Dukakis pledges aid to cities

By Thomas J. Spinak

Massachusetts cities will be the primary target of state development efforts, Michael S. Dukakis, Massachusetts governor, told the Harvard Graduate School of Design audience Wednesday.

Dukakis will focus on the urban center because the cities have the largest percentage of the state's unemployment as well as the existing infrastructure to support new industries, he said.

Dukakis said, "State government can have an enormous impact on local growth without a massive effort in land use according to state standards," according to the Governor.

He mentioned Boston projects, Park Plaza and the development of the former Charlestown Navy Yard, in situations in which state investment fostered private sector investment.

Mobile sculpture

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one each from French, German, and Russian House — to work with the CVA on the Niceky sculpture plans.

These plans also agreed that any final plans should be voted on by all residents of New House before being carried out.

Neon Art

At the same meeting, local artist Chris Sproat, whose work has appeared in the Hayden Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts, proposed that he design a sculpture for use of the New House corridors. Sproat explained and showed slides of some of his work, which is characterized by the use of neon tubing.

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"What got the Park Plaza going was the state's decision to put its new Transportation Department building into that complex," Dukakis asserted. "In the Charlestown Navy Yard development, about $1 million of state investment in a park triggered multi-million dollar private investments, saving a historic area.

Dukakis also said that warnings about Boston going bankrupt were premature. "Boston is the healthiest major city in America today.

Much of the capital's present financial problem stems from its political structure, according to the Governor. "In Boston the Chief Executive has almost no control over one third of the municipal budget," Dukakis asserted — the Boston school budget is controlled by the School Committee, not by the Mayor or the City Council.

"The first order of business is to give our capital city a structure where the mayor has real control and accountability," he suggested.

The governor promised to give Boston all assistance short of a new tax program. "I think, even with the state budget as tight as it is, we should be able to increase local aid to our capital city," he said. "But for this to work, there must be some serious cutbacks in the city of Boston. It's not fun, but it must be done."