

The Future of Local Business
in Boston Square

WELCOME!

- Display your name on the screen
- If you're not speaking, please mute
- Feel free to use the chat
- We will be recording this conversation

Use the QR code to receive a virtual business card from the event host,
Danielle Williams, Director of Economic Opportunities at Amplify GR



WHAT IS BOSTON SQUARE TOGETHER?

BOSTON
SQUARE
TOGETHER

Boston Square (BSQ) is a community focused on families, neighbors, and the commitment to our deep roots in cultural, racial, and socioeconomic diversity. These qualities are embedded in the vision for Boston Square Together, a project that will bring growth to our neighborhood. We collectively aspire to provide added quality of life to current and future residents and their families through accessible and inclusive opportunities in housing, education, health and well-being, employment, and business ownership.

Boston Square Together partners are committed to growing and developing our community in a holistic direction that is informed by residents and influenced by shared power among multiple parties with a common purpose. The Boston Square Together project will deliver equitable outcomes for families and neighbors today and for future generations. [MORE INFO](#)

BSQ COMMUNITY



A FEW THINGS NEIGHBORS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD



KZOO STATION COMING SOON

INCUBATOR KITCHEN & EATERY



- Black-owned businesses
- Small businesses owned by neighbors
- Pop-up shops
- Florist
- Coffee house
- Bookstore
- Incubator space

West side of Kzoo



F3



BOSTONSQUAREGR.ORG

AMPLIFY GR



amplifygr.org

Jon Ippel, Executive Director

Latesha Lipscomb, Engagement and Relationships Director

Jermale Eddie, Business Partnership Manager

AMPLIFY GR



amplifygr.org

Amplify GR (AGR) is a local non-profit staffed by residents, former residents, and stakeholders of our service area (Burton St., Giddings Ave, Hall St., Division Ave.). We are the only holistic organization of its kind in Michigan focused on a singular community and its neighbors by seeking equitable outcomes for families and neighbors today and for future generations. We do this work in 4 areas:

- Jobs and entrepreneurs
- Education
- Health and well-being
- Housing

What's next for
your business?



Grow your business and the future
of your neighborhood economy.

COFFEE WITH JERMALE EDDIE

Meet with Amplify GR's Business Manager for
coffee and a chat about your business and
ideas. Let's see if we can create what's next for
your business and the future of Boston Square.

Get Jermale's virtual business
card to schedule your coffee!



jermale@amplifygr.org

AMPLIFY GR



amplifygr.org

KZOO STATION COMING SOON

**INCUBATOR KITCHEN
& EATERY**



Widening Pathways for Stronger Neighborhoods

Working in partnership to...



CONNECT with local entrepreneurs



CREATE space for business growth



AMPLIFY economic opportunity for all

POWERED BY:

Spr^{eng}GR

PCG PREFERRED
CONSTRUCTION
GROUP

Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C.
IVNA
architects • planners • designers

AmplifyGR

For more information:

Visit amplifygr.org or contact Amplify GR
at connect@amplifygr.org

SPRING GR

 springgr.com

Randy Otterbridge, SpringGR Facilitator & Owner of RBI
Arlene Campbell, Co-Director
Attah Obande, Co-Director

SpringGR

SPRING GR

 springgr.com

SpringGR offers a Small Business Accelerator for startups and existing businesses to build a strong business foundation through coaching and training.

Participants become part of the SpringGR family and continue to grow their connections and knowledge in business through our team and other connections in Grand Rapids. Tangible Benefits – knowledge, connections to people, community and access to resources to learn and grow.

SPRING GR

 springgr.com

We offer The 250 Project for larger BIPOC-owned businesses

In West Michigan: 11,500 businesses make 250K or more a year. Only 70 of those are owned by a person of color (Data pulled from Demographics Now). Minority groups make up about 25% of the Grand Rapids population, but less than 1% of BIPOC businesses make \$250k or more. The 250 Project is our attempt to do our part, on the programmatic side, to create a more inclusive ecosystem where all entrepreneurs can thrive.

SPRING GR

»»» springgr.com/kzoo-station

We will be offering a kitchen incubator space in partnership with Amplify GR for local food businesses – late spring/early summer. Rent the kitchen, sell your products to the community and engage in technical assistance through Spring GR.

MICHIGAN WOMEN



FORWARD

Ana Jose, Director of Business Development
Alexis Dishman, Chief Lending Officer



MichiganWomenForward

MICHIGAN WOMEN



FORWARD

The opportunity to obtain business accounting technical assistance and loan opportunities for seasoned or start-up businesses. MWF also offers pitch opportunities for start-up capital.

MICHIGAN WOMEN



FORWARD

Call Ana's cell phone at 616-482-9609 or email her at ajose@miwf.org.

GROW BUSINESS TODAY



growbusinesstoday.com

Stephanie Kolakowski, Owner/Chief Growth Officer
Kyria Phenix, Director of Client Services



**GROW BUSINESS
TODAY**

YOUR GROWTH IS OUR BUSINESS
GROWBUSINESSTODAY.COM

GROW BUSINESS TODAY



growbusinesstoday.com

We will be offering businesses a complimentary digital/market audit (scan the QR code) for attendees. This is a one hour complimentary consultation to review and discuss next steps in your growth journey.

We are focused on helping 100 women-owned businesses achieve WBENC certification in 2022. We have information and ways to start the process for WBE and MBE.



[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/DIGITALAUDIT49507](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/digitalaudit49507)

CITY *of* GRAND RAPIDS

 growgr.org

Jeremiah Gracia, Director of Economic Development
Jordan Turner, Economic Development Coordinator
Alvin Hills IV, Business Developer in the Office of Equity and Engagement



CITY OF
GRAND
RAPIDS

CITY *of* GRAND RAPIDS



The Office of Economic Development is responsible for all business retention, expansion, and attraction projects for the City of Grand Rapids.

We are your business advocate to ensure you can access all programs and resources available for your business.

You can find a summary of our programs and incentives at www.GrowGR.org. We will help you evaluate business assistance options available to you and walk you through all application and approval processes.

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grandrapidsmi.gov

Micro Local Business Enterprise(MLBE) Certification

- Bid Discount Incentives when bidding on contracts \$10,000 and up
- Priority Vendor List for City Strategic Plan and Initiatives
- MBE/WBE Certification cost coverage

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grandrapidsmi.gov

Set up a one-on-one with Alvin to learn more about if they qualify for the MLBE Certification.

Email ahills@grcity.us or call 616-729-5802.

If you qualify, begin the online application Micro Local Business Enterprise (MLBE) Certification at grandrapidsmi.gov.

GET INVOLVED IN

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

bostonsquarena.com

oakdaleneighbors.org

Join or connect with your local
neighborhood organizations.



Victor Williams, Executive Director, Boston Square Neighborhood Association
Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, Executive Director, Oakdale Neighbors



THE FUTURE *of* LOCAL BUSINESS *in* BOSTON SQUARE



ARE YOU A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS A BUSINESS
OR WANTS TO START ONE IN BOSTON SQUARE?



Meet and greet with fellow entrepreneurs and partner organizations to learn how your business or idea can be part of this growing business district.

BOSTON
SQUARE
TOGETHER

What questions do you have?

What is one action you think you can take from today's event?

Do you want more time to talk with someone at today's event?