



Beech Companies

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



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Beech Companies Celebrates a Milestone

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Beech Companies contribution to serving and helping to improve the lives of the residents living in the Cecil B. Moore community of North Philadelphia. Beech’s work over three decades has garnered praise from the community, cohorts, and city officials because of the organization’s desire to help people and its consistent efforts in spearheading change, providing financial assistance to non-profits, business owners, and students through educational scholarships, grants, and loans.

“The operations of the organization are comprised of a small staff of individuals who believe in the core-value of Beech; to build a stronger community block by block. This is a holistic organization that encourages economic development, financial stability, philanthropic and grassroots investment in North Philadelphia through the work of several divisions,” states Dr. Ken Scott, President and CEO of the Beech Companies.

- **Beech Interplex, Inc.:** Community and commercial development-focused segment that actively advocates for strong neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation, homeownership, and promotion of entrepreneurship.
- **Beech Business Bank:** The financial segment that provides loans to for-profit, non-profit and community development organizations with a primary focus on economically distressed and underserved communities in North, West, and Northwest Philadelphia.
- **Beech Community Services:** The civic engagement segment that encourages active participation in the maintenance and improvement of quality of life in homes, streets, schools, businesses, and other building blocks of community.
- **Alston-Beech Foundation:** The Philanthropic segment that awards microgrants to area non-profits whose missions align with the values of Beech Companies. Grants awarded support efforts to stem decay and boost growth directly among area residents and their neighborhood.
- **Beech Scholarship Fund:** The educational segment that provides scholarships to students of color who live in Philadelphia county and have graduated from a Philadelphia public, charter, or private school. The scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and current under-graduate students attending or currently enrolled at Cheyney University, Community College of Philadelphia, Lincoln University and Temple University.

Meanwhile, the quest to rebuild communities over the three decades has not stopped, or even slowed. Beech will continue to carry out its mission; to increase neighborhood stabilization through community engagement, financial support to small businesses and local non-profit organizations, and advocating for homeownership for low-to-moderate income families.

Beech Companies planned to have an event to celebrate the 30th year milestone on May 28, 2020 but unfortunately, due to the state-of-affairs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the anniversary celebration is being rescheduled. A new date will be announced by mid-April 2020.

Dr. Scott states, “The societal challenges we face are different than they were 30 years ago, but Beech and the residents of Philadelphia will weather the storm. Our steadfast method of getting things done, even if it was considered unlikely will remain the same for the next 30 years, because the future of our communities depends on it.”



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Featured Information

Beech Provides Assistance to Non-Profit Organizations

The Alston-Beech Foundation is not accepting proposals for the 1st funding cycle of 2020 but is providing emergency funding to organizations that provide food and shelter to underserved individuals and families during the COVID-19 crisis. Beech has chosen several organizations in our target area and have provided them with essential funding to support their continued efforts during this disastrous time. To date, the Alston-Beech Foundation has donated emergency relief funds to the organizations listed below. If you are able, please consider donating to these deserving groups.

Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission

302 N. 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

642 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Philabundance

3616 S. Galloway Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

Share Food Program

2901 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129

First Presbyterian Church

C/O Walker Junior Unity Center

1901 Susquehanna Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Youth Services, Inc.

1526 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Salvation Army Red Shield Center

700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

The Table Pantry

8230 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Self, Inc.

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 205, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Yorktown Community Development Corporation

1300 W. Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Bebashi • 215-769-3561

1235 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Lutheran Settlement • 215-235-9992

1601 W. Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Dignity Housing • 215-713-0968

5227 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Grands As Parents, Inc. • 215-236-5848

2227 N. Broad Street, Suite 103, Philadelphia, PA 19132

Bethlehem Deliverance Church • 215-765-2209

c/o Real Deal Food Ministry

2016 W. Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Organizations who prepared to submit proposals for funding before the COVID-19, may submit proposals to the Foundation for the 2nd grant cycle. The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, October 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM. Electronic documents are not accepted.

To be eligible for an ABF grant, organizations must be a non-profit and classified as tax exempt with a 501 (c)(3) status. For-profit organizations are not eligible for funding. When submitting your proposal, you must include the Grant Proposal Cover Sheet, eight (8) full and complete proposals, and all requested documents for grant consideration. For a complete list of grant requirements visit www.beechinterplex.com/alston-beechfoundation.asp.

Scholarships for Secondary Education

The Beech Scholarship Fund (BSF) is accepting scholarship applications from qualified high school seniors or undergraduate students that live in Philadelphia, have graduated from a Philadelphia public, charter, or private school, and have been accepted to, or are currently attending Cheyney University, Temple University, Lincoln University or Community College of Philadelphia for the Fall 2020 academic year. To apply, applicants cannot be over the age of 24 and must meet the BSF criteria to qualify.

Due to the world crisis, the deadline has been extended and the new deadline to submit a scholarship application is Friday, May 8, 2020. Hand delivered applications must be received and accepted by 3:00 PM to be considered, and mailed applications must be post marked by May 8th and addressed to:

Ms. Christine Brown
Beech Community Services
C/o Beech Scholarship Fund
1510 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Suite 100
Philadelphia, PA 19121

To receive an application, or review scholarship criteria and guidelines, visit http://www.beechinterplex.com/bcs_scholarship.asp. Please be sure to review the checklist before submitting the application and do not forget to include all requested documents. Electronic and incomplete applications will be rejected.

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Beech Community Services

Loans and Relief Funds for Small Business Owners

Is your organization or business in need of financial assistance? The **Beech Business Bank (BBB)** is a loan program managed by Beech Capital Venture Corporation that provides loans and lines of credit to for-profits, non-profits, and community development corporations with a primary focus on the economically distressed areas in North, West, and Northwest Philadelphia. The BBB focuses its activities in communities underserved by existing providers of private capital such as banks, credit unions, and venture funds.

The BBB provides access to capital for existing businesses, new entrepreneurs, and neighborhood-based organizations involved in activities that result in:

- The creation or expansion of businesses
- The creation and/or retention of jobs
- The construction or renovation of commercial real estate

If you are a new or existing business in need of financial assistance, visit http://www.beechinterplex.com/bbb_lending_opportunities.asp to get more information on how to obtain a loan for your business, or to obtain the loan guidelines and application. To schedule an appointment, contact Larry Griffin at (215) 763-8824. BCVC is a Certified Development Financial Institution of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Philadelphia-based businesses are now eligible to **apply for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)**. If the COVID-19 global pandemic has negatively affected your business or private non-profit, you are encouraged to apply for the SBA program. SBA's EIDLs are designed to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/t74rtka>.

COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund

Due to extraordinary demand and limited resources, the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) announced changes to the **Philadelphia COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund**.

All Microenterprise Grant, Small Business Grant, and Small Business Zero-Interest Loan applications received by **March 30, at 5 p.m.** will be reviewed for funding consideration from the Fund that was announced on March 23.

After 5 p.m., on Monday, March 30, applications will only be accepted and reviewed from businesses applying for Microenterprise Grants of \$5,000. Applications for Small Business Grants and Zero-Interest Loans will no longer be accepted. Due to limited resources, Microenterprise Grant applications received after March 30 at 5 p.m. will be reviewed as new funds become available.

The Merchants Fund (TMF) Stabilization Grant Funding is committed to providing for the economic needs of the merchant community with modest grants. Merchants must be located in Philadelphia for a minimum of three years. Business Stabilization grants from \$500 to \$10,000 are available to help small businesses remain stable and viable in the face of economic challenges, changes, opportunities, and crisis.

The application process is competitive and there is no guarantee of an award. We recommend that merchants explore other funding sources simultaneously to the grant application process. **This year's grant cycle is open from April 20, 2020 to May 29, 2020.**

For more information please visit merchantsfund.org/grants/stabilization or contact grants@merchantsfund.org if you have specific questions.

The Philadelphia Department of Commerce has available funding for business owners throughout the Philadelphia area. For more information contact the Department of Commerce at (215) 683-2100 or visit their website at www.phila.gov. If you happen to be a business owner with a business located on Cecil B. Moore Avenue, and would like to learn more about funding opportunities available through the Philadelphia Department of Commerce, contact Akeem Dixon at (215) 763-8868.

Cecil B. Moore Community Newsletter



Beech Community Services

Featured Information

Helpful Information and Resources

- The Zoning Board of Adjustment is extending certain filing deadlines, including appeals from refusals, appeals of referrals, and appeals against actions of L&I.
- All filing deadlines from March 13 onward are extended indefinitely, until further notice. Changes affecting these extensions will be announced on the ZBA website, www.phila.gov.
- Beginning March 30, 2020, twenty (20) community food sites will provide free food to residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Residents can pick up a box of food (one box per household) on Mondays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. at sites throughout the city. This effort is a partnership with the community-based sites, as well as Philabundance, and Share Food Program.
- In addition, the Philadelphia School District and partners will continue to operate student meal sites at over 80 locations citywide. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/sxfy2mq>
 - Each child will receive six meals per student—3 breakfasts and 3 lunches.
 - Six Philadelphia Housing Authority community centers are open from 9 a.m. – noon every weekday. Each child will receive breakfast and lunch.
 - Several charter schools are also distributing meals. Times and days vary. Any child is eligible to receive free food at any site. No ID is required.
- Find food banks in Philadelphia: www.philabundance.org/covid19/
- Have Questions? Visit www.uc.pa.gov/faq
- To apply for unemployment, you can visit www.uc.pa.gov, which is the easiest way, or call 888-313-7284. If calling, please do so between the days and times listed below:
 - Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 8 am - 4 pm
 - Wednesday: 12 pm - 6 pm
 - Friday: 8 am - 12 pm
- You must provide the following documentation when filing for unemployment:
 - Social Security Number
 - Exact reason for separation
 - Separating employer information (UC-1609, if provided)
- To apply for healthcare or to learn more, you can visit HealthCare.gov or call the Marketplace center at: 1-800-318-2596
- Earn income in essential service industries – daily job listings <https://www.pacareerlinkphl.org/covid19/>
- Bored, Healthy and Low Risk? Volunteer to Help Others. Sign up for shifts at: serve.volunteermatch.org
- Make your own hand sanitizer and share with others: <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-make-hand-sanitizer/>
- Fun things to do on the internet: virtual museum tours, download e-books from the library
- Other ways you can help: <https://tinyurl.com/tjbwaj6>
- Official COVID-19 Advice and Resources: Philadelphia: <https://tinyurl.com/w3ly2nc> Pennsylvania: <https://tinyurl.com/vepv5rp>
- The City is extending filing and payment dates for Real Estate and some business taxes. The City will honor the federal extensions granted to businesses from the IRS for filing and payments until July 15, 2020 for the Business Income and Receipts Tax and the Net Profits Tax. This policy includes estimated payments.
- For commercial and residential property owners who are unable to pay their Real Estate Tax by March 31, the Department of Revenue has extended the deadline to pay an additional 30 days. The due date for 2020 Real Estate Taxes is now April 30, 2020. The deadline to apply for an installment payment plan for 2020 Real Estate Tax has also been extended until April 30, 2020. These plans have always been available to all seniors and low-income homeowners. Taxpayers who can file and pay their taxes by April 15, 2020 are strongly encouraged to do so. This will help ensure continuity of City and School District operations.

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Helpful Information and Resources, Cont.

- As a part of the CARES ACT, the federal stimulus package passed by Congress last week, small businesses can now apply for grant or loan assistance. There are multiple options within the package, including the Paycheck Protection Program, the Emergency Economic Injury Grant, and the Small Business Debt Relief Program. The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to help small businesses retain their employees during this crisis. For more information specific to this program, [click here](#). For the application to the Paycheck Protection Program, [click here](#). [Click here](#) for a Small Business Owner's guide to the all of the small business programs under the CARES Act.

Local Non-Profits Receive Grants

The Alston-Beech Foundation (ABF) had its semi-annual meeting of the Consortium of Cecil B. Moore Organizations in December 2019. The Foundation provided grants totally over \$30,000 to non-profit organizations that promote education, community development, social services, housing support, job assistance, children services and mentoring programs that assist residents that reside in the Foundations target area of North Central Philadelphia.

Below is a listing of organizations that received grants from the Foundation in December 2019.

Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania has served as a HUD approved housing counseling agency since 2009 and has carried on the tradition of Acorn Housing Corporation to provide the opportunity for low and moderate-income households, particularly minorities, to have access to loans that will enable them to purchase a home.

African American United Fund/Garden to Plate Urban Garden Initiative teaches a series of cooking classes for adjudicated minors using produce and herbs grown in an urban garden. The Urban Garden Initiative began in April 2009 by removing debris dumped on a lot at 2229 N. Broad Street.

Bebashi – Transition To Hope is the second oldest AIDS service organization in the Philadelphia region and was the first organization in the United States to address the HIV epidemic in urban communities of color. Over the years, Bebashi has emerged as a leader in addressing other health disparities that affect urban communities.

Big Picture Philadelphia provides vulnerable North Philadelphia high school students with multiple organizations to explore career interests, on the job training, and pursue a post-secondary plan.

Center in the Park is a nationally accredited non-profit senior community center with over 3,500 active members. The organization helps to improve the health and wellness of thousands of older adults through over 120 classes and programs offered annually.

Community Center At Visitation empowers young, adolescent females, with bi-weekly leadership workshops, speakers, and monthly field trips to enrich cultural experiences. The program collaborates with young women to create an intensive leadership institute that combines community building, skill building, and recreation to foster a community force, which empowers girls.

Grands As Parents, Inc., was formed in 1996 to assist, support, and advocate for the rights of grandparents. The advocacy focuses creating change in our society the way grandparents replace the gaps of parenthood in grandchildren's lives.

Je Suis Beni is a mentoring and recreational program that encourages and empowers youth and at-risk youth through financial literacy, mentoring, cultural leadership development, social, and recreational activities.

The Leaders In Training Sports Mentoring Program (LIT) is a mentoring initiative designed to help youth from low-income families in Philadelphia strengthen their chances to graduate high school and obtain full-time employment, become entrepreneurs, or gain admission to a post-secondary institution.

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Local Non-Profits Receive Grants, Cont.

Menzfit is an educational non-profit organization whose mission is enduring long-term gainful employment and financial fitness to low-income men who are largely minority with little formal education. The organization prepares clients for re-entry into the workforce through skills training, coaching, interview-appropriate clothing career development and financial literacy.

Musicopia Drumline is an award-winning after-school program that targets at-risk students, with the overall goal of inspiring participants to develop musical skills, self-discipline, self-confidence, and an aspiration to push themselves to further accomplishments.

North Broad Renaissance is organized as voluntary service district whose primary role is to provide connection, community, advocacy, and a clean and safe corridor on North Broad Street between the boundaries of Germantown Avenue to City Hall.

Philadelphia Clef Club of Frontiers International, Inc. is a volunteer service organization whose mission is to serve children, youth, and adults of the Delaware Valley. The primary goal is to expose and develop youth in the community; educationally, economically, and socially with the hope to improve their quality of life.

Scribe Video Center, Inc., explores, develops, and advances the use of digital media as an artistic means for creative expression and as tools for progressive social change. Scribe is a metaphor for the use of media to record significant historical and contemporary concerns and events, with emphasis on individuals and community groups that have limited resources and have been denied access to media production technology.

The Business Center serves a need in the community by creating hands on learning labs in financial literacy courses and business planning courses for youth and adults. The organization works to stimulate the genesis and growth of small businesses.

The Clay Studio has actively collaborated with schools, community centers, and social service agencies throughout Philadelphia to deliver adaptable, engaging, high-quality ceramic education directly where communities are living and learning.

Tree House Books mission is to grow and sustain a community of readers, writers, and thinkers in North Philadelphia. The organization serves the community through Literacy Programming Continuum that begins with access to books for all ages.

Uptown Entertainment and Development Corporation is a non-profit whose goals are to provide opportunities for residents to obtain employment, provide youth with educational programs and activities, provide low and moderate housing and to offer residents information on services that impact the quality of life.

Beech "Jazz on the Ave" Music Fest

Plans for the 14th annual Beech "Jazz on the Ave" is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2020 at Broad & Cecil B. Moore Avenue. There is currently a delay in planning because of the COVID-19 crisis. Information about the festival will become available in the months to come. Stay up-to-date on the status of the festival and all information concerning the festival by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at Jazz on the Ave.



JAZZ ON THE AVE 2019

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Cecil B. Moore Business Coalition (CBMBC) Meeting

The quarterly meeting scheduled for May 2020 for proprietors of businesses that have storefronts on the Cecil B. Moore commercial corridor between Broad and 19th Streets, is being rescheduled. A new meeting date has not been confirmed. A notice will be sent to all business owners to notify you of the new date and location of the meeting.

The Business Coalition meetings are strictly for persons that operate businesses on Cecil B. Moore Avenue between Broad & 19th Streets. If you are a merchant that has a business located on the Avenue, and are interested in being a member of the Cecil B. Moore Business Coalition, please email Christine Brown at beechcommunityservices@gmail.com. When submitting your request, be sure to include your name, the name and location of your business and a contact number and email address where you can be reached.

Registered Community Organization (RCO) Meetings

Beech Community Services (BCS) monthly RCO meetings are cancelled until further notice. When the mandatory quarantine is lifted, the meetings will resume as planned. The RCO meetings are designed for community residents to assess and discuss the physical and proposed developments in the Cecil B. Moore neighborhood. All concerned individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings to get first-hand information about new developments.

Any developer with a planned development project in the BCS targeted area interested in having their project listed on the schedule for review once the quarantine is lifted; contact Beech's office at (215) 763-8824. All RCO meetings are held from **5:30pm to 7:00pm** at Beech Community Services, 1510 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, first floor. The meetings notices are required to be mailed to all parties in the targeted development area prior to the meeting dates by the project developer. A reminder email will be sent about upcoming meetings.

Please call Beech's office, or email us at beechcompanies@gmail.com, if you would like to be added to the RCO email list.

Consider becoming a member of the RCO; your membership will help us to continue to serve the Cecil B. Moore community, and you will stay informed on new commercial and residential developments in the area.

The purpose of the Registered Community Organization (RCO) as stated by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission is:

The Philadelphia Zoning Code includes provisions for ensuring that neighbors of proposed developments are notified and have an opportunity to provide input regarding zoning decisions that may impact them. This is accomplished through a standardized system of direct notification and through public meetings that are held in communities and convened by Registered Community Organizations (RCOs).

RCOs are provided notice by the Planning Commission whenever a zoning variance or special exception is requested, or when a development requiring Civic Design Review (CDR) is formally proposed, within their geographic boundaries. Where there is one affected RCO for a property, this organization convenes the public meeting that applicants are required to attend prior to being heard by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA); where there is more than one RCO in an area, the District Councilperson has the option to select one or more RCO as the responsible party for convening the meeting, in cooperation with all other affected RCOs; and where there are no RCOs the District Councilperson can either choose to host the public meeting or assign an entity on his/her behalf to do so.

It is important to note that RCOs are recipients of early notification of zoning appeals and **are not** given any special privileges before the ZBA. Individual community members and/or organizations are entitled to testify at ZBA hearings or to send letters to the ZBA regardless of RCO status.

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Beech Community Services

Featured Information

Community Policing Team

Nashid Akil

Captain - police.co_22@phila.gov

Officer Janae McDonald

Crime Prevention Officer – janae.mcdonald@phila.gov

Officer Courtney Gilliam

Victim’s Assistance Officer – courtney.gilliam@phila.gov

To report crimes anonymously:

Dial (215) 686-TIPS

To contact the 22nd Police District Directly:

Call (215) 686-3220

Follow the 22nd Police District on Twitter:

@PPD22ndDistrict

Community Resources Guide

City Council - 5th District Office	215-686-3442
Representative Malcolm Kenyatta	215-978-0311
Senator Sharif Street	215-227-6161
Philadelphia Recycling	215-686-5560
Redevelopment Authority	215-854-6500
Philadelphia Housing Authority	215-684-4000
Philadelphia Commerce Department	215-683-2000
PHDC Weatherization	215-448-2160
PHDC Basic Systems Repair Program	215-448-2160
LIHEAP	215-560-2970
Community Legal Services	215-981-3700
Utility Emergency Services Fund	215-972-5170
Save Your Home Philly	215-334-4663
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging	215-765-9040
Veterans Advisory Commission	215-686-3256
Day Camp Programs	215-683-3600
Child Care Information Services	888-461-5437
Philadelphia Department of Recreation	215-683-3601
School District of Philadelphia	215-400-4000
GED Hotline	215-751-8376
Temple Small Business Development Center	215-204-7282
Temple PAN African Studies	215-204-1993
Temple Campus Police	215-204-1234
Department of Human Services	215-683-4347
Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
North Central Victims Services	215-763-3281
Crisis Hotline/Community Behavioral Health	215-413-7171
Philadelphia Operation Town Watch	215-686-1459
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation	215-683-3600
Licenses & Inspection	215-683-0580

For issues concerning trash, hazardous waste, residential/commercial property violations, potholes or street light outages, call 311.

Cecil B. Moore Community Times is published by Beech Community Services.

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