

# SPONSORSHIP PACKET

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The Black Political  
Empowerment  
Project**

**Monday, October 27, 2025**

**Save the  
Date!**

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Celebration of  
Jazz Appreciation**

# B-PEP JAZZ 2025

**LET THE  
MUSIC PLAY!**

**HEINZ HISTORY CENTER  
1212 Smallman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

**5:30 pm to 10:30 pm**

**Individual Tickets: \$45  
(\$40 for Seniors)**

**Over 60 Artists  
Expected!**

**Host Bands:  
ROGER HUMPHRIES & THE RH FACTOR  
AND THE TIM STEVENS PROJECT  
Special Guests for the evening:  
Vibraphonist TUBBY DANIELS and  
Steel Drummer HILARY BORNEO.**



**Dr. Kathy S. Wilson Humphrey**  
*President, Carlow University  
Host Committee Chair*



**JIM ROONEY**  
*Author and Co-Partner, Rooney Consulting  
B-PEP JAZZ Honorary Chair*

## **B-PEP JAZZ MUSICIANS & VOCALISTS - 2025**

**Kelly Ajala**, Conga Player  
**Howie Alexander**, Pianist  
**ARTISTREE LIVE**  
**Don Aliquo, Sr.**, Saxophonist  
**Donna Bailey**, Vocalist  
**Roger Barbour**, Trumpeter  
**Heidi Beatty**, Vocalist  
**Poogie Ball**, Drummer  
**Bett Biggs**, Vocalist  
**Ronnie Biggs**, Bassist  
**Michele Bensen**, Vocalist  
**KENNY BLAKE & The NEW HIP**  
**Beverly Bowie**, Vocalist  
**Tony Campbell**, Saxophonist  
**CENTER OF LIFE (COL) JAZZ BAND**  
**Etta Cox**, Vocalist  
**Gregg Criss**, Bassist  
**Bunny Cullens**, Vocalist  
**Larry Cullens**, Vocalist  
**Phat Man Dee**, Vocalist  
**Dwayne Dolphin**, Bassist  
**Al Dowe, Jr.**, Saxophonist  
**Sandy Dowe**, Vocalist  
**Brian Edwards**, Drummer  
**Larry Keith Estes**, Guitarist

**Tom Evans**, Vocalist  
**Joe Garuccio**, Vocalist / Guitarist  
**Tom Glover**, Pianist  
**Sandra Green**, Vocalist  
**Scott Hanley**, Vocalist  
**Dr. Nelson Harrison**, Trombonist  
**Theresa Hawthorne**, Vocalist  
**Ron Horton**, Trumpeter  
**Bob Insko**, Bassist  
**Darrell Jefferson**, Vocalist  
**Eric Johnson**, Guitarist  
**Dr. James Johnson, Jr.**, Pianist  
**Mark Johnson**, Guitarist  
**Pam Johnson**, Vocalist  
**George Jones**, Conga Drum Player  
**Shantal Joseph**, Vocalist  
**John Korpiel**, Drummer  
**Doug Lane**, Drummer  
**Max Leake**, Pianist  
**Mark Leonard**, Drummer  
**Aaron Lewinter**, Guitarist  
**Jessica Lee**, Vocalist

**Anita Levels**, Vocalist  
**Gregory Marshall**, Drummer  
**Chris McGraw**, Bassist  
**Alton Merrell**, Pianist  
**Jeff Montgomery**, Drummer  
**Carl Murphy**, Drummer  
**Byron Nash**, Guitarist  
**ONE UP (Band)**  
**Clemente Payne**, Vocalist  
**Fred Pugh**, Vocalist  
**Barbara Ray**, Vocalist  
**Derek Redd**, Saxophone  
**Cheryl Rinovato**, Guitarist  
**Lee Robinson**, Saxophonist  
**Ken Roosevelt**, Guitarist  
**Earl Russell**, Keyboardist  
**Lorri Russo**, Vocalist  
**Charlie Sanders**, Vocalist  
**Lou Schreiber**, Saxophonist  
**Arnold Stagger**, Bassist  
**Lou Stellute**, Tenor Saxophonist  
**Calvin Stemley**, Saxophonist

**Sunny Sunseri**, Bassist  
**Yoko Suzuki**, Alto Saxophonist  
**Vince Taglieri**, Drummer  
**TAYLOR MAYDE (Band)**  
**Stephen Thomas**, Vocalist  
**Mario Tierno**, Keyboardist  
**Dan Wasson**, Bassist  
**Reggie Watkins**, Trombonist  
**Dean Williams**, Vocalist  
**Jay Willis**, Saxophonist  
**Timothy Woodruff**, Vocalist  
**Ethan Zawacki**, Trumpeter  
**Jaki Young**, Saxophonist

**For more info, contact B-PEP  
(The Black Political Empowerment Project)**  
Tickets available at:  
<https://bpepjazz2025.eventbrite.com/>  
Website: [b-pepjazz.org](http://b-pepjazz.org)  
Phone: 412-212-8775

**Mail to:**  
B-PEP JAZZ c/o ALICE LOGAN  
B-PEP Fiscal Manager/Financial Consultant  
1716 Nevada Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-2328

**Make checks payable to:**  
Black Political Empowerment Project  
Add "B-PEP JAZZ" in the memo section.



**Purchase drinks from the Common Plea and  
event catered by Barry Nutall  
Major Media Sponsor:  
WZUM, 101.FM/1550 AM, The Pittsburgh Channel**



## Signature Event

Since 2006, to raise awareness of the organization and its programs, the Black Political Empowerment Project has hosted B-PEP JAZZ, a five-hour jazz marathon which raises funds to help defray the cost of the many fine programs that are offered to the Pittsburgh Region.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual B-PEP JAZZ

### Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of B-PEP!

A musical 'fun-raiser' celebrating  
The Black Political Empowerment Project's  
40 years of serving the Metropolitan Pittsburgh community

**Monday, October 27, 2025**

Heinz History Center  
1212 Smallman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
5:30 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.



LET THE  
MUSIC PLAY!



**B-PEP JAZZ 2025 AWARDEES:**

**A Special Tribute to Former Jazz Club Owners  
Who Kept Jazz alive in Pittsburgh:**

*Tom Burley, Crawford Grill on the Square*  
*Al Dowe, "Dowe's on Ninth"*  
*Arthur Jim Barthrop, The Pyramid Restaurant and Lounge*  
*Gene Jeter, Too Sweet Lounge*  
*Muzz Meyers, The Balcony*  
*Caren and Don Miller, CJ's*  
*Craig Poole, James Street*  
*Tim Guthrie & Justin Strong, Shadow Lounge & Ava*

**A Special Tribute to Two Women who have been Instrumental and  
COMMITTED to Presenting HARAMBEE FESTIVALS  
in the Pittsburgh Region for many years:**

*Anita Drummund, Festival Director*  
*Pearlina Story, Festival Director*



**IN MEMORIAM B-PEP JAZZ 2025:**

**Maurice “Ricky” Brooks, Guitarist**  
**Marc Custer, Trumpeter**  
**Magumba Lowery, Conga Player**  
**Willie Parham, Flutist**  
**Chuck Spatafore, Drummer**  
**Nancy Taylor, Pianist**

**HOST BANDS**

**ROGER HUMPHRIES & THE RH FACTOR**

**Dwayne Dolphin, Bassist**  
**Roger Humphries, Drummer**  
**Max Leake, Pianist**  
**Lou Stellute, Tenor Saxophonist**  
**Yoko Suzuki, Alto Saxophonist**



**The TIM STEVENS PROJECT**

**Howie Alexanader, Pianist**  
**Kenny Blake, Saxophonist**  
**Eric Johnson, Guitarist**  
**Tim Stevens, Vocalist**  
**Vince Taglieri, Drummer**  
**Dan Wasson, Bassist**

**SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS FOR THE EVENING:**

**Tubby Daniels, Vibraphonist**  
**Hilary Borneo, Steel Drummer**

## **B-PEP JAZZ GUEST EMCEES:**

**Kiki Brown**, WAMO, 107.3 FM

**Scott Hanley**, WZUM, 101.1 FM/1550 AM, The Pittsburgh Jazz Channel

**Bill Hillgrove** – The Voice of the University of Pittsburgh Pitt Panthers, former Voice of the Pittsburgh Steelers

**Mikey Hood** – KDKA TV/ KDKA PLUS

**Chuck Leavens**, WZUM, 101.1 FM/The Pittsburgh Jazz Channel

**Bill Neal**, The New Pittsburgh Courier

**Lisa Smith**, Host, “Intersections”, KDKA TV PLUS

**Andrew Stockey**, WTAE TV

**Bob Studebaker**, WESA FM, Essential Public Radio, 90.5 FM

**B-PEP Jazz Host Committee Chair, Dr. KATHY S. WILSON HUMPHREY**

*President Carlow University*

**B-PEP JAZZ Honorary Chair: JIM ROONEY**, *Author and Co-Partner, Rooney Consulting*

## **B-PEP JAZZ HOST COMMITTEE:**

**Jared Bachar**, President & CEO, Visit Pittsburgh

**Arthur L. & The Hon. Cynthia A. Baldwin**

**Kenya T. Boswell**, Sr. Vice President of Community Affairs, Highmark Health

**Dr. Quintin B. Bullock**, President, Community College of Allegheny County

**Janis Burley**, President and CEO August Wilson African American Cultural Center

**Esther L. Bush**, Interim President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

**Annie Hanna Cestra**, COO, Hanna Real Estate

**Daylon A. Davis**, Past President, NAACP Pittsburgh Branch

**Jackie Dixon**, Member, Regional Asset Board (RAD)

**Rod Doss**, Editor & Publisher, New Pittsburgh Courier

**Dr. Edmund Effort**, Dentist

**Cecelia Trower Epperson**

**Bill Flanagan**, Host, WPXI's “Our Region's Business”, Special Advisor, Alleg. Conference

**Evan Frazier**, President & CEO, The Advanced Leadership Institute (TALI)

**Dr. Leon Haley**, Former Dean, Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, Pitt

**Peggy Harris**, President & CEO, Three Rivers Youth

**Dr. Rahmon Hart**, Director of Community Relations, Rivers Casino

**Kevin L. Jenkins**, President & CEO, Manchester Bidwell Corporation

**Jason Jones**, Director Vice President, Community Development, Dollar Bank

**Sean Jones**, International Trumpeter

**Dr. Linda S. Lane**, Former Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

**Katharine Eagan Kelleman**, CEO, Port Authority of Allegheny County

**Claudette Lewis**

**Mark Lewis**, President & CEO, the POISE Foundation

**Hon. Timothy K. Lewis**, former U.S. District Judge

**Monica I. Malik**, Vice President Public Affairs Market Manager,  
W.P.A., Citizens Bank

**Marimba Milliones**, President & CEO, Hill District Community Development Corp..

**Carol Neyland**, Former Sr. Vice President Community Development, Dollar Bank

**Jeff Nobers**, Executive Director, Builders Guild of W. PA

**Dan Onorato**, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Highmark Health

**K. Chase Patterson**, Director, Urban Academy

**Clyde Wilson Pickett**, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Engagement and Well Being

**Ronald D. Porter**, RDP Consulting Service



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**Angela Reynolds**, President, YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh  
**A. Odell Richardson**, Treasurer, Black Political Empowerment Project  
**Hon. Valerie McDonald Roberts**, Former Pittsburgh City Councilwoman  
**William “Jack” Simmons, Esq.**, Former Director, Shuman Juvenile Detention Center  
**Greg Spencer**, Managing Director, Spencer MacCleary & Associates LLC  
**Dr. Marcia Sturdivant**, President & CEO, NEED  
**Dr. James E. Taylor**, Chief Diversity, Inclusion & Education Officer, UPMC  
**J.T. Thomas**, Steelers Super Bowl Champion #24  
**Nancy Washington**, Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corporation (AHRCO)  
**Joy Maxberry Woodruff**, Director, Pittsburgh “Do the Write Thing”



## Corporate Sponsorship Levels

### SUPER HIGH NOTE SPONSOR

*As a High Note Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5"x8") Color Ad back cover*
- *B-PEP JAZZ program booklet*
- *Twenty (30) tickets to the event*
- *Listing in the Program as a Super High Note Sponsor*
- *Dedicated reserved seating at the event*
- *Name/Logo visibility at the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*
- *Other promotional considerations*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$20,000**

### HIGH NOTE SPONSOR

*As a High Note Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5"x8") Color Ad inside front cover and across the first page of the*
- *B-PEP JAZZ program booklet*
- *Twenty (20) tickets to the event*
- *Listing in the Program as a High Note Sponsor*
- *Dedicated reserved seating at the event*
- *Name/Logo visibility at the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*
- *Other promotional considerations*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$15,000**

### KEY SIGNATURE SPONSOR

*As a Key Signature Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5"x8") Color Ad inside back cover OR outside back cover of the B-PEP*
- *JAZZ program booklet*
- *Fifteen (15) tickets to the event*
- *Listing in the program as a Key Signature Sponsor*
- *Dedicated reserved seating at the event*
- *Name/Logo visibility at the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*
- *Other promotional considerations*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$10,000**



## SHARP KEY SPONSOR

*As a Sharp Key Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5"x8") Color Ad premium placement in the B-PEP JAZZ program booklet*
- *Twelve (12) tickets to the event*
- *Listing in the Program as a Sharp Key Sponsor*
- *Dedicated reserved seating at the event*
- *Name/Logo visibility at the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*
- *Other promotional considerations*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$7,500**

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## MAJOR KEY SPONSOR

*As a Major Key Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5"x8") Color Ad premium placement in the B-PEP JAZZ program booklet*
- *Ten (10) tickets to the event*
- *Listing in the Program as a Major Key Sponsor*
- *Dedicated reserved seating at the event*
- *Name/Logo visibility at the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*
- *Other promotional considerations*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$5,000**

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## KEY NOTE SPONSOR

*As a Key Note Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A full page (5'x8') black & white ad in the B-PEP JAZZ Program Booklet*
- *Logo visibility at the event*
- *Eight (8) tickets to the event*
- *Live Mentions at the event*
- *Listing as Key Note Sponsor in Program Booklet*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by Friday, October 3, 2025.)*

**Investment: \$3,000**

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## CLEF NOTE SPONSOR

*As a Clef Note Sponsor You Will Receive:*

- *A ½ page (5"x3.5") black & white ad in the B-PEP JAZZ Program Booklet*
- *Six (6) tickets to the event*
- *Live mentions at the event*

*Listing as Clef Note Sponsor in Program Booklet*

*(Please email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) Friday, October 3, 2025)*

**Investment: \$1000**

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# Individual & Community Agency Contributions

## B-PEP GOLD

- Six (6) tickets and inclusion of organization's name in program booklet

**Investment: \$750.00-\$999.00**

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## B-PEP SILVER

As a B-PEP Silver You Will Receive:

- Four (4) tickets and inclusion of organization's name in program booklet

**Investment: \$500.00-\$749.00**

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## B-PEP BRONZE

As a B-PEP Bronze You Will Receive:

- Two (2) tickets and inclusion of organization's name in program booklet

**Investment: \$250.00-\$499.00**

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## Individual Donations

The names of those who contribute from **\$100.00—\$249.00** will be acknowledged in the "Friends of B-PEP" section of the program booklet, and will receive one ticket.

**All contributions must be received by Friday, October 3, 2025 to ensure a listing in the program.**

Donations *under* \$100.00 are welcomed but will not be acknowledged in the printed program.

# B-PEP Sponsorship Form (INVOICE)

## Corporate Sponsorship

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ALT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORSHIP (SELECT ONE) **Get a full page ad in the (CEIR) program for an additional \$500**

____ Super High Note Sponsor: \$20,000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$20,500
____ High Note Sponsor: \$15,000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$15,500
____ Key Signature Sponsor: \$10,000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$10,500
____ Sharp Key Sponsor: \$7,500	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$8,000
____ Major Key Sponsor: \$5000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$5,500
____ Key Note Sponsor: \$3000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$3,500
____ Clef Note Sponsor: \$1,000	____ Plus \$500 (CEIR) ad	____ Total \$1,500

## Community Organization/Agency Sponsorship

SPONSORSHIP (SELECT ONE)

\_\_\_\_ B-PEP Gold: \$750.00-\$999.00

\_\_\_\_ B-PEP Silver: \$500.00-\$749.00

\_\_\_\_ B-PEP Bronze: \$250.00-\$499.00

## Individual Donation

\_\_\_\_ Friends of B-PEP \$100.00 - \$249.00

\_\_\_\_ Other Donation Amount

\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed

**Please make your check payable to: BLACK POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**  
in the Memo line please indicate "B-PEP JAZZ."

Email all advertisement information to [bpepjazz@gmail.com](mailto:bpepjazz@gmail.com) by **Friday, October 3, 2025**

**We encourage advertisers to send in their ads and donations as soon as possible!**

For additional information please call 412.758.7898 or 412.361.2736

**Please mail check to:**


Black Political Empowerment Project c/o Alice Logan, B-PEP Fiscal Manager/Financial Consultant,  
1716 Nevada Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218-2328

**PAYPAL is also available for payment.**

ALL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE "WILL CALL" TABLE THE EVENING OF THE EVENT

\_\_\_\_ THIS IS A CONTRIBUTION. PLEASE DONATE MY/OUR TICKETS.

# About Us - Celebrating 40 Years!



The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) was launched on May 21, 1986 as a non-partisan community collaborative consisting of individuals and agency, organization and religious leaders committed to building political power and influence for the African American community by:

- Advocating that All African Americans are registered to vote and “VOTE in EACH and EVERY election!”
- Advocating that those in political office expeditiously and effectively meet the needs, aspirations, and concerns of African Americans.
- Promoting the goal of realizing the FULL political power of the BLACK vote.

B-PEP relies on the dedication of devoted people who donate an incredible number of hours to uplift our communities by providing hope and a sense of purpose.

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”  
-Martin Luther King Jr.

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## VISION

*To empower the Black vote, increase civic engagement, support Black families, create safer communities, and expand job, economic, and entrepreneurial opportunities for long-term community sustainability.*

## MISSION

*The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) and it's initiatives, the Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV), and the Corporate Equity and Inclusion Roundtable (CIR), work collectively to empower the Black community through family and political engagement, identifying systemic barriers, and fostering both short- and long-term solutions to enhance community well-being and create meaningful economic opportunities.*

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LET THE  
MUSIC PLAY!



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## ***OUR PROJECTS – Making a Difference in the Pittsburgh Region***

**The GREATER PITTSBURGH COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE (CAV)** was launched by B-PEP and One Hood on February 8, 2007, galvanized by research that reported Pennsylvania as leading the nation in homicide rates of African Americans. Following the first year of existence the Coalition continued under the leadership of B-PEP. It is an inter-racial, inter-generational initiative of community and religious leaders, police, educational and governmental representatives, and concerned citizens from throughout the Pittsburgh Region.

CAV's work is aimed at the development, expansion, implementation and sharing of the Black Political Empowerment Project's "Strategies for Change: Creating More Peaceful Communities" document. The third edition contains some thirty-eight sections, with a total of over 800 anti-violence strategies, which B-PEP/CAV representatives attempt to share, ongoingly, with various community partners. Our Youth Summits are structured to allow for sections to be selected by youth, with assistance from school staff members, for use in our anti-violence Youth Summits, both within the School District of Pittsburgh, and in various school districts located outside of the city of Pittsburgh as well. When possible we schedule follow-up youth-led conversations and activities in each school to continue the conversation of implementation of our CAV anti-violence strategies. Our goal is to reach more students, more school districts, and more partners so as to positively impact the schools, the families and their surrounding communities in lessening the violence being experienced by far too many people. We are now seeking more community-based organizations, agencies and church groups to adopt, embrace and implement specific sections of our CAV document. We also host Community Peace Summits in various neighborhoods aimed at reaching adults as well as young people. In recent months B-PEP/CAV staff members developed a sharing curriculum for each section of the "Strategies for Change" document which will contribute to more powerful and interactive Peace Summits.

The National Urban League President, Marc Morial, called our "Strategies for Change" document, upon which our work is built, one of the most comprehensive anti-violence documents in the nation! Previous Pittsburgh Urban League President, Esther L. Bush, sent our CAV document out to all Urban League affiliates across the nation! Since the release of the original in 2008, CAV has released updated versions with added sections such as anti-bullying, social media/internet safety strategies, violence against women and the LGBTQAI community, and has also published a Community Services Directory as a service to those impacted by violence. The fourth edition of the Directory was published in 2025. Late in 2018 the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) created a model of implementation of CAV strategies, which could be adopted and utilized by area colleges and universities.

Over the years, with the financial partnerships of entities such as the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Vibrant Pittsburgh, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dollar Bank, Jones Day, PNC Financial, UPMC, and more recently the McAuley Foundation and the Opportunity Fund at the POISE Foundation this B-PEP initiated project has been able to continue to exist and to expand its influence throughout the Pittsburgh Region, and beyond.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** Through our partnership with the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, B-PEP's Civic Engagement work focuses on non-partisan voter registration, mobilization, voting protection and voter education. The goal is to urge those who feel un-empowered to commit to

voting in “Each and Every Election”, and by doing so to help meet the needs, aspirations, and concerns of the community by engaging with local and regional political leaders, and to ongoingly help make the voting process more accessible to all. B-PEP was an early partner to the statewide “Fair Districts PA” initiative which continues to help ensure that voting districts are drawn in a reasonable and non-partisan fashion across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, aimed at eliminating gerrymandering. In 2024 B-PEP, along with the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh and the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh took the lead in launching the Voting Is Power (VIP) Pittsburgh Regional Coalition which includes approximately thirty partnering organizations aimed at encouraging voter education, voter registration and great voter turnout. B-PEP has continued its strong leadership with the Voting Is Power (VIP) Pittsburgh Regional Coalition in 2024 and in 2025. B-PEP has continued to be an integral partner in hosting various candidate nights and debates in partnership with various community organizations leading to the November 5, 2024 General Election. We sponsored some 25 PRT busses running throughout Allegheny County for two full months with our mission statement; ‘We -VOTE in EACH and EVERY Election’, and purchased 600 new yard signs and some 400 new B-PEP VOTE signs to distribute throughout the community to encourage voter turnout. In the 2025 spring primary we sponsored 25 busses for one full month and purchased additional yard signs promoting voter information. “Since early 2024 B-PEP has been an active lead member of the Allegheny Youth Vote Coalition. In 2025 the coalition held “Mayoral Conversations” involving candidates for the Mayor of Pittsburgh for the students of the nine Pittsburgh high schools, in a total of seven locations, and hosted the same for the candidates for the Pittsburgh School Board for students from across the city at Obama Academy.

Civic Engagement has also included promoting ongoing conversations to create more positive relationships between the community and the police. As part of this change, B-PEP has been very instrumental in revisions and in the distribution of the “You and the Police” brochure which assists in eliminating inappropriate interactions between citizens and the police, particularly young people, and people of color. We received an important breakthrough in late 2018 and in early 2019 with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the Allegheny County Police, the Allegheny County Sheriff’s Department, and other local police departments on how this brochure would be introduced to their officers, requiring them to read the brochure, sign off on having read the brochure. Many departments also require a quiz for each officer to confirm their knowledge of the brochure. According to former Pittsburgh Bureau Chief Scott Schubert this breakthrough commitment may have been a first in the nation! The sharing of the contents of the brochure to both police and community members is helping to build bridges between the community and the police. We are seeking a commitment from some area schools for the brochure to be incorporated into the annual school curriculum. In 2023 B-PEP initiated quarterly meetings with Mayor Ed Gainey and his top leadership, the Safety Director and the Police Chief in partnership with several community organizations to increase ongoing positive relationships between the community and the police, and open communication. These quarterly meetings have continued through 2025.

**THE CORPORATE EQUITY & INCLUSION ROUNDTABLE (CEIR)** was launched by B-PEP in 2011 propelled by the 2010 national documents that listed Pittsburgh as 40th in comparison to 39 other regions for the conditions of the Black working poor and the conditions of African American children. The report from the University of Pittsburgh released on September 17, 2019 describing the conditions of Blacks in Pittsburgh support the necessity for the continuation of this very important project. The purpose of CEIR is to achieve higher levels of inclusion for African Americans in employment, ‘from entry level to the C suite’, in business ownership, and in business development throughout Pittsburgh and the Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The mission of CEIR is to develop and assist in the implementation of strategies to overcome the diversity and inclusion challenges within the corporate sector, and all sectors, by facilitating collaboration with partners from educational institutions, community organizations, workforce development agencies, professional organizations, and government. The mission is also to promote a meaningful, ongoing commitment to commitment to expand opportunities for employment, which includes developing strategies for African Americans in the following areas: Recruitment; Hiring; Retention; Mentoring; Retention and Promotion. Our CEIR Conferences, Since 2013, have been hosted at Duquesne University, have been accomplished in partnership with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Mayor Bill Peduto, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and numerous corporate and community partners. The 2020 CEIR Conference was hosted virtually by Point Park University. Our 2024 Conference included the participation of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and Allegheny County Exec. Sara Innamorato.

County Exec, Innamorato has recently committed to help promote the BPEP/CEIR Strategies for Creating Opportunities for Retention and Engagement (SCORE) playbook through out the Pittsburgh region. Our next CEIR conference is 'being planned for sometime in the fall of 2025, at Community College of Allegheny County, Allegheny Campus.

**THE 'B-PEP COMMUNITY MOMENTS RADIO SHOW'** is broadcast on WGBN AM 1150 which features conversations about issues, concerns and events of interest to the African American community throughout the Pittsburgh Region. The show is broadcast each first Saturday of every month from 12 noon to 1 pm, and is hosted by Nyota Robinson and Brandon Davis out of the studios of Pentecostal Temple Church in East Liberty.

**THE B-PEP WEBSITES** features the work of the Black Political Empowerment Project, the Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence and the Corporate Equity & Inclusion Roundtable. We have added a special section for JOBS, TRAINING, and INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ([bpep.net/JOBS](http://bpep.net/JOBS)), as well as a much needed COMMUNITY CALENDAR which will feature various activities and events of interest to the African American community throughout the Metropolitan Pittsburgh community.



*Thank you for your thoughtful consideration  
of support for B-PEP JAZZ.*

*Please contact us if you have any questions!*

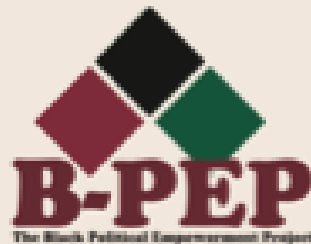


For additional information please call 412-758-7898 /412-361-2736  
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