

# RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE: ECONOMIC JUSTICE



One project of the Economic Justice Working Group is an effort to promote purchasing from Black-owned businesses. This project is anchored in our awareness of insidious past and present racial discrimination; and in the evidence that Black-owned businesses are likely to hire Black people, and foster economic improvement for Black families and communities along with myriad other benefits. Like all small businesses only much more so, Black-owned businesses often fail, or fail to start, due to lack of access to capital or the challenge of reaching their desired markets and customers. When we make a meaningful effort to spend dollars in line with our hopes for the world around us, we are participating in the drive for economic justice.

Temple Israel has already begun to rely on several new vendors thanks to the leadership of Executive Director Dan Deutsch and Events Coordinator Jennifer Cinnante. The list below reflects a range of businesses and there are many more businesses of all kinds on a larger list you will find on the Temple Israel website at [www.tisrael.org/racial-justice-initiative](http://www.tisrael.org/racial-justice-initiative). We will add to the list regularly. Please treat the owners and proprietors as friends of Temple Israel. We are building relationships and strengthening our community in the process. If you have feedback, contact TI members Thel Klein at [thelklein@gmail.com](mailto:thelklein@gmail.com) or Andy Tarsy at [atarsy@gmail.com](mailto:atarsy@gmail.com).

## FOOD, DRINK, & ENTERTAINMENT (INCLUDES CATERING)

### Fresh Food Generation

Dorchester, 617-602-7185  
[freshfoodgeneration.com](http://freshfoodgeneration.com)

This “farm to plate” caterer is now a regular presence at Temple Israel. Owners Cassandra Campbell and Jackson Renshaw have deep roots in farming, nutrition, and youth development. Empanadas, salads, wraps, soups, and more are bursting with flavor. Excellent catering and a food truck too!

### Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen

604 Columbus Ave, South End, 617-536-1100  
[dcbkboston.com](http://dcbkboston.com)

Restaurateur and developer Darryl Settles has created a relaxed, sophisticated atmosphere for “southern comfort food and signature cocktails with a side of some of the best jazz in Boston.” Go for dinner or Sunday brunch, and consider their excellent catering.

### Slade's Bar and Grill

958 Tremont St., Lower Roxbury, 617-442-4600  
[SladesBarandGrill.com](http://SladesBarandGrill.com)

Recently re-done by Darryl Settles, Slade's has more than 80 years of history being the “soul of Boston” with southern-style dining, drinks, and entertainment in Lower Roxbury. It was owned by Celtic legend Bill Russell in the 1960s.

### Restaurante Cesaria

266 Bowdoin St., Boston (Dorchester)  
617-282-1998, [Restaurantcesaria.com](http://Restaurantcesaria.com)

70,000 Massachusetts residents are Cape Verdean and Tony Barros' has been offering the cuisine of the archipelago off the coast of West Africa for 15 years. If you have not tried Cape Verdean cuisine or if you already love it – this is your place.

### Suya Joint

185 Dudley Street, Roxbury, 617-708-0245  
[Suyajoint.com](http://Suyajoint.com)

Owner & chef Cecilia Lizotte offers “All-Africa Cuisine” and describes the Nigerian inspired fare as “an artistic creation.”

### ZaZ

1238 River Street, Cleary Square, Hyde Park  
617-276-3729, [zazrestaurant.com](http://zazrestaurant.com)

Caribbean, Italian, Spanish, and Asian flavors define the palate of owner/chef Orlie Roberts. Lunch, dinner, and excellent catering.

### Coast Cafe

233 River Street, Cambridge, 617-354-7644  
[Coastsoulcafe.com](http://Coastsoulcafe.com)

Cambridge locals adore the soul-food that Tony Brooks and team prepare. “Our food is the progressive, healthier prepared version that our families grew up on in the South.”

### MIDA

782 Tremont Street, South End, 617-936-3490  
[www.midaboston.com](http://www.midaboston.com)

Zagat says chef/owner Douglass Williams has one of the hottest new Italian restaurants in Boston. “We believe meals are meant to be shared and that everyone in the neighborhood should have a comfortable place to unwind, enjoy great food, imbibe and have fun.”

### Blue Nile Restaurant and Marathon Foods

389 Centre Street, JP, 617-522-6453, [bluenilejp.com](http://bluenilejp.com)

Some say this is the best Ethiopian food in Boston, with really good vegetarian options. “Healthy food prepared from scratch” is not just a slogan. This is a serious food place. Marathon Foods is the name of their company that packages their offerings for sale in area markets.

### Wally's Cafe Jazz Club

427 Massachusetts Avenue, South End  
617-424-1408, [Wallyscafe.com](http://Wallyscafe.com)

Since 1947 the Walcott family has been delivering an authentic jazz experience to patrons. Professionals take the stage every night and exceptionally skilled and talented students from Berklee and other places too. This is an institution – for music and for Boston.

### The Dream Team Band

Athene Wilson, [divadish2@aol.com](mailto:divadish2@aol.com), 617-594-9338  
Dream Team “rocks crowds at weddings, parties and corporate events” with a “mix of music designed to fit your unique crowd.” TI's Thel Klein says, “Great dance band for any occasion!”

### Sweet Teez Bakery

Dorchester, 718-473-4112, [Sweetteezbakery.com](http://Sweetteezbakery.com)

Teresa Thompson Maynard set out to create a nut-free cupcake in response to her children's allergies. Now she runs a custom cakes and bakery business and will have a store location soon.

### MarTia's Cakes

857-342-2468, [Martiascakes.com](http://Martiascakes.com)

What began for owner and lead baker Markita Durant as a family activity and a passion has become a business, offering “custom design, a classic layer, cupcakes or cake pops” for dessert lovers, party or event hosts, and anyone with a sweet tooth.

### Lyndigo Spice

617-276-8097, [Lyndigospice.com](http://Lyndigospice.com)

Founder and CEO Celeste Croxton-Tate channels her love of Indian and Caribbean spices and flavors into her catering business and her own line of chutneys, relishes, fruit spreads and spice blends (perfect gifts).

### Petsi Pies

Cambridge: 31 Putnam Avenue; 617-499-0801  
Somerville: 285 Beacon Street 617-661-7437  
[petsipies.com](http://petsipies.com)

Owned by Renee McLeod (also of Tupelo) Petsi is an icon for fresh-baked, outrageously good, savory and sweet pies and baked goods. People wait in line at dawn before holidays just to bring Petsi pies fresh from the oven. The cafe (Cambridge) is great for breakfast or lunch, a community meeting or working on your laptop.

### Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists & Museum Shop

300 Walnut Ave, Roxbury, 617-442-8614  
[ncaaa.org](http://ncaaa.org), [ncaaa.org/shop](http://ncaaa.org/shop)

The museum fosters and presents the finest in contemporary, visual and performing arts from the global Black world. Through its teaching, visual and performing arts divisions, the NCAAA brings the best of the Black world to you.

### **Museum of African American History & Museum Shop**

46 Joy Street, Boston (Beacon Hill), 617-725-0022  
[Maah.org](http://Maah.org), [Maah.org/store](http://Maah.org/store)

Among the most important National Historic Landmarks in the US, the African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School on Beacon Hill were built in the early 1800's. The Meeting House has been returned to its 1855 appearance and is open to the public (talks, tours, events). The School, the oldest US public school for African American children, currently houses exhibit galleries, education programs, a caterers' kitchen, and a museum store filled with books and inspired gifts.

### **Jamaica Mi Hungry**

225 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, 617-708-0465.  
[jamaicamihungry.com](http://jamaicamihungry.com)

Boston Globe: "Chef Ernie Campbell created a hit on wheels with his Jamaica Mi Hungry food truck, warming Boston with curry goat and beef patties on coco bread since 2015. In 2019, he turned it into a brick-and-mortar restaurant operating under the same name next to the Jackson Square T station. Come for the fiery, moist jerk pork shoulder with dill slaw and plantains; stay for the warm, friendly energy of Campbell and crew."

### **50 Kitchen**

1450 Dorchester Ave, Fields Corner, Dorchester, 617-474-2433, [50kitchen.com](http://50kitchen.com)

Southern American-Asian fusion menu. Janelle Nanos, Boston Globe: "...dishes like honey-fried cornbread, brisket banh mi, and jambalaya egg rolls.

### **M&M BBQ**

at *Dorchester Brewing Company*, 1250 Mass Ave, Boston, 617-514-0900, [mandmribs.com](http://mandmribs.com)

Food truck for several generations and now inside a brewery with expanded menu including ribs, pulled pork, chicken, mac and cheese, barbecue bowls, burgers.

### **Oasis Vegan Veggie Parlor**

340 Washington Street, Four Corners, Dorchester, 617-237-9033,

Devra First, Boston Globe: "The restaurant is filled with music, art, the smell of good cooking: aromatics, complex spices, bubbling coconut milk. Oasis serves soulful, delicious fare that draws from both Mackenzie and Ra Kiro's heritages. Son of a Jamaican family, dreadlocked and bearded, he grew up in the Bronx and Boston; she calls herself "Ethiopian-Roxburian." The menu is based around stews, vegetables, and grains: the brick-red Ethiopian spiced lentils called misir wat, veggie korma, curried cabbage, bright green kale, spicy African couscous... There are also soups and salads, wraps and burritos, and one of their most popular items: Mackenzie's vegan take on mac and cheese."

### **Chocolate Therapy**

60 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA, 508-875-1571  
[ctsweetremedies.com/shop-chocolates](http://ctsweetremedies.com/shop-chocolates)

"Chocolate Therapy is a new kind of chocolate shop, dedicated to providing you with remarkable, locally produced chocolates, as well as our unique handmade collection." Watch a video here to learn more.

### **Tawakal Halal Café**

389 Maverick St., East Boston, 617-418-5890.

Devra First, Boston Globe: "...Among 50 nominees selected this month by Bon Appetit for the magazine's annual "Hot 10" list of best new restaurants in the country... Somali cuisine is stamped with the flavors of trade, immigration, and occupation: spices brought in by Indian merchants, dishes from the Arabic world, pasta that is a legacy of Italian colonialism. The result is fragrant, layered comfort — sambusas, samosa-like turnovers filled with ground beef; biryani with slow-cooked goat or falafel and hummus; spaghetti with meat sauce; chicken stew pooling over a base of coconut milk grits."

### **Tanam**

1 Bow Market, Union Square, Somerville, MA, 617-669-2144, [tanam.co/#restaurant-section](http://tanam.co/#restaurant-section)

Devra First, Boston Globe: "Filipino...dishes like adobo and kare-kare,...gathered around a single table...a project from Olio Culinary Collective, a worker-owned, socially conscious group largely run by women of color...and it still feels like a scrappy, hand-hewn production, ever-evolving and challenging itself. Meals are mainly ticketed, available in several formats. A prix fixe menu (\$90 per person) is available Friday through Sunday nights, with two seatings each night. Wednesday (\$70) brings a kamayan feast — a lavish spread on banana leaves, eaten with the hands and shared communally by everyone at the table. Late-nights and on Thursdays, there is an affordable a la carte menu of snacks and drinks."

## **PERSONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

### **Black Market**

2136 Washington Street, Dudley Square, Roxbury

Kaidi Grant's Dudley Square weekend pop-up shopping spot features local entrepreneurs. Clothing, jewelry, music, skincare products, art...and creative energy that only a real community effort could generate.

### **Frugal Bookstore**

57 Warren Street, Boston, 617-541-1722  
[frugalbookstore.net](http://frugalbookstore.net)

Leonard and Clarrissa Egerton run this community bookstore located in the heart of Dudley Square "with a passion of promoting literacy within our children, teens and adults," and a mission to "change minds one book at a time." Great place to buy books by and about the African diaspora.

### **Leash Dog Care**

Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Brookline, Chestnut Hill, 617-294-9455

[leashdogcare.com](http://leashdogcare.com)

Darrell Kelton has 3 years in finance behind him and co-founder Javier Vega grew up caring for dogs, cats, pigs, and horses on a family farm. Now they run a modern pet-sitting, dog-walking operation, and handle owners gently, too.

### **Natasha's Homemade Body Butter**

617-610-2553, [natahashomemadebodybutter.com](http://natahashomemadebodybutter.com)  
Natasha Williams is the CEO and creator of this homemade organic skincare company. Made with passion for the health and wellness of all. Available to retail or wholesale customers.

### **At Peace Arts**

[atpeacearts.com](http://atpeacearts.com), 617-462-2426

Would you host a party where every guest paints wine glasses or canvases before they sit down to eat? Over 400 have done just that under accomplished artist Kyia Watkins' gentle tutelage at "Paint Your Peace" parties. Kyia also wowed the TI team (and lots of kids) at Brookline Day doing face-painting at our table.

### **Include**

617-580-0870, [includeinnovation.com](http://includeinnovation.com)

Kristen Ransom's digital design shop serves organizations making social, economic, cultural, and environmental change. Clients have included the Boston Impact Initiative and Darryl Settles. Websites, campaigns, and much more.

### **OneUnited Bank**

[oneunited.com](http://oneunited.com)

President/COO Teri Williams spoke at Temple Israel in 2017 and explained why considering a Black-owned bank is good for social justice and equity. This one happens to have its HQ in Boston. Mobile banking, real-estate secured lending and more.

### **Ivyees**

Online orders only. [ivyees.com](http://ivyees.com)

Boston based Ivy C. Lawson is an engineer turned bee-farmer and has accomplished her goal of making products we use daily, such as shampoo, conditioners, anti-wrinkle cream, and toothpaste. She uses raw honey and 100% natural and organic ingredients. Ivyees honey alone wins raves, especially the hibiscus & sorrel and other premium varieties.

### **Bowdoin Bike School**

14 Southern Ave, Dorchester, 857-246-9534,  
[www.bowdoinbikeschool.org](http://www.bowdoinbikeschool.org)

Bowdoin Bike School offers a full retail store and bicycle repair as well as an opportunity for customers to learn how to maintain their own bikes, Noah De Amour (nee Hicks). De Amour has plans to convert the store to a cooperative, employee-owned model and is committed to seeking sponsors and grants in order to keep his shop affordable to serve his Dorchester community.

### **Finesse Florist**

221 Washington Street, Brookline, 617-566-5683

Entrepreneur owner and Floral Designer Leslie Epps is also a nurse, which may explain this Brookline Village florist's reputation for taking great care of customers and their life cycle events, celebrations, and business gift needs. She calls the highly regarded shop she bought ten years ago "a place to spread love, with finesse."

### **Devon Plumbing and Heating**

52 Evelyn Street, Mattapan, 617-298-2728 or 617-590-5858 (cell), [devonplumbing@yahoo.com](mailto:devonplumbing@yahoo.com)

"Great for small jobs around the home, and they also did the plumbing for our kitchen and bathroom renovations. Very responsive and good work."

**ITHome Design LLC**

110 K Street, Suite 340, Boston, MA 02127, 617-379-6738, [ithomedesign.com](http://ithomedesign.com)

Gilbert Alce, CEO, runs a small business that installs home video, sound and IT technology. They provide residential and commercial integration design and installation services for audio/video, wifi, surveillance cameras, home alarm systems and have done multiple installations at both the Mandarin Oriental and Ritz condos.

communication solutions for clients of all shapes and sizes, from retail stores to citywide public engagement campaigns to corporate branding efforts. Led by artist and owner Franklin Marval, Cyanta can make everything from a simple banner to a promotional “wrap” for a car as well as a strategy to make the art tell the story you want to tell.

**Law Office of Koinonia Givens**

320 Washington Street, Suite 403, Brookline, 617-934-2597, [kmgivenslaw.com](http://kmgivenslaw.com)

Givens is a town meeting member in Brookline and a skilled tax attorney practicing in Brookline Village with a focus on tax planning, elder law, and real estate. An active Yale University alumna, Givens is also a licensed real estate broker and works with small business owners, families, and non-profits with governance and tax law compliance issues.

**Quock Associates, LLC**

[quockllc.com](http://quockllc.com)

Quock is a construction management and real estate development company specializing in the transformation of distressed real assets into high-impact properties. The team’s experience includes a vast array of multi-million dollar construction projects. Quock’s founder Karl Coiscou promotes the company’s mission of influencing and advancing social enrichment in those communities in which the company is engaged.

**Cyanta Studio11**

[cyantastudio.com](http://cyantastudio.com)

Humphries Street, B #03, Boston (Dorchester)

This graphic design & production services business provides creative and strategic visual

Temple Israel owes a debt of gratitude to many partner organizations for helping to compile and continually improve on this list. Any errors are our own. Special thanks to the following: The Black Economic Council of Massachusetts ([www.becma.org](http://www.becma.org)), Boston Ujima Project ([www.ujimaboston.com](http://www.ujimaboston.com)), Commonwealth Kitchen ([www.commonwealthkitchen.org](http://www.commonwealthkitchen.org)), and the NAACP Boston Branch ([bostonnaacp.org](http://bostonnaacp.org)).