

# THE BOSTON OLYMPIC BID, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY

URBAN.Boston  
and NAACP  
Boston Branch

Freedom House  
Dorchester, MA  
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# WELCOME TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT BOSTON 2024!

- Many of us have read news reports about the evolving proposal for Boston to host the 2024 Olympics
- The discussion around Boston 2024 can seem confusing:
  - Where would the events be held?
  - Who will pay for it?
  - How will my community be affected?
  - Is it a good idea?
- URBAN.Boston and the NAACP Boston Branch want to have a different kind of discussion about Boston 2024, one that puts our community's needs and interests front-and-center, and asks a very different question:

**How can we have a say in the planning process for Boston 2024? How could Olympics planning leave a 'legacy' that will benefit our communities?**

# THIS MEETING WILL HELP THE COMMUNITY HAVE A VOICE IN BOSTON 2014

- We want this event to be a ‘no-spin zone’: we are not advocating for or against the Olympics bid.
- Instead, for those who are interested in long-term impacts of Olympics planning for Boston’s communities, we provide a forum to learn how what these might be, and how to bring them about.
- Suppose that the Olympics themselves are not as important for Boston as the chance to define development priorities for our city for the next 10 to 15 years. Then what should those priorities be?

**We hope that the ideas we discuss this evening, and those that follow this meeting, will help support a new kind of planning process not just for the Olympics, but for all planning processes in the city of Boston.**

# WHAT COULD A BOSTON 2024 OLYMPICS MEAN FOR “LEGACY”?

- We think that the long-term impacts (positive and negative) of an Olympics bid, and of the actual Games, are worth planning for, and working to achieve:
  - Physical and social infrastructure
  - Public investments
  - Inclusive, transparent planning process
  - Increased political participation

**But how can we get there?**

# HOW DID THIS EVENT COME TOGETHER?

- We wanted to use the strengths of NAACP and URBAN.Boston to build community-researcher collaborations for social impact.
- This is not a conventional model: not organizing, nor a teach-in, nor a pitch session.
- Instead, it's a space for learning, reflecting and building partnerships

**Larger goal: build community capacity for informed action**

# OUR MEMO AND QUESTIONS

- URBAN.Boston and the NAACP Boston Branch have worked together to prepare a memo that we hope will help us start the conversation. You are welcome to review it and suggest any changes you wish!
- Here are the questions we want to answer to ensure that plans for a Boston 2024 Olympics provide benefits for *all* Bostonians:
  - **What is the vision for the future of Boston from the perspectives of community members, city government, and from Boston 2024?**
  - **From the perspective of community members and the city, how could a Boston Olympics impact their vision?**

# THIS EVENING'S GOALS

- Assemble a team for of community members and researchers to answer these questions
- Build support for a larger conversation about communities of color and participation in the planning process
- Right now, we'd especially like each of you to join a 'breakout session' to discuss:

- **What do you think the conversation about the Boston Olympic bid has been about so far?**
- **What do you think is missing from the conversation about the Boston Olympic bid?**
- **What feedback do you have about the proposed research questions?**

# WHY RESEARCH?

- Research is a process of learning about our environment and developing explanations about what we see and experience
    - It assumes that we can answer important questions
    - It assumes we don't know the answers yet
  - Research enables us to:
    - Collect new information about our community
    - Use the information to gain ownership over what you want
  - If you can do any of these...
    - *Study* (gather data through interviews, observations, etc.)
    - *Analyze* (identify trends and patterns)
    - *Synthesize* (answer questions, build understanding)
    - *Communicate* (writing, speaking)
- Then you will be a great addition to the research team!



# A CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

- If you would like to join a team of community members and researchers to answer the research questions we proposed in the memo, please sign up with Nia, Lindsay or Michael
- We'll have a community follow-up in the fall to share progress
- Let Boston 2024 know how important it is to partner with our community in a direct and sincere way, and that community engagement is essential to a successful bid!

**Thanks for participating in this evening's event! We hope you will spread the word, and help us be a positive force for change during this public discussion about the Olympics.**

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT, FEEDBACK AND CRITIQUES

- URBAN.Boston Steering Committee
- Boston NAACP Economic Development and Labor and Industry Committee
- Boston NAACP Political Action Committee
- Black Economic Justice Institute
- Revolution Solutions
- Right to the City
- Mass Minority Contractors' Association
- Coalition of Black Business and Community Leaders