

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, SHARON DURKAN, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, The Museum of African American History in Boston curates and displays the city's rich contributions from Black Bostonians dating from the colonial period until today; *and*

WHEREAS, The museum, which tells African American stories, including charting the history from slavery to the abolition movement, continues to operate more than 6 decades after its nonprofit was first established; *and*

WHEREAS, The museum is a highlight along the city's Black Heritage Trail, and also part of Boston's Family Days program, and stands full of valuable collections and as a site for compelling exhibits, including an upcoming one on the Emancipation Proclamation; *and*

WHEREAS, Earlier this month, President Donald Trump signed an executive order targeting the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, and as a result the Museum of African American History announced it lost nearly \$500,000 in funding, creating a significant deficit in its \$3 million budget; *and*

WHEREAS, The museum was told in a letter from Institute of Museum and Library Services Acting Director Keith Sonderling that, "upon further review, your ILMS grant is no longer consistent with the agency's priorities and no longer serves in the interest of the United States and the furtherance of the President's policies,"; *and*

WHEREAS, The city, state, charitable foundations and/or other stakeholders should allocate funds that would alleviate some of the fiscal crunch placed on federally targeted institutions, such as the Museum of African American History in Boston, that reflect our city's values and must be met with action; *and*

WHEREAS, The current presidential administration is attempting to whitewash history, bully the city of Boston, erase the achievements and contributions of Black Bostonians as well as historically marginalized groups, and sow division across our state; *and*

WHEREAS, Those efforts will not be welcome nor tolerated; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council shows its full support for the Museum of African American History in Boston, and pledges to urge all officials and stakeholders to assist in finding new funding for the museum.

Filed on: April 11, 2025