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Names



MICHAEL BLANCHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Raphael Saadiq serenades crowd at party for new Back Bay hotel

Three-time Grammy winner **Raphael Saadiq** crooned in Copley Square on Thursday night, serenading guests at the groundbreaking party for Raffles Boston Back Bay Hotel & Residences. The 33-story structure, which will be Raffles' first property in North America, is scheduled to open in early 2022. Mayor **Marty Walsh** made remarks at the ceremony and pulled on a vintage ship telegraph to celebrate the beginning of construction on the project, to be located at 40 Trinity Place.

Saadiq — an R&B icon who recently released "Jimmy Lee," his first album in eight years — sang for 90 minutes at the ceremony, to high-profile guests including **Roger, Jeffrey, Gary, Tedd, and Todd Saunders** of the Saunders Hotel Group, state Representative **Jon Santiago**, City Councilor-at-large **Althea Garrison**, and City Councilor **Josh Zakim**.

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