

Celebration of Life for Liora Beer

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 • 12:30pm - 1:30pm

The Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House



1953 - 2018

Liora Beer was at heart an artist whose creative imagination continually crossed boundaries. She studied fashion design at Parsons School of Design in New York City, and earned a BA in Fine Arts from Boston University. As a painter and sculptor, she traveled to Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship. In the 1980s Liora founded *Hecho a Mano (Made by Hand)*, a nontraditional job training program that helped a small group of Dorchester women market and sell their crafts. She then went on to work at Jewish Vocational Services from 1998 to 2000 and the City of Boston's Office of Business Development from 2001 to 2009. She left working for the City to found the nonprofit **Artmorpheus**, which provides artists with business support and resources they need to build sustainable careers.

From 2012 to 2014, Artmorpheus participated as a finalist in MassChallenge in the social enterprise category. This experience deepened Liora's belief that all entrepreneurs and artists should have access to a space for creativity and resources to get their enterprises and careers off the ground. As a result, in 2015 Liora launched the largest program of Artmorpheus, the **Fairmount Innovation Lab** in Upham's Corner. Her vision was to better serve communities of color, low-income residents, and those who are under-represented in the start-up and artist community along the Fairmount Commuter Rail line in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. In its short history, the Lab has already served close to 600 entrepreneurs.

Liora was also a co-founder and Steering Committee member of the **Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition**, and together with MALC co-founder Kathleen Bitetti, she initiated the 2017 Massachusetts statewide survey, *By Artists, For Artists*. Today's events are also a celebration of the release of the 2018 *By Artists, For Artists* report, which is dedicated to Liora.

All who worked with her know that Liora had an unparalleled gift for seeing possibilities for transformative change where others could not. Beyond that, she was endlessly inventive, resilient and indefatigable in making those possibilities a reality.

Liora lived in the Ashmont section of Dorchester for 39 years, where she and her husband David Weingarten raised their two daughters.



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PROGRAM

Hashkiveinu • Elisa Birdseye, viola

WELCOME BY MALC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathleen Bitetti, Malia Lazu, and Don Schaefer

REMEMBRANCES FROM FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Laura Pattison

Joelle Fontaine

Kelly Bennett

L'Merchie Frazier

Meri Jenkins

Allentza Michel

Jill Carrier

Yerushalayim Shel Zahav • Elisa Birdseye, viola

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Liza Weingarten - Liora's daughter

Talia Weingarten - Liora's daughter

David Weingarten - Liora's husband

I Say a Little Prayer • Elisa Birdseye, viola

CLOSING

Kathleen Bitetti and Malia Lazu

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This celebration of Liora Beer's life and work is part of the 12th **Annual Artists Under the Dome** event, sponsored by:
The Massachusetts State Treasury • The Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development
The Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition (MALC) • The Massachusetts Cultural Council