

Papitto Opportunity Connection

June 2022

And The Winner Is.....Mariam Kaba Wins Transform RI Scholarship

If you were given \$1 million, how would you change Rhode Island's communities of color? That was the question recently asked of high school students of color in Rhode Island as the Papitto Opportunity Connection (POC) launched the inaugural Transform Rhode Island Scholarship (TRIS)

Not only would the TRIS winner receive a \$25,000 scholarship, POC committed to investing **\$1 million** to make the student's big idea a reality and the student would have a seat at the table and be part of the team that would implement the idea.

Nearly 100 high school students of color from across the state responded and shared personal essays, thoughtful research, dynamic videos, and multimedia presentations –all with the same mission: to strengthen and improve the state's communities of color.

Five amazing students: The Met High's Ziondre Ogiba, Daisha Jackson and Jalisa Ramos, Woonsocket High's Miriam Kaba and The Wheeler School's Isabelle Mitchell were selected as finalists by the POC Advisory Board.

Mariam Kaba, the 15-year-old daughter of West African immigrants, who is a sophomore in the Career and Technical Center at Woonsocket High School, was selected as the 2022 Transform Rhode Island Scholarship winner.



(L to R): John Tarantino, POC; Mariam Kaba; Darren Walker, Ford Foundation; Angélica Infante-Green, RI Department of Education; Madjouma Diarrassoubaz; and Barbara Papitto, POC.

Mariam's winning idea is to develop a program that offers career exploration, financial literacy, provides mental health wellness opportunities for young people of color and restores communities through dedicated activities. Her winning application was selected by a panel of judges that included [Ford Foundation President Darren Walker](#), [Rhode Island Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green](#) and [POC Managing Trustee John Tarantino](#).

For her transformative idea, Mariam will receive a \$25,000 scholarship and will have a seat at the table as POC invests \$1 million to make her idea come to life.

The announcement was part of a multicultural celebration held at Farm Fresh Rhode Island on May 26.

"I needed a boost of hope and this for me is an occasion of hope," said Darren Walker as he addressed the large crowd of students, family members, educators and community leaders. "Hope is the oxygen of our democracy, and you all are providing that oxygen."

The logo features a red square frame on the left side, partially enclosing the text. The text is arranged in three lines: "Transform" in bold black, "Rhode Island" in bold black, and "Scholarship" in bold red.

Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Roger Williams Park



Juneteenth is a day collectively celebrating African American liberation, accomplishments and contributions through education, effective communication, inner strength, and endurance.

The Papitto Opportunity Connection is proud to co-sponsor the fourth annual Juneteenth RI Festival on Sunday, June 19, 2022, at Roger Williams Park's Temple to Music. The annual festival, which draws thousands of people and fosters unity, will be held from 12pm to 7:30pm, followed by fireworks.

For more information, visit [here](#).



First of August CELEBRATION!

LIBERTY! LIBERTY! LIBERTY!

THE ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH WEST INDIA EMANCIPATION, which took place on the 1st day of August, 1834, will be commemorated by the Colored Citizens of Providence, and by all the Friends of Freedom. Let the neighboring cities and towns send in their delegations on that day. Let societies, schools, all unite in swelling the ranks of the Procession of Freedom. On that day let the NEBRASKA INIQUITY be discussed. On that day let the FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL receive its deserts. On that day let the Progress of Freedom be accelerated. Lay aside labor, and assemble in Nature's garden, with the blue vault of Heaven for a covering, and express how we love Liberty and hate Slavery.

☞ Due notice will be given where the Procession will be formed, and the Grove to assemble at.

By Order of the Committee of Arrangements.

Image courtesy of
RI Black Heritage
Society (RIBHS)

PROVIDENCE, July 11, 1854.

WM. H. C. STEPHENSON,
JOH. BANKS,
REV. EDWARD SCOTT,
RICHARD WATERMAN,
WM. H. HOWARD.

From our partners at the [RI Black Heritage Society](#): on June 19th, many Rhode Islanders will celebrate Juneteenth, the anniversary of the enslaved in Texas learning about the Emancipation Proclamation; two years after its passing.

In Rhode Island, we have a long history of celebrating the emancipation of African heritage people. This celebration has its early beginnings immediately after the British Slavery Abolition Act in 1834. Celebrations across the diaspora have been held, traditionally on August 1st as "Emancipation Day," to celebrate the freedom of those in Haiti, the West Indies, and later America.

National Immigrant Heritage Month



June is [National Immigrant Heritage Month](#), a time to celebrate the country's diversity and pay tribute to the diverse immigrant groups that enrich our nation's history and culture.

Deadline Fast Approaching For POC Grant Proposals



The Papitto Opportunity Connection is now accepting programmatic grant proposals for consideration from recognized non-profit 501(c)3 organizations focusing on creating success stories for Rhode Island's Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in the areas of **education, job skills training and entrepreneurship**.

The deadline to submit a proposal is June 15, 2022

Click [here](#) to learn more and to submit your proposal.

