

Boston's Black-Owned Business (BBOB) Market Opens for its Second Season

March 22nd, 2018

BOSTON—On April 20, 2019, Boston Young Black Professionals (YBP), a growing community of black Bostonians and transplants, will have the season opener of its successful Boston Black-owned Business (BBOB) pop-up market, at the Seaport's District Hall. The pop up caters to diverse, small, minority-owned businesses who offer products such as handmade housewares, beauty, and African-inspired art as well as services like event management, health, and life coaching.

“We are trying to continue to bring an affordable, monthly opportunity for aspiring and established minority-owned businesses to connect, network and gain visibility as that continues to be a need”, says Quontay Turner, an organizer of YBP and artisan and owner of her own creative brand, Q Made It. “We are also bringing this market to an area that lacks entrepreneurial opportunities for people of color, to expand their reach and others’ knowledge of these businesses, services, and products.”

The market gained visibility in the 2018 season as one of two open markets in the Greater Boston Area catering specifically to business owners of color. Last year's season featured over 140 business owners, from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. More than half of these vendors had never had an opportunity to publicly vend and share their services in-person or beyond their friend groups but used the market as an opportunity to test and improve their brand and market impact.

“The BBOB was my first vending event as a new entrepreneur and my it was smooth and rewarding”, says Nikia Holmes owner of True9_accessories, a handmade jewelry brand. “The BBOB market is built on unity, helping each other, networking, and sharing methods or resources. I'm proud to be a regular vendor and look forward to this upcoming season.”

This year's market includes eight dates, one Saturday a month until December. Organizers are working to increase the community experience by also offering space for local community-based organizations, non-profits, and small business to raise awareness about causes affecting people of color as well as information sharing and knowledge building around career, housing, health and a myriad of other social services. The market is free and open to the public, and a full list of market dates is available [here](#).

Boston Young Black Professionals (Boston YBP) was founded in 2012 and is organized by four Boston residents who have great love and affinity toward the city. They are community organizers creating space for young black people to feel connected and affirmed in a city that can be socially and professionally challenging for minorities.

To apply to vend at for the market, visit <https://goo.gl/forms/pErhORKwrB21ip042>

To apply for a free community table space, visit <https://goo.gl/forms/mFXk2seFVbRXKC8o1>

To register to attend, visit <https://bbobmarket2019.eventbrite.com>