

# BLACK OWNED MAINE

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**February 19th, 2024**

Some folks try to act like Black history isn't American history—like Black Americans haven't been here just as long as most white Americans. But that's exactly why BOM exists.

While our focus is on the economic influence of Black business owners in Maine, we're also preserving history and making sure our stories are seen, heard, and valued in this state we call home.

Thank you for being here with us. Let's keep building together.

Happy Black History month y'all,

The BOM Team

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## BOM New Projects

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### **Bridging the Tech Gap for Black Businesses in Maine**

BOM is teaming up with **Maine Technology Institute (MTI)** to tackle the tech challenges Black businesses face across the state. To keep it real, we need your input!

We're hosting **two** focus groups—one in **Lewiston** and one in **Portland**—to hear directly from the community.

We want to hear from YOU! Interpreters will be on deck, but to make sure we've got everyone covered, we're asking folks to fill out a quick form ahead of time.

**Dinner's on us + a \$75 stipend for your time and insights.**

Pull up, share your thoughts, and help us level up Black businesses in Maine! Sign up now.

[Sign up Now](#)

## Help Us Spotlight Black Businesses in Midcoast & Northern Maine

BOM has secured funding to showcase Black-owned businesses across Midcoast and Northern Maine—and we need your help to make it happen.

- Got a favorite Black-owned spot that's not in our directory?
- Know of a new business up north that deserves some shine?
- Running a business yourself and want to be featured?

Let us know! We're locking in our trip itinerary and want to make sure no business is left out. Fill out the interest form below and put us on!

[Interest Form](#)

## Black Owned Maine + Good Shepard Food Bank Take On Food Insecurity

BOM, in partnership with Good Shepherd Food Bank, distributed **\$306,000** in grants to community food projects across Maine.

The **Community Redistribution Fund** is all about empowering BIPOC-led nonprofits to secure sustainable access to culturally relevant food.

"Meeting basic needs is a critical element of an individual's ability to support themselves and become a successful entrepreneur," says BOM co-founder & CEO Rose Barboza. Read the press release below.

[Read More](#)

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## Grants + Funding Opportunities

Below are grants, funds, and loans available from both local and national sources. To learn more about each funding opportunity, simply **click the title** of the program you're interested in.

### [Marketing Mini-Grants](#)

Funding Amount: Up to \$1,000

**Deadline:** 12:00 pm on Friday, February, 28, 2025.

### [Portland Growing Child Care Grant](#)

Funding Amount: New childcare businesses: Up to \$15,500, existing childcare businesses serving MORE THAN 50 children: Up to 5,000 for new staff, and existing child care businesses up to \$11,000 to expand and grow their business.

**Deadline:** N/A

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## Policy Updates

**First Quarterly Wage Reporting & Premium Payments Start April 1st!**

Heads up, business owners! The first quarterly wage reporting and premium payments kick off on **April 1st**, with the final deadline on **April 30th**.

This applies to all businesses, whether you're:

- A single-employee business
- Managing multiple employees
- A company with an existing paid leave program looking to opt out

Don't miss out on key details—find everything you need to know below!

[Paid Family Leave Explained](#)

### **Protect Yourself & Your Employees: Employer Guide from ABIC**

The American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) has released a crucial guide on how to protect yourself and your employees when dealing with immigration enforcement.

Key Reminder:

- Do not lie to ICE.
- You have the right to remain silent.
- Follow the expert recommendations from ABIC & the immigration law firm they consulted.

Stay informed, stay prepared, and check out the full guide below!

[ABIC Guide](#)

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Featured Business:  
Soul Food Paradise



Feast your eyes (and your appetite) on Maine's first and finest soul food sensation! Ready to cater your next shindig, from elegant weddings to lively parties, or even an exclusive chef's table experience, we're serving up a banquet of delights. Our menu is a symphony of soulful hits, featuring everything from crispy catfish to our award-winning, heart-hugging mac 'n' cheese—voted Portland's best for two consecutive years!

**Soul Food Paradise**

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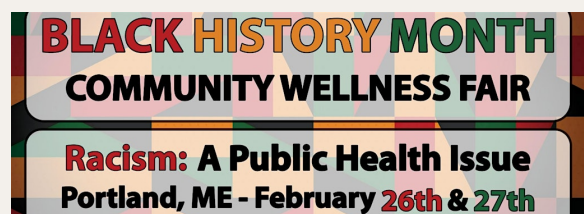
## Upcoming Community Events

### **Black History Month Community Fair**

The 5th Annual Black History Month Community Wellness Fair has organized a two-day event on **Racism: A Public Health Issue**. Day 1 explores barriers faced by BIPOC and the LGBTQ+ community in accessing healthcare, while Day 2 presents solutions.

[Get A Ticket Here](#)

### **Black History Month**



## Community Fair

Radical Nourishment: Food, Soul & Community for the Future, a series of gatherings designed by and for BIPOC organizers to deepen our connections with each other, our relationship with the land around us, and the power we need to survive and transform the conditions we are rooted in. This project is a collaboration between Tender Table & the Southern Maine Workers' Center, and part of Parable Path, a framework for community organizing and artistic engagement based on Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Maine's Meet the Buyers Matchmaking Event

This single-day event will bring local businesses together with federal, state, and municipal buyers, as well as prime contractors to discuss opportunities and solutions to upcoming procurements. A full day of matchmaking will follow a brief opening ceremony. It will be held Thursday, May 15 at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, Maine.

[RSVP](#)

**RADICAL NOURISHMENT**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**  
TENDER TABLE  
2 / 28  
2 P - 5 P  
FOOD, MUSIC, DANCE, & POETRY!  
BRING A DISH, INSTRUMENT, OR JUST YOURSELF. (YOU'RE ENOUGH)  
RSVP AT THE LINK IN BIO FOR LOCATION DETAILS.  
THIS EVENT IS FOR BLACK FOLKS ONLY.

20  
25  
MAINE'S  
*Meet the Buyers*  
MATCHMAKER

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## Business Consulting + Marketing Services

Our Business Consultants are available to meet with Black entrepreneurs virtually or in-person at our Portland and Lewiston offices. We can support your business with paperwork, grant writing, project management, and many other topics.

[Request Advising](#)



Photo of Rudolph, owner of [Excellent Mobile Auto Detailing](#), taken by Firdaws

Our Marketing Coordinator, Firdaws, is available to meet with BOM Network Members to produce professional photoshoots for you to use when creating content for your business. See more info below and book a date on her schedule!

[Request Marketing Support](#)

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## Join the Network

BOM offers free membership to any business or nonprofit in Maine that is at least 50% Black-owned and operated. All identified Maine-based Black-owned businesses and Black-led nonprofits receive automatic membership unless otherwise requested.

Members can take advantage of the following benefits:

- Access to a [network](#) of over 450 Black entrepreneurs in Maine
- Access to members-only portal, including free public directory listing
- [Free technical assistance and business advising](#)
- [Free marketing services, including a professional photoshoot](#)
- Access to exclusive business workshops and content
- Priority access to vendor fairs and partner offerings
- Connection to a larger ecosystem of entrepreneurs and support organizations

Join the Network

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New to Black Owned Maine?

Black Owned Maine (BOM) is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Maine. BOM began in June 2020 as an online directory for Black businesses, nonprofits, professionals, groups, and artists but quickly grew into so much more.

We are dedicated to sustaining an ecosystem of Black businesses in our state. We host a public business directory, host cultural and educational events, and offer marketing support. Please visit our [website](#) or [Instagram](#) for more information.

*Disclaimer: You are receiving this email because we identified you as a Black-business owner, a the founder or director of a Black-led non-profit, a Black-professional with a bookable service, a Black artist, or the organizer of a Black group in Maine. If you do not identify as such, please respond back to this email or unsubscribe.*



# BOM

Black Owned Maine | 411 Congress St | Portland, ME 04101 US

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