

Collection Overview

Title: Boston Black United Front records

Dates: n.d., 1932 (photocopy), 1950 – 2002 (bulk dates 1968 – 1973)

Location: Special Collections Room

Collection Number: SC1

Volume: 12.25 cubic ft.

Scope and

Content Note:

The Boston Black United Front was organized in late December 1967/ early January 1968. Some of the Subject Files predate the papers of the United Front. Records of the Boston Black United Front collection span 1950 – 2002 (bulk dates 1968 – 1973). This collection documents the struggle of the Black Community within the city of Boston for community control by highlighting the political actions taken by the United Front, and the community development that evolved because of their actions. Also documented is the frequent occurrence of violence within the neighborhood of Roxbury and how the community fought to control it. The Boston Black United Front operated as an umbrella organization. The Member Organizations that joined the United Front represented all facets of the community from moderates to militants to nationalists. By committing themselves to the United Front, these groups were obligated to assist the Front in any action they might take by providing the resources needed for said action. The records consist of by-laws, requests for funding, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, press releases, photographs, correspondence, reports, financial records, pamphlets, newsletters, and memoranda. Also included are over two (2) hours of oral history—a digitally recorded interview with Leonard (Lenny) Durant, Office Manager of the Boston Black United Front—as well as the majority of the Boston Black United Front’s photographs of events and affiliated persons.

Arrangement: Organized into 4 series: 1. United Front; 2. Foundation; 3. United Black Appeal; 4. Audio-Visual

Subjects and Contributors:

- Alleyne, Bertram
- Arkil, Khadijah
- Atkins, Thomas
- Batson, Ruth
- Boston, Leroy
- Breeden, Rev. James
- Brooke, Senator Edward
- Carmichael, Stokely

- Cozier, Cecil
 - Dias, Marie
 - Dilday, Clarence
 - Durant, Leonard
 - Eaves, A. Reginald
 - Ferguson, Charles
 - Hymen, Val
 - Jackson, Harriet
 - Jones, Hubie
 - Karuna Karan, Arthur
 - King, Drew
 - King, Lloyd
 - King, Melvin
 - Lebeau, Jackie
 - Minister George
 - Morrison, George
 - Neblett, Chico
 - Nelson, Leon
 - Newkirk, Mellanee
 - Robinson, Jack E.
 - Rock, Leon
 - Rucker, Barbara
 - Rushing, Hon. Byron
 - Rust, Obalajii
 - Ryan, Alicia
 - Scott, Arthur
 - Scott, Benjamin
 - Snowden, Otto
 - Turner, Charles
 - Williams, Archie
 - Wood, Virgil
 - Young, John
-
- Black Big Brothers Alliance
 - Black Panther Party
 - Black Student Federation
 - Bridge Fund
 - CIRCLE, Inc.
 - CORE
 - FUND
 - METCO
 - Model Cities
 - NAACP
 - National Black United Front
 - NEGRO
 - New Urban League
 - OIC
 - Operation Exodus

- Operation Stop/ Southwest Corridor Land Development Coalition
- Roxbury Associates
- Roxbury Dorchester APAC
- Roxbury Federation of Neighborhood Centers
- Roxbury Multi-Services Center
- SNAP
- Urban League

- African American Civic Leaders--Massachusetts--Boston
- African Americans--Political Activity
- Boston (Mass.)--Race Relations
- Civil Rights--Massachusetts--Boston
- Community Development, Urban--Massachusetts—Boston

Restrictions: The collection is partially restricted; for further information, consult the Library Director.

Processor: Finding Aid prepared by Cat Lea Holbrook, July 2005.

Processing Information: In 1974 the Museum of Afro-American History contacted the Executive Director of the United Black Appeal requesting the records of the United Front, United Front Foundation, and the United Black Appeal in order to establish a Black United Front Collection. The request was granted. The papers were stored in the old Dudley Station until the mid-1980's when the old Dudley Station was demolished as part of the Southwest Corridor mass transit project. The records of the United Front, United Front Foundation, and United Black Appeal were then placed into storage in Cambridge along with other Museum collections. The papers stayed in storage for the next ten years. In 1996 a few of the original members of the Black United Front and Foundation approached the Museum to negotiate the return of the records to them. The members felt that the papers belonged to the Black Community and should be available for anyone to study what the Boston Black United Front did, and why they did it. The Museum agreed and Leonard Durant former Chief of Staff/Office Manager took possession of the papers and stored them in his place of residence until 1999 when the records were formally presented to Roxbury Community College. Series 4: Photographs contains the majority of the photographs in this collection. Photographs are also scattered throughout the collection with the documents they belong to. Examples of this include United Front of Cairo, IL, Cornell Thomas, and Operation Stop.

Related Collections: *Papers of Julius Hobson*. Washingtoniana Division. Washington, DC Community Archives. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

David Ibata Collection of Cairo Racial Strife Collection 171. Special Collections. Carbondale Morris Library. Southern Illinois University.

Black Power Movement. Part 3, Papers of the Revolutionary Action Movement 1962 – 1996. SC MICRO RS-1025 pt. 3. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. New York Public Library.

Historical Note

The Boston Black United Front was founded as a power-oriented organization with the goal of developing Boston's Black Community into a united base of economic and political power, ultimately improving the living conditions of community residents.

1967 saw many riots and uprisings in America's urban areas, and Boston was no exception. In June of that year the Mothers for Adequate Welfare staged a non-violent sit-in at the Grove Hall Welfare Office that turned violent after the police were unnerved by the surging crowd. A rumor started that a welfare employee inside the building was having a heart attack. The crowd that had gathered around the building tried to get her out the window, but she resisted. The police, who were inside the building, began to move demonstrators away from the exits. Someone began yelling that the police were beating people inside, and chaos ensued. The police then did begin to use their batons on the crowd and demonstrators who were surging toward them. Community Leaders attempted to calm the situation down and remove Mothers for Adequate Welfare members and Welfare employees from the building¹. According to the report written by the Commission on Church and Race Relations:

The police, however continued to act with a large show of force which was felt by the community to be an attack upon them and which served to prolong the conflict... Later on in the night a group of tactical patrol policemen assembled in the street in front of Exodus (Operation Exodus Office). They moved up the street firing carbines into the air between 40 and 100 times. This incident greatly increased the tension. It was later described as a mistake by a deputy.²

As a result, when Stokely Carmichael gave his speech at the Roxbury YMCA in December of 1967, people were more than willing to listen and learn. He urged the developments of United Fronts in Black Communities across the nation. Acknowledging that there were differing ideologies among individuals and organizations in the Black Community, he stressed that we spend too much time arguing about our differences. The time had come, he emphasized, for us to examine our common ground; we could build from our strengths. If a United Front were to work, he stressed, both the militants and moderates would have to find a way of coming together. As an example of operational unity, he cited the position taken by Black organizations toward the Vietnam War. Militants oppose the war because they consider it an imperialistic war designed to oppress an independent movement in Asia, and because it makes cannon fodder out of Black men. Moderates oppose the war because it drains resources thus depriving the government of funds that could be used for social programs. However, both militants and moderates can be unified in their opposition to the war.³

The United Front was an umbrella group, consisting of representatives of the various organizations in the community; militant as well as moderate, civil rights as well as social service groups. The United Front was also seen as the framework in which the organization of the large segments of the community still unorganized could take place.⁴

The Boston Black United Front announced a list of 21 "Statement of Demands" in April 1968⁵

1. As of 12:00 A.M. Monday, April 8, 1968 all white owned and white controlled businesses will be closed until further notice, while the transfer of the ownership of these businesses to the black community is being negotiated through the United Front.
2. Every school in the Black Community shall have an all black staff – personnel, principals, teachers, and custodians.
3. All Police Stations in the Black Community are to be in the command of Black Captains.

4. Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) is to be abolished as an umbrella agency in the Black Community. The anti-poverty program is to be completely controlled in the Black Areas by the Jamaica Plain APAC, SNAP, Dorchester APAC, and the Roxbury-North Dorchester APAC's.
5. Community control of both Summer Work Programs (14-15 years olds and the 16-21 year olds)
6. All schools within the Black Community are to be renamed after Black heroes. The names will be selected through the United Front.
7. The Black Community is to immediately received control of the BURP and TURN KEY HUD Programs. The contracts should be negotiated with Black owned and controlled housing development corporations, designated by the United Front.
8. The Model Neighborhood Board is to have complete control of the Model Cities Program.
9. The Black Community is to have complete control of all publicly financed housing programs, e.g., Academy Homes, Whittier Street Housing Development, Orchard Park Housing Development, and Elm Hill Housing Development.
10. The South End – Roxbury Boy's Club is to be administered by Black Directors and Black Staff personnel.
11. The Mayor's office is to mobilize the Urban Coalition, the National Alliance of Business and the White Community at large to immediately make \$100,000,000 available to the Black Community.
12. Contracts for street repair, garbage collection and maintenance in the Black Community are to go to Black Contractors.
13. There are to be established immediately operating School Boards which will have control of hiring staff, (teachers, principals, custodians, etc) and be responsible for all curriculum development.
14. The Patrick T. Campbell Junior High School is to be renamed the Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School, in addition the present structure to be razed and replaced with a new campus type junior high school.
15. Contracts for repair and maintenance functions by utility companies, e.g., Boston Gas Co., Boston Edison Co., New England Telephones and Telegraph Co. in the Black Community are to be given to Black Contractors or these companies are to have all Black crews working for them in the Black Community.
16. Increase the quota of employment of Black personnel in State and City agencies, departments, divisions, and bureaus.
17. The Black Community must have representatives on the Mayor's Public Services Board, to be elected by the United Front.
18. Establishment of a local park and recreation department in the Black Community.
19. The planned construction of the Inner Belt and Southwest Expressway are be halted immediately and their continued planning and construction negotiated with the Black Community since both of these highway projects will radically affect the lives of the people in this community.
20. The Black Community must have control of all public, private, and municipal agencies that affect the lives of the people in this community, e.g., City Sanitation, Health, Housing, UCS, Boy's Club, etc.
21. The South End Urban Renewal Plan is to be halted immediately (the relocation planning and demolition) and the continuation of the Urban Renewal Plan is to be renegotiated with an elected Urban Renewal Committee.

RESULTS⁶

1. Businesses in the Black Community are now over 90% owned by minorities.
2. There has been a radical change in the staffing of the schools of the Black Community with a majority being minorities.
3. Both Police area stations in the Black Community are commanded by black captains.

4. Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) was not abolished but ABCD programs for those at or below the poverty level have been expanded.
5. The Black Community now benefits more from Summer Youth Programs.
6. A new school with the proposed name of Joseph Lee was instead named after William Monroe Trotter. The Patrick T. Campbell Junior High School was renamed after Martin Luther King, Jr. Madison Park High School was given the name of a park in the Black Community.
7. Because of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) programs, many independent Black housing developers have evolved.
8. The decisions of the locally elected Model Neighborhood Board were not overruled by the city controlled Model Cities Program.
9. Managements controlled by the Black Community were established for public housing.
10. All Boys and Girls Clubs in the minority community are now directed and staffed by minorities.
11. When the Boston Urban Coalition was shown to be working against the interests of the Black Community, all Black members resigned and it went out of business.
12. The Contractors Association of Boston (CAB) was created to encourage independent contractors qualified and ready to apply for contracts from the City. The City of Boston then gave bids out to minority community contractors to clean up debris left from urban renewal projects. More minorities were hired within the Public Works Department.
13. The struggle for control over hiring of school staffs continues.
14. This was done.
15. The hiring of crews has improved greatly but not as much as anticipated.
16. Great improvement in the hiring of minority public employees but not as much as anticipated.
17. The chair of the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors is a minority.
18. The Parks and Recreation Department for the whole city is run by a member of the minority community.
19. The Southwest Expressway was stopped.
20. All of these agencies have been headed by minorities except Sanitation.
21. This was done.

At least one of these demands was met immediately by the Greater Boston community. In mid-April 1968, Sheldon Appel and Ralph Hoagland got together and founded FUND, The Fund for Urban Negro Development. By May of 1968 FUND had raised \$75,000 and presented a check to the United Front on May 18. By 1970, FUND had increased the amount raised to \$575,000 for the United Front.

FUND's objectives were:

First to give the Roxbury Community access to the private development capital and the consulting skills which it has lacked in its thrust toward social and economic self-help.

Second, to bring together those who seek alternatives to the despair and violence which arise in communities where there is no hope for self-improvement.

Third, to be a positive educational force within the white community, helping to remove the mutual suspicions which have obstructed progress.⁷

The United Front, in turn, founded the United Front Foundation Inc. (Foundation) late May 1968 as a non-profit corporation. The Foundation was created with ambitious goals that included:

- To develop programs which would reduce and possibly end poverty conditions in the community.
- To rehabilitate slum housing and enhance urban environment
- To promote cooperation and coordination among agencies with similar purposes

- To reduce the cost of living in the inner city areas.⁸

The Foundation was to oversee the monies raised by FUND and given to the United Front. The funds disbursed to help the programs of community groups were out-right grants to cover operating costs, the funds disbursed for economic projects were loans. In its first two years Foundation granted \$218,956 to 19 community groups including Operation Stop, Mothers for Adequate Welfare, Malcolm X Foundation, Montessori Family Center, and the National Center of Afro-American Artists.

The Foundation's second endeavor was to invest in the community by loaning money to small businesses. In each case, there were no strings attached and no evaluation or follow-up in a systematic way. This part of the plan, however, was not successful, and the Foundation decided to re-organize and shift their focus. In 1969 the Foundation voted to stop disbursing funds and to work towards a more systematic approach. 13 Board Members were elected, each of who had to belong to the United Front. By 1970 the Foundation had decided to make a major investment of funds in co-operatives and larger community owned profit-making enterprises. The Foundation determined that the best interests of the Black Community were not served by traditional business arrangements.⁹

In 1970 the Foundation became tax-exempt and could now begin its own fund raising. Due to the lagging support of FUND in the white community and the limited monies coming from Mass Bay United Fund, The United Black Appeal was unveiled in October 1970:

...A campaign to collect a fund to help support all organizations primarily serving Blacks of the Boston Area. When collected, the funds will be held until they can be allocated for health, educational, cultural and social organizations according to criteria approved by the community, under the management of an expanded Foundation representing organizations and individuals selected in community elections held in various districts and sub-areas of Roxbury next year.¹⁰

United Black Appeal's primary goal was to raise 4 million dollars to re-distribute within the Black Community. During the 1970 – 1971 campaign the United Black Appeal raised \$125,000. By 1973, MIT, Harvard, and Northeastern Universities were all allowing UBA to make payroll deductions. One of the first large donations received was from the Polaroid Corporation. After the \$20,000 was distributed to South Africa and the United Front in Cairo, IL many community groups called into question Foundation and United Black Appeal's motives. Their tax-exempt status was also re-examined by the IRS.

As part of the reorganization plan the Foundation held community wide elections in June of 1971. They became the New United Front Foundation and changed their policies for giving grants and loans. The organizations were now required to meet specific criteria, submit proposals within a certain time period, and submit detailed financial reports.

In 1969, the Black United Front of Cairo, Illinois requested help from its sister organization in Boston. The Cairo United Front was conducting a boycott of all white Cairo businesses because of attacks on the black community by white vigilante groups in cooperation with the local police. The Cairo group requested that the Illinois governor impose martial law but was turned down. The boycott resulted in five store closings and to the escalation of shootings into the black community by vigilantes and police officers in some cases. In addition to the violence, the Cairo black community was suffering from increased economic hardship because of the boycott and from lack of food. The Boston Black United Front organized a community meeting where attendees voted overwhelmingly to support Cairo with a donation of \$10,000 which they had received from the Polaroid Corporation.

On March 7, 1970 inside a Boston City Hospital ward Patrolman Walter Duggan shot and killed Franklin Lynch. Duggan was guarding a prisoner from the Charles Street Jail. Lynch was in for a dislocated shoulder, which was in a cast.

According to Globe reporter Robert Anglin who was also a patient and an eyewitness:

...Lynch and another patient John Condon had words in the center of the ward.

Patrolman Walter Duggan separated them, walked Condon to his bed and left.

...Lynch attempted to push a cart of pans and linens out of the room as a female attendant tried to push it back in. Condon...rose and squared off to fight Lynch as Lynch pulled the towel from his shoulder and swung it at him.

Duggan again came between the two, pushing Condon who fell against a bed and slid to the floor, breaking his leg. Duggan then pushed Lynch, turned half around facing away from him, drew his pistol and raised it to eye level. He aimed it down one end of the ward out of my sight. 'Get back or I'll shoot' he said. The weapon was not yet pointed in Lynch's direction. He let his gun drop – still rigid – and made a quarter turn toward Lynch. Lynch took a swipe at the gun with his towel and Duggan raised the weapon and fired once, then three times, then once again.¹¹

In the next few days the Boston Black United Front formed the Justice Committee, who then called for a community inquest and people's court to be held against Walter Duggan. The inquest was held on March 25th and drew 500 people. After the inquest Leroy Boston, Co-Chair of the Boston Black United Front stated "This will be the first time in the history of Boston's Black Community that a community trial has been used to bring justice for the death of a Black Man. This is a clear indication that the Black Community of Boston now understands that it cannot expect justice from the same forces that oppress us"¹²

The "Black People's Trial" was held on April 9th with the Judge and Jury drawn from the Community. 700 people crowded into Crown Manor on Warren Street. After eyewitness testimony Duggan was found guilty and sentenced to have his image and name on posters around the city. "Poster Day" was held on May 16, 1970. The community banded together and blanketed the city with posters featuring Duggan's name, address, and photo. The posters read, "This man is a killer. He was tried and convicted by the Black Community Thursday April 9, 1970 for the Murder of Franklin Lynch".

In July of 1970, the New Bedford, Mass. black community erupted in riots over strong-arm police behavior, unjust arrests and the unprovoked firing into a crowd by three whites that resulted in the death of a black teenager. City police, equipped in full riot gear, invaded a local black organizing headquarters and twenty black men were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit murder and anarchy. Three of those arrested belonged to the Boston branch of the Black Panther Party, a member organization of the Black United Front. Black United Front spokesmen went to New Bedford to investigate along with Boston City Councilor Tom Atkins, who went as a representative of Governor Francis Sargent. Atkins announced from Black United Front headquarters in Roxbury that an observer from the state police would monitor the workings of the New Bedford police to determine if the state police needed to take over city police functions until calm had been restored. The New Bedford chief of police had admitted that his force was "out of control." In the wake of this crisis, the Black United Front raised legal defense funds for those arrested and helped locals in organizational and community development planning.

In 1972 the Steering Committee of the Boston Black United Front began to argue among themselves as to what direction the United Front should move in next. The former Office Manager Leonard Durant, now a committee member, urged the Steering Committee to follow the political platform that the United Front had set for itself. Other members insisted that a Political Officer be nominated. By September of

1972 the Boston Black United Front has essentially ceased to exist due to lack of funds, and lack of commitment. The Front had served its purpose, and the members moved on to other organizations within the community.

By 1974, the Foundation was also struggling to raise funds, both for day-to-day functions and to distribute within the community, although the United Black Appeal continued into 1975. By then, however, support has diminished to almost nothing and the Appeal ended without reaching its 4 million dollar goal.

Chronologies

The Boston Black United Front had many community-wide victories, but the two that may possibly stand out the most are their struggle to compel the Polaroid Corporation to withdraw from Apartheid-enforced South Africa, and the multi-community rejection of the Southwest Expressway (I-95).

Polaroid Corporation Chronology¹³

1964

Black workers protest to management regarding Polaroid in South Africa.

1968

Black workers again protest to management.

October 5 1970

Fliers are posted by the Polaroid Black Revolutionary Workers (PBRW) throughout the company accusing Polaroid of racism and contributing to apartheid.

October 1970

Letters are sent by PBRW to Dr. Edwin Land, founder and CEO of Polaroid stating the following demands:

- That Polaroid announce a policy of complete and total disengagement from South Africa.
- That management meet with the entire company to discuss this policy and announce its policy on apartheid publicly in the United States and the Republic of South Africa simultaneously.
- That Polaroid contribute the profits earned in South Africa to the recognized liberation movements fighting for their freedom.

October 8 1970

Letter sent by United Black Appeal to Polaroid asking for a corporate contribution.

October 21 1970

Polaroid issues following statement: "Polaroid has in the past prohibited the sale of its ID System to the South African Government for the use in the apartheid passbook program. We are now discontinuing sale of any Polaroid products including film, directly or indirectly, which might be used in this ID program.

October 26 1970

A group of Black workers at Polaroid call for a worldwide boycott of the company's products until it ends all sales to South Africa.

October 29 1970

United Black Appeal receives letter from Polaroid Vice President Thomas Wyman who states that "Polaroid makes this contribution in recognition of what we view as important priority needs in the Center City which are not being met today by the Massachusetts Bay United Fund" and a check for \$20,000.

December 16 1970

Boston Black United Front calls a Special Community meeting to discuss the contribution from Polaroid and what to do with it.

December 21 1970

Boston Black United Front announces publicly that it will send \$10,000 to organizations working for the liberation of Blacks in South Africa and \$10,000 to the United Front in Cairo, IL.

January 11 1971

\$10,000 given to Arlington Street Church People's Relief Subcommittee

January 1971

Polaroid announces its Experiment in South Africa. Four employees, black and white tour South Africa and return with the following suggestions:

- To continue our business relationship there except for any direct sales to the South African Government
- To improve dramatically the salaries and other benefits of the non-white employees of our distributor there
- To initiate through our distributor well defined programs to train non-white employees for important jobs within that company
- We would commit a portion of our profits earned there to encourage black education

November 21, 1977

Polaroid withdraws from South Africa after discovering that its equipment was being used for the passbook ID program.¹⁴

Operation Stop / Southwest Corridor Chronology (I-95)¹⁵

1962 - 1969

Roughly 5000 housing units have been destroyed for highway projects around Greater Boston.

Summer 1969

Boston Black United Front contacted Urban Planning Aid of Cambridge to conduct a study on the highway projects' effect on the surrounding communities, and the possibility of revamping the elevated Orange Line. UPA performed these studies for free.

August 5 1969

Operation Stop, a committee of Boston Black United Front, erects a “Community Information House” at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Ruggles Street. The United Front wanted an central location in which to distribute information to the community on what the highway project would do to their community, and what they could do to stop it.

August 7 1969

In an interview with the *Bay State Banner*, Charles Turner says, “We of Operation Stop say these highways will not be built through our community. The construction of this Community Information House as the fist use of this community land for community purposes demonstrates our position of no more roads over people. This land is ours and we will use it for our own purposes. We stand united with the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis, whose members are also fighting the destructive effects of the highway on their communities”.

September 1969

Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis files legislation “in order to further its aim of accomplishing an integrated and balanced transportation system”.

Fall 1969

Governor Francis Sargent assembles a task force to study the Southwest Corridor (I-95).

1970

Operation Stop creates the Southwest Corridor Land Development Coalition. Presents the studies conducted by Urban Planning Aid to Governor Sargent, including the mass transit proposal.

February 1970

Governor Sargent calls for a moratorium on all highway projects within the Route 128 belt and assembles the Boston Transportation Planning Review (BTPR).

March 1970

One of the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis’s bills was before the Massachusetts House Judiciary Committee to allow the money collected from the gasoline tax to be used for mass transit purposes as a constitutional amendment.

December 1971

BTPR’s Phase II report is released and Governor Sargent alters the Southwest Expressway (I-95) from an eight-lane highway to a six-lane highway.

1972

BTPR’s Final Report is released which recommended that the Southwest Expressway (I-95) project be abandoned. This paves the way for the mass transit project that had been kept alive by all of the community groups involved.

1973

The Southwest Corridor Development Coordinator position is created within the Executive Department of the Commonwealth. Anthony Pangaro, the Coordinator, met

with each neighborhood group to begin the long term planning and use of the land originally slated for the Southwest Expressway.

January 1974

Governor Sargent announces the 10-Year Transit Development Program for Greater Boston.

- Relocation of the Orange Line from South Cove to Forest Hills in a depressed configuration. Includes the provision of approximately 5 new stations from Back Bay to Jackson Square.
- A replacement service through the South End to Dudley Station.
- A transit service from Ruggles Street station of the relocated Orange Line to the area of Dudley Station and continuing to Grove Hall.

Fall 1974

Roxbury Community College Advisory Board recommends the Southwest Corridor site for the new, permanent campus.

June 1975

Governor Michael Dukakis removes the Southwest Expressway (I-95) plan from the Federal Interstate Highway System. The appropriated funds were transferred into mass transit projects under the 1973 Federal Highway Act.

1979

Construction begins on the new Orange Line along the Southwest Corridor.

May 4 1987

The new Orange Line opens with 9 new stations and the creation of the 52-acre Southwest Corridor Park.

January 1988

Roxbury Community College opens its new campus on Columbus Avenue along the Southwest Corridor.

Series: 1. **United Front, n.d., 1932 (photocopy), 1950 – 2002 (bulk 1968 – 1971)**

Volume: 8.05 cubic ft.

Arrangement: Alphabetical and Chronological

Summary: This series documents the history of the Boston Black United Front and its struggle to bring together Boston's Black Community. The first folder in Box 1, Creation of United Front, includes the minutes from the very first meetings held by the United Front. Also of particular note is the Black Panther Party's Community newspaper from August 30, 1969, and the United Front of Cairo, IL's newspapers from September, October, and November of 1970.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Administrative Files: Employees	1971 – 1973.

	Facilities and Maintenance	1968 – 1971.
	Goals	1970 – 1971.
	Organizational Analysis	1969
	Statement of Commitment; Statement of Demands; Statement of Purpose	n.d., 1968 – 1970.
	Black Solidarity Day	1970 – 1971.
	Committees:	
	Committee on Crime	1969 – 1971.
	April 15 th Rally Committee, Change Committee	1970 – 1971.
	Community Committee to Save “Say Brother”	n.d., 1970 – 1977.
	Community Research Review Committee	1969 – 1971.
2	Defense Committee; Economic and Business Development Committee; Education Committee; Election Committee; Entertainment Committee; Housing and Land Committee; Internal Operations Committee; Justice Committee; Kwanzaa Coordinating Committee; Mobilization Committee	1968 – 1972
	Prison Committee	1967 – 1978
	Steering Committee:	
	Correspondence	1969 – 1971
	Financial Reports (2 folders)	1969 – 1972
	Loan Agreements	1970 – 1971
	Meetings and Joint Meetings (1 folder)	1968 – 1972
3	Meetings and Joint Meetings (4 folders)	1968 – 1972
	Motions and Recommendations	1971 – 1972
	Reports	1968 – 1970
	Retreats	1969 – 1971
	Community Security:	
	Financial Reports	1969 – 1971
4	Playhouse in the Park	1969
	Meetings and Reports	1970 – 1971
	Complaints:	
	Agu, Omeka – Cunkscales, Raymond	1969 – 1972
	Dennis, Dorothy – King, Peter	1970 – 1972
	Lewis, Henry – Sweet, Reginald	1969 – 1972
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	Complaints:	
	Terrell, LaVerne – Young, Mrs.; Processed Complaints by Year	1970 – 1973
	Correspondence:	
	Incoming (1 folder)	n.d., 1969 – 1972
5	Incoming (3 folders)	n.d., 1969 – 1972
	Outgoing	1969 – 1973
	Demonstrations:	
	New Bedford, MA; Newark, NJ; Roxbury, MA	1967 – 1970
	Financial Records:	
	Budgets	1970 – 1972
	Community Bail Fund	1969 - 1971
	Correspondence	1970 – 1973

	Loan Accounts Repaid	1970
	Long distance telephone calls	1970
	Petty Cash Receipts	1971
6	Tax Information (Restricted)	1971 – 1972
	Meetings:	
	General Body; Miscellaneous; Special; Staff	1968 – 1972
	Member Organizations:	
	ABCD	1969 – 1971
	Afro-American Institute; Association of Black Directors; Black Big Brother Alliance	1970 – 1973
	Black Big Brother Alliance	1970 – 1973
	Black Economic Development Association; Black Ecumenical Commission; Black Music Inc.; Black Panther Party	1969 – 1970
	Black People’s Topographical Research Center; Black Student Union	1968 – 1972
7	Boston Legal Assistance Project	1970 – 1971
	Bridge Fund, Inc.; Bromley – Heath Community Center	1969 – 1972
	Children’s World; CIRCLE, Inc.; Congress Of African People; Community Art Workshop; F.A.I.T.	1969 – 1972
	F.I.R.S.T., Inc.; Freedom Industries; FUND (3 folders)	1968 - 1972
8	FUND:	
	Contributions (6 folders)	1968 – 1972
	Financial Records (1 folder)	1968 – 1972
9	Financial Records (1 folder)	1968 – 1972
	Greater Boston Minister’s Alliance; Hawthorne House; Hawthorne Youth; Center; Lower Roxbury Community Corporation	n.d., 1971 – 1973
	Malcolm X Foundation (Malik Hakim)	1970 – 1971
	Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination; Massachusetts Welfare Rights Organization	1968 – 1973
	Massachusetts Law Reform; METCO; Model Cities;	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	Member Organizations:	
	Montessori Family Center (2 folders)	1965 – 1973
10	NAACP, Boston Branch	1970 – 1979
	National Center of Afro-American Artists; New Breed of Teachers; N.E.G.R.O.; New School for Children, Inc.	n.d., 1968 – 1972
	New Urban League of Greater Boston	1969 – 1971
	O.I.C.; Organization for Voter Education and Registration	1976 – 1978
	People’s Elected Urban Renewal Committee; Pro-Com; Project Concern; Republic of New Africa	1969 – 1973
	Roxbury Action Program	1969 – 1975

11	Roxbury – North Dorchester Community Action Program Section I	1964
	Roxbury – North Dorchester Community Action Program Section II	1964
	Roxbury – North Dorchester Community Action Program Section III; Roxbury Business Development Corporation; Roxbury Chamber of Commerce; Roxbury Children’s Services	1964 – 1974
	Roxbury Community College	1967 – 2002
	Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center; Roxbury Defenders Committee, Inc.; Roxbury Federation of Neighborhood; Centers; Roxbury Historical Society	1932 (photocopy), 1971 – 1975
	Roxbury Institute of Business Management	n.d., 1970 – 1971
	Roxbury Medical-Technical Institute; Roxbury Multi-Service Center (2 folders)	1965 – 1980
	Roxbury Multi-Service Center; Roxbury YMCA	1965 – 1980
12	Small Business Administration; Small Business Development Center	n.d., 1969 – 1973
	South End Tenants Council	1969 – 1973
	Store – Front Learning Center; Tenants Association of Boston; United Black People for Educational Change; United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury; United South End Settlements; Workers Defense League	n.d., 1968 – 1971
	Equipment Loan Forms	1971
	Statements of Commitment	1969 - 1972
	Memoranda	n.d., 1970
	Miscellaneous Files	n.d., 1967 – 1971
	Newsletter	1971
	Newsletter (1 folder)	1973
13	Newsletter (2 folders)	1973
	Newspaper Clippings	1969 – 1972
	Political Actions and Community Issues:	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
13	Political Actions and Community Issues: Boston Court System (Appointment of Black Judges); Brown, Robert (Killed in Charles St. Jail)	1970 – 1972
	Bunte, Doris (Fired from Boston Housing Authority); Culbert, Derek (Shot and killed inside Dudley Street Police Station #2)	1971
	Davis, Angela (Arrested by the FBI for allegedly supplying guns to Jonathan Jackson and planning a kidnapping)	1970 – 1971
	Ford, Willie (was to be extradited from Charles St. Jail to Alabama); Grady, Raymond (Shot by a MBTA Police Officer on a	

	MBTA Bus)	n.d., 1971
	Lynch, Franklin (Shot and killed inside Boston City Hospital by a Boston Police Officer) (2 folders)	1970
14	Operation Stop/Southwest Corridor (I-95) (2 folders)	1969 – 1979
	Polaroid Corporation (3 folders)	1970 – 1974
	Political Platform; Richardson, Victor Defense Fund (Victor was convicted in Northampton, MA of conspiracy to commit armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a dangerous drug); Robell's – Operation Checkout (Price control and security guards)	n.d., 1970
	Thomas, Cornell (Shot and killed by a Boston Police Office on Norwell St.)	1972
	WILD (Blocking sale of radio station out-of-State and violations of FCC regulations); WBUR – The DRUM (Elimination of Black Programming on WBUR); Zayre's Department Store (Boycott of Store due to brutal force used on an alleged shoplifter)	1969 – 1976
15	Political Conventions (National and Boston)	1971 – 1972
	Press Releases	1967 – 1972
	Programs	n.d., 1971
	Proposals and Requests: Dennis, Dickerson and Wilkins; Moral Imperative; Robert Rose Taxi Cab; Transcom Lines, Inc.	n.d.
	Betty and Frank's Variety; Lytle, William; Sonny and Jean's Meat Market	1968
	Cambridge School of Ballet; Green Power Superette; Nicky Blue's Fry All	1969
	Boston Black Community Urban and Environmental Planning Studio; Shopping	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
15	Proposals and Requests: Center Task Force; Williams, Ernest Community Communication Information Center; Community Elections; Memorial Day Tour of Bermuda; Operation DRUM 1971	1970
	Related Organizations: Washington, DC; Cairo, IL; St. Louis, MO; Newark, NJ	1969 – 1971
	Angola; Canada; Eritrea; Ghana; Guinea	1966 – 1972
	Mozambique; Puerto Rico; South Africa	1969 – 1974
16	South Africa; West Indies; Zimbabwe	1969 – 1971
	Reports	n.d., 1971
	Reports:	

	Rust, Obalajii (3 folders)	1970 – 1971
	Staff:	
	Applications (restricted)	1969 – 1972
	Boston, Leroy	1969 – 1970
	Daily Activity Sheets; Time Sheets	1970 – 1971
17	Health Insurance; Job Descriptions; Job Training; Payroll (restricted)	1969 - 1973
	Polices; Work-study program	1969 – 1970
	Subject Files:	
	Africa – Atkins, Thomas	1969 – 1979
	Articles (2 folders)	1965 – 1974
	Bay State Banner – Black Community Construction	1969 – 1974
18	Subject Files:	
	Black Journal – Black Think Tank	1969 – 1974
	Bolling, Royal – Boston Urban Foundation	1968 – 1979
	Cambridge Institute – Center City Vol. I	1969 – 1970
	Center City Vol. II – Citizens for Participation Politics	1969 – 1972
	City-Wide Black Community Council Philadelphia, PA – Colleges and Universities	1968 – 1972
19	Colleges and Universities – Community House, Inc.	1969 – 1977
	Commonwealth Republic Club – Dupont Family	n.d., 1966 – 1973
	Education (2 folders)	1967 – 1973
	Family Development Study – Funding	1970 – 1974
20	General Convention Special Program – Hispano Population of Cambridge	1969 – 1974
	Horse’s Mouth – Housing	n.d., 1969 – 1971
	Internal Security Act – Joint Apprenticeship Program	1950 – 1974
	Joint Center for Inner City Change – Joint Center for Political Studies	1967 – 1974
	King, Dr. Martin Luther, Jr. – Metropolitan Rural Development for Equal Opportunity	1966 – 1974
	Mississippi Products – National Association of	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
20	Subject Files:	
	Black Journalists	1968 – 1981
21	National Business League – Newsletters A – B	1970 – 1979
	Newsletters B – N	1966 – 1989
	Newsletters R – U	1967 – 1973
	Newsletters U – V	1970 – 1971
	News Media – Pan Africa Liberation Committee	n.d., 1970 – 1978
	Partnership for Profit – Proposal to Eradicate Institutional Racism at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts	n.d., 1950 – 1974
22	Record-keeping Requirements – South End Handbook	1970 – 1979

	Student Organization for Black Unity – Stalinist Workers Group for Afro-American National Liberation	1969 – 1971
	Sutton, Percy – US Department of State US Office of Economic Development – US Military Manual on Survival	1970 – 1977 n.d., 1970
	Vehicles of Government Control of the Black Community – Vietnam	n.d., 1965 – 1967
23	Vietnam Summer – Violent Crime Volunteers for International Technical Assistance – WBUR-The DRUM (2 folders)	1967 – 1971 1969 – 1971
	Winston Burnett Construction Company – Yaki Yakubu and Henry Dee Defense Fund; Universal Dimensionalists	n.d., 1971
23	Youth Youth: Black Student Boycott	1970 – 1977 1971

Series: 2. Foundation n.d., 1967 – 1974 (bulk 1968 – 1972)

Volume: 2.45 cubic ft.

Arrangement: Alphabetical and Chronological

Summary: The United Front Foundation Inc. was founded in May of 1968 to be the first community controlled corporation to allocate funds in the form of grants to community organizations and last resort loans to organizations, individuals, and small businesses in the Roxbury Area. Of special note are the proposals and requests received by Foundation.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
24	Administrative Files: Application for Certificate of Registration; Articles of Organization; Board of Directors; By-Laws	1968 – 1971
	Creation of United Front Foundation; Facilities and Maintenance; Organizational Structure; Polices	1968 – 1971
	Committees: Allocations Committee; Assignments Committee; Bail Committee; Business Committee;	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
24	Committees: Investigating Committee; Proposal Committee; Special Committee on Attendance at Front Meetings	n.d., 1969 – 1973 n.d., 1969 – 1972
	Election Committee	n.d., 1969 – 1972
	Correspondence: Incoming (4 folders) Outgoing (3 folders)	n.d., 1967 – 1974 n.d., 1969 – 1972
25	Elections	1970 – 1972

	Financial Records:	
	Auditors	1970 – 1973
	Correspondence	n.d., 1969 – 1974
	Fund Raising	1970 – 1971
	Grant and Loans:	
	Agreements	1968 – 1974
	Correspondence	n.d., 1969 – 1972
26	Ledger; Reports	1968 – 1971
	Invoices; Payroll (restricted)	1968 – 1972
	Reports and Budgets (2 folders, one restricted)	1968 – 1972
	Unity Bank	n.d., 1969 – 1974
	Meeting Minutes and Agendas (1 folder)	n.d., 1968 – 1973
27	Meeting Minutes and Agendas (5 folders)	n.d., 1968 – 1973
	Member Agencies	n.d., 1970 – 1973
	Miscellaneous File (1 folder)	n.d., 1967 – 1972
28	Miscellaneous File (1 folder)	n.d., 1967 – 1972
	Press Releases; Programs; Promotional Film	n.d., 1968 – 1971
	Proposals and Requests:	
	Franconia College	1967
28	Proposals and Requests:	
	Arthur D. Little Inc.; Automobile Maintenance Insurance Firm; Black Panther Party Inter-communal Youth Institute; Draft Counseling Center; Forrest Simms Citgo Hi – Hat Service Station; Gibson Liberation School; Greater Boston Community Housing; C.I.R.C.L.E. Associates	n.d., 1968
	Cambridge Black Liberation Front; Capital Formation; Committee on Urban Responsibility; Daishiki Village Inc., Employment and Market Research Institute; Hamil Associates, Inc.; Michelle’s Beauty Salon; Neighborhood Involvement for Children’s Education; Open Ear Association; People’s Job Co-Op; Rebellion News; Shopping Center Task Force; Sportsman’s Tennis Club, Inc.; Taxi Medallion	1969
	African Presence, Inc.; AVCO; Black Economic Development Corporation of the District of Columbia; Creative Plastics	1970
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
28	Proposals and Requests:	
	Delta Opportunities Corporation; Drug Store to sell generic drugs; FUND; Freedom Trans-Atlantic, Inc.; Jet Charitable Hospital; L & L Developers, Inc.; Roxbury Multi-Service Center; Roxbury On-Call Car; Saint Cyprian’s Episcopal Church; Shockley Plumbing and Heating, Inc.; Store-Front Learning; Washington Park Shopping Center;	

	Wolf Syrup Corporation	1970
	Citizens Committee to End Lead Poisoning; New Professionals; New Urban League of Greater Boston; Roxbury Medical Technical Institute	1971
29	Black Ghetto Theater; El Movimiento Hispano En Accion; Ghetto Loan and Investment Committee; Muhammad University of Islam; Roxbury Dental and Medical Group	1972
	Black Big Brother Alliance; El Movimiento Hispano En Accion; Hub Bus Lines, Inc.	1973 – 1974
	Active Files	1968 – 1970
	Dead Files (2 folders)	1969 – 1971
	Reports	1969 – 1971
	Staff:	
	Applications; Resumes; Attorney; Insurance; Job Descriptions; Policies; Time Sheets; Training; Work Study (restricted)	1969 – 1972
30	Cozier, Cecil File (restricted)	1972 – 1973
	Tax Exemption	1969 – 1973
	Youth:	
	Daycare (2 folders)	1963 – 1973
	Education	1967 – 1972

Series: 3. United Black Appeal n.d., 1967 – 1977 (bulk 1971 – 1974)

Volume: 1.4 cubic ft.

Arrangement: Alphabetical and Chronological

Summary: The United Black Appeal was introduced by the United Front Foundation, Inc. in order to raise funds for Foundation, United Front, and for the community. The Black Community was not receiving what it felt was its fair share of funds from the Massachusetts Bay United Fund and so brought United Black Appeal to the public. They approached large corporations, universities, and businesses within the community and asked that employees be allowed to stipulate that money be withheld from their paychecks for the United Black Appeal. Northeastern University was the first school to allow the deductions.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
30	Address Book; Articles of Amendment; Articles of Organization; Attendance sheet; Board of Directors	n.d., 1971 – 1973
	Boston Black United Fund; By-laws; Catch 44 Complaints	n.d., 1974 – 1978 1973
	Contributions A – D (restricted)	1973 – 1974
31	Contributions E – G (restricted)	1973 – 1974
	Contributions H – K (restricted)	1973 – 1974
	Contributions L – M (restricted)	1973 – 1974
	Contributions N – Q (restricted)	1973 – 1974
	Contributions R – V (restricted)	1973 – 1974

	Contributions W – Z (restricted)	1973 – 1974
	Contributions:	
	ABCD; Charles Stark Draper Laboratory;	
	CIRCLE, Inc.; City Bank and Trust;	
	Harvard University; IBM; King’s Chapel;	
	Loeb, Rhoades and Company; Mass Bay	
	United Fund; MIT; Mitre Corporation; New	
	England Nuclear Corporation and	
	Subsidiaries; Northeastern University;	
	Pepsi-Cola; Sears, Roebuck and Company;	
	WEEI News-radio	1971 – 1975
32	Contributors	n.d.
	Correspondence (3 folders)	n.d., 1970 – 1977
	Election	1972
	Financial Records:	
	Budgets; Correspondence;	n.d., 1970 – 1975
	Fund Raising:	
	Campaigns	1971 – 1974
33	Correspondence; Course	n.d., 1970 – 1974
	Payroll; Reports; Taxes (restricted)	n.d., 1970 – 1975
	Grimes Oil Court Case	1974 – 1975
	Information Sharing Sheets; Lewis H. Latimer	
	Foundation, Inc.; Los Angeles Brother Hood	
	Crusade	1973 – 1974
	Massachusetts Bay United Fund	1967 – 1974
	Meetings; Memoranda	n.d., 1970 – 1975
	Miscellaneous File	n.d., 1972 – 1975
	National Black United Fund; Newspaper Clippings;	
	Police Surveys; Polices	n.d., 1968 – 1974
34	Postal Workers Information	1970 – 1971
	Press Releases; Printed Materials and Logos	n.d., 1970 – 1973
	Program Profiles	1974
	Proposals and Requests:	
	Bridge Fund, Inc.; Ecumenical Center	
	In Roxbury	1972
	Terry’s Job Referral Center; W.E.B. Dubois	
	Center	1973
	Bromley – Heath Community Radio;	
	Community Action and Human Development	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
34	Proposals and Requests:	
	Program; Denison House; Greater Boston	
	Truckers and Contractors Association;	
	International Christian Youth Exchange;	
	Miscellaneous Proposals; Roxbury Multi-	
	Service Center; Terry’s Training Center	1974
	Reports; Speeches	n.d., 1971 – 1974
	Staff:	
	Agreement; Allen, Kermit File; Applications;	
	Job Descriptions; Organizational Chart;	
	Resumes; Time Sheets (restricted)	n.d., 1971 – 1974

Suggestions for future campaigns; Taxes;
Volunteers

n.d., 1972 – 1975

Series: 4. Audio-Visual

Volume: .35 cubic. ft.

Arrangement: Alphabetical and Chronological

Summary: This series includes over two (2) hours of oral history—a digitally recorded interview with Leonard (Lenny) Durant, Office Manager of the Boston Black United Front—as well as the majority of the Boston Black United Front’s photographs of events and affiliated persons.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	DVCAM	
35	“In the Spotlight with Lenny Durant” (2 DVCAMs)	2006
	DVD	
35	“In the Spotlight with Lenny Durant” (2 DVDs)	2006
	Photographs	
35	African Liberation Day Washington, DC	1972
	Black Solidarity Day Boston, MA	1970
	Congress of African Peoples Conference Atlanta, GA	1970
	Demonstrations: New Bedford, Funeral of Lester Lema	1970
	March on Portuguese Embassy (Consulate)	1970
	Members and Staff United Front	n.d., 1970
	Miscellaneous:	
	CIRCLE, Inc.; RAP Kwanzaa; Wolf Syrup Co.	n.d., 1970 –1971
	New United Front Foundation	n.d.
	Republic of New Africa Trip to Nova Scotia	n.d.
	Unidentified	n.d.
	Welfare Rights Organizations, Massachusetts and National	n.d.

Notes

¹ The Night of June 2 A Report on Roxbury prepared by the Commission on Church and Race Massachusetts Council on Churches, June 8, 1967, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 5, Folder 5, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.

² The Night of June 2 A Report on Roxbury prepared by the Commission on Church and Race Massachusetts Council on Churches, June 8, 1967, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 5, Folder 5, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.

³ King, Mel. *Chain of Change, Struggles for Black Community Development*. Boston: South End Press, 1981. Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.

⁴ Statement of Purpose, n. d., Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 1, Folder 6, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.

⁵ Statement of Demands, April 1968, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 1, Folder 6, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.

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- ⁶ Assessment of Statement of Demands, Leonard Durant former Chief of Staff/Office Manager, March 2004.
- ⁷ FUND Pamphlet, 1968, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 7, Folder 5, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.
- ⁸ United Front Foundation, n.d., Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 24, Folder 2, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.
- ⁹ Change in Foundation Investment Policy, October 1970, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 24, Folder 2, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.
- ¹⁰ United Front Foundation Press Release, October 5, 1970, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 34, Folder 2, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.
- ¹¹ “Globe reporter witnessed hospital shooting”, *Boston Evening Globe*, March 9, 1970, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 13, Folder 8, Roxbury Community College, and Roxbury MA.
- ¹² Press Release, Boston Black United Front, March 26, 1970, SC1, Box 13, Folder 9, Roxbury Community College, and Roxbury MA.
- ¹³ United Front: Political Actions and Community Issues/ Polaroid Corporation, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 14, Folders 3, 4, & 5, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.
- ¹⁴ Republic of South Africa, Department of Foreign Affairs, *Press Release by the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations on the Death of Paul Irish, a leader of the US Anti-Apartheid Movement*, <http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/2004/iris0402.htm>, 28 April 2005.
- ¹⁵ United Front: Political Actions and Community Issues/ Operation Stop Southwest Corridor, Boston Black United Front, SC1, Box 14, Folders 1 & 2, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury MA.