

# **Nubian Square Coalition**

**c/o Black Community Information Center, Inc.**

**516 Warren Street**

**Dorchester, MA. 02121**

## **DEDICATING SPIRIT OF JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON JUNE 19, 2025 BY HONORING BLACK BOSTON DEMAND FOR NUBIAN LIBRARY NAME!!**

The Black Community Information Center Inc. has been on a several year mission in leading efforts to have removal of names in our community honoring individuals with a racist background and supporter of slavery. The examples of results has been the renaming of Washington Park and New Dudley Street to "Malcolm X Park" and "Malcolm X Blvd. in Roxbury. These historic achievements have led to momentum incentives in continuing this important endeavor.

History was made some years ago when the Nubian Square Coalition was created as a component of the Black Community Information Center Inc. The primary goal was to remove the Dudley name as in the 1600's, then Massachusetts Governor Thomas Dudley led first legislative effort to legalize slavery in this country. That being so, our community made history as residents of Greater Roxbury in voting on a ballot question, took down the Dudley Square name to be replaced with NUBIAN SQUARE on November 5, 2019. I made a presentation before the Massachusetts Statehouse transportation committee and shortly thereafter the Massachusetts legislature voted in favor to take down the Dudley Station name to be replaced by NUBIAN STATION. The people had spoken!!!

The present focus for last couple of years has been goal to have library in Nubian Square be renamed the NUBIAN LIBRARY!! Mr. David Leonard as president of Boston Public Library system has publicly admitted and stated in the past "a strong recognition of Greater Roxbury residents sentiment for the Nubian Library name!!" It appears this Administration, with a racist tinge has been resistant to the Nubian Library name with deceptive strategies. The most recent name of Roxbury Branch Public Library apparently does not meet legal standards for name change authority. It is our understanding there is an insulting effort condoned by his office to present the Shaw Library name as an alternative option to camouflage their intent to sabotage what is rightfully the placement for Nubian Library name.

Apparently, this is a reference to the late Sarah Ann Shaw who has a high degree of respect in the community for the work she has done in the news world. Being a person of high integrity, she surely would not support her name being used as an obstacle to block the community desired Nubian Library name. Let's be very clear that along with

Sarah Ann Shaw there are many from our community who are no longer with us that are deserving of recognition based on their commitment to community service. We refer to the likes of Sarah Ann, Mel King, Melnea Cass, chuck Turner, Doris Bunte, etc. The Nubian Square Coalition has promoted there being within the confines of the Nubian Library a "NUBIAN WALL OF HONOR" listing those deserving of their dedicated service to our community.

We urge our community to "stand with our campaign" in supporting the NUBIAN LIBRARY name!! We encourage you joining us in doing your part by encouraging your family, friends and neighbors to support the naming campaign. Reach out to Mayor Michelle Wu (617-635-4500 ext. 2371 mayoral candidate Josh Kraft, David Leonard (617-859-2371) and City of Boston office of Mr. Dion Irish. Urge them to support NUBIAN LIBRARY name!!! Also the Boston Library trustee board is holding a "special session" on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 8:30 AM. You can attend in person or via ZOOM. Google Boston Library Trustee Board meeting and click on meeting segment. Strongly suggest signing up for "public comment" prior to meeting start to express your support and demand for Nubian Library name.

In closing, the Nubian Square Coalition in conjunction with Black Community Information Center Inc. is convening a press conference in support of the Nubian Library name on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 11:00 AM EST. It will be held at the Nubian Library plaza location which is at 149 Dudley Street in Nubian Square, Roxbury, MA. You the community are needed to turn out for this important event. Let us celebrate JUNETEENTH with a community VICTORY!!

*Sadiki Kambon*

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