

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**YW**  
boston



**ACADEMY  
OF WOMEN  
ACHIEVERS**

**JUNE 4, 2024, 11:30AM - 1:30PM**



**MAGGIE  
BAXTER**



**PAMELA  
EVERHART**



**DR. AISHA  
FRANCIS**



**GOV. MAURA  
HEALEY**



**JESSICA  
PIERRE**

[ywboston.org](http://ywboston.org) | [@YWBoston](https://twitter.com/YWBoston) | [#AWA2024](https://www.instagram.com/AWA2024)

Wi-Fi Information: Sheraton Meeting Network

Access Code: YW2024

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YW Boston: Our Work





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# WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I am honored to welcome you to our 29th Academy of Women Achievers Luncheon. The women we honor today give us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of our work and the need for every Bostonian to get involved in paving the way to a more equitable path for women and people of color in Boston.

It is crucial to hold the Academy of Women Achievers – every year. Women are not only leading in their jobs, but they are also leading the fight against racism and inequities by advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in their workplaces and communities. They are also being **courageous** in the face of unprecedented attacks on this work. This labor is not always recognized or valued. We must create spaces to champion Boston's boldest, bravest and most influential women. Our support for one another is what will keep us strong through the challenges ahead. It is an honor and a privilege to continue to build the academy by recognizing a group of women who have contributed so much of their time, energy, hearts, and minds toward making Boston a more inclusive and equitable city.

Thank you for being here today. Whether you are an old friend or a new one, I look forward to your continued involvement as we work towards greater racial and gender equity in Boston.



BETH CHANDLER  
PRESIDENT & CEO, YW BOSTON





## ABOUT YW BOSTON

As the first YWCA in the country, YW Boston has consistently been a leader in advancing racial and gender equity. Since the 1860s, YW Boston has been a leader in advancing equity and opportunity for women, people of color, and in particular, women of color.

**YW Boston is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.** We continue working towards our mission through programs that address the most challenging and persistent inequities in the city, particularly those that lie at the intersection of race and gender.

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## ABOUT THE ACADEMY OF WOMEN ACHIEVERS

Since 1995, as part of our mission to promote and celebrate the achievements of women, YW Boston has held the Academy of Women Achievers celebration. This is an event through which we recognize and honor some of Boston's boldest, bravest, and most influential women.

The Academy has grown into a dynamic and dedicated group of over 130 women from all walks of life who have strengthened YW Boston's voice in championing gender equity and leadership opportunities for women.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A FULL LIST OF ACADEMY MEMBERS](#)





## SUPPORT YW BOSTON

YW Boston's work would not be possible without support from corporations and individuals, like you. Your financial investment ensures we can deliver responsive programming and services that address the root causes of persistent inequities in Boston and beyond. You can support our mission's long-term viability by making a gift to YW Boston today!

### YOUR GIFT OF:

**\$2,500:** Covers a portion of a scholarship for a mid/senior level professional seeking inclusive leadership development through our signature leadership program, LeadBoston.

**\$1,000:** Provides supplies to middle-school girls of color and gender-expansive youth in our empowerment program, F.Y.R.E., to complete their Community Action Projects.

**\$500:** Covers the cost of translating our program materials to increase the diversity of participants who can be reached.

**\$250:** Supplies materials needed for one information session to educate and support diverse individuals seeking public board or commission positions.

**\$100:** Provides school supplies to one middle school girl in our youth empowerment program.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION](#)

**OR TEXT AWA2024 TO 50155**

All proceeds from the Academy of Women Achievers celebration support YW Boston's programs to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.



## EVENT AGENDA

**11:30-12:15**

Registration and Networking

**12:15-12:45**

Award Ceremony and Lunch

**12:45-1:30**

Panel Discussion

## PRE-ORDERED LUNCH MENU

Sweet gem & frisée salad with watermelon, feta, jicama, red onion, and green goddess dressing (GF)

Cider braised chicken thigh with mashed Yukon potato, kale, and chicken cider jus

OR

Italian eggplant stuffed with basmati rice pilaf, charred sweet corn, brussels sprout leaves, and roasted red pepper puree (GF, DF, VG)

Assorted mini cheesecake bites, key lime tarts, fruit tarts, cannolis, Boston cream pies, s'mores tarts, red velvet cakes, and vegan mango mousse



**LATOYA EDWARDS**  
Emmy-Award Winning  
Morning Anchor  
NBC10 Boston

## EVENT HOST

**Latoya Edwards** is an Emmy Award-winning anchor on NBC10 Boston and NECN. She was recently named one of *Boston Magazine's* Most Influential Bostonians. She is a multi-talented journalist moderating political debates, field-anchoring live news events, securing exclusive one-on-one interviews and emceeing countless charity events each year.

She joined the NBC10 Boston and NECN family as a morning reporter, arriving from WWLP-22 in Springfield, Massachusetts, where she had been a weekday anchor. During her tenure, she has enjoyed success serving as a health reporter, weekend anchor, evening news anchor, before landing in her favorite role as morning news anchor alongside Raul Martinez and Matt Noyes. [Read full bio on our website.](#)



# 2024 AWA AWARDEES



**MAGGIE BAXTER**

**Vice President of Programming**

NBC Boston, NECN,  
and Telemundo Boston

For more than 30 years, Maggie McCarthy Baxter has been overseeing the development and production of original multi-platform content and programs. Maggie started her career in the newsroom at WHDH in Boston before moving to San Francisco in 1991 as a Producer in the ABC-owned station's Programming Department (KGO-TV). In 2004, she moved into her role as Executive Producer overseeing the development, creative and editorial content, budgets, and staffing for local and digital network programs. Over the years these have included daily lifestyle shows, documentaries, live events, and news specials. In 2016, Maggie joined NBC Universal as the Vice President of Programming for NBC10 Boston, NECN, and Telemundo Boston. In this role she oversees program acquisitions, the development of original multiplatform content, branded content, and community outreach/programming. Through Maggie's outreach the Boston stations of NBC and Telemundo have greatly increased their community footprint helping to fulfill the core missions of serving marginalized communities and focusing on DEI. Key partnerships include key organizations such as Embrace Boston, Boston Pride for the People, Boston Children Hospital's Milagros para Niños, and more.

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**PAMELA EVERHART**

**Senior Vice President,  
Head of Regional Public Affairs  
and Community Relations**

Fidelity Investments

Pamela is the head of Regional Public Affairs & Community Relations and has worked at Fidelity Investments for 29 years. Pamela oversees the firm's state and local government relationships and community relations activities at its Boston headquarters and across Fidelity's regions in the U.S., India and Ireland. Prior to joining Fidelity, Pamela was an associate with Ropes & Gray LLP and practiced as a CPA and senior tax manager with EY. Pamela received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a JD from Harvard Law School. She is admitted to practice law in MA and before the Supreme Court. As a leader in the community, Pamela is active in several community service organizations and sits on several not-for-profit boards. She is one of the nineteen Massachusetts Black and Brown executives who launched the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund to help drive transformative social changes to address systemic racism and racial inequity. Pamela was also appointed to serve on Governor Healey's Advisory Council on Black Empowerment to advise on issues related to the economic prosperity and wellbeing of Massachusetts' Black community.

# 2024 AWA AWARDEES



**DR. AISHA FRANCIS**  
President and CEO  
Franklin Cummings Tech

In 2021, Aisha Francis, Ph.D., became the first female President in the 113-year history of Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, now known as Franklin Cummings Tech.

Dr. Francis is an award-winning academic, nonprofit leader and strategist with broad experience in organizational planning, philanthropy, board development, and corporate communications. She believes in the ability of effective organizations and well-supported individuals to transform underserved communities for the better, which is her life's work. She enjoys implementing dynamic new programs at best-in-class organizations that improve access to and equity of educational and economic opportunities.

In her previous role as the college's Chief of Staff, Dr. Francis expanded the institution's network of supporters through external and government relations and oversaw the establishment of a new stream workforce development programming that has since generated millions of dollars in contracts. Prior to joining the college, she served as the Managing Director of Development for Harvard Medical School, raising scholarship funds for underrepresented medical school students as well as diversity and inclusion programs. [Read full bio on our website.](#)



**GOVERNOR  
MAURA HEALEY**  
Governor of Massachusetts

Governor Maura T. Healey is the 73rd governor of Massachusetts and the first woman and first LGBTQ+ person to be elected to the position. She is committed to making Massachusetts more affordable, competitive and equitable. In her first year in office, she signed into law Massachusetts' first tax cuts in 20 years, which included an expansion of the Child and Family Tax Credit, introduced the largest housing bill in state history, made community college free for students aged 25 and older, made universal school meals permanent, and protected access to reproductive health care. She also established the nation's first cabinet-level Climate Chief to coordinate climate policy across all executive agencies and proposed a first-of-its-kind \$1 billion investment in climatetech.

Governor Healey previously served two terms as Massachusetts Attorney General. In her role as the People's Lawyer, she took on difficult issues impacting Massachusetts residents, including the opioid epidemic, health care costs, equal pay, access to contraception, and student loan debt. Earlier in her career, she served as a litigation partner at an international law firm. She is a graduate of Harvard College and Northeastern University School of Law and played professional basketball in Austria. She and her partner Joanna Lydgate live in Arlington. [Read full bio on our website.](#)



# 2024 AWA AWARDEES



**JESSICAH PIERRE**  
Chief Communications Officer  
City of Boston  
Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Awardee

The Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Award is given in honor of YW Boston's longtime former CEO to highlight a young professional woman of color who is a leader in her field and embodies YW Boston's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Jessica Pierre is a skilled public relations professional and storyteller who has spent over 10 years using her skills to build community and advance social justice work. Appointed in December 2021 by Mayor Wu, she currently serves as the Chief Communications Officer for the City of Boston. In this role, Jessica is the lead communications director and advisor for Mayor Wu, leading the City's press, speechwriting, digital media and photography teams.

Known as the "People's Publicist," Jessica Pierre formerly worked as the Principal Publicist and Business Strategist at J. Pierre Communications (JPC), a PR agency in which she founded and ran for three years. Through her work at JPC, Pierre consulted and provided strategic communications support to elected officials, political candidates, nonprofits, small businesses and media companies.

[Read full bio on our website.](#)

## **29TH ACADEMY OF WOMEN ACHIEVERS HOST COMMITTEE**

### **CO-CHAIRS**

Ross Marshall  
Mim Minichiello

### **MEMBERS**

John Anderson  
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Constanza Cabello  
Nora Moreno Cargie  
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Vicky Levy  
Omama Y. Marzuq  
Sharifah Niles-Lane  
Teresa Pelletier

## **YW BOSTON BOARD MEMBERS**

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### **VENDOR APPRECIATION**

Cru & Co Events  
Winston Flowers

# OUR WORK

YW Boston's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) services—InclusionBoston and LeadBoston—as well as our F.Y.R.E. Initiative and advocacy work, help individuals and organizations change policies, practices, attitudes, and behaviors with the goal of creating more inclusive environments where women, people of color, and especially women of color can succeed.

## LEADBOSTON

LeadBoston equips mid-to-senior level professionals with the knowledge, skills, and network they need to become inclusive leaders and influence change in their organizations. Through experiential activities, participants delve into the socioeconomic realities of Boston and explore innovative solutions to inequity.



## INCLUSIONBOSTON

InclusionBoston addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion challenges in the workplace from a holistic lens. Through assessment, process design, dialogue-based sessions, action planning, and pre/post evaluation, InclusionBoston helps organizations create cultural shifts that support inclusive policies and practices.



## DEI WORKSHOPS

YW Boston also offers workshops led by our expert facilitators. Workshop topics include Understanding Racial Equity, Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, Intersectionality, and Organizational Change to Achieve Equity.



## F.Y.R.E. INITIATIVE (Fierce Youth Reigniting Excellence)

The F.Y.R.E. Initiative is a youth empowerment and development program for middle-school girls of color and gender-expansive youth. Through dialogue and experiential learning, students focus on positive self-identity, social-emotional skills, social justice, and civic engagement.



## ADVOCACY

YW Boston's advocacy work identifies policy issues, raises public awareness, and facilitates action to move the needle towards racial and gender equity in public policy.







## Congratulations to the 2024 AWA Honorees, including Fidelity's own Pam Everhart.

Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations and our employee-volunteer program we are expanding access to financial education and supporting under-served youth in communities.





ACADEMY  
OF WOMEN  
ACHIEVERS

# Thank you, YW Boston, for empowering our communities.

We proudly support YW Boston's  
Academy of Women Achievers and  
congratulate the 2024 honorees.

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## **Dana-Farber is a proud partner of YW Boston.**

Congratulations to the 2024 Academy of Women Honorees.  
Thank you for your service to Boston's communities.



Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the GOOD  
in our communities and celebrating the work of

**YW BOSTON**

and the advancement of women

**We proudly support the  
29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF WOMEN ACHIEVERS CELEBRATION**

Congratulations to Maggie Baxter, Pamela Everhart, Governor Maura Healey,  
and our own Eastern Bank Ambassador Dr. Aisha Francis  
on receiving the Academy of Women Achievers Award,  
and Jessicah Pierre on receiving the Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Award

 **Eastern Bank**

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At National Grid, we are committed to building a smarter, stronger, and cleaner energy future for every customer in Massachusetts. This would not be possible without our outstanding team of women leaders who work every day to ensure energy is reliable, resilient, and ready for customers when they need it.

As we look to the future of the clean energy transition, it's clear we need a workforce that reflects our communities. This commitment ensures that our energy future is not only sustainable but also fair and equitable for every customer we serve.

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## Watch Your Impact Grow

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With a gift of \$1,000 a year or \$84 a month, you can join YW Boston's exclusive giving circle and receive invitations to Persimmon Society events and be recognized among our most generous supporters.

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## Centering equity. Advancing women. Driving change.

Thank you, YW Boston, for celebrating women leading and advocating for healthier, more inclusive communities through social justice and systems change.

**Point32Health** Foundation

Visit us at [www.point32healthfoundation.org](https://www.point32healthfoundation.org)





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YW Boston  
and its commitment  
to eradicating racism  
and empowering  
women and people  
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Beth Israel Lahey Health 

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We believe a diverse and inclusive workforce promotes innovative ideas in an ever-changing environment.

Eversource is proud to support YW Boston and their Annual Academy of Women Achievers Luncheon. Thank you for the inspiration and leadership you so generously share.

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# FLETCHER CONSULTING

A PROUD SUPPORTER OF YW BOSTON

Fletcher Consulting is pleased to sponsor YW Boston's Academy of Women Achievers Celebration. We are proud supporters of YW Boston - its mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all" aligns well with the work we do at Fletcher Consulting.

[consultfletcher.com](http://consultfletcher.com)

**HUB International New England is thrilled to sponsor this amazing class of excellent leaders.**

"To all the businesswomen out there, you are the driving force behind progress, and your impact is immeasurable. Keep breaking barriers, challenging norms, and paving the way for generations to come!"  
— Evelyn Murphy



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## Bringing people together. Moving our community forward.

Liberty Mutual Insurance is proud to support YW Boston and their crucial work and commitment to build a more inclusive Boston.

Congratulations to this year's honorees.



**Liberty Mutual.**  
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Headquartered in Boston for over 35 years, PCG proudly supports YW Boston and the 29th Annual Academy of Women Achievers!

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**The D'Amore-McKim  
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proud to support YW  
Boston and the Academy  
of Women Achievers**

**Congratulations to this  
year's honorees!**



**The Boston  
Foundation**

The Boston Foundation is honored to support YW Boston's 29th Academy of Women Achievers. Thank you for almost three decades of recognizing so many of the women who are helping to build a more inclusive Boston. And congratulations to this year's awardees: Maggie Baxter, Pamela Everhart, Dr. Aisha Francis, Governor Maura Healey, and the Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Awardee Jessica Pierre. We join in thanking them for their exemplary lives and their important contributions to our city.

For more about the Boston Foundation, visit [tbfb.org](http://tbfb.org).

**Move Equity, Move Boston.**



Trillium congratulates the 2024  
YW Boston Academy of Women  
Achievers Awardees



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## THANK YOU

to the amazing awardees, staff, and supporters who make this event possible. All proceeds from the Academy of Women Achievers celebration support YW Boston's mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. We hope you will consider making a gift to support our mission today.

[DONATE NOW](#)

eliminating racism  
empowering women



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