

A Brief Introduction

BAMS Fest is a 501(c)(3) organization that breaks down racial and social barriers to arts, music, and culture for marginalized communities of color across Greater Boston. Its vision is to create a vibrant and inclusive arts and culture sector for the City of Boston and beyond, a sector that celebrates all artistic talents, challenges societal perceptions, and empowers and engages audiences.

Founded in 2016, BAMS Fest has demonstrated proof of concept by nurturing and elevating local artists of color and by attracting diverse audiences to performances curated from a black perspective. In a city where gaps in equity and inclusion are perennial issues, BAMS Fest is a positive force of creative place keeping and cultural equity. It activates Franklin Park and other venues in black neighborhoods as cultural spaces. It elevates the voices of artists and audiences of color and builds partnerships that make more spaces throughout the city welcoming to them.

BAMS Fest's signature program is BAMS Festival, an annual family-friendly event open to all in the Greater Boston community and beyond. The Festival takes place in Franklin Park, located at the nexus of Boston's black neighborhoods and historically a central convening place for black Boston's cultural life. The Festival aims to reclaim this legacy while serving as a platform for local artists and entrepreneurs to connect with a region-wide audience. In the coming years, BAMS Fest aspires to build the Festival's stature, cementing its place as a local tradition and becoming a noted annual destination in the nationwide calendar of black cultural events.

The Festival is part of BAMS Fest's larger goal to support Boston's artists and audiences of color. The organization aims to advance that goal throughout the year. It will connect artists to opportunities and resources to advance their careers and improve their well-being, and it will keep audiences informed of relevant arts and cultural offerings in the region. In the coming three years, strategic partnerships will be critical to maintaining year-round programming as BAMS Fest builds its internal capacity.

BAMS Fest was founded by Catherine T. Morris, a Boston native and black cultural entrepreneur recognized in 2019 as one of WBUR's ARTery 25. While BAMS Fest prioritizes compensating artists for their labor, Morris and her dedicated team have operated BAMS Fest as volunteers since the organization's founding. A key issue that BAMS Fest must address in the coming three years is organizational growth and capacity building. Without the consistency offered by paid staff, BAMS Fest will remain too fragile to advance a mission and vision that afford Greater Boston a unique opportunity to transform its cultural landscape into one that welcomes all artists and audiences. To build capacity, BAMS Fest will need to prove its value to a robust mix of philanthropic supporters, corporate sponsors, and ticket buyers who share BAMS Fest's vision for cultural equity in Greater Boston.



BOSTON
ART & MUSIC SOUL FEST, INC.

OUR CORE VALUES

Inclusive

Engage with constituents in a way that embraces inclusion on all levels (race, socioeconomic, sexual orientation, disability, etc.), and fosters a more inclusive arts ecosystem for Greater Boston.

Artist Centric

Supporting artists, particularly artists of color, both professionally and holistically. BAMS Fest believes in supporting the artist as a person, taking into account their mental and physical wellbeing, financial health, and professional development.

Sustainable

Building an infrastructure, board, and programming strategy that can continue to impact the economic development of the communities and constituencies the organization seeks to serve, while contributing to the larger creative economy. While BAMS Fest's main focus is on artists, the organization also chooses to elevate and patronize local black-, brown-, and women-owned businesses whenever possible, in order to support wealth creation among these populations.

Authentic

Continue to build an organization that is representative of the voice of the community we seek to serve, while also carving out a place for black and brown voices in the larger arts and culture non-profit sector.

Collective Mindset

Acknowledge that our larger work is made up of the individual work and sacrifices of our team, and strive to create a supportive and responsible community that furthers both our programming efforts and organizational success.

OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS & SPONSORS HAVE INCLUDED...





Commitment & Expectations

EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance at four quarterly board meetings per calendar year (January – December)
- Minimum attendance in two quarterly Staff and Board meetings per calendar year (January – December)
- Attendance at the Staff and Board summer annual retreat
- Participate in ongoing strategic planning, all while contributing thoughtful, robust ideas and constructive feedback that helps to advance our mission, goals, and objectives.
- Attend BAMS Fest events and bring individuals who can financially support and / or operationally grow the organization.
- Co-lead, lead or participate on a committee (minimum of 1-year commitment that is renewable)
- Work on fundraising initiatives to expand the organization's visibility.
- Flexibility in responding to regular phone, in-person and/or email communications from Board, committee members and staff (when requested).

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

- A minimum give of \$1,000 (cash) with a minimum of a \$2,500 get from your network (cash).
- Raise xx% in ads, tickets and/or sponsorship for our summer annual fundraiser (BAMS Festival)

COMPENSATION

- This is an unpaid volunteer position with a negotiable meals and local travel allowance for donor engagement purposes.

TIME COMMITMENT

- Two-year team (renewable)
- Minimum of a one-year participation on a committee

