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The Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute

Mission

The mission of the Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute (MAHEI) is to serve the needs of economically and socially under-served people by providing them with the programs they need to secure well-paying jobs and influence the decisions that impact their lives. The Institute serves communities of color in Boston by providing residents with educational, practical and confidence building seminars. We also offer leadership programs that provide soft skills training, mentoring, and other relevant activities.

About Marcus Anthony Hall

The Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute, is named after Marcus Anthony Hall, 31, who was shot and killed during a trip to a barbershop on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan, Massachusetts where he had taken his four-year-old son, Yoda, for a haircut. Marcus Anthony Hall, grew up in Dorchester and attended Charlestown High School. Hall was committed to making positive change in his community through committed action. Hall and some of his friends started Brothers Out of the Hood (BOOTH), which was dedicated to promoting conflict resolution. Marcus was also a member of the Community Action Plan (CAP), a project created to craft and implement a course of action to identify and address the needs of community residents. Marcus was also a member of the Black Economic Justice Institute (BEJI), an organization that fights for economic justice for black and brown communities in Boston.

Focus

The focus of the Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute is to increase the skills, knowledge and ability of individuals who wish to engage in creating lasting, positive change in their communities. The Institute is designed to work with people at varying levels of awareness ranging from awakening to people who are knowledgeable, organized and engaged. Awakening involves helping individuals, who have never been or who are newly engaged in social change activities, gain an understanding of why social change may be necessary in their community and how to participate in creating it. As the course progresses, people develop the skills and strategies needed to transform their communities into places that reflect neighborhood residents' concept of how an engaged community functions and what it looks and feels like.

How does the Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute Benefit the Boston Community?

The Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute's highly skilled staff teaches community participants how to navigate the government and exert political power. As students become community activists, they learn how to prioritize their interests and needs and how to effectively advocate for lasting change that can transform their lives and support positive community



development. MAHEI helps build self-esteem as it encourages self-determination and provides participants with the knowledge and assurance that they are entitled to economic justice and equity. Through this process, communities are strengthened and a better Boston emerges.

MAHEI educates community residents about the impact economic injustice has on every area of our lives, including education, housing, the workforce, the criminal justice system, public safety and healthcare.

MAHEI provides training in civic engagement, making it easier for community residents to get involved in issues that are important to them. By voting, contacting elected officials, organizing public meetings, and interfacing with community leaders, we increase our impact at the community level. We also teach residents how to advocate for themselves and their families by giving public testimony, writing letters, calling and emailing elected officials. We participate in public protests and organize lobby days where residents converge on the State House and/or City Hall to advocate for change.

MAHEI educates people about their elected officials and the roles they play in city, state and federal government. We teach the importance of advocating for legislation that positively impacts the community on all levels, including economic and social equity levels.

MAHEI offers professional training designed to help individuals navigate and improve their economic status. Our goal is to teach participants how to acquire wealth now and in the future.

Resources Required to Accomplish Program Goals

In order to meet MAHEI's goals, the following resources are required:

- A skilled teaching staff
- Curriculum development
- Marketing and advertising
- Publication of materials
- Communications/website
- Social Media

Benefits to Boston Residents

- Increased voter turnout
- Participants able to identify and understand the wealth gap
- Participants qualified to engage in discussions about closing the wealth gap
- Participants understand the contribution of Blacks, who built America and the City of Boston
- Participants able to identify the leaders and legends who have contributed to the success of Boston's Black community
- People gain a sense of belonging within their neighborhood and to the greater Boston community
- Increase economic growth for all Bostonians



- Improved health due to increased civic engagement
- Increase in people living in communities of color belonging to local organizations, political wards and neighborhood associations
- Available banking services promote and offer affordable services
- Collaborating and cooperating with people and organizations within the City of Boston by promoting participation in local organizations

Civic engagement, financial literacy and soft skills are the key programs that we plan to implement in the first year of operation. In order to broaden the scope of our Senior Soldiers program, we will also seek partnerships with organizations such as Mass Senior Action, AARP and Seniors on the Move.