



Belmont Against Racism, Inc.

Annual Membership Request

Fall 2023

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your continuing support of Belmont Against Racism (BAR), as well as for our partner organization, the LGBTQ+ Alliance. It is gratifying and encouraging that you stand with us in the work of BAR in a year filled with the horrifying and tragic mass murders in Dallas, Nashville, Buffalo, Uvalde, Jacksonville and elsewhere – five mass murders in the first four days of September! The concerns run deep for our communities and our democracy. However, there are bright spots; we see them in Belmont:

- The town Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force and the Human Rights Commission continue to push for changes in town government, including calling for a town DEI Director, as recommended by the Task Force Report last year.
- Dr. Jill Geiser, Belmont’s new Superintendent of Schools, and Chon’tel Washington, the school district’s Director of DEI, are using equity and social justice as a framework for planning and implementing school-wide changes to push for recognizing individual learning needs of all students and putting in systems for support.
- And there are new community groups bringing awareness of the many treasured identities in our diversifying community, one of the newest being Hispanos en Belmont. They join many others.

We have continued much of the work you have helped us accomplish in the past and partnered with many community groups to support events related to Indigenous People’s Day, Latin Heritage Day, Transgender Day of Visibility, the Pan Asian Coalition, and the Juneteenth Celebration. You will find a list of our activities on the back of this letter.

BAR Board members have continued to work with Belmont Public Schools leaders on issues around equity and inclusion, especially with METCO students, teacher training, student grants, and in support of school activities that promote strong relationships, address bias, and welcome all families. We have also met regularly with school leaders about the hiring process and implementing the recommendations from the Equity Audit. BAR Board members joined committees or participated in community forums about the hiring of the new Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Middle School Principal and other key leadership roles.

With your support, BAR will continue to actively focus on racial justice issues and efforts that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in Belmont and at the state level. Thank you!

The Board of Directors, Belmont Against Racism

I wish to make a 2023-2024 Contribution to:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BAR Membership Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> METCO Support Fund \$ _____
You can also <u>contribute online through PayPal</u> at www.belmontagainstracism.org	

Please return this form and your check to: **BAR, P.O. Box 649, Belmont, MA 02478**

Contributions are tax deductible. BAR is a 501(c) 3 organization. www.belmontagainstracism.org



In the past year, BAR supported the activities listed below with funding thanks to donations from our members and supporters.

Funding Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• METCO Fund for after-school transportation for our Boston high school students & for activities and teacher training related to diversity, equity, & inclusion across all schools• Settler-Colonist Ties to Thanksgiving & Columbus, a talk by Claudia Fox Tree• BHS Social Justice Class; BHS Make a Statement Day• BHS Professional Development, International Valentine• Support of Black and Brown in Belmont for printing/communication to the community• Support for Juneteenth Celebration• Support for Belmont’s Indigenous Peoples Day program• Support of the Pan Asian Coalition’s programs• Latin Heritage event• Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast, keynote speaker• Transgender Remembrance Day• LGBTQ+ books for the Chenery GSA and social; Belmont Welcomes materials• Erica Dunbar Library Talk on Harriet Tubman• Boston Global Film Festival• Louis D. Brown Peace Institute• Support for snacks for METCO elementary students for the bus ride home• Beech Street Center One Love, One Belmont event• Payson Park Music Festival concert• Belmont-Boston Scholarships – BHS• Tony Lumley Scholarship - BHS
BAR Programs/Panel Discussions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative update with Rep. Dave Rogers and Sen. Will Brownsberger• Citizens for Juvenile Justice “Raise the Age” campaign with Sana Fadel• LGBTQ+ Alliance activities and report on Belmont Welcomes Initiative with local businesses
Additional BAR Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing participation in the monthly Beyond Ferguson discussion group with members of the First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist and the Belmont Police Department• Participating in the Massachusetts Human Rights Coalition• Supporting the Belmont Public Schools in their work with teacher training and hiring• Voting Rights postcard and phone banking campaign with <i>Reclaim Our Vote</i> in conjunction with <i>UU the Vote</i>