



**Marcus Hall
Civic Engagement Academy
February 8 - May 17, 2021
via Zoom**

Presented by

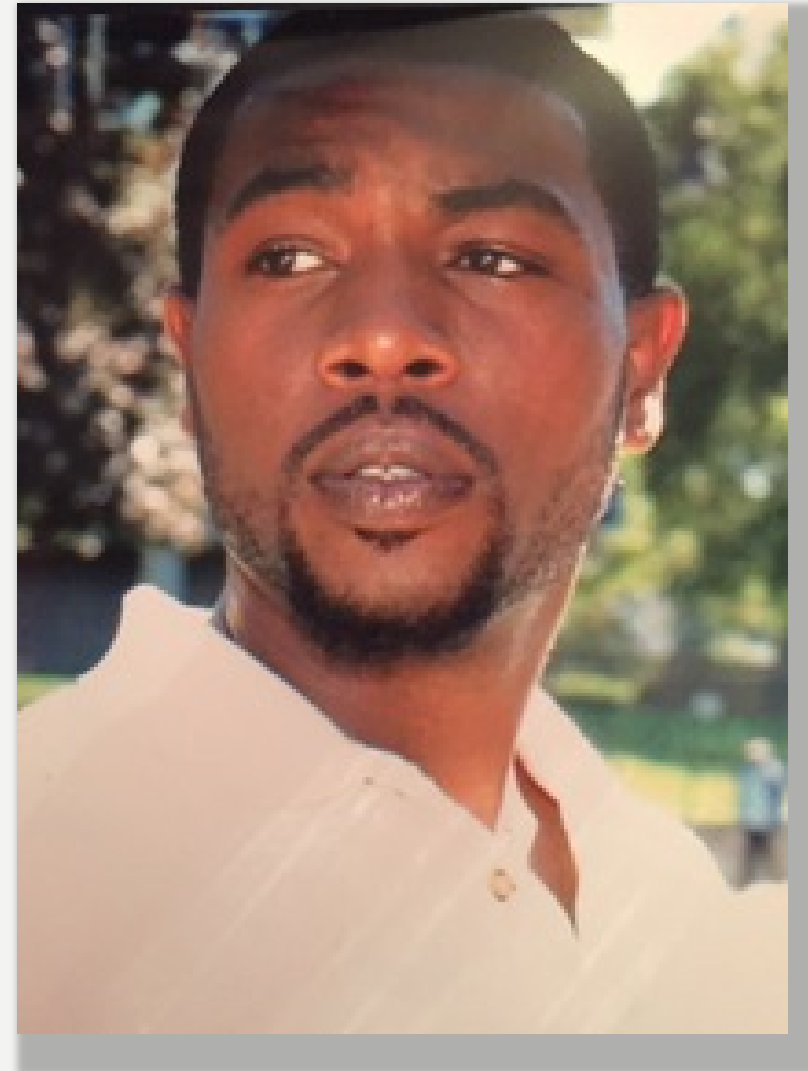
the Black Economic Justice Institute



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 CE Academy Mission Statement

The Marcus Hall CE Academy is a program to encourage you to participate in community service and support you in becoming active citizens. The program is comprised of eight of sessions focused on advocacy, community organizing and civic engagement.

Description of Community Cohort – Pilot Program 2021

The Community Cohort is formatted to focus on community organizing and community outreach. This program allows participants to strengthen skills needed to advocate for their community. This will give a glimpse into what it is like to run an issue campaign or organize a movement.

Learning outcomes

1. The importance of community service.
2. Have a better understanding of city, state and federal government.
3. How to become better advocates through media training, goal setting and self reflection.
4. Understanding civic engagement and how to engage with community and elected officials.
5. Have a better understanding of Boston's political landscape.
6. Expanding and cultivating professional network.



SESSION 1 – ORIENTATION – FEBRUARY 8

Welcome & Introductions

Priscilla Flint Banks
Brother Lo Banks

About [BEJI](#) -

About the Program

Overview

Civic Engagement

Marcus Hall's legacy

\$50 gift card per session

Introduction of Facilitator

Introduction of Mentors

Rules of engagement - CeCe and Mentors

Managing expectations

Technical – About Zoom, Vikiana Petit Homme

Open Question and Answer session

Next Session, February 22, Historical Context, Black History Month
BIPOC Histories – Being a Citizen

Participant Introductions

Name, neighborhood, age, school and what you hope to learn
Breakout Group – Report back, “what you hope to learn” and neighborhoods.

Ask students to put contact information into chat, neighborhood, age and school. Also ask students to state best way to communicate with them out of class. Also ask if we can share their contact information with the group.

Facilitator – CeCe Graham

Breakout report back, “what you hope to learn” and neighborhoods.

Ice Breaker Game - [Linked](#)

If this situation applies to you then raise your hand on Zoom


Explain the [Citizen test](#) [Quiz on questions](#)

Personal goals/timelines/benchmarks – Cece Graham

Homework?

Why are setting goals important?

How do you set goals?



**NEXT SESSION:
HISTORICAL CONTEXT,
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
ASIAN HISTORY
LATINX HISTORY—
BEING A CITIZEN**

FEBRUARY 22, 2021 – 6:30 PM

SPEAKERS:

Professor Jemadari Kamaransert

LUZ VILLAR

KAREN CHEN

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



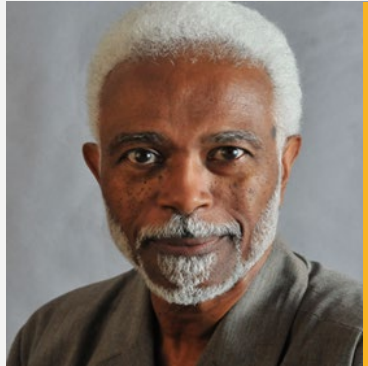
Mary Malaszek

BEJI Board

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

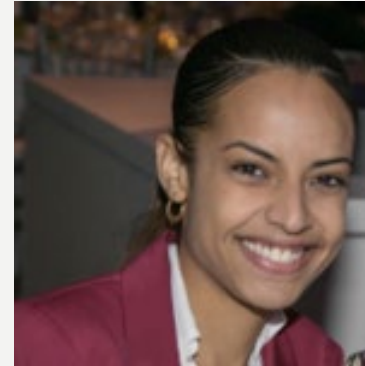
- **February 8th Orientation**
 - *Introduction to Program*
- **February 22nd Session - Historical Context**
 - *The purpose of the historical context session is to gain a better understanding of the history of Black, AAPI, Latinx and Indigenous communities in this country and the city.*
- **March 8th 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 **Speakers**



[Professor Jemadari Kamaransert]

February 22
Associate Professor of Africana Studies, College of Liberal Arts
Director of Center for African, Caribbean and Community
Development



[Luz Villar]

February 22
Community Engagement Manager for United States
Representative Ayanna Pressley



[Karen Chen]

February 22
Executive Director Chinese Progressive Association

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy **Speakers**

Presenting our elected officials, the Honorable....

[Councilor Julia Mejia]



March 8

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



[Representative Russell Holmes]

March 8

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

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy **Speakers**



[Segun Idowu]

March 22
President/CEO, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts - BECMA



[Marquise Corbin]

March 22
Friend of Marcus Hall and Student/Instructor of NFTE, National Federation of Teaching Entrepreneurship



[James Mackey]

April 5
Community Organizer and Coordinator for Opportunity Youth United - Boston Community Action Team



[Carlos Henriquez]

April 5
Civic Engagement and Community Organizer

Marcus Hall Civic Engagement Academy **Speakers**



[Jenee Osterheldt]

April 19

A culture columnist who covers identity and social justice for the Boston Globe



[Paul Singer]

April 19

investigations editor at the GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting



[Megan Irons]

April 19

Education Reporter — The Boston Globe --The Great Divide: Race, Class and Opportunity in Our Schools



[Crystal Haynes]

April 19

Boston 5 News Creator and co-producer of "Boston 25's Boston's Black History: Inspiring our Future" and "Equity in Education" series

- BEJI Co-Founder, Author, Political Activist, Advocate....
- Spearheaded demonstrations in to win crucial job victories at the Airport, Chinatown, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury construction sites.
- Priscilla and BEJI were successful in co-authoring the Roxbury Good Job Standards that changes hiring in Boston around construction and permanent jobs.
- Ms. Banks is a licensed minister and an active member of Global Ministries Christian Church in Dorchester.
- Author "I Look Back and Wonder How I Got Over."
- In 2019, Priscilla ran for City Councilor At-Large, and raised issues and concerns around gentrification, good jobs, procurement, and education.

Priscilla
Flint Banks



- Began his career as a power driver (foundation builder) and Union member.
- Photographer, bibliographer, and radio broadcaster.
- Executive Director Greater Roxbury Workers Association.
- Advocate, focused on addressing economic injustice by uniting citizens, labor, faith, foundations, corporate partners and community organizations.
- Passionate about building strong, diverse, sustainable neighborhoods in Boston.
- Can't say it enough "the result of unemployment and under-employment is **an \$8 net worth** for Boston Black households, whites net worth ---- **\$247,500." This is injustice.**

Brother Lo
Banks



- At 31 years old, Graham is a first generation American, born of Haitian and Jamaican parents and an alum of Boston Public Schools.
- She is the first black woman to chair the Ward 18 Democratic Committee and currently working as a Elementary school Director/Administrator after earning a bachelors degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Elementary school teacher in grades 4 & 5 as a lead teacher for 4 years before being promoted to an administrative role as a Director.
- An ongoing student, she is completing her Master's degree with a focus in Public Administration with hopes of making an impact on local and national policies through her community work.

Cece
Graham



Your Support Staff -- Mentors and Technical Staff

- Georgia has 8 plus experience in human services as well as over 15 years experience working with students of all abilities.
- Georgia has completed her initial licensure for her teacher certification in MA and continues to work towards her special education degree.
- She hopes to help students learn how to “be the change” they want to see around them.
- Contact Georgia for questions or issues you have during the program.

Georgia
Sessum



- An unapologetically Black activist working to better lives of the poor and misplaced in the inner city of Boston, “My Hood” where Marcell grew up.
- Works for BEJI going into neighborhoods others won’t.
- Economic justice is about an economy that builds common good – the things that we share and value in common.
- Contact Marcell for questions or issues you have during the program.

Marcell
Henderson



- BEJI Administrator
- Boston Community Organizer
- Regional Director at March For Our Lives with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organization management industry.
- Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Volunteer Management, Public Speaking, and Management.
- Youth engagement specialist
- Technical “Guru”

Vikiana Petit
Homme



Bio of Professor Jemadari Kamaransert

February 22

Introducing

*Associate Professor of
Africana Studies, College of
Liberal Arts*

*Director of Center for
African, Caribbean and
Community Development*

U Mass Boston

Educator Jemadari Omowale Kamara was born William Cyrus Swan, II on November 25, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan. Graduated from Western Reserve Academy boarding school in 1967, and received his B.A. degree in political science, sociology, and African Studies from Tufts University in 1972. He later obtained his Ph.D. degree in technological and environmental planning from the University of Michigan in 1983. Kamara also attended Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In the early 1970s, Kamara was hired in a faculty position at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts, where he remained until 1975. In 1980, he served for two years as the director of the William Monroe Trotter House at the University of Michigan. Kamara then became assistant professor and chairman of the African and Afro-American Studies Department at the University of Michigan Flint, where he remained until 1988. From 1985 to 1987, he served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Universite Nationale du Benin in West Africa; and, in 1988, as the Development Consultant for the Societe Africaine de Technologie Approprie et Developpement (S.A.T.A.D) in Cotonou, Benin.

Kamara returned to the United States in 1988 and was hired as dean of the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He served as chairman of the University's Africana Studies Department from 1996 to 2001; and then again in 2007, 2008 and 2011. In 1999, Kamara became the founding director of the Center for African, Caribbean and Community Development at the University of Massachusetts Boston; and, from 2001 to 2002, was a Senior Fulbright Professor at the Universite Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal.

In the 1990s, Kamara helped to found and continues to coordinate the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. / Amilcar Cabral Commemorative Program. Also, he collaborated in developing the Community Action Information Network (CAIN), which assisted community-based organizations in applying technology and data-based information to community-defined purposes for development. In addition, Kamara serves as an international coordinator for the Youth Education and Sports (YES) with Africa Program, which has served nearly 3,000 African youth.

Among Kamara's numerous publications include *State of the Race - Creating Our 21st Century* (co-editor and contributor, 2004), which won the Charshee McIntrye Award and was named the African Heritage Studies Association's Outstanding Book of the Year. He was also editor of *Socially Responsible Investment and Economic Development* (1987).

Bio of Luz Villar

February 22

Introducing

Community Engagement Manager

U.S. House of Representatives

For

Ayanna Pressley

Luz Villar is an Afro-Caribbean woman born and raised in Massachusetts. She currently serves as the Community Engagement Manager for United States Representative Ayanna Pressley. While working full-time, Luz obtained her bachelor's degree from Cambridge College in 2017 - making her the first in her family to graduate high school and college. Due to the adversity Luz faced in her life, she has dedicated herself to public service. Not only is Luz a mentor with Big Sister, she also leads the Youth Advisory Council out of the Congresswoman's office. Luz aspires to continue her work in government challenging the same systems that have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities and families like hers.

Bio of Karen Chen

February 22

Introducing

Executive Director

Chinese Progressive Association

Chen immigrated to the U.S. at age 10, and first joined the CPA through its youth program. Her parents' experiences as low-wage workers in restaurant and garment industries inspired her social justice involvement and after college she became the worker rights organizer at CPA. In this role, she helped educate Chinese workers on their rights in the workplace and advocate on their behalf. Chen's previous roles also include work as a paralegal for the Asian outreach unit of Greater Boston Legal Services, and as tenant service coordinator for Castle Square Apartments, a 500-unit low-income housing complex at the edge of Chinatown and South End.

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.

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 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.

- ***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