the removal of the elevated Central Artery, designers set out to balance the grace of beautiful landscaping with the vitality of a 21st century city. The 5-acre waterfront portion, designed by EDAW and Copley Wolff Design Group, features outdoor spaces unified by planting, paving and lighting. The space is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a private, non-profit corporation.

❿ Rows Wharf – Architecturally dramatic, Rows Wharf includes an exterior domed walkway, a hotel and residences, pavilion and ferry landing. The hotel displays the **Norman B. Leventhal Collection of Boston Harbor Maps**, from the earliest years of Massachusetts.

⓫ India Wharf/Harbor Towers – Behind the Atlantic Avenue wall, facing the sea, is **Untitled Landscape**, a tall, stark, contemporary sculpture completed by David von Schlegell in 1964.

⓬ New England Aquarium – Opened in 1969, this was one of the first buildings designed to reconnect Boston and its waterfront. Its programs and 2001 IMAX® Theatre help bring a better understanding of marine life. The central circular saltwater Giant Ocean Tank was once the world’s largest.

⓭ Long Wharf – At wharf’s end is a compass rose outlined in brass and granite in the pavement. Landside, the Marriott Hotel displays **A View of Boston Harbor** by primitive itinerant painter Rufus Porter, three paintings by William C. Reynolds of Long Wharf in 1915, and artifacts recovered from Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor.

⓮ Children’s Museum – The colorful c. 1934 Hood Milk Bottle is 20th century folk art built as an ice cream stand. The bottle is 40 feet tall and weighs 15,000 pounds. If real, it could hold 50,000 gallons of milk, plus 8,620 gallons of cream on top. Inside, the museum exhibits Japanese traditions and art in a 100-year-old two-story

silk merchant’s home from Kyoto, and Native American baskets and rugs. An Art Studio has fun, messy, hands-on activities, and a KidStage introduces children to performing arts.

⓯ Boston Sparks and Fire Museum – Kids and adults learn facts and traditions of fire fighting from antique fire equipment, memorabilia and artifacts.

⓰ Fort Point Arts Community [FPAC] – Some 400 artists live near the FPAC Gallery at 300 Summer Street, where their art is exhibited on weekdays and during annual Open Studios.

⓱ The Leviathan/Wendy Ross – A fanciful sculpture, inspired by reported sea serpent sightings off the New England coast, evokes a 100-foot long sea creature.

⓲ Eastport Park Sculptures

- **Fish Bench**/Judy Kensley McKie’s fanciful seating.
- **Orbit, Shrimp, Hermit Crab and Scallop Scuppers**/David Phillips’ evocation of marine life in stone/bronze/fiber sculptures.
- **Wind Travelers**/Shingu’s masts with sails.

⓳ South Boston Maritime Park Sculptures

- **The Gateway**/Carlos Dorrien’s granite is etched with fish, sea life and contours of the sea floor.
- **Aqueous Humour**/Ellen Driscoll represents navigation, using key stars and constellations.
- **Tidal Lights**/MB Flanders & Halvorson Group use colors that change with the tides of the Harbor.



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About WalkBoston

Everyone walks...we make it better! WalkBoston encourages walking throughout Massachusetts for transportation, health and vibrant communities. Our education and advocacy programs give voice to citizens to make their communities walkable. In its 17 years, WalkBoston has worked on design improvements for pedestrians, education about walkers’ needs and the delights and possibilities of walking. Join us online at www.walkboston.org.