



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119
Tel: 617-318-6010 • Fax: 617 318-6022 • www.uuum.org

August 2023



Funmi O., a Roxbury Youth Programs alumna and UUUM summer marketing intern

A Special Introduction This Month:

This is usually the spot in our newsletter that features words from our Executive Director and Senior Minister, Mary Margaret Earl. This month, however, Mary Margaret is on sabbatical. In her stead, we invited Funmi, a Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) alumna and one of our summer marketing interns, to share thoughts about her experience so far.

These internships were created to offer young people another way to be engaged in our work, while offering practical professional experience. Funmi's voice and presence - whether on social media, via other projects she's worked on, or during team discussions - has been a great experience and has made us better. Enjoy her words below.

From A Roxbury Youth Programs Alumna & Summer Intern

So far, interning for UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) for the past four weeks has been such an amazing experience. Coming into this job, I knew that I wanted my work - especially social media posts - to be intentional. And I wanted them to align with UUUM's mission of working to advance

racial, economic, and social justice.

I've always been a person who has been interested in the logistics of marketing, and how organizations get their points across.



"To remind others of what it means to use your voice to make a difference..."

Working at UUUM has allowed me to explore these interests, in one way through handling the social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [and Threads, too]. To align with UUUM's mission, I made posts about racial justice quotes by civil rights leaders to remind others of what it means to use your voice to make a difference. I made posts about history in Roxbury to inform or remind people about past events in our history that sometimes go overlooked. I lastly made posts about community events to encourage our audience to be more involved in all the great things Roxbury has to offer.

"The research I've learned here has influenced me so much..."

At the same time, researching the history of Roxbury taught me new topics like redlining, the history behind Nubian Square's name, and more. The neighborhood of Roxbury has been a large part of my circle for a long time now, it's home to my school and job and isn't too far from my neighborhood in Mattapan. The research I've learned here has influenced me so much that I speak about it outside of work as well. I now recognize that there are so many different things that go disregarded in my community of Mattapan as well.

Most of all, I appreciate Roxbury way more now than when I started, and that's all thanks to UUUM.

If you haven't already, please follow us on our Instagram, Facebook, or Threads account to keep up with our weekly updates on community events, quotes, and Roxbury history.

Funmi O.

HISTORY IN ROXBURY

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY

REDLINING
1930s-1968

Redlining is the practice of banks denying loans and financial properties to areas marked in red. Roxbury - marked fully red - was one of the many victims of redlining in Boston. People of color were hindered from economic progress and segregation was furthered. Although redlining was outlawed under The Federal Housing Act of 1968, its effects still linger today.

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HISTORY IN ROXBURY

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN ROXBURY
BACK BAY AND ROXBURY

A report came out explaining that Nubian Square residents have up to a 69-year life expectancy, while Back Bay residents have up to a 92-year life expectancy. The two neighborhoods are a few miles apart but have a 23-year age gap in life expectancy. This is due to ongoing factors like health disparities, housing issues, and overall stress faced by residents in Nubian. While efforts are already being made, officials are coming up with more plans to eliminate this gap.

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<https://www.uuum.org/>

Two examples of Funmi's social media posts. In addition to sharing UUUM news and event info, she used the space to share information about issues affecting communities of color, like redlining and life expectancy in majority-BIPOC versus majority-white communities.

[Click Here to Support the UU Urban Ministry](#)

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP Summer Interns on their recent field trip to Faneuil Hall and Boston City Hall

The students participating in the summer semester of Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) have been working hard - both in and out of the classrooms here in Roxbury.

One of the main focuses for RYP students this summer is a project about "Names". This project entails examining the *names* of streets and different locations in Greater-Boston, as well as the history behind some of the names that hang on buildings, street signs, and various neighborhoods. For example, the way Dudley Square was renamed Nubian Square in 2019.

During the past few weeks, they have taken field trips that are helping them explore the topic.

Recently, they visited the [Boston Slavery Exhibit](#) at Faneuil Hall that opened in June that documents the stories of enslaved people in colonial Boston, including a database listing



RYP students visiting the Boston slavery exhibit at Faneuil Hall

more than 1,300 individuals who have been identified, though in many cases their names and other personal details remain unknown.

The work that RYP students are doing this summer is a part of our commitment to a true examination of our history, and enables our young people to be engaged in this important work.

RYP Students Invite You

Next **Tuesday, August 15th from 4:00pm - 8:00pm**, the students in RYP are organizing an event at the UU Urban Ministry that will feature their artwork and their words. This is an event for the community, and they would appreciate seeing you here.

All details can be found [HERE](#) on our website, and on the flyer below.

ROXBURY YOUTH PRESENT



Art Gallery

FREE ENTRY EVENT

OPEN MIC - FOOD - DRINKS - MUSIC -
AND MORE!

10 PUTNAM ST, ROXBURY
, MA 02119

OPEN GATE
4PM-8PM

AUGUST 15, 2023

Make a Gift to Support Our Youth
Program

Upcoming Events

Neighborhood Tours Program

[UUUM Tours: Public Art in and Near Nubian Square](#)

Sat. Aug 26, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

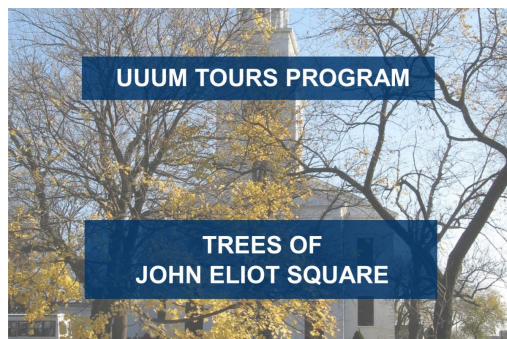
Visit the murals in our neighborhood and appreciate the artists who address important topics to all who witness these large works of art in public spaces.



[UUUM Tours: Trees of John Eliot Square: A historical perspective](#)

Sat. Sept. 09, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood focused on Roxbury's agriculture and horticulture and how these shaped the neighborhood over the years. Tour led by historian Thomas Plant.



The Makanda Project: Final UUUM Show of 2023



JAZZ ON THE GREEN

2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Featuring:

THE MAKANDA PROJECT

SAT. JULY 15th
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

SAT. AUG. 5th
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

SAT. SEPT. 9th
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

More information to come!

Updates and event info can be found on the UUUM website:

www.UUUM.org/attend

Events are FREE! | All are welcome | Bring a lawn chair or blanket

UU Urban Ministry - Greenspace
10 Putnam St. | John Eliot Sq.
Roxbury, MA 02119
www.uuum.org



[The Makanda Project](#)

Saturday, September 9th

Don't miss their last show at the UUUM this summer!

Join us for the 2023 Jazz on the Green Summer Series, featuring The Makanda Project. We are happy to again be hosting these concerts free of charge on our greenspace, and invite you to join us!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and stay for an afternoon of great music!

Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training

A Community Experience: Building Capacity to Dismantle Systemic Racism

The UU Urban Ministry is happy to co-sponsor Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training this **October 20th - 22nd**.

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? This 2-½ day workshop is open to everyone—of any faith or none—who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism and nurturing a multicultural future.

Check out the [Jubilee Three webpage](#) for full details about the opportunity, including information about the trainers, topics that will be covered, format and timeline, and registration info.



Can You Help?

Help a Refugee Family as They Settle in Their New Home

A friend of UUUM reached out seeking individuals proficient in any of the African languages listed below to help with the arrival and initial adjustment of a family from Sub-Saharan Africa.

She is part of a group in Newton has been certified by the Welcome Corps program of the U.S. State Department and will be matched with a family from one of the below listed countries in the next couple of weeks.

Do you know anyone proficient in any of the languages below?

- Democratic Republic of Congo: Kiswahili, Swahili, Lingala, Kibembe, Kinyarwanda, French (cannot rely only upon French, often not their primary language)
- Sudan and South Sudan: Arabic (not Middle Eastern Arabic, need to confirm Arabic speakers from Sudan and/or South Sudan)
- Ethiopia: Oromo, Amharic
- Somalia: Somali
- Burundi: Kirundi, French
- Eritrea: Tigrinya, Tigre, Arabic

If you're able to help, [email Vinnie Myles](#) at the UU Urban Ministry who will get you in contact with the group in Newton.

Information Coming Soon

UUUM Book Club: Reading to Make a Difference



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
URBAN MINISTRY

BOOK Club

JOIN US TO READ & DISCUSS
BOOKS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE WRITTEN BY OUR LOCAL
BIPOC AUTHORS.

DETAILS HERE

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,
AND MORE!



FREE Book
for Roxbury
Residents!

In Partnership With



Career Opportunity at the UU Urban Ministry



[Youth Programs Coordinator](#)

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is seeking an experienced, energetic Youth Programs Coordinator to join the UU Urban Ministry's program staff. The Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) will be responsible for the collaborative planning, implementation, and facilitation of our youth programs. The YPC will be responsible for developing and leading and/or hiring teaching artists to lead engaging, relevant workshops centered in skill building, social justice, Roxbury community history, and art-making.

Visit the Career Opportunities page of our website [HERE](#) for all current available career opportunities.

Words for your consideration...
(one recently shared by Funmi on social media)



Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part.

John Lewis

Politician and Civil Rights Leader



Stay Connected with Us

Stay connected and up-to-date about:

- all things UUUM
- our member congregations
- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

Follow us on social media!

[UUUM on Facebook](#)

[UUUM on Instagram](#)

[UUUM on Twitter](#)

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UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

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