

MARCH 2019

# INSIDE 808

*Behind the scenes of The Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground Expansion*



19,000 square feet at 808 Commonwealth Avenue is being renovated for the expansion of the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground (HTC). The Center will expand into the first floor, occupying 2/3 of the existing showroom space, as well as space on the second floor.

The project, expected to be completed in fall 2019, will increase the HTC's footprint fivefold, move it to a prominent location in the center of the Charles River Campus, and activate the former Cadillac showroom in the historic Fuller building.

## THE HOWARD THURMAN CENTER FOR COMMON GROUND EXPANSION IS WELL UNDERWAY

On December 17, 2018, Walsh Brothers Construction Management and Compass Project Management broke ground on the HTC's new home inside 808 Commonwealth Avenue. Rain or shine, the team fenced off the sidewalk, covered the windows, laid out floor plans in the showroom and hit the ground running.

On this same day, Kenneth Elmore, Associate Provost and Dean of Students, visited the site first thing in the morning - even before the crew had arrived. He read aloud a few meditations including 'Keep Alive the Dream in the Heart' - Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*. He then strolled around the former showroom with Auroshikha myrrh incense (rolled by hand in the traditional way) "with the hopes that Dr. Thurman makes his way through too...work on the expanded Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground has begun."

*Inside (above) and outside (below) 808 Commonwealth Ave.*





*Fabric Samples (above)*

## LOOK & FEEL

NBBJ, the architects responsible for translating the work of the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground through design, space management, and furnishings, hosted the HTC Team on January 9, 2019 at their showroom to walk through the look and feel of each space. The architects asked the staff to test furniture and debate why they liked certain pieces over others, capturing their thoughts like flies on a wall. On January 16, a follow-up meeting examined the planned usage of each space to determine the appropriate furnishings based on the team's feedback from the first meeting. On February 14, the team solidified its furniture selection and green lit the forthcoming bidding phase.

## BRANDING

The Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground is redesigning its current website for an up-to-date platform that will showcase its programs and events. The new platform will be more user-friendly and dynamic. The project is now in the Design phase with a target completion date of June 2019.

Simultaneously, a new logo for the HTC is underway. Our partners at Boston University Marketing and Communications will help create a mark that best represents the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground while staying within BU marketing guidelines.

## STAFF

In addition to expanding to a larger space, the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground has increased its staff. The newest members of the team are Josh Daranciang, Administrative Assistant, and Nick Bates, Assistant Director for Thurman Center Networks.

*Finishes Samples (below)*



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