

A blue-tinted photograph of a city street corner. The image shows several tall buildings with many windows. In the foreground, there is a traffic light and a street sign. The overall scene is a dense urban environment.

**Mayor's Office of
Black Male Advancement**

Quarterly Report

July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

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Overview



The Office of Black Male Advancement's mission, priorities, focus areas, reports, resources, and programs, and the Black Men & Boys Commission



OVERVIEW

OUR MISSION

The Office of Black Male Advancement strives to improve outcomes and reduce systemic barriers to the advancement for Black men and boys living in Boston. Our office works to empower Black men and boys. We want to ensure they have equitable access to opportunities in the City. As part of our work, we focus on policies, programs, resources, and local and national partnerships.

Our goal is to ensure Black men and boys have support to thrive and share in our City's prosperity.

OUR PRIORITIES

Economic
Opportunity &
Workers
Empowerment

Education &
Youth
Advancement

Affordable
Housing &
Pathways to
Homeownership

Public Health
and Wellness &
Fatherhood and
Families

Equity and
Racial Justice

Community
Safety &
Returning
Citizens

Our Programs

- [My Brother's Keeper Boston](#)
- [Community Empowerment Small Grants](#)
- [Project Opportunity](#)
- [R.E.A.C.H. 1000](#)
- [Capacity Building & Impact Institute](#)
- [Black Men Lead](#) and [Young Black Leaders](#)

Find all our [press releases, reports, and resources](#) at boston.gov/bma



City of Boston
Black Male
Advancement

Black Men & Boys Commission

The Commission was established through a 2021 ordinance and is made up of 21-Black males with experience, knowledge and expertise on issues pertaining to Black men and boys in the City of Boston. The Commission serves as an advisory board for the Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement, including determining budget and policy priorities.

The Commission seeks to study the social conditions of the city's Black men and boys, develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities, and make recommendations to create equal opportunity for education, employment, access to public accommodations, and fair housing, significantly improving the life trajectory, physical, mental, economic and emotional wellness of generations of Black men and boys in the City of Boston.

Recent Commission Meetings

- Community Listening Sessions
- Monthly Commission Meetings
- Bi-monthly Subcommittee Meetings
- Affordable Housing and Pathways to Homeownership Subcommittee meeting (MOH & BPDA)
- Economic Opportunity & Worker's Empowerment Subcommittee meeting (OEOL, OWE, and Boston Residency Job Policy)
- Education and Youth Advancement Subcommittee meeting (BPS & OYEA)
- Public Health & Wellness and Fatherhood and Families Subcommittee meeting (BPHC)
- Community Safety & Returning Citizens Subcommittee meeting (OHS, OCS & ORC, OPAT, BPD)

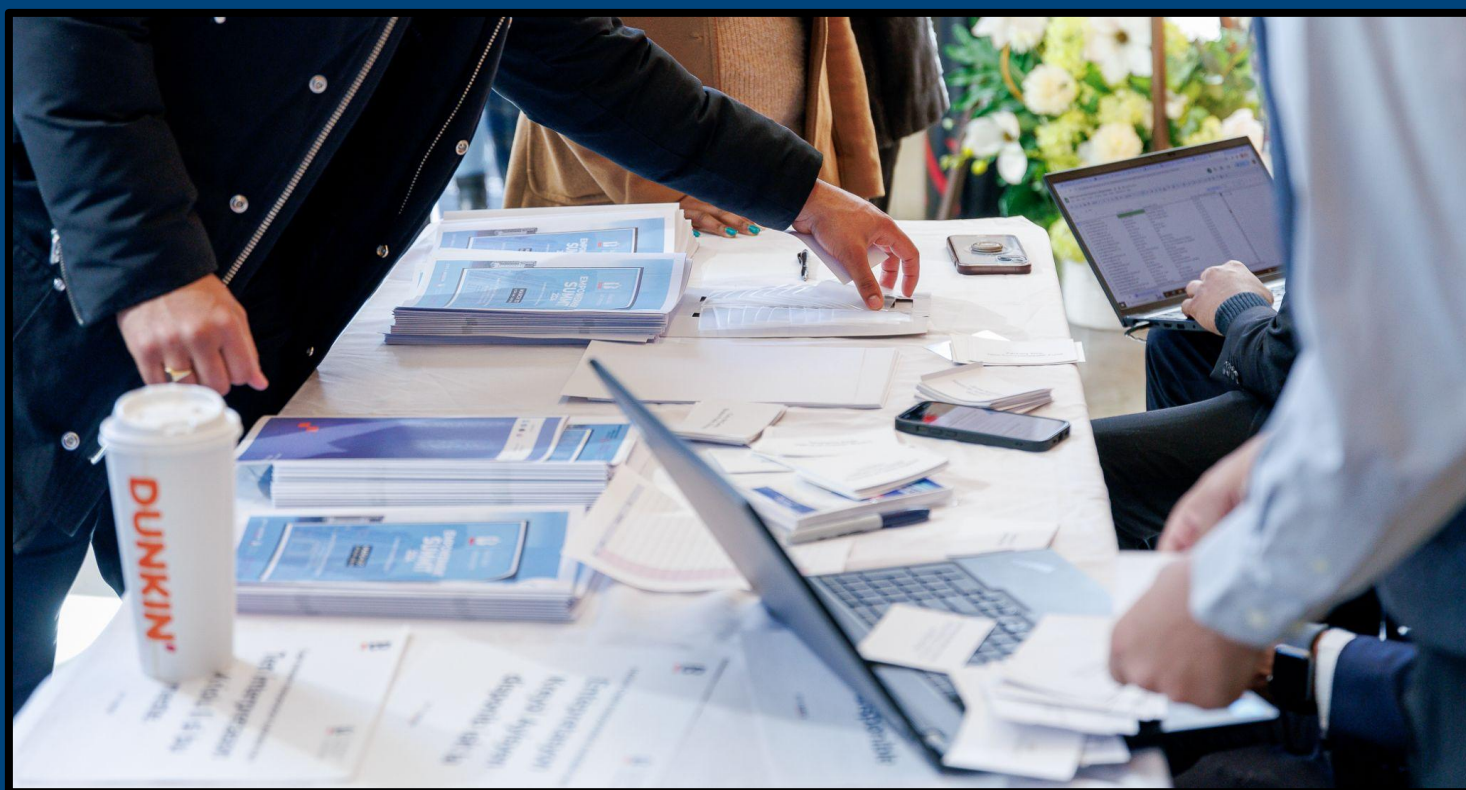
Commission Members

Tito Jackson, <i>Chair</i>	Louis Elisa	Joseph Feaster Jr.	Kurt Faustin	Darien Johnson
James Mackey, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jeff Similien	Corey Thompson	Tony Richards	Imari Paris Jeffries
Tevez Schail	James Hills	Tony Brewer	Andre Barbour	Charlie Titus
Devin Morris	Kurt Faustin	Piter Brandao	Richard Harris	Richard Claytor



Codification of the Office of BMA

The codification of the Office of Black Male Advancement establishes the Office as a permanent part of Boston's municipal code, ensuring its stability and continued focus on making Boston a home for everyone, including our Black men and boys.



Codification

Ordinance

An Ordinance Amending City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter XV, Section 15-11, Black Male Advancement for Equity and Welfare Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

SECTION 1. *City of Boston Code, Ordinances, is hereby amended in Chapter XV by replacing the existing Section 15-11 with the following new section and subsections:*

15-11 COMMISSION ON BLACK MEN AND BOYS.

15-11.1 Established.

There shall be within the Mayor's office a division to be known as the Commission on Black Men and Boys [...]

15-11.4 Office of Black Male Advancement

a. Established. There shall be established in the City of Boston an office known as the Office of Black Male Advancement which shall be under the charge of the Executive Director.

[Full Amended Ordinance \[PDF\]](#)

What does this mean?

The codification of the Office of Black Male Advancement establishes the Office as a permanent part of Boston's municipal code.

The Office is now an official, protected part of the city through its inclusion in the City of Boston ordinance, ensuring its stability and continued focus on making Boston a home for everyone, including our Black men and boys.



Equity Study Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Office of Black Male Advancement requests proposals from a qualified consultant/research team to provide technical and administrative support for the development of an equity study with a focus on Black men and boys in the City of Boston.



Support Ecosystem & Engagement

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Neighborhood Canvassing
- Focus Groups
- Community Listening Sessions



Data Analysis & Collection

- Tracking funding for programs
- Overview of social, economic, health, employment etc. outcomes
- Data Gaps



Comparative Research

- Peer city Black men & boys trends
- National trends
- Community datasets or existing literature (i.e. university-based research)

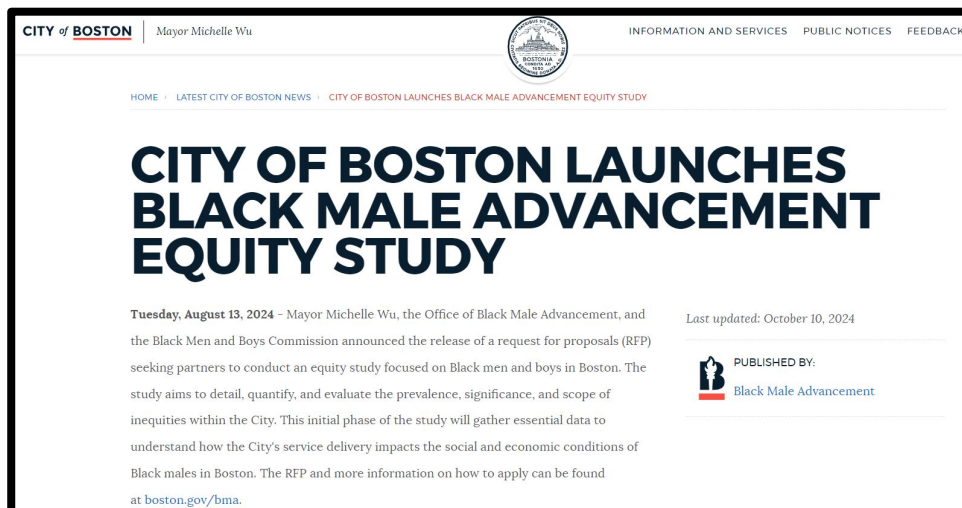
Summary

Project Summary

The City of Boston (“The City”), acting through the Mayor’s Office of Black Male Advancement (“The Office”), requests proposals from a qualified research team, consultant, or team of consultants and researchers to provide technical and administrative support for the development of an equity study 1 or studies with a focus on Black men and boys for the City of Boston. This RFP addresses Phase I only. In Phase I, the selected team will conduct an assessment to identify data sources and gaps relevant to the overall study. Based on these findings, the consultant will advise the Office on how to proceed to Phase II, designing an equity study to study the social and economic conditions of the City of Boston’s Black Men and Boys.

Overview of Equity Study RFP

The City intends to produce a report that will detail, quantify, and evaluate the prevalence, significance (degree and weight) and scope of inequities by the City of Boston, if any, against Black men and boys. The purpose of the report is to identify key data to understand how the City’s service delivery performs for Black men and boys and uncover what works well and unwell so that the City can understand the social and economic conditions of Black men and boys in Boston. The requested services shall be completed across two project phases. This RFP will cover Phase I of the equity study. The next phase will be done with another RFP at the conclusion of Phase I.



“We are committed to ensuring that Boston is a home for everyone. This study will be critical in building on the City’s service delivery to Black men and boys across Boston’s neighborhoods and advancing equity in city programs and policies. I encourage all who are interested to apply and partner with us to build a Boston that better supports Black men and boys in our city.”

–Mayor Michelle Wu,

[Press Release, August 2024](#)

Office of BMA Initiatives



The BMA team planned and executed several initiatives, convenings, and events throughout Q3, highlighted by two convenings outside of Boston, including the 2024 NAACP Convention and the Congressional Black Caucus's Annual Legislative Conference. With the summer ending, the Office of Black Male Advancement joined the Mayor's Office in their annual Welcome Back to School Initiative for Boston Public Schools.



BMA Summer Youth Jobs

As part of the City of Boston's "FutureBOS" initiative and the Mayor's Youth Job Guarantee—a pledge that any eligible BPS student seeking a summer job can secure one—the Office of Black Male Advancement worked closely with community partners to place 50 youth employees across various Boston organizations.



Workshops & Certificates of Completion: In addition, BMA youth employees participated in a series of trainings at Northeastern University.

On Day 1, the Office of Youth Employment discussed youth job opportunities, 3 Point Foundation introduced the Opportunity Lab in collaboration with the Office of BMA and BPS Student Support Services, and Lifted Consulting Group provided training on financial literacy. On Days 2 and 3, Northeastern's Center for the *Study of Sport in Society* led a two-day workshop focused on leadership development and challenging negative norms, with all participants receiving Certificates of Completion.



2024 NAACP Conference - Hosted in the City of Las Vegas

The 2024 NAACP National Convention, held from July 13 to July 17 in Las Vegas, brought together elected officials, activists, and community leaders, to discuss pressing issues affecting Black communities. The convention featured a variety of workshops, plenary sessions, and prominent speakers, fostering dialogue and partnerships aimed at advancing social justice.

The Office of Black Male Advancement, alongside Boston Public Schools Student Support, took over 30 scholars to Las Vegas for this NAACP convening. As part of our initiatives—My Brother's Keeper Boston and the REACH 1000 initiative—we highlighted our commitment to reshaping the trajectory of Boston's youth and developing the next generation of leaders by allowing them to see, hear, and experience Black leaders across the nation. During the trip, our scholars attended the convention, toured the UNLV campus, experienced the NBA Summer League, visited a local community center, and had the opportunity to attend President Joe Biden's address at the convention.



MBK First Day of School

On September 5th, Boston Public Schools opened their doors to over 40,000 students for the 2024-2025 school year. The Office of Black Male Advancement joined the Mayor's Office to distribute pencils to students, bringing excitement to the first day of school. The BMA team was present at the King School, Higginson Lewis, Frederick School, Greenwood School, Young Achievers, and Grew Elementary, supporting students as they began a new academic year.



◀ Donte Peebles, Community Engagement Manager hands pencils out at Young Achievers



► Sirak Kurban, Strategic Communications Manager, and Skip Gonsalves, Black Men's Initiatives Manager join for a picture at the Higginson Lewis School



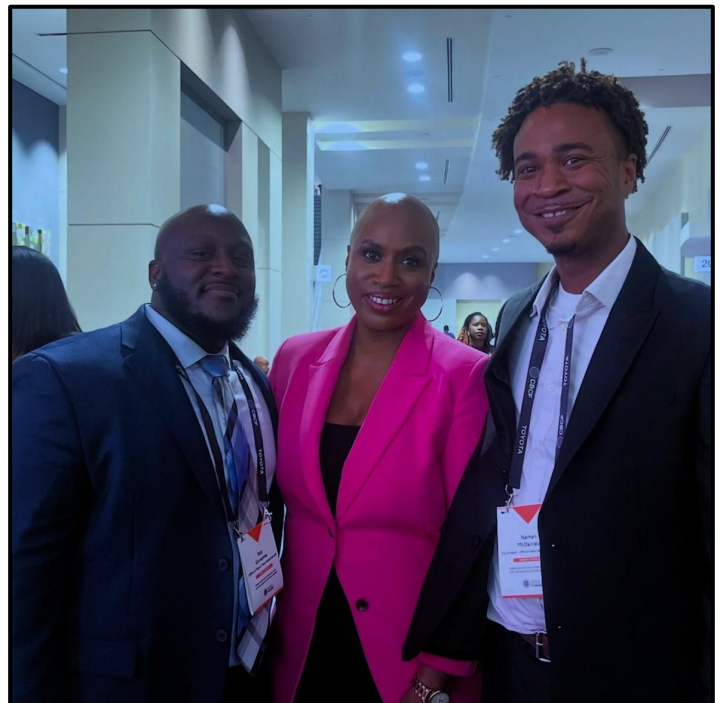
Annual Legislative Conference Congressional Black Caucus Hosted in Washington D.C

The Office of Black Male Advancement recently attended the 53rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), held from September 11-15, 2024 by the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C. The ALC, organized by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, is the premier public policy event focused on issues affecting African Americans and the broader Black community. It serves as a platform for thought leaders, legislators, and citizens to engage in meaningful discussions, form strategic partnerships, and promote the social, economic, and political advancement of Black communities.

Frank Farrow, Executive Director of the Office of BMA, and Speaker of the House Hakeem Jeffries at a discussion on policing hosted by the U.S. Commission on the Status of Black Men and Boys ▼



▼ Skip Gonsalves, Black Men's Initiative Manager, and Naman McDaniels, Finance & Administration Manager, take a picture with their representative, Ayanna Pressley



▲ Sirak Kurban, Strategic Communications and Digital Manager, talks with Representative Cori Bush in between sessions.

Annual Legislative Conference sessions attended by Office of Black Male Advancement Team

Key Sessions:

1. Don't Build a Jail for Me: Prevention, Not Detention and Policing in the Black Community

This panel elevated critical issues faced by Black men and boys, featuring insights from Ben Crump, Speaker of the House Hakeem Jeffries, Frederica Wilson—Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and an individual from the Black Men and Boys Commission.

2. Pathways to Prosperity: Advancing Democracy and Black Economic Opportunity - Panel I

Hosted by the CBC Foundation, the panel served as a call to action for policymakers, business leaders, and community advocates. The systematic exclusion of Black Americans from national social programs that helped build the middle class, as well as ongoing discrimination in housing, lending and hiring practices, tax policies, the criminal legal system, voting rights and democratic participation, and beyond, have all contributed to the current realities of the median wealth of white American families being more than six times that of the median wealth for Black American families. .

3. Books Save Lives: The Power of Black Storytellers

Hosted by Ayanna Pressley, this event featured a panel discussion with a Commission member in Boston, showcasing the transformative power of storytelling within the Black community.

4. Building Black Wealth Through Homeownership

This panel will explore the successes, shortcomings, and next steps of innovative efforts to build black wealth through homeownership and to support affordable housing developers of color. Millions of mortgage-ready Black Americans are income and credit qualified, but face barriers to buying a home, including unfavorable housing market conditions, lack of supply, lower median wealth, and continuing institutional biases within the housing finance system.

5. Empowering Minds While Navigating Mental Health On and Off Campus. The session emphasized Dr. Keith's partnership with Black Britain Beyond, highlighting efforts to promote mental health awareness during the summit at Harvard University.

[Annual Report Spotlights: U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys](#)

Additional Sessions:

- **Justified Medical Mistrust.**
- **Money, Wealth, and Disparities: Black Athletes, Businesses, and Entrepreneurs.**
- **Financial Services Braintrust: Young Black Venture Capitalists**
- **The Future of College Sports: The Changing Landscape of Collegiate Athletics**
- **Investing in Health: Addressing Health Inequities through Collective Impact and Community Engagement**
- **Black in Business: Building Black Wall Street**
- **The Fight for Healing: Uplifting Black Health Activism.**

Community Supported Events

July 2024

- Black Men & Boys' Leadership Retreat (Roxbury)

August 2024

- Black Men & Boys' Leadership Retreat (Roxbury)
- Trauma-Informed & Equitable Approaches Training (Roxbury)
- BMA Youth Employees Training (Northeast)
- Greater Love Back to School (Dorchester)
- 6Seventeen Back to School Block Party (Dorchester)
- Hard Earned Back to School Community Basketball Tournament (Mattapan)

September 2024

- September Black Men and Boys' Commission Meeting (Virtual)
- 2024 Unity Walk (Dorchester)
- Teen Empowerment Ribbon Cutting (Roxbury)
- No Books No Ball Backpack Giveaway (Roxbury)
- Boston Academy Silver Training (City Hall)
- Strategic Meeting on Data Pipeline (City Hall)
- Standing in Solidarity with the Haitian Community (Boston Commons)



NEXT QUARTER PREVIEW

1) 2024 HBCU Forum

Scholarships, On-Site Interviews &
On-Site Acceptances for BPS students

2) Project Opportunity Fall

Resource Fair & Cori Legal Clinic

3) MBK Ambassadors

BPS cohort of high school students for
mentorship, leadership, and advocacy

4) Community Empowerment 2025 Small Grants Launch

5) Equity Study RFP

Application & Selection



OUR TEAM



Frank Farrow

Executive
Director



Maddrey Goode

Chief of Staff



Donte Peoples

Community
Engagement
Manager



Jeysaun Gant

My Brother's
Keeper Program
Manager



Elijah Richards

Resource
Development
Manager



Branden Miles

Policy and
Research
Manager



Skip Gonsalves

Black Men's
Initiative
Program
Manager



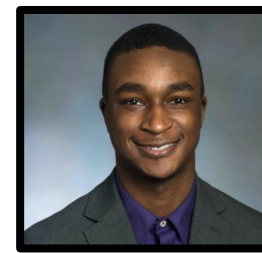
Naman McDaniels

Administration
and Finance
Manager



Sirak Kurban

Strategic
Communications &
Digital Manager



Jakhi Dean

Black Male
Advancement
Fellow



Cristian Gaines

Black Male
Advancement
Fellow





City of Boston Black Male Advancement



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Office of Black
Male Advancement



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