Tonight we celebrate our 2023 Hidden Heroes and Sheroes. This annual celebration has recognized more than 150 people doing exceptional work to improve the Codman Square and Four Corners communities. These hidden heroes and sheroes give us hope and inspiration and tonight is our opportunity to learn more about them and share our gratitude and appreciation for their efforts.

This celebration also raises funds for youth scholarships to be awarded to the high school senior awardees. This tradition began over 20 years ago by Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch. We are honoring his legacy with the establishment of the Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will fund educational scholarship opportunities. This year we are happy to share that we are providing 5 youth scholarships totalling $10,000.

If you wish to nominate a person or group for November 2024, please submit a nomination form. Applications are received all year long and selections are made by the end of summer. Let’s celebrate!

Meet our Alumni
A Community of Heroes and Sheroes

2001
Arthur Sutton, Jr.
Rev. Brittany Levy
Marvin Martin
Rita Lopes
Maryellen Sullivan
Paulaene Gattener
Milo Tavoliero
Joe Brand
Katherine Jabbert
2002
Sarah Larson
Caitlin Sullivan
Phil Granberry
Alvin “Junior” Lewis
Jenny Moye
Cochran Square House Tour Committee
Dorchester People for Peace
2003
Paul Lewis
Lindy Ware
Florida Onta
Office Robert Newton
Mary Paschal
Roverend Willie Lee
Cynthia Loesch
Barry Mullen
2004
Shayna Holloway
Gail Latimore
Mike Steller
Juanita Smith
Peter Sasso
Clarence Cooper
Ron Majors
2005
Adam Gibbs
Adrienne Taylor-Sturrup
Majors Bill and Sue Dunigan
Ashley Deleon
Sharon Smith
2006
Glenn Lloyd
Robert Brayley
William Henderson
Robert Gittens
Donna Gittens
John Werner
Margie Henderson
Alexandra Cherry
Shanyaya Coker
2007
An LeDang
Dayna Andrews-Blake
Darryl Smith
Tina Cherry
Paul and Glenn Markesne
Alessa Clayton
Coddington Barzey, Jr.
2008
Robert Thornell
Charles Leonay
Royal Sibley
Susan Stephen
Earl Taylor
Keith Nicole
Taylise Wornum
Lisa Cook
2009
Faith “Mickey” Bascom
Lewis Johnson
Sister Damien Powers
Mary Greene
Eric and Deb Hall
Rupert Moore
Oscar Moreno
Dorien Tracey
2010
Jason Granter
Dr. Unique Michaud
Nebula Stephen
Shelley Goehring
Frank Hart
Marlyn Forman
Jeffikins, Jr.
Annika Nielsen
2011
Michelle Gomes Sanchez
Danah Tensh
Bill Perkins
2012
Kenny Enaharo
Alphonse and Olive Knight
The Graham Family
Wyatt Posig
Geraldia Sylvain
Gabriella-Louise Stephen
2013
Milton Roay
Virginia Beat
St. Mark’s Wainwright Summer Youth Program
Lynnette Frazier
Pastors Ron and Kim Odom
Jim Hunt
Francilia Jones
Krishana Abraham
2014
Judith McGee
Janice Knight
Christopher Strunk
Yolanda Ortiz
A’Jari Samson
Loraine Screen
Theoni Solano
Pamela “Mela” Cardosa-Bush
Theresa Latson
Margaret Stephens
Bill Forry and Linda Doncena Forry
DeLea O’Garro
Marvin Sylvain
2015
Alex Haynes
Mark Scott
Janice Martin
Meg Campbell
Thobbi Brown
Gonzalo & Diana Díaz
Naomi Robinson
Chantary Robinson
2016
Rev. Garvin Warden
Joyce Harvey
Carol Carter
Larry Thornton
Silverbrook Farm (Jeff & Andy)
Alley Pizarro
Ayana Blake
Andrea Winn
Leila & Tanya Bailey-Stewart
2017
Allan & Jeanette Merren
Vicor Rodriguez
Frank Rogers
Rev Eugene Rivers
2nd Church of Dorchester
Former Mayor Ray Flynn
Mehdi Islam
Oladipupo Ogundipe
2018
Sandra Cotterell
Stephanie Crawford
Barbara Trybe
Jeffrey Akins
Sethina Curry
Mayra Duran
Gary Wilkins
Rashied Belus
Savion Jones
2019
Janice Galloway
Callor McLean
Daryl Goldston
Vanessa Thomne
Andrea Campbell
Amani Boston
Shlomit Williams
2020
Cynthia Beckford-Brewington
Ann Thorne
Shawn Burgess
Peter Robinson
Cathy Baker-Eclipse
Shakenna Baxter
Safiyah Coker
2021
Leonard Lee
Deneen Holley
Lina DaCosta
Thumbprint Cares
Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley
A’Doris Lee Brown
Emmanuel Dufort
Adela Mendez
2022
Superintendent Nora Baston Stafford Lewis
Juwan Skeens
Deanna Mae Clay
Justin & Jamie Chase
Sarahina Jean
Zaheera Fernandez
James Massey
1987
Chris Lovett
Marydaire Knight
Capt. Elliot
John Harden
Linda Ivers
Torrey Street Neighborhood Association
James Hoar
Bill Jones
Al Waterman
Pam Cross
Bill Walczak
Boston Police: Area B
Rev. Paul Peterson

1988
Gene Murray
Ashmont Neighbors Association
Esther Lawrence
Catherine Smith
Mr. Paul Mahan
Kevin McFadden
Adrienne and Turhan Shepherd
Liz McNeil
Diane Payne
Deputy Al Seghezzi
Lt. John Meade
Officer Lena Julian
Adolphus and Toni Bullock

1989
Pat Cooke
Judge Dolan
Fuller Street Neighborhood Association
David Goldman
Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch
Dottie Selman
Anna Shaw-Baeker

1991
Wille Mae Allen
Buck Buchanan
Rev. Fitz Allen John
Calvin Morris
Judge Darrell Outlaw
Ben Thompson
Lyndel Woodruff

1996
Liotha Berardin
Faiza Boddien
Daniel Garcia
James Greer
Nancy Harrington
Melba James
Robin James
Nancy Jameson
James Keefe
Louis Larry
Phil Lindsay
Angela Searcy
AllieBenedoce Sullivan
Marie-Anne Theodat
Christina Thorne

1997
Louise Carcione
Charles Gillani, Jr.
Francis Grady
David Sykes
Dr. Uline Johnson
Bob and Joan McCoy
Charles and Seater O’Hara
Nancy Anderson
Andre Beckford
Ian Calendar

1998
Kevin Barry
Steven Quimby
Teens Against Tobacco
Patricia Carlson
Rev. Rosena Davids
Yvonne Price
Candice Gartley
Roger Greene
Sylia Temple No. 31

Program

6:00 p.m. .................Reception / Dinner
6:30 p.m. ......Leader of Ceremonies Opening Cynthia Loesch-Johnson
Welcome Remarks
Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, President of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Stafford Lewis, President of the Four Corners Action Coalition
6:45 p.m. .................Presentation of Awards

Invited Elected Officials
Governor Maura Healey
Mayor Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor Brian Worrell
Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty
Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia
Boston City Councilor Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy
Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune
State Representative Russell Holmes
State Representative Daniel Hunt
State Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley
State Senator Nick Collins

Neighborhood Leadership Award
Saranya Sathananthan
Ineudira Barbosa
Laquisha Burke

Civic Leadership Award
Habitat for Humanity
Teena-Marie Johnson

Millennium Award
Toni Wiley
Sportsmen’s Tennis Club & Enrichment Center

Youth Leadership Award
Kristina Pruitt
Lawrence Gustama
Zaquarah Caldwell
Jabari Gichuru
Tyeisha Harkness

Acknowledgements
Our deep appreciation is extended to Codman Square Health Center, Great Hall, Events by Delightful Décor for the beautiful decorations, and Fours Corners and Codman Square restaurants for dinner. We would also like to thank the late Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch for his invaluable legacy in establishing this event.
Each year, there are many nominations for the Hidden Heroes and Sheroes award. To be considered, the candidate must demonstrate success in one of the following areas:

**Neighborhood Leadership Award**

Neighborhood Leadership Award Recognizes community members who identified a community need and through grassroots leadership effected change and improved our community.

**Awardees**

Saranya Sathananthan  
Ineudira Barbosa  
Laquisa Burke

**Civic Leadership Award**

Civic Leadership Award Recognizes community members who identified a community need and helped to impact public policy and improve our community.

**Awardees**

Habitat for Humanity  
Teena-Marie Johnson

**Millennium Award**

Millennium Award Recognizes community members who either brought to realization a goal of the Millennium Report or, in the spirit of the new millennium uniquely improved our community in a way not represented in the prior two categories. For more information about the Millennium Project please visit www.codmansquarecouncil.org

**Awardee**

Toni Wiley  
Sportsmen’s Tennis Club & Enrichment Center

**Youth Leadership Award**

Youth Leadership Award Recognizes youth who make positive change in the community and impact the lives of others.

**Awardees**

Kristina Pruitt  
Lawrence Gustama  
Zaquarah Caldwell  
Jabari Gichuru  
Tyeisha Harkness

To our esteemed heroes and sheroes,

**Congratulations!**

We appreciate your dedication to making our community a better place.

Your leadership does not go unnoticed.
In honor of the Hidden Heroes & Sheroes

“Someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”

November 17, 2023
The Great Hall
Join us and learn more about the scholarship fund in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch. He was the founder of the Hidden Heroes and Sheroes celebration and strong advocate of the Power of Education. Every year, two scholarships of $2000 each are given to two high-school seniors that have shown dedication and leadership in their community.

Please donate to the Youth Scholarship Fund at www.codmansquarecouncil.org.

Have an impact on a young person’s life today.

Rest In Peace

Rev. Bill Loesch
Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston partners with hardworking members of the community to make affordable homeownership a reality. Its unique and empowering model brings together groups of dedicated volunteers and families and individuals with low-to-moderate incomes to build affordable and environmentally sustainable homes. Since its start in 1987, it has built more than 120 homes in the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Roslindale, South Boston, and suburban communities in Greater Boston, providing housing solutions to more than 600 individuals. It is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, and its geographic service area encompasses the City of Boston and its 25 surrounding municipalities.

Inspired by a vision where everyone has a decent place to live, Habitat Greater Boston’s overarching goal is to improve the wellbeing of families with low-to-moderate incomes and interrupt generational cycles of poverty through successful homeownership. The partner families it works with are selected for the program based on their income, level of need and willingness to partner with Habitat Greater Boston. As part of this partnership, families and individuals invest 250 to 300 hours building their future homes through what we call “sweat equity” and attend first-time homebuying classes. In addition to building simple, sustainable, and low-cost homes, Habitat Greater Boston also subsidizes the purchase of each home by a partner family or individual. It provides zero-interest mortgage loans with no down payment. Through this model, every household spends 30% or less of their monthly income on housing costs. Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston focuses on stability and self-reliance in Codman Square through homeownership.

Join us on the first Wednesday of the month for our community meetings and get involved with the Codman Square Farmers Market, Dorchester Winter Farmers Market, Codman Square Park capital improvements, community improvement efforts and more. [www.codmansquarecouncil.org](http://www.codmansquarecouncil.org)
Kristina Pruitt
Youth Leadership Award

Kristina Pruitt is a senior attending Boston Latin Academy as a scholar, National Honors Society student, and cheerleader. She was born and raised in Dorchester and is a daughter and a sister to a family of 6, all of which work together for their success.

Kristina has worked in the Codman Square community as a Breath of Life Dorchester (BOLD) Teen and has served as a Codman Square Neighborhood Council Board member for 3 years. In these capacities, she has worked to make her community a healthier one. As a BOLD Teen, she assists with managing the Codman Square Farmers Market and provides free meals to youth at the Codman Square Park, she also organizes Friday Movie Nights at Dr. Loesch Family Park, and she attends and participates in monthly community and board meetings with the Codman Square Neighborhood Council. Kristina is also a leader in the 84 Movement’s Statewide Leadership Team which is focused on social injustice faced by youth. Kristina has been recognized locally and at the state level for creating new connections and networking through the work in the community. She has also worked at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston Children’s Hospital as an intern.

Kristina is committed to improving the health of her community and others and intends to continue to focus on public health and nursing. Additionally, some of Kristina’s hobbies include dancing, photography, and listening to music.
Teena-Marie Johnson is a proud graduate of Madison Park High School with a certificate in Automotive Technology. While attending high school, Teena-Marie became a fierce student advocate and youth organizer - fighting for youth voice in education policy and school-based decision making.

At the age of fifteen, she was introduced to circle practice as a way forward in building healthy intergenerational relationships. She was trained in circle practice and began teaching her peers how to practice circles, attempting to disrupt and dismantle the school to prison pipeline, and increase youth leadership and power overall in public education.

In adulthood she continued to teach circles to youth and adults, working with youth and school leaders to increase youth engagement in Education Policy decisions and implementation across the City of Boston. She holds a BSBA degree in Public Administration, and a master’s in planning and policy; and has worked as a planner in public housing finance and currently is working to create urban farming spaces across the City of Boston for Black and Brown gardeners and farmers.

She is passionate about youth leadership, restorative justice practices, urban and environmental planning and public policy. Her career interests include but are not limited to democratic governance structures using restorative justice approaches to community engagement, and any and all things related to food production.
Lawrence Gustama
Youth Leadership Award

Lawrence is a senior at Cristo Rey Boston. He started helping his community in 2021 after his cousin, Catherine Charles, the Codman Square Farmers Market Manager didn’t want Lawrence and his sister in the house for another summer after COVID. Catherine asked Lawrence and his sister to volunteer at the farmers market to help bring healthy food to the Codman Square community. Although, he didn’t want to volunteer initially, he became friends with the members of the BOLD Teens and began to truly enjoy the work. Despite not officially being a BOLD Teen, he felt like one at heart. Once Lawrence formally became a BOLD Teen and he served as a leader at the Dorchester Winter Farmers Market and educated the community on the importance of a local food system. Initially, he was a very shy but working to better the community and being forced out of his comfort zone helped him better his daily life. Within the next school year, Lawrence started interacting with more people and made a lot of new friends as he modeled the values of the BOLD Teens to be bold. He credits the leaders of the BOLD Teens for inspiring him to grow and develop into a strong leader and striving for his true potential. He started to excel in school and receive honors each quarter. His funny, energetic, charismatic, hardworking, and caring personality was revealed more and more each day. He even had the courage to join track and field, something he always wanted to do. Lawrence is grateful to be recognized for his work in the community and hopes to inspire other youth.
Zaquarah Caldwell
Youth Leadership Award

Zaquarah Caldwell is a 17-year-old Codman Square resident and a senior at Community Academy of Science and Heath (CASH). Zaquarah has been active with the Breath of Life (BOLD) Teens for about 2 years. As a youth advocate with the BOLD Teens, Zaquarah has helped manage the Codman Square Farmers Market and worked to bring farm fresh food to the Codman Square community. Zaquarah has been instrumental in distributing free meals to youth as part of Summer Eats at the Codman Square Library. Summer Eats is a partnership between the Project Bread, Dorchester YMCA, and the Mayor’s Office of Food Justice. Zaquarah helped provide nutritious lunch and snacks at no cost to youth in the city.

Zaquarah has also been advocating for non-binary people. As a non-binary person, they want to help others understand the concepts of identity and sexuality and assist non-binary people in being understood and not treated differently. Zaquarah would like to be a detective one day and explore the criminal justice field. Zaquarah is very passionate about the criminal justice system. They study criminal cases and even took classes at Fisher College.

Zaquarah is passionate about helping others and is committed to making things better for others. Zaquarah also enjoys spending time with loved ones and friends.

Congratulations to the 2023 hidden heroes and sheroes! As proud sponsors for the second year in a row, Lowkey Dispensary is thrilled to be part of this amazing celebration.

We’re not just your typical retail store - we’re a visionary brand deeply rooted in the Dorchester community. As a black-owned and family-run business, we take immense pride in making a positive impact in Boston, especially in Dorchester. Our mission extends beyond providing exceptional products. We actively collaborate with the local community, ensuring their rightful place in the legal cannabis industry.

At Lowkey Dispensary, education is at the core of what we do. We’re passionate about sharing best practices and empowering our community with knowledge about responsible cannabis consumption. Whether you’re a seasoned enthusiast or new to the scene, our friendly and knowledgeable team is here to guide you and answer any questions you may have.

We aim to enhance everyday life, enrich people’s perspectives on the world, and build a strong sense of community. Our four pillars, Education, Experience, Culture, and Lifestyle, serve as the foundation for our vision.
Saranya Sathananthan
Neighborhood Leadership Award

Saranya is a Codman Square resident and Dorchester hype queen. She has a real heart for seeing people from every part of her community come together for mutual thriving and justice and wholeheartedly believes in investing in her local neighborhood and the next generation.

Saranya has done it all! She has a background in engineering, has served as a high school teacher in the Peace Corps, worked in public media doing educational outreach, and most recently worn several different hats at a local non-profit. She wants to build on her diverse work and life experiences to serve her community and contribute to ushering in transformational change that benefits everyone, especially those who have been marginalized. Currently she is a Researcher in Residence at the Emmanuel Gospel Center where she is leading a project that explores how church spaces can be used to benefit and serve their local communities. She also serves as the Boston City Coordinator for the DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative which trains and equips youth leaders in their personal lives and ministries.

In the last several years, she has taken a greater interest in housing justice specifically and has made a commitment to support people who want to remain in Boston by partnering together with her friend and co-awardee Dira to buy a home and offer lower than market rate rents as a stand against gentrification.
Toni Wiley
Sportsmen’s Tennis & Enrichment Center
Millennium Award

Toni Wiley has served as Chief Executive Officer of Sportsmen’s Tennis & Enrichment Center since 2008. During that time, she’s overseen a nearly 4-fold increase in the organization’s operating budget, which is currently just under $3M, while building Sportsmen’s widely recognized suite of academic, health and social development programs as well as Sportsmen’s competitive, developmental and community tennis programs for youth and adults.

She developed The Learning Center at Sportsmen’s, a suite of academic programs for local youth focusing on academics, health and wellness; created Volley Against Violence, a social intervention and prevention partnership between Sportsmen’s and the Boston Police, which is now being replicated in major US Cities; and she launched the Center for Community Wellness in partnership with Brigham and Women’s Hospital which focuses on patient health and disease prevention in at-risk populations within the community.

Ms. Wiley serves on the US Tennis Association National Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, after serving three terms on the National Junior Tennis & Learning Committee; US Tennis Association New England Board of Directors; American Tennis Association National Board of Directors; and Mass General Brigham’s Community Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining Sportsmen’s, Ms. Wiley operated a non-profit consulting firm that assisted organizations seeking to deepen their community impact while building financial stability, after holding leadership roles in several other prominent nonprofit organizations and multinational corporations. She holds a B.S. in Business Management from Northeastern University.
Ineudira Barbosa

Neighborhood Leadership Award

As a Boston native, Ineudira has lived in Dorchester most of her life where she owns a home today. She attended Boston Public Schools and graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelors in Science with a Minor in Black Studies. Having grown up in Boston, Ineudira never wanted to live anywhere else.

Her hometown is her heart regardless of what the outside world portrays it to be; she has always viewed her hometown as beautiful, thriving, and full of life and culture. The people in her community and the things they need and deserve are important to her and she is devoted to fighting for them.

Ineudira is committed to reminding people of the beauty of this community and its people, and to using her resources to assist those in need. Professionally, she is the Manager of Occupancy and Admissions for the Chelsea Housing Authority, where she helps families and elders find secure, safe, and affordable housing. As an advocate for justice and equity, she is particularly concerned about housing access issues. In order to remain in the community, she purchased a house in Codman Square with a friend and shared their space with others who could not afford to live here. Her resistance to gentrification was ensuring that she did not leave her beloved city, but also provided opportunities for others to do the same.

Additionally, Ineudira is an active member of a housing justice cohort that promotes home ownership as a means of reducing housing inequity and addressing inequality in wealth. What she is passionate about is fighting the powers that be, advocating for quality service at local establishments, clean streets, access to more green space, holding the City accountable for what this community deserves and needs, and volunteering where she can. As a member of a local church body, The Neighborhood Church of Dorchester, praying for and contributing to her community is of the utmost importance to her. The people of this community deserve more and it’s her commitment to continue to be an advocate for her beloved community.

GREATER FOUR CORNERS
ACTION COALITION

Congratulates

ALL OF THE
CODMAN SQUARE/
FOUR CORNERS
HEROES AND
SHEROES AWARDEES!

Thanks for all your dedication and hard work! for carrying the torch throughout the community

367 WASHINGTON ST
DORCHESTER, MA 02124
Laquisa Burke
Neighborhood Leadership Award

Laquisa is honored to serve as the President and CEO at the West of Washington Coalition (WOW Coalition). She has dedicated herself to this pivotal role since the organization’s inception in August 2016. WOW’s mission is deeply rooted in fostering a stronger sense of community and enriching the lives of residents within the vibrant Dorchester community of Boston. She is a seasoned housing advocate at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP), and now at Madison Park Development Corp. (MPDC). Her journey spans over 6 years of progressively responsible roles beginning as a Program Associate, then Community Engagement Officer, then Operations Assistant and now she is the Homeownership Manager at MPDC. Throughout this tenure, she showcased a steadfast commitment to community engagement, adept marketing strategies, lender management, building black wealth, and seamless program coordination.

In 2016, Laquisa initiated outreach efforts to establish the WOW Coalition within the Dorchester community. Since then, WOW has remarkably grown membership from 15 individuals to an impressive count of over 200 residents across WOW’s catchment areas of 10 streets. This expansion speaks to the commitment to engaging and empowering the community. A significant milestone was achieved through a strategic partnership with The Trust for Public Land, the City of Boston Department of Parks & Recreation and Developer Travis Lee from Travis Lee Development. Together, $1.275 million was raised through Community Preservation Act funding and an $80,000 grant from the Doris Duke Foundation to develop a new community park, enhancing green spaces, and enrich community life. Among her significant achievements are the nurturing of valuable relationships with stakeholders, the successful implementation of impactful marketing campaigns, and the gratifying contribution to realizing homeownership dreams for first-time buyers. These accomplishments stand as a testament to her dedication to empowering individuals and communities through accessible and sustainable housing solutions. She continues her commitment to community development and service, concurrently serving as a Member of the Board of Directors at Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, where she contributes expertise in organization development, strategic planning, and affordable housing initiatives. Together, we strive to uplift the community and create lasting positive change.
Jabari Gichuru
Youth Leadership Award

Jabari is a senior attending Boston Latin School. He was born and raised in Dorchester and is committed to improving his community.

As a Breath of Life Dorchester Teen, he meets with landlords of commercial space, commercial brokers and elected officials to advocate for healthier options in the Codman Square merchant's district. He also is very active with the Codman Square Farmers Market where he assists the farmers market manager with ensuring the community has access to healthy food. Justin is known for being opinionated and vocal about those opinions. He is often the first one in community meetings to speak up for youth in the community and advocate for the voice of the residents to be heard. One of his favorite moments with the BOLD Teens is when members of the community thanked him and other BOLD Teens for organizing Friday Movie Nights at Dr. Loesch Family Park. They were appreciative for the efforts of fun family events in the community and helping to keep the park safe.

Through his work with the BOLD Teens, Jabari met Councilor Brian Worrell and was given the opportunity to intern in his office. As an intern, he learned the importance of constituent services and assisted in the organizing of a youth summit focused on bringing youth together and connecting them to community support and resources.

As a Boston Latin School student, Jabari has been involved with different activities including the Visual and Performing Arts and National Spanish Examinations.

Jabari intends to build on his passion for the community by focusing on grassroots organizing efforts and community development.
Tyeisha Harkness
Youth Leadership Award

Tyeisha is a senior at Boston Collegiate Charter School. Tyeisha’s teenage years have instilled in her a deep appreciation for her community. Last year, she had the honor of being selected to the Mayor’s Youth Council, and she is very proud to be re-selected this year. While on the Youth Council, she actively participated in the Arts & Culture Committee, where they engaged in meaningful discussions about art and culture-related issues with the City of Boston and brainstormed innovative solutions. Last year on the council, she dedicated 90 community service hours.

Last summer, Tyeisha had the opportunity to intern with the District Attorney, Kevin Hayden, and work closely with his team. This invaluable experience allowed her to gain insight into the different roles of the District Attorney, attend sponsored community events, and get a better understanding of the Office’s role and responsibilities.

Over the last three years, Tyeisha has been actively involved with her community civic group United Neighborhood Association (UNA), where she contributes to the monthly meetings. During the meetings, they discuss events and developments within the neighborhood focused on bringing about positive change. Tyeisha’s involvement in UNA has motivated her to use the Boston 311 app to report issues and concerns to the City of Boston that directly affect the safety and quality of living for herself and her community.

Lastly, since elementary school, during election years, she researched candidates and then pitched her candidate suggestion to her Mom in hopes of influencing her vote. She is excited to exercise her right to vote in the coming year!