After long-sought victory, activists vow to build on their momentum

By Peter Schwemer

Three years ago, when the state's casino law passed, advocates of debate, casino gambling in Massachusetts began fighting to make sure the casinos would be well regulated. The high court struck the law, but the time for stopping them entirely had passed.

On Tuesday, the opponents drew an inroad straight.

Suddenly empowered by a Supreme Judicial Court decision that approves an antiscam bill measure, activists from Palmer to New Bedford hailed the unanimous ruling as a hard-won victory. "The challenge is to turn the grassroots movement into a unified statewide effort," said Nathan Rawls, leader of the opposition group that turned back a casino proposal in West Springfield.

Their court victory, in the opposition,(

Gambling supporters, opponents mobilizing for prospective referendum in November

By Mark Arsenault

The state's highest court decided Wednesday that a casino repeal measure can appear on the November ballot, touching off a fruitless referendum campaign over one of the most charged issues in a generation and jeopardizing the future of the billion-dollar industry in Massachusetts.

The long-anticipated ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court, which overturned the state's recent three-year debate over where casinos should be built and reinstated an overview argument over whether the law should be allowed at all.

Over the next four months, voters can expect a barrage of TV ads, phone calls, and transaction door knocks on the casino question, in a referen-

In the news

Sweating the details


High 10:34 am. 10:54 pm.

Surfline: 5:08 West. 8-25

Complete report. B15

Six-term Senator Thad Cochran on the political crisis in Mississippi. The local story is a 22-term House member.

President Charlie Baker declined a public victory statement over Democratic challenger Jolene Exstrom. A.

Three-dimensional breast scans detected more cancer than standard digital mammograms, researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital and other institutions agreed.

A bloc of city councilors opposed Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s budget because of cost-cutting steps affecting student transportation. B1

City inspectors were heartened by a report stating no violations at 11 unlicensed day care providers with universal (and now N "Early" services.

A United Methodists Church appeal panel reinstated the Rev. Frank Schaefer, who had been defrocked after officiating at the same-sex wedding of his son in Hull, B2.

Manufacturers are failing to back the state’s workforce development system for help, a survey found. B7.

Nepalese authorities abducted 110 farmers, including 6 children as young as 3, in weekend attacks. A3.

Former filibuster execution Bob Beatty Brooks was killed in an automobile phone hanging trial, while former Arkansas governor was convicted of conspiracy to effect violent acts, A3.

Theater, film, and television actor Earl Williams died in New York at 83. He had been more than 60 years, often with his wife, Anne Jackson, and was functioned with an honorary Oscar in 2010 B4.

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Kerry departs Iraq amid uncertainty

The results of the secretary of state’s push for an inclusive government probably will not be known for several days. Prime Minister Neelam al-Maliki, meantime, appears ready to concede the loss of much of the country to insurgents.

SGC allows a casino repeal vote

By Geoff Edgers

earlier this year, the Institute of Contemporary Art got disappointing news. It would no longer be in charge of painting the massive lesser Queen square mural, at the head of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. The job would instead go to the more mainstream museum of Fine Arts.

"I'm looking forward," said Sofie Wistrich, the director of the ICA. "We're looking forward."

Other Greenway changes, perhaps more universally welcomed, are in the works. On Wednesday the nonprofit fund for the ICA announced that a $2 million public art expansion plan will be included the installation next year of a huge, following fabric work mounted over the park, by Brazilian artist Janet Echelman. The Greenway is even renting its own art curator. It's an unprecedented role of activity in a city known for its public art. And the surge has not gone unnoticed.

"When I heard about the Echelman piece," said Wistrich, "Wow, after so many years of waiting, it happened."

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This is "life-changing," said Aaron C. Kornbluth, a professor who participated in the testing. "About three weeks after I began taking this medicine, I went for a run and the difference was unbelievable." I wasn’t winded, I tried it, just wanted to be fit.

Storks, who is a case manager at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Bethesda, Md., which has helped hatch their research program said he and his wife hope to have a baby.

Vertex lifts hopes on cystic fibrosis

2-drug treatment effective in trial

By Robert Weisman

The clinical trial of a drug released on Thursday showed a combination of two vitamin drugs helped 110,000 cervical fibrosis patients involved in one trial that can treat nearly half of those suffering from the genetic disease. A huge advance compared with the 4 percent able to take a vitamin drug daily in the market.

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Similarity in Shaheen cause, family interests

Breast cancer funds got high priority

By Noah Bierman

and Todd Wallace

Senior senator Jeanne Shaheen has been a strong advocate for spending govern-

ment money to fight breast cancer. She’s also on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which has signed letters since she entered the Senate in 2000, asking $800 million to maintain a Defense Breast Cancer Research program — despite objections by some Senate Republicans. — Last year, she endorsed an initiative to increase the tax on family financial state the research. In 2000, she was named an investigator by the National Cancer Institute. She was named an advocate to a Southern California startup, Ultrasalt Labs Inc., that was developing new imaging technology to detect breast cancer and ac-

A new book, The Fence, by Joanne Harris

This summer, Shoshone Smith, seen in front of "Especially in the Afternoon," will install a mural in collaboration with the MITA.

Art on the Greenway

Dominic Square mural

A permanent space for temporary works. Currently featuring Matthew Wistreich’s "Vacant," a large-scale, temporary work. 5 to 11 pm Thursday through Sunday.

Bunker Forge Interactive network/worker with Ross Miller. 4 to 9 pm Thursday through Sunday.

Greenway Carosel Tile of a kind with sculptures and the Labyrinth, both by the park designer, Don Tolomer.

A seat at the park’s edge, enjoy the view and a drink.

North End Park Historical elements, engaging essays on the neighborhoods, historical timeline of settlements, and quotes from immigrants.

The Fence

This summer, Shoshone Smith, seen in front of "Especially in the Afternoon," will install a mural in collaboration with the MITA.
Grants bring whirl of public art for Greenway

While the Brazilians twins known as Os Gemeos created a colorful, cartoonish boy in pajamas in 2012, the project, paid for in large part by the conservancy and supported by donations from the public, has raised $500,000 from the Richard and Susan Smith Foundation for the Arts for public art.

The conservancy has also received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Fund for the Arts for public art. Though he has heard criticism that the Greenway has been slow to develop, Brackenbury said it has only been five years since the nonprofit took over the park.

“We’ve got one of the oldest parks in the country and one of the newest,” he said. “When the Greenway’s as old as the Public Garden, I don’t think anybody’s going to be thinking of what was there in year four, as opposed to year five or six.”

The conservancy created a strategic plan in 2013 to add public art along the Greenway, and has been actively recruiting funders. The Smith Foundation, which is based in Newton, typically gives money to health and social service organizations, not the arts. But the foundation’s trustees were excited by what Echelman’s piece could bring to a public space.

Joyce Linehan, a Dorchester native and Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s chief of policy, met with Brackenbury earlier this year to talk about his plans. She told him that if the conservancy needs any help from Walsh, just call. So far, he hasn’t needed anything.

“As for Boston not having a great reputation for public art, I don’t know,” said Linehan. “All I know is what’s going on right now, and I’m really excited.”

“I used to go down there in the early days, there was nothing there. Now, when I walk down, it’s brimming.”

Geoff Edgers can be reached at gedgers@globe.com.

The Greenway has announced a $1 million installation with Brookline-based artist Janet Echelman for a mural.

Smith’s work will replace Matthew Ritchie’s gray-and-white mural, a project overseen by the ICA. Medvedow said that the ICA had approached another New York artist, Mickalene Thomas, about the wall before hearing of the MFA project.

She said she understands why the conservancy wants to work with other institutions, though believes the ICA is a natural fit because it connects the downtown area to the museum’s waterfront home.

“We pioneered a strong asset for the city,” said Medvedow of the wall. “They’ve picked a wonderful artist, and I’ll be eager to see how they develop that space.”

Hargadon, who donated money to support the Ritchie mural and whose photographs of the piece are featured on the ICA website, said that there are also other places along the Greenway that he hopes the ICA and others will utilize for future projects.

That’s part of Brackenbury’s plan. He knows the city has long been viewed as stodgy when it comes to public art, a place where bronze statues rule and daring contemporary works rarely get shown. Critics point to Chicago, with large temporary sculptures on view at Millennium Park, or New York’s High Line, an elevated park built along a former railroad line in Manhattan.

Echelman’s project will feature a canvas suspended hundreds of feet above the Greenway. It will be attached to buildings running along the park.

Echelman, who moved to the area more than 30 years ago to attend Harvard University, said she is excited to finally get that chance to create a significant piece on her own turf. Her friends often ask her about the works she has installed around the world. “I walk my kids to school, and everyone says, ‘We wish we could have one here,’ ” she said. Now they can.

Ricardo Barreto, a public arts expert who has taught at the Massachusetts College of Art and Boston University, hopes that the Echelman commission is not just an exception.

He has long advocated that legislators devote a percentage of tax revenues to pay for public art, as happens in many other regions.

“It may be coincidental that all these things are happening, and maybe we’re going to have one terrific year,” he said. “What happens after that?”

Brackenbury says the money...