

Where Voices are Heard Around the World Cooper Sandford



Protesting is a common practice across the world as a way for a body of people to voice their opinions on national issues. Parks are ideal gathering grounds for people that are often fighting for political change or protections of their rights. The Boston Common is one of the major parks that people in the area have gathered. In the top picture, a man is shown holding his fist up during a Black Lives Matter protest after the brutal murder of George Floyd, an African-American man. He is positioned on top of a railing at the Parkman Bandstand, one of the stops of our walking tour. Without the voices of millions of people across the country, and more specifically those in Boston, social reform may not exist, and many would remain ignorant to the injustices that black people deal with throughout their lives. Seeing the Boston Common and reading into the history of the protesting taking place there, I was brought back to my trip to Quito, Ecuador during my Sophomore year of highschool. I was enlightened by the culture of the city, and how citizens fought for necessary change in their own country. Underneath the BLM protest photo is a picture I took of the park outside the Presidential Palace in Quito. Around two hours before I took it, the park was flooded with people protesting the high gas prices due to government regulation. I did not even think to take a photo then, but when I came back, the police had shut down the protest completely. Protests frequently happen in the park outside of the Presidential Palace, which I had never considered before walking around the area. Much like the Boston Common, there is so much open area and grass for protestors to gather and voice their opinion on social or political issues. I assume that the same occurs in parks everywhere, although maybe not as frequently as spots such as outside the Presidential Palace. The slogan for my high school's newspaper is "veritas vos liberabit," Latin for "the truth will set you free." People must continue to fight for the truth, which is liberty and justice for all, and your local park may just be the place.

