



*Winslow Sargeant and the Titus
Foundation presents...*

The BOSTON UNSUNG



*Legacy of Excellence:
Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future*

MAY 30, 2026
2:00PM - 6:00PM

SORREL & LIME
986 BLUE HILL AVE.
DORCHESTER, MA. 02124



PROGRAM

I. WELCOME RECEPTION

- *Entrance of Attendees*
- *Music and light refreshments*

II. CO-HOSTS

- *LaKisha "Coach La" Austin*
- *Courtney "Boston" Leonard*

III. REMARKS

- *Christopher Worrell, State Representative*
- *Jimmy Myers, Sports Media/Broadcaster*

IV. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- *Dr. Edwin Moses, Olympic Gold Medalist & American Hurdler*

V. MUSICAL GUEST

- *Elan Trotman, Saxophonist*

VI. AWARDING OF SENATE CITATIONS

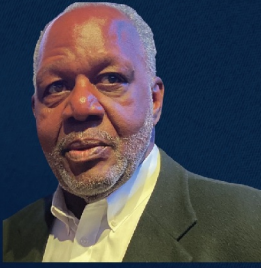
- *Nick Collins, Massachusetts State Senator*

VII. AWARDING OF HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

- *Dr. Winslow Sargeant (Coaches)*
- *Jeff Jackson (Referees)*
- *Sherika Alford (Mentors)*
- *Charlie Titus (Legacy)*

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

- *Dr. Winslow Sargeant*



Message from the

**BOSTON UNSUNG
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

CHARLIE TITUS

“At the Titus Foundation our mission to nurture the youth of today while lighting the pathways for the leaders of tomorrow. Today, we honor colleagues who share this dedication to youth development and community wellness.

Congratulations to the honorees—thank you for your unwavering commitment. Your efforts are seen, valued, and deeply appreciated.

A special thank-you to my Unsung Committee colleagues Sherika, Jeff, and Winslow for helping make this event possible. It’s been a pleasure working with you”.



Message from the

**BOSTON UNSUNG
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

WINSLOW SARGEANT

“Welcome to The Boston Unsung: Legacy of Excellence — Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future. Today, we celebrate the coaches, referees, mentors, and community leaders who mentored me and whose dedication and service continue to inspire future generations and uplift our communities. Thank you for joining us as we honor these outstanding individuals and their lasting impact.”

-

Thanks



Message from the
**BOSTON UNSUNG
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

JEFF JACKSON

Welcome to The Boston Unsung Luncheon. These Unsung Heroes give their time, guidance, and support to help shape character, inspire confidence, and create opportunities for young people throughout our communities. Their commitment reminds us that true leadership is not always found in the spotlight, but in consistent service, compassion, and care for others.



Message from the
**BOSTON UNSUNG
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

SHERIKA ALFORD

It is both an honor and a privilege to celebrate individuals who pour into our youth with passion and purpose. Congratulations to all of the recipients. Your impact has made a lasting mark on what it truly means to be PRESENT in the lives of others. Thank you for your commitment to uplifting our community. Please continue the incredible work.

THE BOSTON UNSUNG AWARD RECIPIENTS



Michael Downing
Coach Award



Mitchell Hercule
Coach Award



Bithyah Israel
Mentor Award



John Jackson
Rodney Hughes Legacy Award



Thomas James
Coach Award



Anthony Pitts
Referee Award



Saleena Rashed
Coach Award



Anthony Thompson
Mentor Award

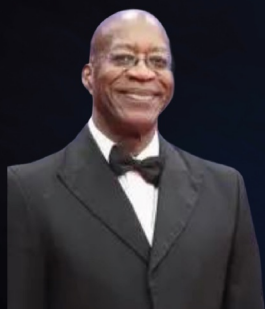


Steven M. Wilson Jr.
Referee Award



Alda Witherspoon
Paula Titus Legacy Award

Olympic Gold Medalist
DR. EDWIN MOSES



Dr. Edwin Moses is an Olympic champion, sports administrator, diplomat, and businessman recognized as one of the most respected athletes of his era. A three-time Olympic medalist, he won gold in 1976 and 1984 and bronze in 1988, captured three World Cup and two World Championship titles, and broke the 400-meter hurdles world record four times.

A graduate of Morehouse College with a B.S. in Physics and Engineering, Dr. Moses applied scientific principles to revolutionize the 400-meter hurdles and later became a global leader in anti-doping efforts. He helped develop and oversee one of the world's most rigorous drug-testing systems and served in leadership roles with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, United States Anti Doping Agency, World Anti Doping Agency, and the International Olympic Committee.

Dr. Moses also holds an MBA from Pepperdine University and a Certificate in Global Enterprise Management from University of Oxford. For 23 years, he served as the inaugural Chairman of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, advancing sport as a force for social change alongside Nelson Mandela.





International Saxophonist ELAN TROTMAN



Saxophonist Elan Trotman has quickly emerged as one of jazz's most compelling and emotive voices. As a composer, performer, educator, and recording artist, he continues to push boundaries while maintaining a sound that is unmistakably his own.

Influenced by Grover Washington, Jr., Kirk Whalum, and Najee, Trotman pairs a distinctive tone with fresh musical ideas. He has been named Jazz Artist of the Year multiple times by both the New England Urban Music Awards and the Barbados Music Awards.

Trotman has recorded and performed with a wide range of world class musicians, including Michael McDonald, Roberta Flack, Jonathan Butler, Keiko Matsui, Johnny Gill, Jeffrey Osborne, Sheila E., Will Downing, Earl Klugh, Peabo Bryson, and many others.

Born and raised in Barbados—the island home of pop star Rihanna—Trotman brings Caribbean roots to his approach to contemporary jazz. After studying at the world-renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, he developed a signature style that blends Caribbean rhythms with richly textured horn lines. In 2021, Trotman returned to Berklee as an Associate Professor in the Ensemble Department.

Film and media credits

- Detroit (2017), directed by Kathryn Bigelow
- I Wanna Dance with Somebody (2022), directed by Kasi Lemmons (featuring Stanley Tucci, Tamara Tunie, Ashton Sanders, and Naomi Ackie)





Rodney Hughes Legacy Award
JOHN JACKSON

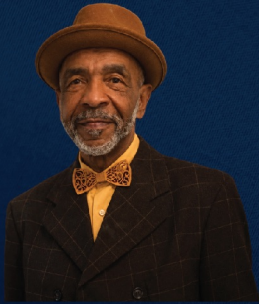


John Jackson has dedicated over 30 years of service to the City of Boston, making a lasting impact on the Mission Hill community. Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly with thousands of youth and families, providing guidance, support, and opportunities that have positively shaped their lives.

His commitment to mentorship has been especially meaningful, as many of the young people he has worked with have gone on to graduate from college—an achievement that reflects both their determination and his influence.

One of the most notable aspects of Mr. Jackson's work has been his dedication to student-athletes from the Mission Hill area. Through his leadership and encouragement, several of these athletes have continued their careers at the collegiate level, and a number have even gone on to play professionally both in the United States and overseas.

Mr. Jackson's legacy is one of service, mentorship, and community empowerment. His decades of commitment have helped open doors and create pathways for countless young people, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the community he has served so faithfully.



Referee Award
ANTHONY K. PITTS



For over 50 years, I have dedicated my life to working with families, serving my community, and helping guide young people toward better paths in life. Much of my work has focused on mentoring challenged youth, helping them make positive decisions, and showing them that their circumstances do not define their future.

For 35 years, I served as a juvenile parole officer, where I had the opportunity to work closely with young people and families during some of the most difficult times in their lives. I have also spent many years helping single fathers and grandfathers reconnect with their children and grandchildren by supporting them in getting back on their feet and rebuilding stability in their lives.

Basketball has also been a major part of my journey. I have proudly worked as a basketball referee for over 50 years, partnering with schools, youth programs, and community organizations while building relationships and mentoring generations of young athletes both on and off the court.

Giving back has always been important to me. Throughout the years, I have organized and participated in toy drives, turkey giveaways, and many other charitable and community outreach efforts aimed at helping families in need.

Above all, I am a proud husband to my wife, Mary Pitts, for over 50 years, a devoted father to my children, Anthony Jr. and Lavette, a proud grandfather to Wayne Selden Jr. and Anthony Selden, and an excited and grateful great-grandfather to Benjamin Anthony Selden.

And somehow, through all of this, I have always managed to keep my outfits coordinated, my colors matching, and my style together — because looking sharp has always been part of the mission too.



Paula Titus Legacy Award
ALDA WITHERSPOON

Alda Witherspoon has over 30 years of experience as a singer, songwriter, poet, playwright, and producer and etiquette expert. She served as a major producer for the City of Boston, as Director of Public & Private Partnerships in the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events, and as Director of Park Arts for the Boston Parks Department.

As the City of Boston Poet Laureate and Producer, she has collaborated with notable figures like Michelle Obama, President Obama, President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of State John Kerry, as well as artists such as Patti LaBelle and the Boston Pops.

Ms. Witherspoon has also been a TV Judge on ABC's Community Auditions and a Society Columnist for the Baystate Banner. She is the Director of Community Development at New Hope Baptist Church and has written and produced musicals, including *Unto This House: The King of Kings is Born*, and *WIZE the Musical*. Other plays include *Back to Black Women*, *The Legend of Dorothy Dandridge*, *Before You Plant the Seed* and *Georgia's House of Rhythm & Blues*. Ms. Witherspoon has two books in the works: *The Seed of My Whisper*, Poetry, Prose and Passages and *AKA Spoon*, the bio/novel about her grandfather, Albert L. Witherspoon – a Tycoon on Black Wall Street in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 2006, she founded The Witherspoon Institute (WIN) to teach leadership, business etiquette, and arts development to city youth. WIN is currently celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Two years ago the Witherspoon Gala was established to feature the WIN Arts and Culture Awards where over 40 awards were bestowed on cultural, political, media and art leaders, including the Literary Champion Award, Massachusetts. Highlights featured - President Jessica Tang, American Federation of Teachers; National Financial Literacy Lifetime Achievement Award - Bishop Mitchell G. Taylor; Culinary Arts - Best Chef Tony Cao from Yoshida Omakase Boston Restaurant; Best International Social Justice Book - His Excellency Philippines Ambassador Sean Bardoo, "Modern Day Trafficking"; Corporate Leader – Arts, Culture & Community - Aisha Miller, Related Beal and Media Arts Community Leader Award - Larry Lawson, Executive Producer, CBS News was awarded.

This year, to celebrate The Witherspoon Institute's 20th Anniversary, we are launching the Witherspoon Literacy Parade Walk and GET LIT Arts, Culture and Innovation Festival to raise awareness and funds for neighborhood literacy program across the State. The date will always be the last Saturday in August - 29.August.2026.



Coach Award **SALEENA RASHED**



My work with youth has centered around mentorship, education, leadership development, and athletics through the Metro Cobras Youth Organization, a nonprofit youth development program dedicated to helping young people succeed both on and off the track. Using track and field as a foundation, I have worked to create opportunities for student-athletes to grow academically, athletically, and personally while developing the discipline, confidence, and life skills needed for long-term success.

Through years of coaching, mentoring, and guidance, I have helped more than 70 student-athletes earn athletic scholarships and continue their education at colleges and universities across the country, including Princeton University, Brown University, Syracuse University, University of California, UConn, George Mason University, and many others. My focus has always been on helping youth understand that education comes first and that athletics can be a pathway to greater opportunities. In addition to athletic development, I have helped provide free tutoring, academic support, and mentorship programs designed to keep student-athletes focused in the classroom and committed to personal growth. I have also worked alongside college interns and cooperative education students from institutions such as UMass Boston, Northeastern University, and Emmanuel College to create positive learning environments and mentorship opportunities for participating youth.

The impact of this work extends beyond academics and youth sports. Former athletes from the Metro Cobras program have gone on to compete professionally, including a professional runner representing On Running and another former athlete who was drafted into the NFL by the Jacksonville Jaguars. These accomplishments reflect the long-term commitment to helping young people reach their highest potential in sports, education, leadership, and life.

More importantly, my work with youth has always been about building character, creating opportunities, and inspiring young people to believe in themselves. Through mentorship, structure, encouragement, and accountability, I strive to help every young person develop the confidence and skills needed to become successful students, athletes, and leaders within their communities.



Mentor Award
BITHYAH ISRAEL



Bithyah Israel is a multicultural cellist, vocalist, composer, educator, and video producer whose work centers on celebrating community connection. She is President & CEO of City Strings United (www.citystrings.org), a nonprofit with a mission to promote youth development in historically excluded communities through access to high-quality, student-centered music education and ensemble performance. Bithyah fulfills visionary leadership, operational, and reaching responsibilities at City Strings United as current President & CEO and board member. Her work has been recognized by The Boston Globe, New England Cable News, Urban Update on Boston's WHDH Channel 7 and Chronicle and CityLine on Boston's WCVB Channel 5. She is a recipient of the Women of Courage and Conviction Award, presented by the Boston Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, and the Dennis Wrenn Music Educator Advocacy Award, an honor given by Arts | Learning as part of their state-wide Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards.

Bithyah currently serves as Board Chair at the Arts & Business Council of Boston and a member of the Vivo Performing Arts community engagement committee

Coach Award

THOMAS JAMES



Thomas James dedicated over a decade to working with youth from 1975–1985 through the Holland Community School, where he served as Gym Director, Program Supervisor, Basketball Coach, and Referee. Throughout his years of service, he taught basketball fundamentals, coached, and refereed teams of all ages for both boys and girls. His commitment to youth development helped shape discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship in countless young athletes.



Coach Award

MICHAEL DOWNING



Being selected as one of Boston's Unsung award recipients is a tremendous honor. To be recognized for my 30 years of service to my community, through this award, is truly humbling.

Over the past three decades, I have dedicated my life to mentoring young student-athletes, helping them grow not only as basketball players but as responsible, impactful young men. I use the game of basketball as a vehicle to reach and inspire youth to become more than just athletes. Through study halls, community service projects, and daily mentorship, I work to mold these young men into positive role models for their communities.

Mentorship and a strong emphasis on education have been at the core of my mission. I'm proud to say that over 40 young men of different races and socioeconomic backgrounds have gone on to attend four-year colleges and universities under my guidance. My driving force has never been about wins or championships; it has always been about teaching life lessons and hoping that the young people I serve will one day reach back to help someone else.

I owe everything to my beautiful wife and two sons. To my wife, thank you for your unwavering support and for allowing me to spend countless hours away from home to follow my passion. To my sons, thank you for sharing your dad with so many other young people. I would also like to thank the BASE for their support and for allowing me to continue my mission of empowering youth through sports. Lastly, I want to thank my best friend, Ed Powell, and honor the memory of the late Christopher Siggers. Together, we built the All For One Basketball program, creating something far greater than ourselves — a foundation built on brotherhood, mentorship, and service to the community we love so much. Their friendship, vision, and commitment helped shape this journey, and their impact will continue to live on through every young person we reach."

A quote that has stayed with me throughout the years is: "You may not be able to make it to the

NBA, but you can always obtain your MBA.*

Education is power, and the key to a better future for our youth.

I will continue to serve my community with the same passion and purpose, and look forward to making a difference for generations to come.

Thank you again for this prestigious honor.



Referee Award
STEVEN M. WILSON JR



Steven Wilson, Jr. has dedicated more than three decades to mentoring, coaching, and empowering youth through basketball, education, and community outreach. His journey began in 1994 after graduating from Hyde Park High School, when he became an Assistant Basketball Coach under legendary Head Coach George “Physics.”

He later coached for the Mattapan Basketball Club at the Mattahunt Community Center, which evolved into the well-known Killer Bees program alongside Johnnie Williams. Determined to create greater opportunities for young athletes, Steven founded Team Go Get It, a men’s travel basketball program designed to help young men pursue college and professional basketball careers. Through this program, he has assisted countless athletes in reaching collegiate and professional levels, work he proudly continues today.

In 1999, while serving as a Boston School Police Officer, Steven established The Young Men’s Group to support some of Boston Public Schools’ most challenged youth by helping them stay out of trouble, secure employment, and build brighter futures. His commitment to violence prevention and youth advocacy also led him to serve as Director of Operations for the Violence Reduction Taskforce founded by Reverend Eugene Rivers more than 30 years ago.

Today, Steven serves as Director of Recruitment & Scouting for Referee Operations for both The Basketball League and the Basketball Super League. He is also an Executive Board Member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) Board 27.

Throughout his officiating career, Steven has worked Men’s NCAA Division II and III tournaments, NJCAA tournaments, and National Prep School tournaments. In 2020, he became the only basketball official to work every round of the Massachusetts State Basketball Tournament. Most recently, he helped establish the Junior IAABO Program within Boston Public Schools as an elective course, making Boston only the second city in the world, after New York City, to offer the program.



Mentor Award
ANTHONY THOMPSON



Anthony Thompson is the Founder and CEO of Follow Suit Mentoring, a transformative program dedicated to guiding and empowering young men through mentorship, life skills, and personal development. Drawing from his own lived experiences, Thompson uses fashion as a gateway to teach confidence, discipline, and purpose—embracing the philosophy that when you look good, you feel good, and ultimately act accordingly.

Through Follow Suit, he leads structured workshops that focus on character building, financial literacy, healthy relationships, and leadership, helping youth navigate real-life challenges and make positive choices. His mission is to change lives “one suit at a time” by providing young men with the tools, guidance, and mentorship needed to reach their full potential and become leaders in their communities.





Coach Award
MITCHELL HERCULE

Mitchell Hercule is the Founder and Director of Operations of The Hoops Collaborative Youth Development Program, a non-profit organization committed to the holistic growth of student-athletes across the Greater Boston/Brockton area and throughout New England. Since founding the organization, Coach Hercule has led with the belief that sports can be a powerful tool for personal transformation, community building, and lifelong success.

Under his leadership, The Hoops Collaborative has become a trusted community anchor—offering year-round clinics, mentorship opportunities, and life-skills programming that promote wellness, inclusion, and personal growth. With a focus on building safe, supportive environments, Coach Hercule has helped create a culture where young athletes can thrive—both on and off the court.

Coach Hercule's vision is rooted in the understanding that sports not only develop athletic ability but also strengthen social awareness, mental toughness, and self-esteem. Through programs like Monday Night Runs, Ladies Night, Saturday School, The Giveback, The Empower Her Basketball League, and the Greater Boston JV Tournament, he has helped thousands of youth learn the value of resilience, leadership, and hard work.

A strong advocate for education and character development, our motto has been: "Success only comes before work in the dictionary." This philosophy informs every aspect of The Hoops Collaborative's mission—helping young people become leaders in their schools, communities, and futures.

Coach Hercule continues to serve as a mentor, coach, and role model to countless youth, while building a family-oriented basketball culture grounded in connection, support, and excellence.



Co-Host
COURTNEY BOSTON



Courtney "Courtney B./Courtney Boston" is known as one of the definitive "Voices of Boston." The FAMU and Emerson College Alumna began her professional on-air career at Cumulus Radio in Tallahassee and has spent just under two decades in Broadcast and Digital Media as on-air talent, program director and creative director at various local, commercial and independent, TV and radio stations, and ethnic media platforms.

Courtney continues to be a woman in perpetual motion. She launched her own entrepreneurial efforts, *HerVision Media & Consulting LLC* in 2013 and most recently Co-founding in 2020, *WWOC Media Network*, Boston's Premier Black Women owned Urban Media Company. Long committed to youth and community service, the capital city's "Favorite Boston Baked Bean," is the Director of Partnerships for *TechBoston Academy 6-12* and volunteers as COO/Co-Director of the Boston Showstoppers Girls Academic & Athletic Enrichment Program. Her board work includes Berkshire Partners Boys & Girls Club, and a pair of leadership roles with Holmes Elementary School Governing Board, and FAMU National Alumni Assoc Massachusetts Chapter.



Co-Host
COACH LA

Lakisha Renee Austin, aka Coach LA, is a dynamic host, licensed psychotherapist, and executive life coach known for creating powerful, engaging experiences that inspire and connect audiences. As the host of *Conversations with Coach LA* on Urban Heat 98.1FM & iHeartRadio, she brings energy, authenticity, humor, and real-life insight to every stage. "Your Favorite Around-the-Way Therapist" turning conversations into unforgettable moments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



LOPEZ

THE FLORIST

742 Adams st., Dorchester, MA, 02122

For Four Generations the Lopez name has been synonymous with Quality and Reliability. Often we are called upon to prepare flowers for generation after generation within the same family. We are family owned and operated. We are committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly and prompt. Because all of our customers are important, our professional staff is dedicated to making your experience a pleasant one. That is why we always go the extra mile to make your floral gift perfect.

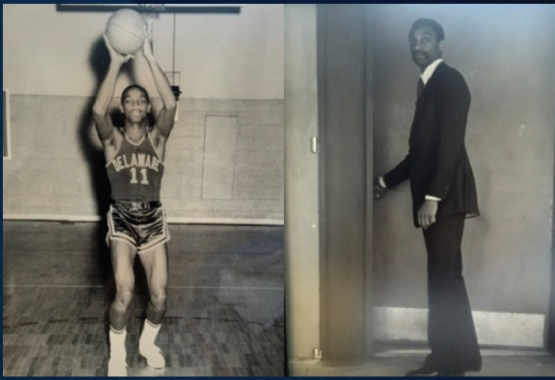


986 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, Ma. 02124

Three young men from Boston, Clayton Weston, Kurt McLaughlin, and Marlon Benjamin acquired the space in February 2025 with a vision to create something special for the community.

They transformed the venue into a modern, comfortable atmosphere with a Caribbean-inspired vibe that welcomes everyone. Designed for events of all occasions, Sorrel & Lime offers a stylish and inviting setting where culture, celebration, and community come together.

Beyond hosting memorable events, their mission is rooted in giving back and supporting the local Boston community through connection, culture, and opportunity.



We pay loving tribute to the memory of a great coach, referee and mentor

ROSCOE BAKER

JULY 29, 1937, ~ MAY 17, 2026

Roscoe Baker was a legendary Boston athlete, educator, mentor, and pioneer whose impact on youth and athletics in Boston spanned more than six decades. A standout graduate of the Boston Public Schools system, he lettered in basketball, football, baseball, and track before attending Delaware State College, where he excelled as a multi-sport athlete and graduated in 1961.

Drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies, Baker's true passion remained basketball. He earned a tryout with the Boston Celtics and built lifelong relationships with Celtics legends such as Sam Jones and Tom Sanders.

In the mid-1960s, Baker became the first Black Director of the Roxbury Boys & Girls Club, helping open doors for Black leadership in Boston. He was also a founding force behind the nationally recognized Boston Shootout and the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL), one of the nation's oldest youth basketball leagues.

Later, as Athletic Director at Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Baker mentored hundreds of student-athletes and coaches, becoming a respected role model and community leader. Even after retirement, he continued serving Boston Public Schools as Commissioner of Basketball Officials.

Roscoe Baker was more than a sports legend — he was a trailblazer, mentor, and champion for Boston's youth whose legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. He leaves behind two daughters, family, friends, former students, and countless lives touched by his leadership and service.



titusfoundation.org

River Park, LLC