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# Welcome to Sparks! BACK IN BLACK

Madison Park Development Corporation's

## Annual Gala

 A Creative Black Tie Optional Evening 

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 6:30PM

HIBERNIAN HALL BALLROOM

184 DUDLEY STREET, ROXBURY

MPDC  
madison-park.org

h  
Hibernian Hall



#MPDCRox

# WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO TONIGHT

## Sparks! VIP Reception

5:30 pm

### WITH APPEARANCES BY

Cornell Coley

Wine Tasting with The Urban Grape

Leslie Reid, MPDC CEO

Griffin Thomas, MPDC Resource Development Director

*The*  
**PEARL**  
COCKTAILS • SEAFOOD GRILL • RAW BAR

**ETHNICA CATERING**

*Sparks!*  
**BACK IN BLACK**

6:30 pm

### WITH APPEARANCES BY

Your host, George 'Chip' Greenidge, Jr.

Leslie Reid, MPDC CEO

Cornell Coley

Alondra Bobadilla

Kim Tavar

VLA DANCE

Zoe DeCampos, MPDC Resident & Scholarship Recipient

Lisa Hall, Orchard Gardens Resident Association

Xiomara Alicea, 2022 Community Catalyst Award

Yhinny Matos, MPDC Youth Workforce Manager, 2022 Community Catalyst Award

Dr. Shari Nethersole on behalf of Boston Children's Hospital,

2022 Embracing Promise Award

Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor, At-Large

Wilbur Smart, MPDC Community Support Manager

Hugh Johnson, 2022 Edna V. Bynoe Community Champion Award

Tito Jackson, 2022 Community Catalyst Award

The Fred Woodard Collective

**MPDC**  
madison-park.org

## *In memory of Valerie Shelley*



Valerie "Val" Shelley was born May 20, 1948, in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and was an original Orchard Park Resident. She worked for the School Department for over 40 years and played a vital role in the busing desegregation in 1974. Ms. Shelley moved back to what is now known as Orchard Garden Estates in 1999 at her sister Edna V. Bynoe's request. Edna is responsible for Orchard Gardens being the significant development it is today. After her sister's death, Valerie vowed to continue the hard work her sister started and ensure her legacy remained at the forefront. In 2013, Valerie became the President of the Orchard Gardens Resident Association.

Valerie's commitment to public service and the overall well-being of her community was relentless. Her love for the community was unwavering, and she continued to serve during the COVID-19 Pandemic. From High school seniors' graduation, Mother's Day, Easter, and Back to School giveaways, Val ensured all special occasions continued to be recognized and celebrated. Giving up was not an option for Val. That's who Val Shelley was. She fought for affordable housing, equitable resources for tenants, and a positive living experience for everyone in her community.

It is MPDC's privilege to have worked alongside Val all these years, especially in Orchard Gardens. We are so grateful for what she and her entire family have given to our community. We were honored to host her overwhelmingly attended repast at Hibernian Hall.

We look forward to finding meaningful ways to continue and honor her legacy. She will be deeply missed.

**Rest in power, Val.**





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**HOUSING**  
INTO  
**HOMES**



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# THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S FOOD VENDORS

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# THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S BEVERAGE PROVIDERS

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*Please, tip your  
bartenders!*

*Sparks!*  
BACK IN BLACK

## 2022 COMMUNITY CATALYST AWARD

# *Yhinny Matos*

*MPDC Youth Workforce Development Manager*



Yhinny Matos was born in Barahona in the Dominican Republic. In 1979, she landed in Boston to receive medical care and never moved back. A daughter of immigrants, she didn't see her father until about six years later. Yhinny graduated from Bay State College, Emerson, and in 2021, obtained an MBA from Cambridge College.

Her main passion is the performing arts. At 13, she joined Boston Public School's All City Dance Company, where she was a principal dancer. Upon graduating high school, she auditioned for Phunk Phenomenon, where she danced for three years. She then began her own dance company, United Roots. While running the dance company for seven years, she got performing arts/teaching contracts with Puma, Reebok, Staples, Gillette, and Converse. She was also a co-host for Big City's "Way Back When" radio show.

Yhinny has always had a dedication to the arts and youth development. In her early 20s, she worked as an accountant for a travel firm for about two years, then transitioned to arts marketing at Artists for Humanity, where she was employed for over ten years. She then acquired several positions at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, where she left as Marketing and Program Manager after eight years. Now working as Youth Workforce Program Manager for MPDC, she oversees programming for youth ages 14-21 and the scholarship program.

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## 2022 COMMUNITY CATALYST AWARD

# *Xiomara Alicea*

*Orchard Gardens Resident Service Coordinator*



Xiomara Alicea is the Resident Service Coordinator at Orchard Gardens Estates, a mixed-income property in Roxbury, MA. She implements various programming and case management within the property management setting, serving 331 households and 150 senior homes.

Xiomara believes it is essential for individuals, families, and seniors to provide programming to assist their educational and personal advancement. She works closely with a resident board and community partners to provide much-needed resources.

Xiomara has supported families in her roles as a Family Services Manager for Jeremiah Program-Boston, Ma, Program Coordinator for Heading Home Inc. at a Family Shelter and individuals at an SRO setting for Women in Boston, MA, and Cambridge, MA, a Unit Director for The Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County, MD, and over five years as the Teen Director of The Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, MA.

Xiomara is certified in BEST trauma settings, is knowledgeable in Boys and Girls Clubs of America's programming for Non-Profits, and exhibits experience and abundance of knowledge working with individuals, seniors, and families from diverse circumstances.

Xiomara has an educational background in liberal arts and business.



Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of the  
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2022 ANNUAL SPARKS GALA**

Congratulations to all of the honorees



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## 2022 EMBRACING PROMISE AWARD

### *Boston Children's Hospital's Office of Community Health*



**Boston Children's Hospital**

Where the world comes for answers

Over thirty years ago, Boston Children's Hospital was one of the first academic medical centers in the country to expand the traditional missions of patient care, teaching, and research to embrace a fourth mission — community. Boston Children's community mission is to improve the health and well-being of children and families in our local community. The Office of Community Health brings together hospital and community resources to address health disparities, improve health outcomes, and promote health equity. Our community efforts are focused on offering programs and partnering with others that offer support and services that benefit Boston's children and families, specifically those most affected by the social determinants of health.

The Office of Community Health is led by Shari Nethersole, MD, Vice President for Community Health and Engagement. Dr. Nethersole is also a pediatrician at the Children's Hospital Primary Care Center. The expertise informs Boston Children's community mission of two leadership groups, the Board Committee for Community Health and the Community Advisory Board. Both Boards have diverse representation from health care, education, government, and business sectors as well as grassroots organizations and provide the Office of Community Health with feedback from the communities reached through our programs and partnerships.

## SPARKS! BACK IN BLACK 2022 PRODUCTION TEAM

**KELLY RANSOM**  
**GRIFFIN THOMAS**  
**MEGHAN HIGGINS**  
**HARIS LEFERI**  
**ASAD HARDWICK**  
**LESLIE REID**  
**INGRID TUCKER**  
**CIERA SADE WADE**  
**YVETTE JORDAN**  
**CHEPRENE BROWN**  
**PATRICE SHEPARD**  
**DANIEL BORQUE**  
**JUSTINA THOMPSON**

## SPARKS! BACK IN BLACK 2022 STAFF & VENDORS

<b>AUDIO &amp; LIGHTING</b>	<b>JORDAN CALLOWAY</b>
<b>UNLIMITED</b>	<b>KAITLYN GONZALEZ</b>
<b>CHRISTINE DIAZ</b>	<b>LYNKA GUADALUPE</b>
<b>DAVID FOY</b>	<b>PEAK EVENTS</b>
<b>DOT GIRL PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	<b>PREMIERE BAR SERVICE</b>
<b>DANA BAEZ</b>	<b>RED SUN PRESS</b>
<b>DARIUS CHICHA</b>	<b>ROMARIO HARDEN</b>
<b>DELAYAH COLLINS</b>	<b>SECURITY SERVICE</b>
<b>ERIK KING ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPECIALISTS</b>
<b>ILLUMINARIA</b>	<b>SNAPPED BOSTON</b>
<b>IAN ROBINSON</b>	<b>PHOTOBOOTH</b>
<b>ILYSIS WHITE</b>	<b>SHALIMAR PUJOLS</b>
<b>JADA WALLACE</b>	<b>VENUS ANGONO</b>
<b>JOSEPH ANTHONY</b>	<b>YULIMAR ROSADO</b>
<b>JACENIALIS CUEVAS</b>	

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## 2022 COMMUNITY CATALYST AWARD

# Tito Jackson

CEO, Verdant Medical



Tito Jackson is a lifelong resident of Roxbury and is the son two beloved community activists. From 2011 to 2018 as the District 7 Boston City Councilor, he represented all of Roxbury and parts of the South End, Dorchester and Fenway neighborhoods. Today, Jackson is the CEO of Apex Noire Cannabis, Boston's first full service experiential cannabis retail location.

Before being elected City Councilor, Jackson spent more than 10 years as a sales and marketing professional. In 2007, Jackson became the Industry Director for Information Technology in Governor Patrick's Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development where his portfolio focused on creating and sustaining jobs and helping local businesses grow. As a member of the Patrick Administration, Jackson brought 2,500 jobs to Massachusetts.

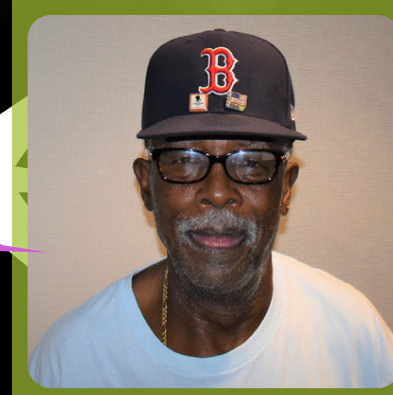
Jackson graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Arts in History where his peers voted him Student Body President and where he remains involved with the Alumni Association. Councilor Jackson remains civically engaged with the community that raised him. He encourages young people to get involved in the civic process as a way to make a difference in their community.

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## 2022 EDNA V. BYNOE COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

# Hugh Johnson

Village In Progress Block Captain and Haynes House resident



Hugh Johnson is the oldest of eight children, Hugh was born at Boston Medical Center. His first home was on Auburn Street (now Dewitt Drive) in Roxbury. Hugh attended the William Bacon School and graduated from Boston English High School, still located in the Fenway.

After graduating from high school, Hugh entered the U.S. Army and spent five years serving his country, including two tours of Vietnam. After returning to his beloved Boston, Hugh had a career rooted in public service, especially working with veterans and the incarcerated.

Hugh enjoys helping keep the area around Madison Park Village safe, but he is not only active in Madison Park's public safety efforts. He volunteers his time at the Smith House and Dewitt Center food distributions. He is also active in our civic engagement and health and wellness programs. He even got his grandson involved in our youth programs.

Hugh is grateful to his mother, who inspired him to be involved in the community. Hugh says he "stands on the shoulders of others who saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself." Hugh and his wife Cheryl live at Haynes House. They enjoy spending time with their six amazing grandchildren.

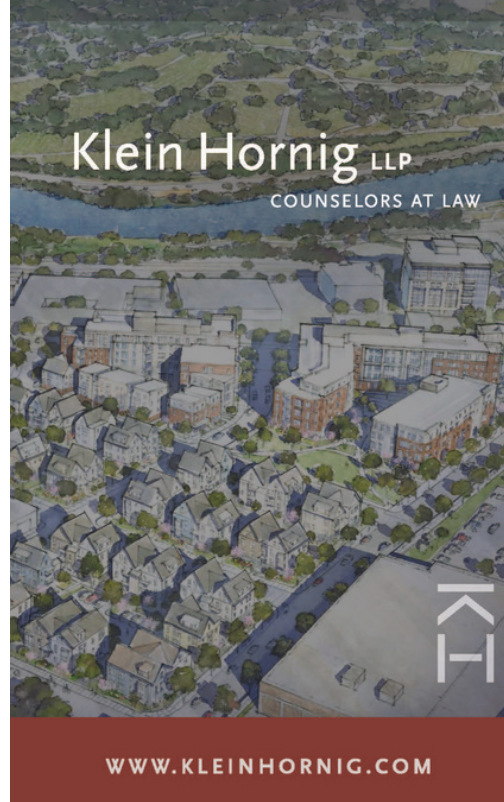
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We are pleased to support the work of MPDC and their efforts to make our community a better place for all.

Thank you to Ingrid Tucker for her leadership in so many community organizations, including the Campaign for Catholic Schools, co-sponsor of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy (Dorchester) and Trinity Catholic Academy (Brockton). Openings and tuition assistance available.



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## SPARKS! PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT

### CORNELL COLEY



Cornell Coley is an award-winning percussionist, dancer, teacher, and producer. Mr. Coley has won numerous local and national grants and awards, including from the Mass Cultural Council, New England Foundation for the Arts, The Boston Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has taught Afro-Latin dance at ten major colleges. The most recent project is "Rhythm Recipes: BIPOC Joy and Healing," a performance and drum circle event series. He founded and directs the Afrika Gente Music Project, which includes a drum ensemble and a band ranging from a trio to a 6-member ensemble.

Please visit his website at [www.afrolatin.net](http://www.afrolatin.net).

## SPARKS! PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT

### ALONDRA BOBADILLA



Alondra Bobadilla was named Boston's first-ever Youth Poet Laureate in January 2020. Alondra uses her writing to highlight social issues that impact her and her community. Through her work, she demonstrates how creative expression can be a powerful tool for youth to examine feelings around issues, find their voice, and speak up about the changes they want to see for their future. Alondra is the author of a collection of poems entitled "With Clipped Wings."

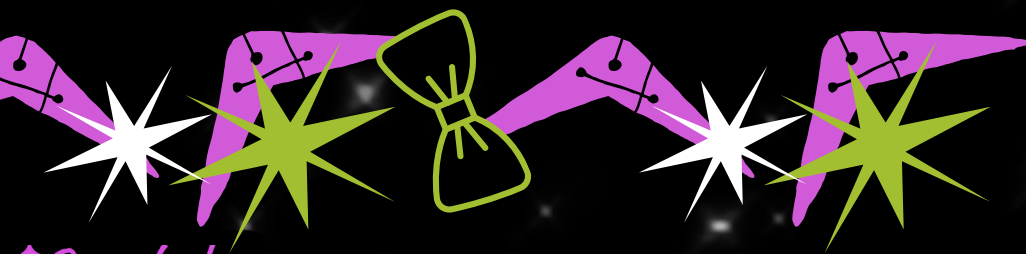
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# MAKE AN IMPACT TONIGHT!

As a Massachusetts CDC participating in the state CITC program, **MPDC can provide considerable tax savings to our donors!** The CITC program offers the benefit of a **50% state tax rebate for donations to MPDC of \$1,000 or more.** If the credit exceeds your liability, the state will refund the balance of your credit.

Your CITC donation to Sparks! supports all of MPDC's critical programmatic work that further advances our mission. From high-quality arts performances to youth development programs, health equity projects and community violence prevention, your contribution will help **MPDC foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury neighborhood.**



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## SPARKS! PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT

### KIM TAVAR



Kim Tavar is a singer/songwriter from Boston, Massachusetts. She is very sensitive, caring, and conscious about life and lyrics. Kim's silky vocals are like a quiet storm about to blanket the earth with bright skies. Her straight-from-the-heart, no-nonsense, smooth delivery reaches out and grabs you like a much-needed embrace. Kim is bringing back that 70's, 80's, 90's sound that the world is craving. Meaningful lyrics, pretty melodies, catchy hooks, and a silky tone. Pure Quality Grown Folks Music.

Kim's song "Isaiah" has been on several UK Soul Music Charts. Two weeks in the Top 10 and reaching as high as the number 5 spot. Isaiah and Movin' have been among the top 10 most selected songs by 60+ UK DJs on the DJs choices playlist on UK rotation for several weeks and counting. Kim's single 1+1 Don't = three reached number 3 on the UK Global Soul Chart. Kim's recent performances have been at the Back to Love Weekender in Manchester, England, and The World-Famous Jazz Café in London, England.

Her album "My Story" was released on all digital music streaming outlets on Friday, March 12, 2021, and consists of 13 tracks written by Kim. Kim's original songs are available on all music streaming outlets.

Kim is no stranger to the music business, having spent countless hours in recording studios, touring with several top 40 bands in and around New England in the 90s and 2000s. As a solo artist and 20-year veteran of the Boston Police Department, Kim has performed The National Anthem/God Bless America at The New England Patriots, The Boston Red Sox, and The Boston Celtics games. Several performances in Washington DC and the US Capitol Peace Officer Memorial. Kim's Rendition of "America the Beautiful" caught Kelly Ripa's attention back in April. The same video caught the attention of the great James Taylor (Who happens to be one of Kim's all-time favorite singer-songwriters along with Kenneth Babyface Edmonds. It is Kim's dream to work with Babyface.

She is truly a star on the rise!

## SPARKS! PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT

### VLA DANCE



Director of emerging dance organization VLA DANCE, Victoria, aims to celebrate the talents and artistry of Boston through contemporary dance. Originally from Massachusetts, Victoria L. Awkward trained at Impulse Dance Center by LuAnn Pagella and worked with Boston-based artists such as Karen Krolak. She graduated from Goucher College with honors in Dance, Visual Art, and Education. While there, she danced for the Goucher Repertory Dance Ensemble and performed in works by Sidra Bell, Christian Von Howard, Helen Simoneau, Iyun Ashani Harrison, Iquail Shaheed, and others. Victoria is also a freelance artist, who most recently worked with Shura Baryshnikov and Levi Marsman at Boston Lyric Opera, in addition to Ashani Dances, Attn: Dance, The Davis Sisters, Heather Stewart, Jenna Pollack, and Ruckus Dance. She choreographed Romeo and Juliet for Boston Lyric Opera and Shakespeare on the Common. She has been a guest teacher at Salem State University and the Head Dance Coach at Middlesex School in Concord. Newly appointed Visual Arts Coordinator at the West End House, Victoria's passion for education spans beyond the dance classroom. She continually deepens her teaching practices through her work as a mentee with Cambridge-based Midday Movement Series and United Kingdom-based Alleyne Dance. She was recently selected alongside 15 others to be in WBUR's series The Makers, celebrating artists of color making an impact in the Greater Boston area.



## SPARKS! PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT

# THE FRED WOODARD COLLECTIVE



Fred Woodard was born on March 2, 1961, in Kansas City, MO, and grew up in Iowa City, IA. After high school, he attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, and received a degree in Jazz Composition and Arranging in 1983. He has also studied Jazz improvisation with Jerry Bergonzi, Charlie Banacos, and Ritchie Hart. After graduation from Berklee, Woodard performed with various jazz, R&B, and reggae bands in the Boston area and performed locally and internationally with classic R&B artists such as Sam & Dave, William Bell, The Drifters, and the Marvellets. In addition to his band, The Fred Woodard Collective, he currently performs with The Pocket Big Band and a jazz quintet called The AB 5. Woodard has been leading his jazz groups since 1988. His groups have performed extensively, making appearances at Boston area events such as The Newton Jazz Festival, The DSNi Multi-Cultural Festival, and The Big Head Community Festival. Outside of Boston, his groups have performed at The Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, The Providence Jazz and Blues Festival, and The Iowa City Jazz Festival. In 2016 he founded and organized the Dudley Jazz Festival, which has been an annual event since then. Woodard established his recording label, Ujam Records, in 1997 and has produced three recordings, "Arrival," "1715," and "Urban Garden. These CDs received positive reviews in several publications, such as Cadence Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Boston Phoenix, The Rochester City-News, and The Iowa City Press-Citizen. In 2006, The Fred Woodard Trio was named "Best Band Jazz" at the 1st annual New England Urban Music Awards. In 2013 Woodard was awarded the Community Catalyst Award from the Madison Park Development Corporation. Woodard shares the love of his craft as a teacher at the Roland Hayes School of Music in Roxbury, MA. He says, "It allows me to re-think my approach to my instrument. I also get a chance to reach people who wouldn't otherwise get a chance to learn how to play an instrument."

## SPARKS! SPOTLIGHT

# GEORGE 'CHIP' GREENIDGE. JR.



George (Chip) Greenidge, Jr. is the Founding Executive Director of Greatest MINDS, a Boston-based BIPOC-run nonprofit focused on mentoring young people as they explore college, career, citizenry, and volunteerism as a way to bring about positive change in civil society. He is also a Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation where he researches urban cities, affordable housing, and the impact of displacement policies and gentrification on its residents. In addition, he serves as an Affiliate Faculty, Researcher, and Advisory Board Member of the new Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research (CAR). The Center for Antiracist Research convenes researchers and practitioners from various disciplines to figure out novel and practical ways to understand, explain, and solve seemingly intractable problems of racial inequity and injustice. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Atrius Heath (Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates), an American not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and the largest independent physician-led healthcare organization in the Northeast, where he focuses on how to improve the community and patient care, service, and safety.

Recently, George was recognized by the United Negro College Fund and the Boston Red Sox with their inaugural Homecoming Award for his life-long commitment to providing mentorship to over 10,000 high school and college students pursuing college degrees in Boston, MA, and Atlanta, GA. This year, the American Sociological Association awarded him their inaugural Community and Urban Sociology Section's 2022 Publicly Engaged Scholar Award for his convening and advocacy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programming efforts in urban communities/cities.





NEI is a proud supporter of **Madison Park Development Corporation** and their mission to foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury neighborhood that supports the well-being and advancement of the community.



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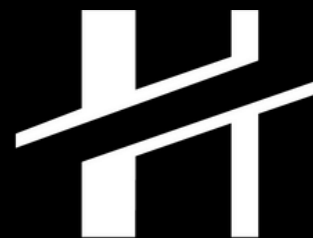
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