



**Marcus Hall
Civic Engagement Academy
Session 3 – March 8, 2021
via Zoom**

Presented by

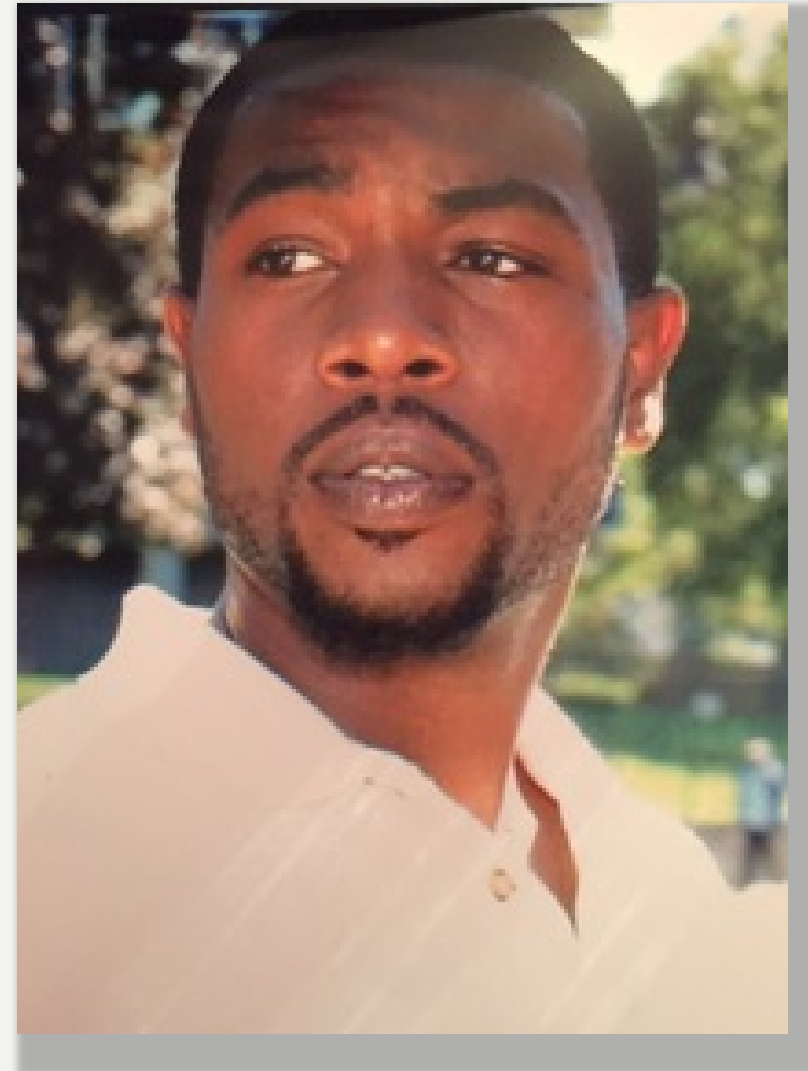
the Black Economic Justice Institute



Marcus Hall was dedicated to making positive changes in his community. Hall grew up in Dorchester and went to Charlestown High School.

Marcus and some of his friends had started a group called Brothers Out of the Hood, or BOOTH, to promote conflict resolution.

At 31, he had taken his four-year-old son, Yoda, for a haircut at a barbershop on Blue Hill Avenue on June 14, 2016 when he was shot and killed.



Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy **Sessions**

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

8

22

Orientation

*Meet your cohorts
Introductions and
expectations*

Historical Context

*Black History Month
BIPOC Histories
Being a Citizen*

8

22

**Research!
Research!**

*Understand your Community
How to meet community
needs*

Money! Money!

*Raising money
Fundraising*

5

19

**Community During
COVID**

Building Community
Advocacy and Organization

Press/Media/Comm.

The Role of mainstream press

3

17

Discussion

Topic to be determined

Graduation

*Presentations by
students*

MARCUS HALL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY – RULES OF DISCUSSION ENGAGEMENT

Creating expectations that allow everyone in the group to participate and feel respected.

- Step up, step back.
 - Recognize that the strongest group conversations include a balance of all voices.
 - Notice how much you are/are not speaking in group discussions.
 - Make an effort to share when your voice is not heard.
 - Create space for others to share for themselves so their voices are not lost.
- There are no stupid questions.
- Avoid side conversations when someone is speaking to the group.
- Use “I” statements when speaking.
- Be willing to share your ideas and experiences with others.
- Give each other the benefit of the doubt.
- Everything discussed during the session is confidential.

Check in - 10 minutes

Announcements – 5 minutes

Communication between sessions– how would you like to be contacted?
text? Email?

Please review “Rules of Discussion Engagement” on BEJI (www.bejii.org) website.

Did everyone receive their gift cards? – 2 by now

Google classroom — please accept invite.

If you have a school email, can you create a Gmail instead for this class?

Reminder – mentors are here for your questions out of session.

Introduction of Guest Speakers - Priscilla Flint Banks

March 8th Session - Research! Research! Research!

The purpose of Session 3, Research, Research, Research is so the participant can grasp the importance of research in relation to understanding your community and using research as a tool to achieve your goals. — Know the facts!

Councilor Julia Mejia

Boston City Councilor

Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and the Committee of Small Business and Workforce Development

Representative Russell Holmes

State Representative

Massachusetts' Sixth Suffolk District Representing
Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain

Session 3, March 8, 2021

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy

30 Minutes - Speakers

•Introduce mission for session: *Understanding the roles and responsibilities of elected officials*

Political Power: The students will hear from both a city and state elected official. They will speak on their responsibilities in relation to government and community.

Civic Engagement: Highlighting the importance of voting, the census and other forms of civic engagement. They will understand, the importance of voting trends and how to get involved with the community.

Questions

Can you define your roles?

Can you talk about the branches of government and how your role interacts with them?

What does your day to day routine look like?

How did you get elected?

What is something you wish you knew as a civilian/citizen that you know now as an elected official?

Can you tell us how we can be civically engaged as young people?

Q & A – By Students 10 Minutes

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy **Speakers**

Presenting Massachusetts' elected officials, the Honorable....

Councilor Julia Mejia



Boston City Councilor

Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and the Committee of Small Business and Workforce Development



Representative Russell Holmes

State Representative

Massachusetts' Sixth Suffolk District Representing
Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain

Teaching & Learning Section-- Defining Civic Engagement and Community

What does community mean to you?

Think about your street as your community.

- What do you think your street cares about?
- What do the people who live on your street look like (race, education, income etc)?
- From those characteristics, what is something they will rally together and advocate for?
- Common issues, themes in your community

What are the components of community?

What is Civic Engagement?

[YelloPain - My Vote Dont Count](#) 🗳️ - Why Vote?

What are ways you can be “Civically Engaged? - Do you need to do research?

- Is it enough just to be informed?
- Is voting enough? - - where, when, how, who?
- Census - Gerrymandering – what is it?
- Look up Voting Records-- Look up politicians and see what money is their campaign.
- Economic/social/cultural disruption--- Protesting
- H. R. 1 – “**For the People Act**”
 - is a bill first introduced and passed in the United States House of Representatives in 2019 to expand voting rights, change campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of money in politics, limit partisan gerrymandering, and create new ethics rules for federal officeholders
 - Passed in the House on March 3, 2021 and goes to the Senate next for consideration.

Week 3 Assignment :

- Identify three top issues in your community.
- Why do you think these are the top issues?
- Pick one issue and examine what a direct action to address the issue would be.
- In celebration of woman's history month....
 - Pick a woman legislator or senator from any state.
 - Identify last three bills they voted on
 - How much money have they raised during their most recent campaign?

What is Civic Engagement?

Educating the Community on the impact economic injustice has on all areas of their life, education, workforce development, criminal justice, and healthcare.

Civic engagement encouragement so individuals and families get involved in issues that are important to them, through volunteering, voting, contacting their elected officials, and attending public meetings.

Informing people who their elected officials are at the local, state and federal levels.

Coaching on advocating for legislation that impacts, economic and social development so they understand that they are entitled to economic justice and equity.

Researching the issues– who's involved, who's affected, who can make something happen? How can you make something happen?

Session 2, Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy –

What is Civic Engagement?

Build political power within under representative communities to achieve transformative policy reforms that will have real impact.

Strengthen and rebuild the organizing and political infrastructure serving underrepresented communities

Create a steady drumbeat on the issues that matter to communities, priming the political climate for legislative advances

Foster a new generation of civic and political leadership

Increase voter participation

March 8

Introducing
City Councilor

Bio of Councilor Julia Mejia

After a historic recount, Councilor Mejia won her seat by a single vote. Now, she is the first Afro-Latina to sit on the Boston City Council. Councilor Mejia is currently the Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and the Committee of Small Business and Workforce Development. She is focused on influencing and inspiring constituents to be actively engaged in all areas of decision-making processes. Councilor Mejia was recently named Best City Politician 2020 in Boston Magazine

Bio of Representative Russell Holmes

March 8

Introducing
State Representative

Elected in November 2010, Russell E. Holmes represents Massachusetts' Sixth Suffolk District, which includes a portion of the communities of Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain.

At an early age, Representative Holmes learned the importance of community involvement from one of his first mentors in life, Lenzer Evans. Mr. Evans owned Brigham's Ice Cream in Mattapan Square, which provided the first employment opportunity for many young people in the community, including Representative Holmes. Mr. Evans taught all his young employees that work was not just a means for getting ahead, but that they must also leave the community better than the way they found it. From the small corner bench in his shop, Mr. Evans met with state and city leaders to discuss policy and public affairs. Mr. Evans encouraged Representative Holmes to participate as well.

Representative Holmes remembered the lessons of his youth about the importance of community and purchased his first home in Mattapan. Soon after, he began to get involved in public service and civic activism when he decided that the streets in his community could use some upkeep. Enlisting the help of his neighbors, Representative Holmes grew his street cleaning initiative into a community-wide operation that culminated in a partnership with Mayor Menino. As a community leader, Representative Holmes has worked passionately on issues related to local economic development, education, and public transportation. He chaired the Mattapan Library Task Force, which brought Boston's first new public library since 2001.

In 2007, Representative Holmes chaired the Mattapan Economic Development Initiative (MEDI) and was an instrumental force in developing a new set of building codes to attract businesses to the community. More recently, the team won a federal Main Streets designation for Mattapan Square.

In 2018, Representative Holmes has fought tirelessly to bring Criminal Justice Reform, Equitable Transportation - working to improve the Casey Arborway and Forest Hills T- Station, and also Affordable Housing to the 6th Suffolk District. He has also worked hard on opening the Morton Street and Blue Hill Ave Commuter Rail stations.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

- **February 8th Orientation**
 - *Introduction to Program*
- **February 22nd Session - Historical Context**
 - *The purpose of the historical context session is to gain a better understanding of the history of Black, AAPI, Latinx and Indigenous communities in this country and the city.*
- **March 8th Session - Research! Research! Research!**
 - *Grasp the importance of research in relation to understanding your community and using this as a tool to achieve your goals.*
- **March 22nd Session - Money! Money! Money!**
 - *This session is focused on financial literacy and fundraising. Money has been a tool to activate action within communities because it is a resource to render aid.*
- **April 5th - Community during COVID** (community organizing & advocacy)
 - *The students will learn how to advocate and organize from the testimonies of activists. They will have displays of how to contribute to the community through action and standing up for any issue they are passionate about. This session is based on turning your passion into purpose.*
- **April 19th Session - Press/Media/Communications**
 - *The participant will understand the effectiveness of both positive and negative of media. Understanding how to communicate and captivate an audience through speech and communication techniques are useful for organizing people.*
- **May 3rd Session - Group Discussion**
 - *Socratic dialogue is a formal method by which a small group (5-15 people), guided by a facilitator, finds a precise answer to a universal question "What is happiness?", "What is integrity?", "Can conflict be fruitful?" We will be focusing on the universal question; can the government be reformed; or does it have to be completely dismantled?*

MARCUS HALL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY

YOUR TEAM



Priscilla Flint-Banks

BEJI Co-Founder



Brother Lo Banks

BEJI Co-Founder



CeCe Graham

Facilitator



Georgia Sessum

Mentor



Marcel Henderson

Mentor

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy

YOUR SUPPORT

TEAM



**Vikiana Petit
Homme**

Technical Support and
Communications



Brianna Millor

Curriculum
Development
Consultant



Darlene Penrose

BEJI Board



Mary Malaszek

BEJI Board

- ***Mission***

- *Center on people and community making sure that prosperity is broadly shared by educating, advocating and supporting BLACK and minoritized communities. Building POWER--- with knowledge through a proactive base of leadership, collaboration and accountability that will improve our community's quality of life.... as we celebrate our diasporic diversity.*

- ***Vision***

- *We envision the existence of generational wealth by creating good jobs and owning our own businesses. We want neighborhood schools that teach our own culture, history and civic engagement as part of the curriculum. We deserve lifestyles encompassing home ownership and safe neighborhoods for future generations.*

- ***Purpose***

- *BEJI serves the needs of economically and socially underserved people through advocacy and programs designed to help them secure well-paying jobs and influence the decisions that impact their lives.*

BEJI's

Mission

Vision

and

Purpose