



Mayor's Office of  
Black Male Advancement

# Quarterly Report

October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

**CITY OF BOSTON**

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# OVERVIEW - OFFICE OF BMA

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## 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](https://boston.gov/bma)



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# 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. **In 2025, Commissioners are collaborating with various City of Boston departments to develop budget and policy recommendations for FY26.**

## 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 (OEI, OWE, & 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 (2025 Leadership\*)

Tito Jackson, <i>Chair</i>	Tevez Schail	Joseph Feaster Jr.	Jakhi Dean	William Dickerson II
Devin Morris, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jeff Similien	Corey Thompson	Tony Richards*	Richard Claytor
Darien Johnson, <i>Secretary</i>	James Hills*	Tony Brewer	Andre Barbour	Charlie Titus
James Mackey*	Kurt Faustin	Piter Brandao	Richard Harris	Open



# Year in Review

**Office of BMA**  
**Wins in 2024**

# Budget Proposals

## Passed by City Council

The Office of BMA and the Commission proposed budget recommendations encompass various City departments, in line with the Office and Commission priorities of addressing the needs of Black men and boys.

# 1

January 2024

# 2

February 2024

## BMA Reads for Black History Month

The Office of BMA staff visited BPS elementary students to promote literacy and modelship, reading every Friday in February at the: Tobin, Higginson, Mattahunt, and Trotter Elementary schools



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## **\$700K Grants to Community-Based Orgs**

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Our 2nd annual Community Empowerment Grants, alongside another round of MBK Grants, allowed the Office of BMA to distribute a total of \$700K in 2024. In late December, a new round of \$500K for 2025 was announced.

# 3

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March 2024

# 4

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April 2024

## **College Tour BPS Students to HBCUs**

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With dozens of Boston high school students participating, the MBK HBCU College Tour is designed to expose students to post-secondary opportunities, providing excitement around the environment that exists at HBCUs



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# Codification

## of the Office of BMA

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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.

# 5

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AUGUST 2024

# 6

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SEPTEMBER  
2024

## Equity Study Announced

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An RFP was issued for consultants or research teams to provide technical and administrative support in developing an equity study to understand how the city delivers services to Black men and boys. The contract is currently being awarded.



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## On-Site Acceptances at MBK HBCU Forum

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The HBCU Forum offered workshops, speakers, and interview prep; in which we invited seventeen HBCUs to come to Boston, where leaders from these HBCUs provided

- Scholarship opportunities
- On-Site Interviews
- On-Site Acceptances

# 7

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OCTOBER 2024

# 8

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NOVEMBER 2024

## Newsletter Launch

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At the end of the year, we launched our first BMA Newsletter. A monthly review of initiatives, events, and activities, the newsletter is sent to over 4,000 BMA contacts as part of our larger network. [Subscribe](#) and read past newsletters at [boston.gov/bma](https://boston.gov/bma) and all social media pages.



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# 6 Flagship Events

## BMA Empowerment Summit

1



2



## Black Men's Mental Health Symposium

3



## Black Father's Day Brunch

4



## MBK Youth Summit

5



## Grantees Network & Mixer

6



## HBCU Forum

# BMA: BY THE NUMBERS

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- **324 Intake Forms Addressed**

Constituents can request individual support from the Office of BMA

- **82 Community Events Attended**

across Boston neighborhoods aligned with our five priority areas.

- **6 Flagship Events**

Hosted by the Office of Black Male Advancement

- **140 BMA Empowerment Summit**
- **150 Black Men's Mental Health**
- **157 Black Father's Day Brunch**
- **115 MBK Youth Summit**
- **120 Grantees Network & Mixer**
- **72 HBCU Forum**

- **3 Hiring & Resource Fairs**

A Project Opportunity initiative, focused on hiring, & a free CORI legal clinic

- **433 Individuals Attended**
- **23 Departments**

# MBK: BY THE NUMBERS

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- **370 BMA Reads**

As part of our BMA Reads initiative to promote literacy and modelship, BMA staff read to BPS elementary students every Friday during Black History Month.

- **115 MBK Youth Summit**

students attended the Summit, which included speakers, Mass Robotics workshop, music workshop, and a Dress for Success workshop

- **81 Students on College Tour**

As part of the HBCU College Tour across the country, in addition to the NAACP convention, which featured a college visit.

- **72 Seniors/Juniors at HBCU Forum**

On-site Interviews. On-site Acceptances. Scholarship Opportunities

- **40 Youth-Serving Organizations**

received funding from the Office of Black Male Advancement Community Empowerment Grant, as well as MBK grants in the summer.

- **30 Summer Youth Employees**

placed across the City by the Office of Black Male Advancement

- **17 HBCUs attended Forum**

Universities across the nation traveled to Boston for the MBK HBCU Forum

- **15 BPS Schools Site Visits**

by BMA staff to support school leaders, teachers, and students across needs.



# Grants: **BY THE NUMBERS**

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- **\$750K Grants Dispersed**  
as part of the BMA Community Empowerment Grants
- **63 Community-Organizations**  
have received funding over the past year to scale up their work and deepen their impact throughout the city's neighborhoods.
- **5,100+ Individuals Served**  
through these community-based organizations, with programming ranging from 10 people to over 2,500 members.
- **7 Focus Areas**  
to provide targeted support to our Boston neighborhoods and communities, including out-of school time and mentoring, young adult pathways, housing mobility, workforce training, wealth building, fatherhood engagement, and mental wellness.



# Office of BMA Initiatives

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The BMA team planned and executed several initiatives, convenings, and events throughout Q4, highlighted by the HBCU Forum, Project Opportunity Fall Resource Fair, and a host of holiday drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas.





# HBCU Forum

The HBCU Forum was a collaborative presentation for Black young men, offering workshops, speakers, and interview preparation. This event marked the culmination of the Spring 2024 HBCU tour, during which our Office engaged with HBCU leaders across the nation. Seventeen universities traveled to Boston for the Forum, which featured:

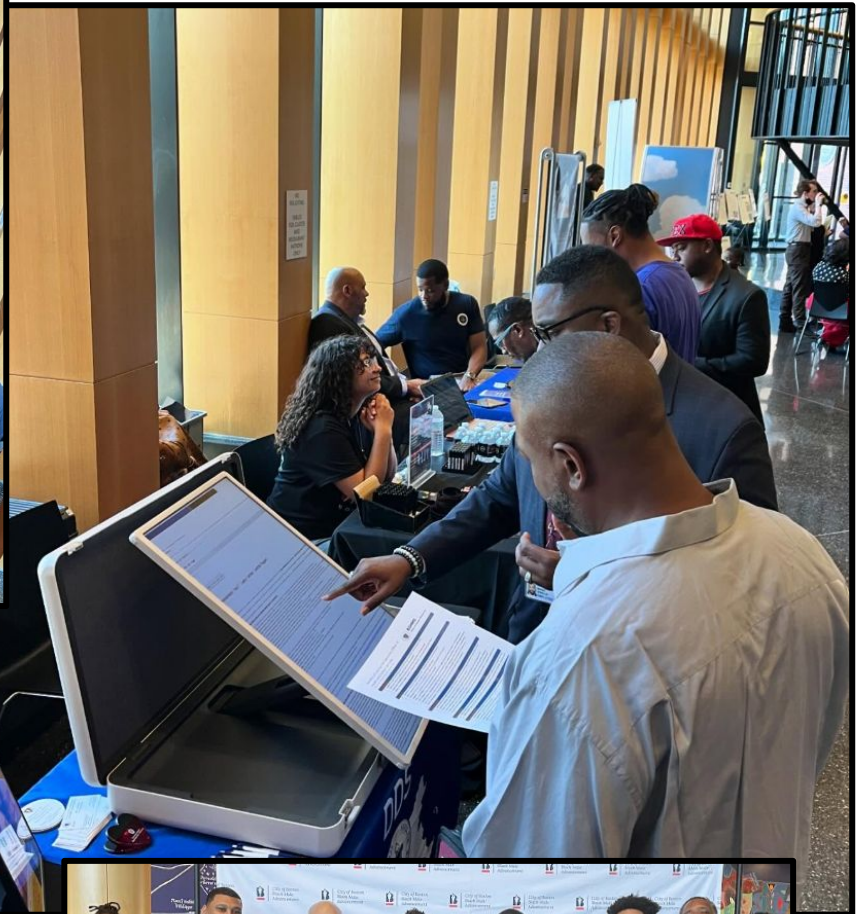
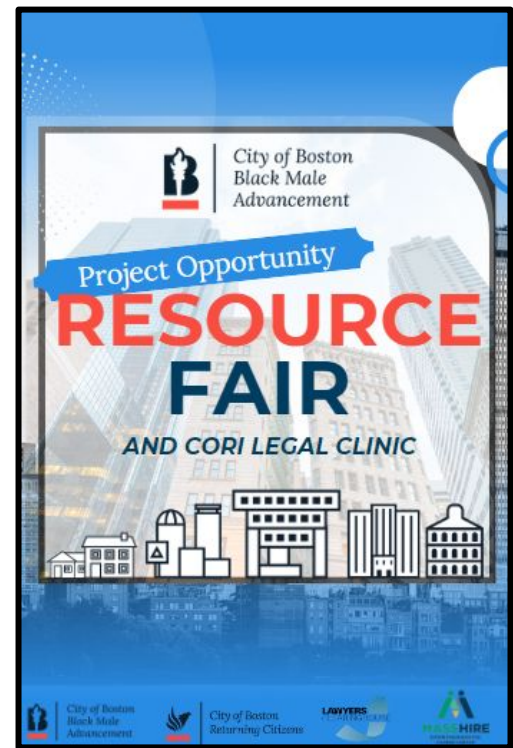
- On-site Interviews
- On-site Acceptances
- Scholarship opportunities.





# Project Opportunity Resource Fair

The Project Opportunity Spring Resource Fair and CORI Legal Clinic, held on April 27 at the Bruce Bolling Building, attracted over 100 participants and featured more than 20 organizations. The event provided essential resources, including free CORI legal clinics, services from community-based organizations, and educational materials to community members, contributing to April's #SecondChanceMonth initiatives.





# Holiday Drives

For the holidays, the Office of BMA staff contributed by packaging and loading turkeys for the Mayor's Turkey Drive and the No Books No Ball annual drive. Additionally, the team assisted in loading toys for the well-known Toys for Tots initiative and the local Boston Gives Back program in Roxbury.





# Community Supported Events

## October 2024

- Harvard Hutchins Center for African & African American Research W.E.B DuBois Medal Ceremony (Cambridge)
- October Black Men & Boys' Commission Meeting (Roxbury)
- Black Boy Joy Summit (Roxbury)
- Building Bridges HBCU College Fair - Reggie Lewis (Roxbury)

## November 2024

- Black Men & Boys' Commission Meeting on White Stadium (Virtual)
- BMA Site Visit to COB Inspectional Department (Dorchester)
- BMA Service Yard Visit to Public Works Department (Dorchester)
- College Process 2024 (Roxbury)
- 6 Won 7 (Roxbury)
- Mayor's Turkey Drive (Dorchester)
- No Books No Ball Turkey Drive (Roxbury)
- Young Visionary Leaders Convention (Northeastern)

## December 2024

- Toys for Tots Volunteering (Seaport)
- December Black Men and Boys' Commission Meeting (Roxbury)
- Mayor Wu's Holiday Party (Roxbury)
- Boston Gives Back (Roxbury)



# NEXT QUARTER PREVIEW

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## 1) BMA Empowerment Summit

Second Annual

## 2) 2025 Empowerment Grants

Review of applicants & awarding

## 3) Project Opportunity Hiring.

Resource Fair & Cori Legal Clinic

## 4) Black History Month

Partner events and BMA events

## 5) Capacity Building

Non-profit mentoring trainings

## 6) Equity Study RFP

Awarding of Contract

## 7) Data Dashboard

Announcement



# OUR TEAM

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**Frank Farrow**

Executive  
Director



**Maddrey Goode**

Chief of Staff



**Donte Peebles**

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



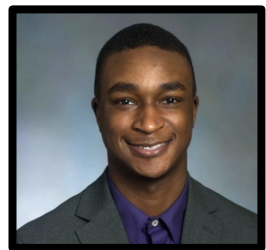
**Sirak Kurban**

Strategic  
Communications &  
Digital Manager



**Ricardo Guillaume**

Strategic Initiatives  
Manager



**Jakhi Dean**

Black Male  
Advancement  
Fellow



**Cristian Gaines**

Black Male  
Advancement  
Fellow





# City of Boston Black Male Advancement



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