



BOSTON SOLIDARITY SUMMIT

Our Work, Our Community, Our Economy!

On Saturday, August 13, over 150 people gathered at the Hibernian Hall in Roxbury for the first Ujima Solidarity Summit. Residents came together to pool their resources and uplift Black and immigrant owned businesses that serve our communities. We thank every person and organization for adding to the spirit of generosity and justice that filled the day.



Ujima Boston met its goal of raising \$10,000 in 3 days from over 175 small lenders, and provided 0% loans to five local businesses through a democratic voting process. With an additional \$10,000 in matching capital from local investors, Ujima Boston was able to fund 100% of the loan requests from our businesses in a single day.



Ujima Community Loan Recipients

Bowdoin Bike School
Fidalgo Wholesale
Fresh Food Generation
Norma Rosario Catering
Sydney Janey Design / Boston Paper Works



We congratulate our entrepreneurs and look forward to supporting them as they create good jobs and local wealth, serve our communities, & restore the environment.

Most of all, we thank the community for coming together and inspiring the belief that another world is possible. The Solidarity Summit helped us see the power, gifts and resources that we already hold. We are helping build a community controlled economy in Boston!

Matching Investors

Boston Impact Initiative, LISC Boston, Partnership for Democracy and Education,
The Working World

bostonujimaproject.com



SOLIDARITY SUMMIT RECAP

August 13, 2016

Hibernian Hall, Roxbury

Community Treasure Map

Participants were greeted at Registration with a Community Treasure Map.

ujima solidarity summit community treasure map

INSTRUCTIONS: complete all the "treasure" tasks during the Solidarity Summit and get entered in a raffle to win a prize!

- ☐ Sign a Petition OR Register to Vote at the Advocacy Table
- ☐ Put yourself on the Ujima Map
- ☐ Meet a local business owner
- ☐ Add a business idea to the Business Brainstorm Wall
- ☐ Post a skill on the Skill Share Board
- ☐ Make a loan to the Ujima Loan Pool

*At the **Advocacy Table**, we held voter registration, and signed a petition to support Right to the City's Just Cause Eviction campaign in Boston.*



*We also had a **Map Table**, a **Business Brainstorm** and a **Skills Share Board**.*



CASE STUDY: CERO CO-OP

The Summit's first panel featured owners of CERO Co-op, a worker-owned composting business based in Dorchester. CERO was started with a mission to create good green jobs that build local wealth, while restoring our environment.



CERO shared their story of how they secured \$370,000 from small community investors and donors. Their experience in raising community capital provided an example for the Ujima Project's effort to pool resources to fund good local businesses.

COMMUNITY PITCHES

Five local Black and immigrant entrepreneurs gave presentations to our community of investors to describe their mission and explain their loan request. They shared their goals, achievements and aspirations of their enterprises.

Bowdoin Bike School (below) shared their vision for turning their community based bike repair shop in Dorchester into a worker owned co-op business. They requested a \$3,000 loan to purchase a Point of Sale system to better streamline their sales and accounting processes.



The other featured pitches included:

Norma Rosario Catering

To pay for insurance to begin cooking out of a church kitchen, and to print marketing materials for her long time catering business. [\$2,000]

Fidalgo Wholesale

To help pay for a freezer that will allow wholesale purchasing and distribution of seafood in Roxbury. [\$5,000]

Fresh Food Generation

To provide operating capital for new food service equipment to help improve efficiencies as a local healthy food caterer, store front and catering business. [\$5,000]

Sydney Janey Design / Boston PaperWorks

To pay for an industrial printer that can increase the client base and be used in a future Black owned print shop in Roxbury. [\$5,000]



LUNCH

*Extremely delicious, locally sourced Latin American and Caribbean inspired cuisine was catered by **Fresh Food Generation** and served by Ujima Project volunteers.*



Local Business Expo

Alleb Asor
Democracy Brewing
Dorchester Food Co-op
Ivyees Honey
Lady Dye Yarn
Made Organics

Participants talked to non-pitching entrepreneurs at our Local Business Expo and learned about their goods and services. Two startups, the Dorchester Food Co-op and Democracy Brewing are both running crowdfunding campaigns to raise capital for their launches.



SMALL GROUPS

After lunch, participants broke up into small groups to discuss Good Business Standards that companies would ideally strive to meet. Groups discussed goals for Ownership, Workers, Environment & Health, and Product & Services for Ujima supported companies.





Next, our five featured businesses visited each of the small groups to answer questions from participants about their businesses and loan request.

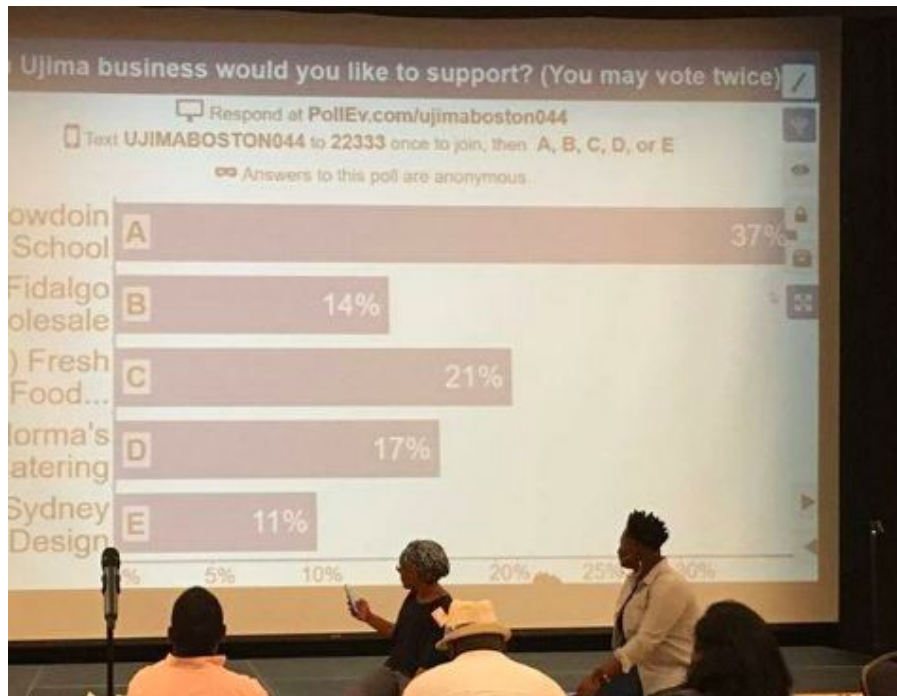


During small groups, non-pitching business owners attended a parallel Business Session featuring the Boston Impact Initiative, a local impact investment firm. Entrepreneurs received a flash session on keys to successfully financing their businesses.

VOTING

After small groups, everyone in attendance was invited to vote for the businesses they most wanted to support. We voted via text SMS and through in person ballots.

Every person received an equal vote, regardless of their investment amount. We practiced economic democracy by investing our capital together.



We saw results from text votes live (above- not final result) and held our first experiment in bringing democracy to finance. With matching funds from local investors, we were able to fund \$20,000 in 0% interest loans to meet 100% of our business loan requests.



We congratulated our entrepreneurs and sang a closing song. The first Solidarity Summit is over, but our journey has just begun!



RECOGNITIONS

Matching Investors

Boston Impact Initiative, LISC Boston, Partnership for Democracy and Education,
The Working World

Event Sponsor

Boston Impact Initiative

Donations

Haley House, Equal Exchange, Olio Catering Collective

Ujima Organizing Fellows

Arthur Thomas, Kathrina St. Flavin, Kiara Mark, Rafael Feliciano, Stephany Seigle, Teena
Johnson, Thaisha Genty

Sponsoring Organizations

Access Strategies Fund, Black Economic Justice Institute, Boston Center for Community
Ownership, Boston Impact Initiative, Boston NAACP, Boston Workers Alliance, Center for
Economic Democracy, City Life/Vida Urbana, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, The
Food Project, Haley House, Intelligent Mischief, Jamaica Plain NDC, New Economy Coalition,
Right To The City Boston, SkyLab Boston, Union Capital Boston, We Are the Ones, The
Working World/Reinvest in Our Power Network



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UJIMA SOLIDARITY SUMMIT

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DAY SPONSORS

August 13, 2016

