

Sponsored Links

Gourmet, Kosher Cookies

Tremendous Taste, Fine Ingredients
Distinctive Quality Over Fifty Year
Yohay.com

Cookie Dough Fundraising

Profitable, Easy & Irresistable.
Raise Money for Your Next Event!
www.fundraising.entertainment.com

Web-Farm Session State

Scalable alternative to DBMS
Free Download for ASP.NET
www.scaleoutsoftware.com

boston.com Newsyour connection to **The Boston Globe**
[Home](#) [News](#) [A&E](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#) [Travel](#) [Your Life](#) [Cars](#) [Jobs](#) [Personals](#) [Real Estate](#)
[Today's Globe](#) [Politics](#) [Opinion](#) [Education](#) [Science](#) [NECN](#) [Special reports](#) [Obituaries](#)
[Traffic](#) | [Weather](#)▼ **BOSTON GLOBE ARCHIVES**

About your archives purchase: Your purchase of **3** articles expires on **04/07/2006 11:31 AM**. You have viewed **3** articles and have **0** articles remaining.

[Easy-print version](#) | [Search again](#)

DODGERS OWNER DONATES A PARK TO HIS HOMETOWN

Author(s): Thomas C. Palmer Jr., GLOBE STAFF **Date:** March 13, 2006 **Page:** B1
Section: Metro/Region

Frank H. McCourt Jr., the former Boston businessman who now owns the Los Angeles Dodgers, will give one-fifth of an acre of waterfront land to the Boston Children's Museum to be used for a park, he and his wife, Jamie, said yesterday.

McCourt, who now lives in Los Angeles, is selling most of his 24 acres of South Boston Waterfront land to the media company News Corp. to help pay for the team he bought from the company two years ago. He is donating the land to be used as part of a 1-acre green space known as Children's Wharf Park, along the Fort Point Channel, adjacent to the museum. "We're happy to be able to do this for the museum," McCourt, in Boston for a few days, said yesterday. "It's very appropriate that the Children's Museum and the kids in Boston have a park."

The 8,075-square-foot section of land, now a small parking lot, lies between Sleeper Street and the channel, and between the Evelyn Moakley Bridge and the building that houses the 93-year-old museum.

The museum, which opened in Jamaica Plain in 1913, has been at the 300 Congress St. location, a former warehouse building, since 1979.

Children's Museum officials had no comment yesterday but will join the McCourts at an afternoon presentation today.

City Hall officials have long sought the transfer of the land but the McCourts and Mayor Thomas M. Menino have had chilly relations for years, divided over the future of his South Boston land. No one from City Hall is expected to attend the presentation.

"The Children's Museum is an important institution in the city, and after a considerable time we're glad it will finally be able to realize its development dreams," a Boston Redevelopment Authority spokeswoman, Jessica Shumaker, said.

In December, museum chief executive Lou Casagrande said the institution will begin construction on a \$45 million expansion and renovation this year.

The museum plans to add 23,000 square feet to its existing 150,000-square-foot home, raise the land around it to link up with the Harborwalk, and create a landscaped waterfront park.

McCourt, who served for about 10 years on the board of the museum, said that even though he is

BostonWorks

The jobs you want. And how to get them.

**Post your resume on
BostonWorks.com
and get noticed today.**

SPONSORED LINKS



Mortgage rates still low: \$150k loan for
[\\$494/mo](#)

selling most of his land, "We've always been very interested in the development of the seaport. We think this is totally consistent with that."

Vivien Li, executive director of the Boston Harbor Association, said the small piece of land would be worth several millions of dollars if it could be developed.

But a decision in 2000 by the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, which approved development on the bulk of McCourt's 24 acres, ruled that the parcel next to the Children's Museum should remain public open space.

Combined with an adjacent 3/4-acre park opened last year by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the McCourt gift will provide the Children's Museum with a substantial piece of recreational space.

"The timing of the conveyance of this land couldn't be better," Li said. "This is a wonderful legacy **Frank McCourt** is leaving. He is going to make a modest park become a significant park on the Fort Point Channel.

McCourt and News Corp., the media company controlled by Rupert Murdoch, said last month that details of the transfer of the bulk of the land were complete; the agreement is expected to close this month.

McCourt said that in negotiating the sale he carved out five pieces, including the museum parcel, that will not be part of the News Corp. transaction.

An executive involved the sale of the land said in January that News Corp. is paying as much as \$225 million for the land, which is located on both sides of Seaport Boulevard, between the channel and the World Trade Center.

McCourt bought the Dodgers and considerable real estate for about \$430 million, and took a \$125 million loan from News Corp. that has now grown to \$145 million.

He had negotiated for about a year with Related Urban Development of New York to jointly develop the property, but no agreement was reached.

The fate of the little piece of land next to the museum had been the subject of long speculation, since McCourt and City Hall sparred over what type of development was appropriate for McCourt's land and for a 21-acre site across Old Northern Avenue on Fan Pier. The Chicago-based Pritzker family sold Fan Pier to developer Joseph F. Fallon last year.

There was "no quid pro quo," McCourt said. "That this will become a great park right on the waterfront is really a great outcome."

[Easy-print version](#) | [Search again](#)

Technical problems: If you have a technical problem with your account please contact Newsbank at 1-800-896-5587 or by e-mail at bostonglobe@newsbank.com.

Return to the [home page](#)
of The Boston Globe Online

© [Copyright](#) 2003 New York Times Company