**PBS and Black Public Media Announce the Premiere of A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION, a New Documentary Film from Fugitive Films and Seventh Child Productions in Association with Meynon Media**

*The film will make its television debut on Tuesday, August 13, 10:00-11:30 p.m. ET (check local listings) on PBS, PBS.org, and the PBS app.*

Executive produced by Emmy Award-winning Bostonian [Uzo Aduba](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2499064/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0_tt_0_nm_8_q_uzo) and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker [Sam Pollard](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Pollard_(filmmaker)), and directed by [Daphne McWilliams](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0574802/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1), the feature documentary **A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION** examines one of America’s most racially complicated cities as it confronts not only its past but also its future. When Kim Janey, a black woman who was bused as a child into hostile neighborhoods, is catapulted to the position of acting mayor, she breaks a 200-year history of white men in the city's top seat. Boston's traditional old school politics are further challenged when the top candidates in the historic 2021 mayoral race are four non-white women.

“It is a true honor to be a part of the producing team bringing **A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION** to the screen, said Aduba. “Having grown up in the Greater Boston area, watching the transitional systems and surrounding culture within the city evolve, I understood the importance of this story. That this mayoral race could take shape here, home to the complex ‘Cradle of Liberty,’ in this form is, unto itself, a revolutionary act.”

The film paints a unique portrait of an American city that continues to evolve. It reveals a side of Boston heretofore unseen in mainstream media. **A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION** is a tight and fast-paced documentary that asks if America's bedrock city can finally confront its past.

**A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION** connects the dots between Boston’s racially complicated past and Kim Janey’s appointment as acting mayor in 2021 to the subsequent historical mayoral election later that year, which resulted in Mayor Michelle Wu’s victory. Using historical footage, expert interviews, and personal narratives, the film contrasts Mel King’s 1983 mayoral campaign with the recent race in which the top candidates are four non-white women, and also considers the impact of the 1970s busing crisis on Boston’s present.

The film kicks off with verité footage of Acting Mayor Janey and her imminent entry into the mayoral race. It’s spine is the active, citywide mayoral campaign, which introduces three other key candidates. Andrea Campbell, a black woman from Roxbury (who is now the attorney general of Massachusetts), speaks of the disparities between her education and that of her brother. She attended the exalted Boston Latin exam school in the late 1990s and went on to Princeton University and UCLA Law School. Meanwhile Campbell’s brother ended up in Boston’s prison system where he died as a young man. Annissa Essaibi George, another candidate, is the daughter of immigrants—specifically an Arab man and a Polish woman. Her father warned her that Boston would never elect an Arab to political office. She is now the CEO of the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. Finally, viewers meet the ultimate victor, Mayor Michelle Wu, the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants who moved to Boston from Chicago and then navigated the city’s resources to tend to her mother’s mental health issues.

The groundwork for Wu’s success was laid by the recently deceased Mel King, a powerful yet compassionate force in Boston politics whose 1983 campaign for mayor was groundbreaking.

Buffering the rich archival footage are several personal narratives about King: from Acting Mayor Kim Janey who handed out election flyers as a teenager, to an artist/activist who recalls King’s Sunday open-door sessions at his home, to some elderly community members who effusively share their recollections of the “gentle giant.”

Experts offering historical context and personal narratives include: MSNBC host and Boston native Lawrence O’Donnell; Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies at Northeastern University Kabria Baumgartner; Director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center David Paleologos; as well as roundtable discussions among UMass Political Science professors and local Boston journalists. Additionally, an assortment of community members reflect on their own experiences in Boston.

**A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION** is produced by Fugitive Films, Seventh Child Productions and Black Public Media – with funding provided by the Corporation of Public Broadcasting in association with Meynon Media, Inc. for PBS. Daphne McWilliams is director and producer. Jamie Gordon and Carole Brennan are producers. Uzo Aduba, Sam Pollard and Mikaela Beardsley serve as executive producers. Rob Leshin is editor and co-producer, along with co-producers Hanna Morrill, Dan DeNicola, Courtney Potts, and Anthony Noble. Co-executive producers are Ruth Ann Harnisch, Harriet Lewis.

**A BOSTON (R)EVOLUTION**was made possible by Shah Charitable Foundation, The Barbara Lee Family Foundation, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**ABOUT BPM**[Black Public Media](https://blackpublicmedia.org/) (BPM) supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience to inspire a more equitable and inclusive future. For more than 44 years, BPM has addressed the needs of unserved and underserved audiences. BPM-supported programs have won 5 Emmys, 10 Peabodys, 3 Anthem Awards, 14 Emmy nominations, and an Oscar nomination. BPM continues to address historical, contemporary, and systemic challenges that traditionally impede the development and distribution of Black stories. For more information, visit blackpublicmedia.org and follow BPM on Instagram and Facebook and @BLKPublicMedia on X.

**ABOUT PBS**  
[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](http://pbslearningmedia.org/) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](http://pbskids.org/) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/)and the [PBS KIDS Video app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-video.html), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-games.html), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pbs/?hl=en), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following PBS Communications on X.