

Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center

Annual Report 2016



Knowledge



Lived
Spirituality



Community



Service

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“ For many of us, the ISBCC is a sanctuary where we pray, learn and grow as Muslims. It has also become a second home where community bonds are formed. ”

Abdulkabir Adegoke



“ The ISBCC is a unique Islamic institution by virtue of its diversity, inclusiveness, transparency, understanding of the challenges Muslims in America are facing, and now that we have Shaykh Yasir as our new Senior Imam, it has a religious leader with the intellectual and spiritual qualifications to teach and lead our community. ”

Amin Ahmed



“ ISBCC's commitment to serving the community, increasing our knowledge, building sisterhood and brotherhood while taking the congregation through a journey of pleasing Allah (swt) was seen in the countless projects, social events and gatherings. I am ever thankful to Allah (swt) to have given me the opportunity to be part of this supportive and empowered community. ”

Romeissa Selmane



In these Pages

The focus of the ISBCC in 2015-2016 can best be summarized as the infusion of an authentic spiritual and religious vision into every aspect of our Center.

Last year, committed members of the ISBCC community provided invaluable feedback during our Quarterly Sustainers Meetings that identified investment in their spiritual and religious growth and development as a top priority.

Over the past year, in response to community input, Shaykh Yasir has begun to articulate an inspired spiritual and religious vision. He, along with our management team, have identified four key spheres of the Prophetic life: **Knowledge, Lived Spirituality, Community and Service.**

In a sincere effort to emulate our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the ISBCC has re-oriented itself around these four spheres of the Prophetic life. The pages that follow reflect the ways in which our programs have been shaped and the ways in which they are beginning to have a profound impact on the spiritual and religious growth of our community.

We invite you to read this Report to see the impact of your commitment to the ISBCC for the Sake of Allah.

رمضان

Ramadan

Last Ramadan's focus at the ISBCC was our beloved Prophet ﷺ. Every night of Ramadan our community learned a new "forgotten sunnah" from the Prophet's blessed life and sought to implement it in our daily lives. Through it all, we grew closer to our Prophet ﷺ and thereby, to Allah, whose spirit helped usher in a very blessed rest of the year.

It was not only through our Prophet ﷺ, but also our prayers that we deepened our relationship with Allah. Allah says, "I am God; there is no god but Me. So worship Me and keep up the prayer so that you remember Me" (20:14). Last Ramadan, together we performed:

All 145 obligatory salats

29 Taraweeh prayers with 600 - 1000 ISBCCers each night

10 Tahajud prayers with 200+ ISBCCers during last ten days

4000 worshipers on the night of the completion (khatm) of the Qur'an.

Khatiras during Taraweeh Prayers, which taught us 29 Sunnan in 29 days

Weekly Young Professional Halaqas with 30 - 50 community members

Gave sadaqa of \$484,000 in Ramadan for your ISBCC

"Indeed, in the Messenger of God is an excellent model for those of you who put your hope in Allah and the Last Day and remember Him often." [Quran 33:21]

A man asked the Prophet, "What Islamic traits are the best?" The Prophet said, "Feed the people, and greet those whom you know and those whom you do not know." [Sahih Bukhari]

Iftar & Suhur

Due to the generosity of our community, the ISBCC held iftars and suhurs where our diverse community ate together and built community bonds:



16 Iftars with
200 - 600
community
members nightly

4 New Muslims
Iftars with
80 - 100
new Muslims,
their - families
and friends

10 Suhur
meals with
300
community
members

Ramadan 2016: Live the Qur'anic Dua

"[Prophet], if My servants ask you about Me, I am near. I respond to those who call Me, so let them respond to Me, and believe in Me, so that they may be guided" (Al-Baqara: 182)

This Ramadan we will learn to grow closer to Allah through nightly khatiras (reflections) during taraweeh prayers on a specific dua from the Qur'an. Over 30 nights we will learn 30 Qur'anic duas. Join your community in memorizing these 30 Quranic duas and transform your relationship with Allah.

“ This has been by far the best Ramadan I have personally experienced at the ISBCC. Imam Muhammad's voice brought the Qur'an to life for me, and the Sunnan helped me grow in my practice as a Muslim. Alhamdulillah for our masjid! ”

Muhammad Nur

Spiritual Team

Shaykh Yasir Fahmy

Allah blessed our community last year with our extraordinary new Senior Imam, Shaykh Yasir Fahmy. Born and raised in New Jersey, Shaykh Yasir left his career in the finance world to follow his true calling – studying and teaching Islam. He studied for eight years at the prestigious Al-Azhar in Egypt, training under Shaykh Raiyan and becoming the first American student offered the post of teaching the Islamic Sciences in English at the Al-Azhar masjid.

Shaykh Yasir is our community's spiritual leader, teacher, and mufti. He is most passionate about teaching the deen (Islam) and playing with his son Zayd.

“To experience true growth, we must be committed to orienting our lives around the pleasure of Allah and Allah alone and to humbly following in the footsteps of our Prophet ﷺ”

Shaykh Yasir

“Take care of Shaykh Yasir you all have a gem. I don’t know how you all wrestled him out of the New Jersey community... You all have a jewel”

Shaykh Yahya Rhodus

Shaykh Muhammad Shakir

Born in Somalia, Shaykh Muhammad is the Principal of the MAS Quran Institute at the ISBCC and teaches the Being Muslim course. He is an expert in Qur'anic recitation (tajweed) and also Shafi'i fiqh. Shaykh Muhammad gives of his time freely, and our community is truly blessed to have his blessed scholarship.

Qari Muhammad Nabil Mustafa

Born in Egypt, Imam Muhammad Nabeel Mustafa is the Qari at the ISBCC. He leads us daily in fajr, magrib, and isha prayers and teaches Qur'an. He led us in taraweeh at the ISBCC last year – one of the most memorable Ramadans at the ISBCC to date.

Imam Muhammad is a certified Quran reciter from the Ministry of Religious Endowments in Alexandria-Egypt. He received ijaza in ‘Aasim recitation which includes two qira’at, of Hafs and Shu’bah. On March 1, 2016 we were blessed to welcome Imam Muhammad and his beautiful voice to our spiritual team in a part time capacity.

Thank You

Imam AbdelRahman Murphy

The ISBCC was blessed to have Imam AbdelRahman Murphy of the Qalam Institute, visiting us on a monthly basis from March 2015 to February 2016. Through his khutbahs, halaqas, coffee talks, and teamFajr programs, he connected our young people's hearts and minds to the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. While he is no longer in an official capacity part of the center, he will always be considered part of our spiritual team. We thank him for his service to our community and ask Allah to always protect and preserve him.

Imam Abdullah Anshur

Born in Somalia, Imam Abdullah was the first Imam of the salats at the ISBCC. He gives freely of his time, leading our community in Dhur and Asr prayers. He is also gracious enough to fill in for our Imams whenever needed. Imam Abdullah learned his deen from the scholars of Somalia, sitting in traditional learning circles in the country's many masajids. Allah has blessed us with his constant and wise presence.

Our Mu'azzins

ISBCC is blessed to have a team of gifted and committed Mu'azzins (Callers of the Adhans). We thank them for their time, commitment, and beautiful voices.

Br. Ayubur Rahman
Br. Abdulrahman Yusri
Br. Abdullahi Nuur
Br. Amar al Sheikh
Br. Hosan Akram
Br. Hajji Ibrahim

Our Future: Associate Imam

In the search for our new Imam last year, we learned that the needs of our community require the ISBCC to have a Senior Imam, an Associate Imam, a female religious scholar/leader specifically for the sisters, and a Qari. While we now have our Senior Imam and Qari set, this year we hope to recruit an Associate Imam. Our Associate Imam will be our on the ground Imam, conducting nikahs, funerals, aqiqas, and hospital visitations. His role will be to be present in the daily lives of our community members.

علم

Ilm

The ISBCC ilm programming is meant to follow in the footsteps of our vast and formidable Islamic intellectual tradition. We strive to emulate our tradition's commitment to: (1) becoming students of both the text (the Qur'an and Sunnah) and the context (the realities and philosophies of our American community); (2) seeking knowledge from both the books AND the teachers/scholars of our tradition; (3) seeing learning as happening through all the five senses; and (4) following all the recommend external and internal etiquettes of learning.

We are grateful to Allah for our community's Senior Imam, Shaykh Yasir, who has brought this vision to the sphere of knowledge at the ISBCC.

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Who takes the path hoping for knowledge, Allah makes easy for him the path to Paradise. Verily, the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge out of pleasure of what he/she is doing. Verily all in the heavens and earth seek forgiveness for the knowledgeable, even the fish in the water. The superiority of the learned man over the devout worshipper is like that of the full moon to the rest of the stars (i.e. in brightness). Verily, the learned are the heirs of the Prophets who bequeath neither dinar nor dirham but only that of knowledge; and he who acquires it, has in fact acquired a great bounty." [Abu Dawud]



Khutbah & Friday Nights at the Mosque

Our khutbahs and Friday Nights at the Mosque halaqas have become the primary programs through which to teach our community members the core principles of each Prophetic sphere (Knowledge, Lived Spirituality, Community and Service). The Khutbahs and the Friday Nights at the Mosque halaqas build on one another, exploring the same topic. We grew to over

1500 community members at our Khutbahs

Averaged **150 – 300** per Friday Nights at the Mosque.

Introduction to the Islamic Sciences

Shaykh Yasir's first course at the ISBCC began with the "text": What is the history and framework behind the Islamic Sciences? How do they all fit together? Which science should the student of knowledge start with?

Over **120** students enrolled for this extremely successful course!

Future Courses by our Shaykh

The Etiquettes of Engaging the Qur'an (Ramadan), The Etiquettes of Learning, and Aqeeda (Theology) in the Fall.

Islam in Context

A five-part Friday Night-Saturday morning series led by Chaplain Celene Ibrahim and Ustadh Sharif El-Tobgui, these workshops are meant to tackle all the central questions facing Muslims in America today. Over **130** students attended first workshop on "Navigating Boundaries between Islam and Culture" led by Dr. Jonathan Brown first at the ISBCC and then in Wayland mosque.

Future Workshops

Navigating Our Secular Democracy without Losing Our Faith; The Crisis of ISIS: Explaining the Inexplicable; Islam, Gender, and the Sexual Revolution; Islam and Science: Conflict or Compatibility, and on What Terms?



Mommy & Me Halaqa

A weekly spiritual and social gathering of area Muslim moms and their children serving over **50 moms and children**.

Young Professionals Halaqa

A halaqa series that focused issues such as, balancing work and family life, health and self-care, current events and inclusivity, served **over 30 people weekly**.

New Muslims classes

The Islam101 program is a 5-week series that covers the basics of Islam: the Articles of Faith, the Prophet’s Life, the Acts of Worship, the Qur’an, and Islamic Ethics, serves **15 people weekly**.

The Living Islam program is an on-going weekly discussion on how the Qur’an and the Principles of Islam can be translated and implemented in our daily lives, serves **15 people weekly**.

Arabic Classes

The ISBCC began Arabic classes for beginner and intermediate level students, serving **over 30 students**.

Malik Academy

A pre-school to 8 grade fully functional Islamic School with **over 100 students**.

MAS Quran Institute

A Saturday & Sunday school focused on the Qur'an for all ages with **over 120 students**.

Al Bashaer

A Saturday school focused on teaching the Arabic language for ages 5-15 with **over 100 students**.

Imam AbdelRahman Murphy's Roots Program

We were truly blessed to have Imam Murphy on the ISBCC Team from March 2015 through February 2016. His Roots program through the Qalam Institute comprised a three-day once a month visit by Imam Murphy during which he offered:

Coffee Talk
Discussions of Faith over a Fresh Brew” at an area College

Content of Character
Friday Night Community Halaqa at the ISBCC, a collection of teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on personal and communal ethics

Friday Sermon
for the ISBCC Congregation

TeamFajr
program to grow our college students spiritually



Legacy of Ibrahim ﷺ

A Qalam Institute and ISBCC Conference

The ISBCC, under the leadership of Shaykh Yasir, was honored to host a two day conference in October 2015 for over 200 community members with the following Qalam Institute scholars and students of knowledge on lessons from the life of Prophet Ibrahim:

Shaykh Abdulnasir Jangda
Mufti Hussain Kamani
Ustadh AbdelRahman Murphy
Dr. Altaf Hussain

Hafiza Aatifa Shareef
Taliba Fatima Lette
Taliba Lema Sbenaty

Thank-You
جزا لكم الله خيرا
from: #QalamTeam
May Allah reward you all!



Visiting Scholars

Shaykh

Omar Sulieman

The Story of Jibreel – 700+
Community Members

Doctor

Joseph Lumbard

The Study Quran – 100+
Community Members

Shaykh

Umar Abdullah Faaruuq

Beauty: the Splendor of Truth –
200+ Community Members

Imam

Abdul Malik Merchant

We're all Ammar bin Yasir –
1650+ Community Members

Shaykh

Zaid Shakir

Ramadan Khutbah & Islamic
Sciences – 1700+ Community
Members

Shaykh

Abdullah bin Hamid Ali

Our Intellectual Heritage

Shaykh

Abdulnasir Jangda

Ramadan Khutbah & Annual
Fundraiser – 2050+ Community
Members

Doctor

Jonathan Brown

Navigating the Boundries of
Culture & Religion

Doctor

Altaf Hussain

Ramadan Annual Iftar – 550+
Community Members

Shaykh

Yahya Rhodus

Our Spiritual Anatomy: The Nafs



إحسان

Lived Spirituality

The sphere of Lived Spirituality was our second major area of focus at the ISBCC. This sphere is all about us being beautiful (muhsinun) in the eyes of Allah. This beauty starts with ensuring our spiritual practices – which serve as a critical connection to Allah and orient our body to the right kind of blessed acts – are proper and a daily part of our lives. Our programs in this sphere are meant to ensure our community begins to really commit itself to these spiritual practices.

Being Muslim

Taught by Shaykh Muhammad Shaakir and Shaykha Suad Mohamed, this monthly refresher workshop takes 70+ community members through truly knowing the basics of their individual obligations in particular areas of worship, such as tahara (wudu, gusl, etc.), prayer, zakat, and dua.

Future workshops on

Fasting, Pilgrimage, Aqeeda (basic beliefs), and selected topics in spirituality.

TeamFajr

An experience that seeks to transform the way we understand the spiritual practice of the morning prayer. From January 2015 every two weeks between 50-80 community members regularly pray fajr together behind Imam Muhammad Nabil, learn from Shaykh Yasir's khatira, practice important remembrances (adhkar), recite the Holy Qur'an in small men and women circles, and finish with a communal breakfast.

From Hadith Jibreel:
The man [Angel Jibreel] again asked, "O Allah's Messenger ﷺ What is Ihsan (i.e. perfection or Benevolence)?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "Ihsan is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you do not achieve this state of devotion, then (take it for granted as you worship that) Allah sees you."



Prosperous are those
who purify themselves
[Qur'an 87:14]

Eid ul-Fitr

Over **10,000** community members prayed together outside in the field of Madison Park High School and were blessed to hear the khutbah of our dear Imam Taymullah Abdur-Rahman.

Eid ul-Adha

Over **7,000** community members prayed together in the Reggie Lewis Center and hear our blessed Shaykh Yasir's first Khutbah to the whole Boston community

Both Eids were organized by a partnership of Masjid al-Qur'an, the Islamic Society of Boston Cambridge, and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center.

Dhul Hijjah

Life of Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ

Each of the ten days of Dhul Hijjah the ISBCC community learned a lesson or virtue from the life of Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ. We culminated these ten days with an iftar on Ashura with over **150** community members. The ISBCC also organized Udhiyya (Sacrifice), and 85 families in need benefited.

Umrah Trip

Sixty-seven ISBCCers visited the holy cities of Mecca and Medina under the guidance of our Shaykh Yasir, learning about the blessedness of each cities, the Prophet's Mosque, and the Holy Ka'bah, reflecting continually on Allah's many signs, completing the rite of Umra, transforming their relationship with Allah, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and our religion Islam, and building life-long bonds with their fellow brothers and sisters. A memorable experience for each and every community member on the trip. InshAllah we will be going again with Shaykh Yasir this Winter in December!

Mawlid

Shaykh Yasir, Shaykh Dr. Syed Irshad, Br. Ahmad al-Bukhari, and Imam Qazi Qayyoom taught beautiful lessons from the Prophet's life during the celebration of the Prophet's blessed birth. In between the teachings, over **500** community members recited salawat, the burda, and listened to melodious voices from our local Somali Nasheed group. The night ended with a delicious meal organized by families from the Bangladeshi community.

Janazas

With the help of our partner Al-Marhama, our community prayed janaza prayers and made dua for **78** community members. We ask Allah to enter each of these brothers and sisters into janna and shower them with His Mercy.

أمة

Community

Sustainers

The Prophet ﷺ said, "A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other." While (saying that) the Prophet ﷺ clasped his hands, by interlacing his fingers."

At the heart of the ISBCC is a community seeking to become that brick of wall for the sake of Islam as described by our Prophet ﷺ - the Sustainers. The Sustainers regularly sacrifice their time, talent and wealth to ensure this house of Allah truly instills the message of Islam in all of our hearts and reflects its beauty throughout the New England area.

In practical terms, sustainers are committed to:

1. Growing themselves in the four spheres of the Prophetic life
2. Building their bonds with one another
3. Serving as the voice of the community at our Sustainers Quarterly Meetings
4. Leading on major ISBCC projects and initiatives, such as the Imam Search Committee, ISBCC classes, and the café
5. Providing a regular monthly donation (sadaqah) at any amount

Last year, the Sustainers community grew from 370 to 530 Sustainers, giving 17% towards ISBCC's annual budget, supporting programming, facilities and operations. We hope to grow this year to become 1000 strong!

530

Sustainers

17%

Annual Budget



Impact of Sustainers
Ramadan 2015 - Ramadan 2016

Sustainers' Voice

At our 2015 Fall Quarterly meeting, Sustainers provided ideas and feedback on the kinds of programs that could begin fulfilling the needs of the community. These ideas and feedback became a core part of the foundation upon which Shaykh Yasir and the ISBCC team developed the vision and programming for 2016 (i.e. the four Prophetic spheres of knowledge, lived spirituality, community and service).

In May 2016 Sustainers came together to provide feedback on the role and responsibilities of the Junior/Associate Imam, as the ISBCC began moving to continue expanding our religious team to meet the needs of our community.

Sustainers' Execution on ISBCC Vision

Welcoming and helping on-board Senior Imam Shaykh Yasir and his family. Led by Sr. Nada Hashmi, this team helped our Imam find housing, provided them their first meal in Boston, attended to every need possible, and held three main events (Shaykh's first salat, first khutbah and first halaqa) where the whole community got to meet and to experience their new Shaykh. The team – led by Nabeela Ali and Tawsif Choudhury – also crafted a video explaining the role of the Senior Imam as distinguished from the additional religious leadership the ISBCC envisioned bringing on in the future. The entire welcoming and on-boarding process has become a model that many other communities have begun to adopt in bringing on their Imam with love and adab.

Sustainers Led Programs

- Team Fajr
- Introduction to Islamic Sciences
- Being Muslim
- Friday Nights at the Mosque
- Neighbors for Neighbors
- Imam Muhammad Nabil's first Qiyam outside of Ramadan

Sustainers Becoming Like a Wall of Bricks

A core team of Sustainers began to be trained in the skill of relational meetings - i.e. tools to intentionally build bonds with one another. During the remainder of 2016, Sustainers plan to begin creating strong bonds with one another as they aspire to become a "wall of bricks" like the "faithful believers" during the Prophet's ﷺ time.

Sustainers' Sadaqa/Financial Impact

The number of Sustainers grew last year from 370 to 530, providing up to 17% of ISBCC's budget. Our goal this year is to increase to a 1000 strong, covering up to 30% of the ISBCC's budget in a more sustainable way! Become a Sustainer today by filling out a Sustainer form in this Annual Report!



ARK anum

ISBCC's Youth Program

In describing the seven categories of people whom Allah will give them His Shade of His Throne on the Day of Judgment, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; a person whose heart is attached to the mosques." [Al-Bukhari, Muslim]

What is ARK anum?

A 12-16 year olds, ARK anum seeks to:

1. Attach its youth to the masjid
2. Build long-lasting friendships among its youth (i.e. an environment of good companionship)
3. Grow the young people's relationship with Allah and learn about Islam
4. Teach useful life skills to its youth

ARK anum comprises over **60** teens who are mentored on a weekly basis by nearly 10 college students and young adults. Divided into a winter session (Jan-April), a spring session (May-July), and a Fall session (Sept – Dec), the ARK anum group – teens and mentors – meet collectively on Saturdays from 5-9 pm. Each session includes a religious lecture, a fun group activity that builds close bonds, and a project/workshop that grows life skills. On a monthly basis, the group also takes field trips, prays qiyam or goes on retreats in nature. Once a year, the group takes an international trip to learn about our Islamic heritage.

“ I never thought as a teen I would find a program that I would feel very comfortable to be a part of and be able to be my true self towards my peers. Alhamdulillah I found ARK anum in time. ”

Beftu Sultan



“ My kids enjoyed the ARK anum program very much. They were able to make friends, interact in different activities, learn from others and above all increase their Islamic knowledge. Saturdays for us became a day of excitement for the entire family. This program is a necessity in keeping the community together, allowing next generations a chance for a better future that is balanced. ”

Abdul Hmina, ARK anum Parent

Year 1 in ARK anum!

Growing Religiously

Knowing Allah Series

Through a 10 week interactive lecture series, our Youth Director Abubakr Fakhry and ARK anum mentor Amr Aly taught our youth how to know Allah and to get closer to Allah.

Reviving Iman Series

Through another 10 week interactive lecture series, Abubakr taught our youth on the importance of repentance, righteousness, the love of Allah, the Day of Judgment and the struggle of the self.

Monthly Qiyams

Youth began to practice and to appreciate the important act of worship of night prayer through 5 overnight qiyams at the ISBCC.

Growing in Companionship

“ARK anum is the greatest! I've made so many friends and there are so many activities!” - Sumaya Meddani

Through 6 field trips, 2 retreats, and 1 sports activity, the youth grew together into one family. Today the over 60 ARK anum youth regularly spend time with one another in their homes, schools, and fun outings outside of ARK anum.

Field Trips

Castle Island Field Trip, Bowling Field Trip, Trampoline Field Trip, Ice-Skating Field Trip, Paint Ball Field Trip, Memorial Day Field Trip

Retreats

New Hampshire Weekend Retreat & Maine Weekend Retreat

Sports

Basketball & Soccer Tournaments at Reggie Lewis Center

Growing in Life Skills

Through the many projects/workshops (e.g. "Unleash Your Will" or "Intensive on Short Film Making") at the weekly ARK anum sessions, our youth grew in the skills of finding their voice, planning, entrepreneurship, teamwork and film-making.

The key project that brought these skills all together was ARK anum's short-film Competition. A team of 5-6 youth were paired up with a mentor and had to produce their own films shedding light on an important social justice cause. All films were screened at the Friday Nights at the Mosque program in front of over 500 community members. The winners of the film contest were rewarded a free trip to ARK anum's EduVenture (Education+Adventure) Trip to Spain!!!



Trip to Spain & Turkey!

39 ARKAnum youth, their families and mentors travelled to Turkey (1 day) and Spain (7 days) to learn about our Islamic heritage. The trip became a seminal experience for many of the ARKAnum youth. A yearly international trip to an area of Islamic heritage will now be a staple of ARKAnum's curriculum.

History of Islam in Spain & Muslim Scholars Lecture Series

The group visited important historical sites such as Alhambra, Cordoba mosque, learned about scholars like Mossa ibn Nussair, Tarek ibn Ziad, Abdulrahman Aldakehl, Abbas ibn Fernace, and Fakhr Aldeen Alrazy, and began to appreciate the potential of our Islamic tradition to produce gems.

Growing in Spiritual Practice

Youth recited adkhar (remembrances) every morning, practiced duas and adkhars of traveling and were given brief spiritual lessons (khatiras) throughout the trip.



Becoming One Family through Social Activities

As the group tried new cuisines at different Spanish, Moroccan, and Turkish restaurants, went on a bike tour through Malaga, canyoned at a river, toured cities on Segways, and much more, youth and families built life-long bonds with their Muslim brothers and sisters.

“Probably the most fun week of my life, bonded with AKRanum and made new friends”

Zack Ibrahim



ARKAnum Team

Anas (May Allah be please with Him) reported: When the muhajir (immigrants) arrived in Madina and saw how Ansar (people of Madina) helped them, they said:

“O Messenger of Allah! We have never seen any other people like those of Madina, amongst whom we are now, who give so abundantly from their properties that are a lot and who help so beautifully with their properties that are little! They have helped with our works; they have helped us put our lives in order. We are afraid that they will take away all our thawabs (which we have earned by migrating and worshipping)!” (Qadi Iyad)

Without our incredible mentors who sacrifice so generously in their time and wealth, there would be no ARKAnum. We are grateful to Allah for the blessing that each one of them is. Thank you!

Youth Director

Abubakr Fakhry Director

Mentors

Nashua Khalil
Emily Goldstein
Saara Jazeel
Ahmed Kamhawy
Islam Otmani
Mervat Zaghloul

Mentor Assistants

Nora Holbrook
Ayatt Alawad
Kamel Mohamed
Seif Osman
Malick Niane
Mayar Baraka

Support Team

Safiya Naidjate
Ahmed Mohamed
Ahlam Awad Mohamed

Looking Forward 2016-2017

Junior ARKAnum 8-11

ARKAnum will began a preliminary launch of a 8-11 year old program in Ramadan to augment its 12-16 Year old program. After a preliminary trial this summer, we expect a full launch in the Fall inshAllah!

Ramadan Summer Camp

ARKAnum will launch its first Summer camp during Ramadan 2016. The camp objectives will mirror ARKAnum's overall objectives. The camp will run from [this date] to [this date] and will be open for [this age group]. Please keep checking on the isbcc.org website for details!

Umra

This Winter ARKAnum youth will be encouraged to join ISBCC's yearly Umra group led by Shaykh Yasir with a potential stop over for the youth in Egypt inshAllah.



Common Word Café

The Common Word Café is a warm and welcoming space for the ISBCC community. The café is truly unique and allows the community to practically engage the 4 Prophetic spheres

Knowledge

Coffee talks & informal session with scholars and teachers

Lived Spirituality

Social and civic responsibility in our actions and dealings

Community

Feeding each other, breaking bread together and meeting friends & forging new relationships

Service

Sandwich foundation supplies to those in need on a regular basis

The café will continue to grow in the coming year with expanded hours, new food & beverage offerings, and an enhanced customer experience. All this while being a waqf (100% of profit goes to ISBCC) insha-Allah.

Thank you!

Mama and Baba's warmth, their generosity and their love made the cafe what it is today. We are grateful for their dedication and love for the masjid.

“The cafe at the ISBCC is awesome because it provides a place for us to eat, talk, and create memories.”

Aisha Shareef

"People, eat what is good (halalan) and lawful (tayyaban) from the earth, and do not follow Satan's footsteps, for he is your sworn enemy."
[Qur'an 2:168]

The Prophet ﷺ said, "The dearest parts on the face of the earth to Allah are its mosques, and the most hated parts to Allah are its markets." [Muslim]

Masajid Collaboration

One Ummah

In October 2015, as part of Shaykh Yasir's initiation into the ISBCC, the ISBCC invited leaders of area masajids and Islamic schools to meet with our new Senior Imam. As the meeting unfolded, masjid leaders, in particular, expressed a strong interest in coming together on a quarterly basis to get to know one another, to learn from one another, and to create collaborations where possible.

Acting upon that feedback, in March 2016 the ISBCC organized a first "Masajid Collaboration" quarterly meeting, bringing together leaders from 13 masajids to get to know one another. A second quarterly meeting took place in May in Wayland Islamic Center where we continued deepening bonds and began to share our successes and challenges in operating Sunday school's with a focus on Wayland's renowned Sunday school.

This program is still very much in its beginnings. While supported by an ISBCC staff member, the leadership model for these quarterly meetings is rotating. To have your masjid join this effort, please email Ms. Rasha Azoni-Hannigan at rasha.azoni@masboston.org.

ISBCC Partnerships with other Masajids

- Masjid al-Qur'an, the Islamic Society of Boston Cambridge, and ISBCC partnered through the Eid Committee to organize Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha this year
- Masjid al-Hamdulillah and ISBCC partnered to bring Imam Zayd Shaakir to Masjid al-Hamdulillah
- Malden mosque and ISBCC partnered to bring Shaykh Abdullah ibn Hamid Ali for a weekend program at the two mosques
- Wayland mosque and ISBCC partnered to bring Dr. Jonathan Brown on a weekend program at the two mosques
- Wayland mosque and ISBCC partenered for a joint Qiyam with our Qari Imam Muhammad.

Our Community

in a snapshot

1,500

worshippers at Friday prayer

300

Attend Friday Nights at the Mosque

10,000

congregants during Eid al Fitr

64

Nationalities represented

60%

of attendees are under 34

20%

are converts

“Hold fast to God’s rope all together; do not split into factions. Remember God’s favour to you: you were enemies and then He brought your hearts together and you became brothers [and sisters] by His grace; you were about to fall into a pit of Fire and He saved you from it– in this way God makes His revelations clear to you so that you may be rightly guided.”
[Quran 3:103]

Flower Garden

The dream of one man – our brother Jonathan Larkin, the ISBCC garden went from a dilapidated, unkempt, and graffiti-ed space to a Persian-style, Islamic park booming with flowers. Special thanks to the Nubian United Benevolent International Association and the United Somali Alliance as the lead organizations on this project. InshAllah this garden will be a space where important communal events, such as nikahs, aqiqas, halaqas, and picnics, will take place and the mu'akha among our community members will be built.

Community

The beauty of the ISBCC is that this house of Allah is a place where all of His servants – in all their different colors, tongues, tribes and nations – worship together. Our challenge is how to take this rich diversity and turn it into true mu'akha (true and intimate brotherhood and sisterhood), as the Prophet did in Madina. Building community was the third sphere guiding our programming vision at the ISBCC this past year.

Eid ul-Adha BBQ

Over 200 community members of different backgrounds came together to celebrate Eid, to eat great BBQ from the Udhiyya, have their children engage in fun activities (e.g. facepainting, races, henna, etc.), and to share their culture's unique Eid dishes. Special thanks to ICNA Relief for their partnership on this important event

خدمة

Khidma - Service

Service was the fourth Prophetic sphere that guided our programming this year at the ISBCC. As Shaykh Yasir preached in his Khutbah attended by Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh,

“Being a good Muslim necessitates being in the service of others.”

Neighbors for Neighbors Initiative Roxbury St. Clean-Up

An Ansar (emigrant) came to the Prophet ﷺ and shared that he had recently purchased a house in a particular area and that his nearest person was someone from whom he did not feel safe due to this person's mischief. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told Imam Ali (as), Salman Al-Farsi, Abu Zar Ghaffari and Miqdad ibn Aswad to go to the Mosque and announce: "He is not a believer whose neighbor is unsafe from his mischief." They announced it thrice and then Prophet Muhammad ﷺ pointed towards forty doors to his right and forty to the left indicating that forty houses in every direction constitute one's neighborhood. One is obliged to observe all of these neighbors' rights.

In 2016 the ISBCC began the initiative of Neighbors for Neighbors to be a great neighbor to our Roxbury neighbors and to ensure the reality of ihsan inside the masjid radiates outside.

This initiative began with conversations and relationship building with our neighbors combined with a spirit of learning about our neighborhood. Our community took two tours of the neighborhood, knocked on 84 doors of our neighbors and quickly learned that many of our neighbors were deeply dissatisfied with the trash on the street behind the mosque: Roxbury St.

In response, the ISBCC Neighbors4Neighbors Initiative has begun to partner with local institutions to clean up Roxbury St. We have started bi-weekly clean ups of Roxbury St, and plan to spend the rest of the year working with the city and our neighbors to ensure the root causes of the trash in Roxbury St. are addressed.



Ibn Umar reported: The Prophet ﷺ, said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to the people.” [al-Mu’jam al-Awsat]

ISBCC Ummah Health

ISBCC Ummah Health is a group of **75+** volunteer Muslim health professionals. The goal is to help all families - Muslim or not - and you SHINE inside and out. Ummah Health collaborates with Neighborhood Health Plan, Health Care for All, Harvard Family Van & AA.

Ummah Health Impact



1,000
Community members signed up for Health insurance



25
Number of hospital visits



175
Muslim counseling referrals



65
Requests for free health talk for group of 10+



160
Community members assisted in finding affordable dental



31
Community members attended Weekly AA group at ISBCC



82
Community members served at free Friday counseling sessions (2-4 pm) at ISBCC



وعورة

Educational Outreach

In the midst of anti-Muslim sentiment throughout the country, ISBCC seeks to lead the way by responding only by what is “best”. Our outreach, media, and political work only seeks to show the truth of Islam and its deep beauty. In response, we have had overwhelming support from our interfaith partners and public officials. We are grateful to Allah and to our partners for their support in these trying times.

As an example of this support, regarding a local hate group that has spun lies against the ISBCC and other prominent Muslim individuals and organizations (e.g. Nadeem Mazen, CAIR, ICNA Relief) over the last decade, U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, the highest ranking federal official, was quoted in the New York Times, describing the group's claims as “incredibly racist and unfair”.

Tours

The ISBCC tours program seeks to give our neighbors, community members, or visitors to Boston a glimpse into Islam and a real life Muslim community. Led by Sr. Barbara Sahli and Sr. Ashaki Taha-Cisse, two experienced educator/tour guides, the tour shares the basics of Islam, the history and activities of the center, and answers any questions that the visitors are curious about. It is doubtless one of our marquee programs and makes a significant impact in changing hearts and minds.

Tours by the Numbers



1,596
Visitors



1,358
Students



80
Schools

“Thank you for arranging a tour of your beautiful house of worship and lively community center. Students really enjoyed the way we were so warmly welcomed and made to feel at home.”

Reverend Casey, Director of Spiritual Life, Simmons College

The Prophet ﷺ said
"If Allah guides a person through you, it is better for you than all that is on the earth." [Bukhari]



Our Reach

In the past few years ISBCC's digital reach has grown substantially, and our social media platforms have subscribers from all around the globe.

1 million

ISBCC.org has been visited over one million times

12 thousand

ISBCC's Facebook page has gone from 5,000 subscribers to nearly 12,000 over the past two years

Live streaming is another way in which the ISBCC seeks to meet the needs of our community by allowing those for whom transportation and/or helath issues are barriers to attending Jum'ah, Halaqas, Tarawih prayers and special events.



Views per Country

ISBCC's Khutbahs and Halaqas have reached people across the globe.

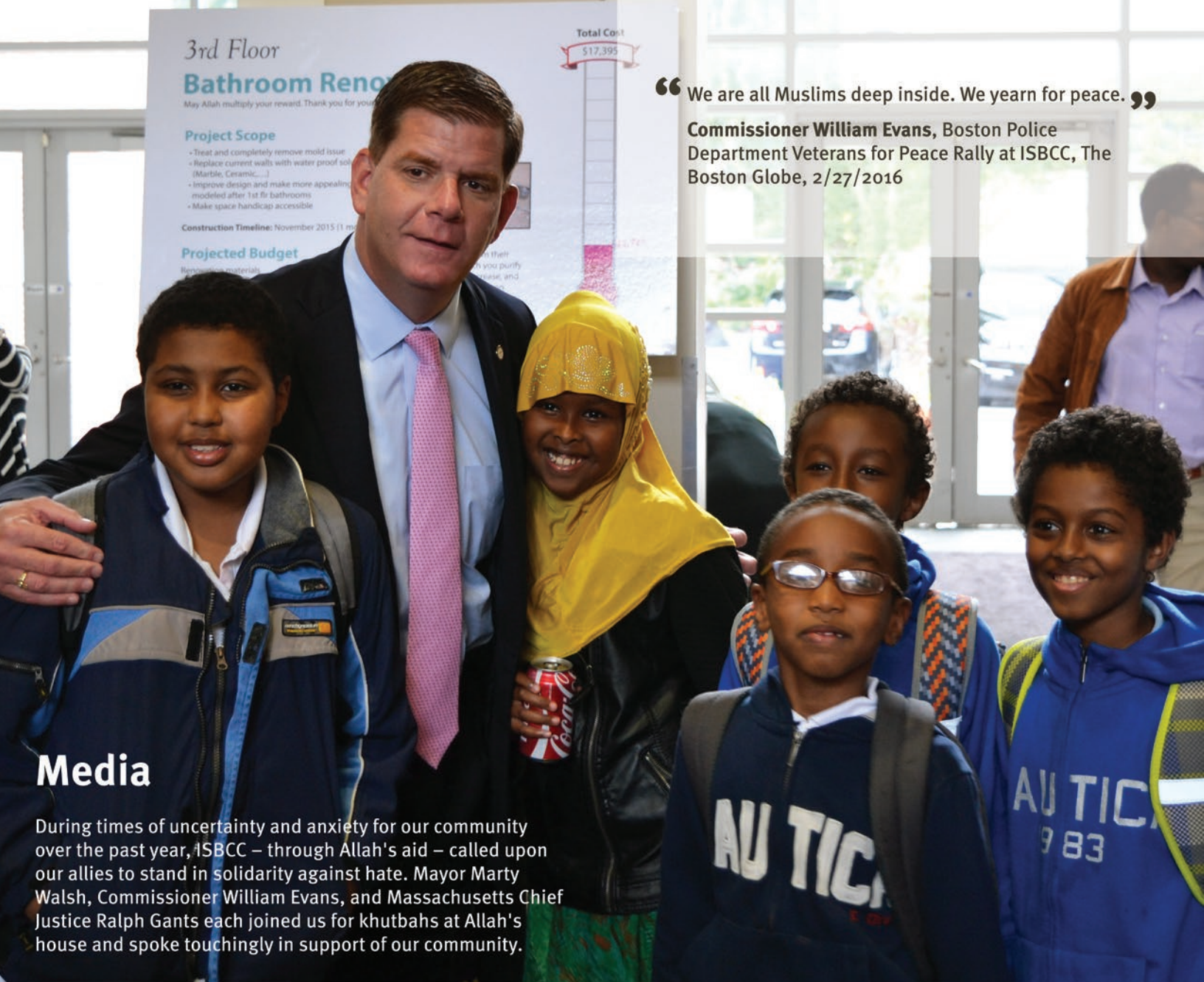
- USA 281,960
- UK 70,893
- Canada 41,116
- Malaysia 33,701
- Saudi Arabia 11,681
- Australia 10,745
- Singapore 10,023



5,532,498 minutes

ISBCC's Khutbahs and Halaqas have accumulated over 5 million minutes of viewership.





“ We are all Muslims deep inside. We yearn for peace. ”

Commissioner William Evans, Boston Police Department Veterans for Peace Rally at ISBCC, The Boston Globe, 2/27/2016

Media

During times of uncertainty and anxiety for our community over the past year, ISBCC – through Allah's aid – called upon our allies to stand in solidarity against hate. Mayor Marty Walsh, Commissioner William Evans, and Massachusetts Chief Justice Ralph Gants each joined us for khutbahs at Allah's house and spoke touchingly in support of our community.

In the News

Mayor Walsh Stands with Hub Muslims
Boston Globe, 10/10/2015

BPD Chief Says Backlash Against Muslims Won't Be Tolerated
Boston Globe, 12/04/2015

SJC Chief Justice Assures Muslims of Protections
Boston Globe, 12/19/2015

Top Judge Stands Up For The Constitutional Rights Of Muslims
Huffington Post, 12/21/2015

Local Veterans Hold Rally in Support of Muslims
Boston Globe, 2/27/2016

Islamic Society of Boston Center Names New Imam
Boston Globe, 7/14/2016

ISBCC Reach

Through these news outlets, millions around the United States have begun to see a different model of how a city and its Muslim community have embraced one another.

Thank you CAIR-MA

The ISBCC would like to especially thank CAIR-MA and their Executive Director John Robbins for a terrific partnership over the last year. CAIR-MA has relieved the ISBCC team of many of the political and media responsibilities to enable our team to focus on enhancing our spiritual and religious programming and immersing our community in the four Prophetic spheres.

“ I am here to assure you that you do not stand alone. You have a constitution and laws to protect your right to practice your religion, to protect you from discrimination . . . and to protect you from acts of violence that may be committed against you because of your religion or your nation of origin. ”

MA Chief Justice Ralph Gants after ISBCC Khutbah
Boston Globe, 12/19/2015

“ There's a lot of demonstrations going on around the world and in the United States, but it is important for all of you to understand that your city supports you ”

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh after ISBCC Khutbah
Boston Globe, 10/10/2015



GBIO – Day of Fasting and Humility

In response to the hate against the "others" and division in America, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization called for a day of fasting on February 20, 2016. Our very Shaykh Yasir keyed the gathering, and the ISBCC hosted the breaking the fast with a delicious meal and conversation across faith communities. This day was inspired not only by the honored practice of fasting in all the Abrahamic faith traditions, but also from the history of our American democracy. On two occasions during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called the nation to a day of fasting and prayers to restore “a divided and suffering country.”

Gratitude

A special thanks to the **Hyams Foundation** and the **Proteus Fund**, which provided funding to the ISBCC for a media consultant last year.

ISBCC as a National Model

Two case studies

We are grateful to the **Pillars Foundation** that is funding the **Institute for Social Policy and Understanding** to write two case studies in the upcoming year: the first on ISBCC's Marathon Bombing Response and the second on our Imam Search Process. Both cases have been recognized as potential models for mosques around the country. We hope to share our best practices and learnings with other institutions in order to strengthen our Muslim communities across America and also get more reward insha'Allah.



House of Allah

The Keepers of our Masjid

‘Aa’isha (May Allah be pleased with her) said: “The Messenger of Allah commanded that mosques should be built among the houses (in each neighborhood), and that they should be cleaned and perfumed.” (Saheeh al-Targheeb wa’l-Tarheeb)

We are so grateful to our incredible facilities team that keeps this house of Allah – the ISBCC – clean, perfumed, and always taken care of. We encourage our community members to thank them for their tireless effort and help them in their work at every opportunity. They do more than anyone can imagine.

Helal Alwaz
Facilities Director

Hajj Mohamed Hammou
Facilities Staff

Salah Khedznaji
Assistant Facilities Director

Ricardo Maestre
Facilities Staff

Abduljabbar Hamiddene
Facilities Staff



The Prophet ﷺ said: "Allah says: Are not the houses of Allah on Earth the Masajid [Mosques]? They brighten [the Earth] for the people of the sky [i.e. angels] like the stars brighten [the sky] for the people of the Earth."

By the blessings of God, several building improvement projects were completed this year in ISBCC. We could not have done this without the generous support of the community. Thank you to all who gave towards beautifying and enhancing this house of Allah (swt). May Allah increase each who contributed to these projects in His light and may He continue to brighten the ISBCC.

Projects Completed

Green Prayer Carpets Installed throughout Masjid Cost: \$75k	Kitchen for the Cafe Cost: \$62k
Glass doors around musalla Cost: \$60k	Front lawn sign Cost: \$2.7k
Outside Gate Repair Cost: \$5.5k	3rd floor bathrooms and hallway Cost: \$17.4k
Chandelier Cost: Donated from Turken Foundation	Carpentry and woodwork Cost: \$2.7k
Minaret lighting Cost: \$4k	Livestreaming Cost: \$3.6k

Future Renovation Projects

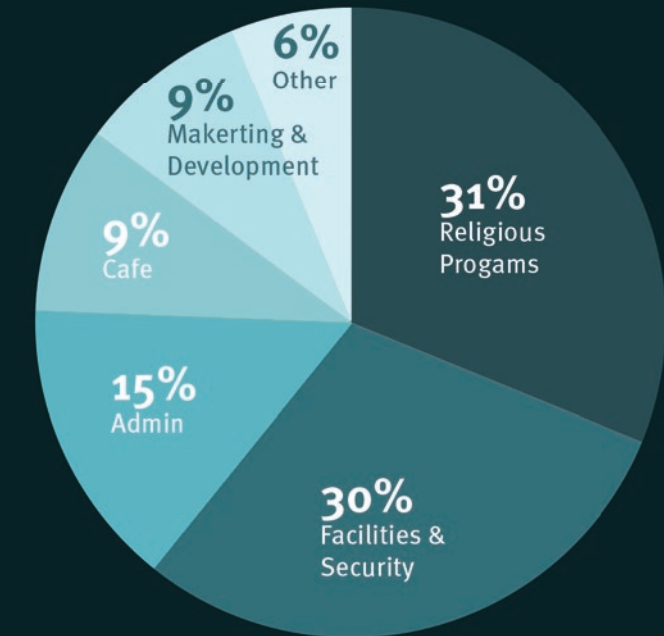
Sisters' Wudu Area Cost: To be determined
Chandelier Installment Cost: \$11.7k

Finances

A Sacred Trust

We are committed to informing you the community, how the amana you have given to the ISBCC is being used. Here at the ISBCC transparency is a core value. We invite you to take a look at your center's income and expenses for the past year. We also invite you to meet with our Chief Financial Officer Zahid Siddiqui in the event of any questions. He is a volunteer community member who works for Price Waterhouse and independently reviews our finances. Please email him at zahid@masboston.org.

In addition your center is audited by AAF CPAs and the 2015 audited financials are available on ISBCC.org.



Accounting Team

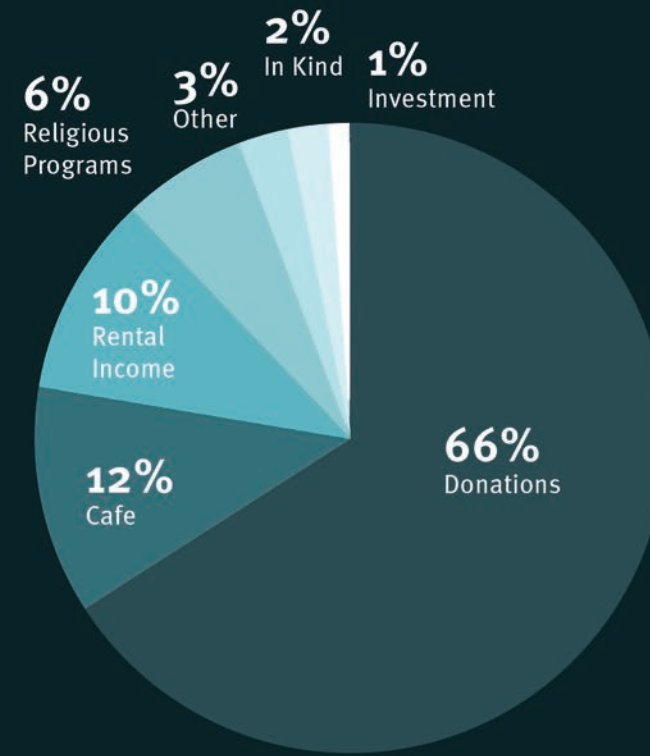
Zahid Siddiqui
Chief Financial Officer

Abdullahi Yusuf
Associate Accountant

Fahmeen Zaidi
Senior Accountant

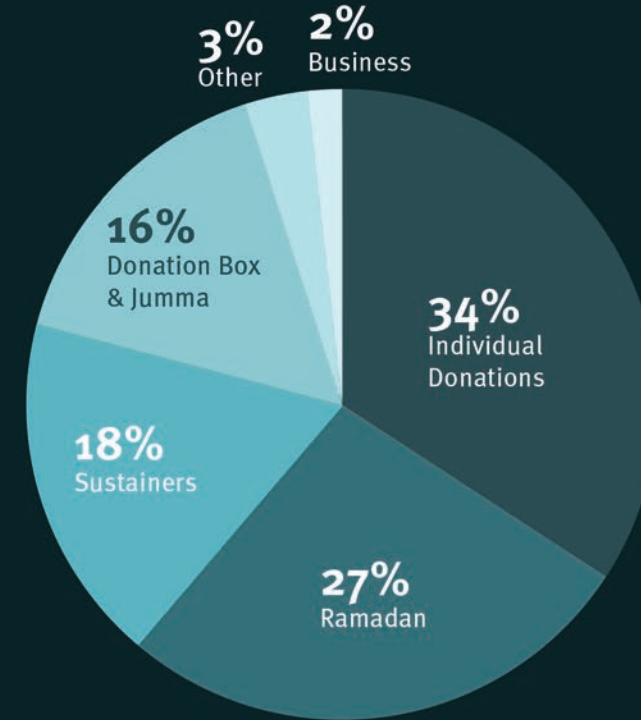
Expenses

Religious Programs	\$555,201
Facility & Security	\$527,879
Admin	\$263,632
Cafe	\$170,498
Marketing & Development	\$153,551
Other	\$110,303
Total	\$1,781,064



Income

Donations	\$1,172,769
Café	\$ 208,668
Rental Income	\$181,879
Religious Programs	\$113,167
Other	\$44,979
In Kind	\$37,050
Investment	\$20,271
Total	\$1,778,783



Donations Breakdown

Individual Donations	\$401,018
Ramadan Collection *	\$317,089
Sustainers	\$210,144
Donation Box & Jumma	\$186,077
Other	\$37,495
Business	\$20,947
Total	\$1,172,769

* This amount refers to actual monies collected during Ramadan. With pledges made in Ramadan added to this amount the total is nearly \$484,000. This Ramadan our goal is to collect \$650,000 insha'Allah. Please give generously.

Income Statement

Year over Year

	2014	2015	March 2016
Income & Other Income	\$1,975,324	\$1,778,783	\$424,025
Cost Of Sales	\$187,830	\$264,416	\$37,188
Expense & Other Expense	\$1,374,978	\$1,516,648	\$412,901
Net Income	\$412,516	(\$2,281)	(\$26,064)

"O believers! If you help Allah, He will help you and make your feet firm." [Qur'an 47:7]



The ISBCC is committed to attaining Allah's pleasure by following the message of Islam that the Messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, brought to us. We hope to attain this pleasure by becoming a community that fully lives out the four Prophetic spheres of 'ilm (knowledge), lived spirituality, community and service. To make these spheres alive in our community will require work – not just from our Shaykh or the ISBCC staff or a few committed individuals but from each and every one of us. The ISBCC challenges you to join hands with your fellow community members, your Shaykh and your ISBCC team and sacrifice fully your talents, efforts, and resources to bring Islam to life in Boston. InshAllah if we help Allah, He will help us and make our feet firm in His way and for His pleasure. Join the ISBCC in this effort to make Islam alive in Boston by:

How to Help

- Signing up for newsletter at isbcc.org/newsletter
- Give your time and talent to the ISBCC by filling out a volunteer form at isbcc.org/volunteer
- Signing up to become a Sustainer – a regular monthly financial contributor – at isbcc.org/ways-to-give

Your Board

Your board of the ISBCC is the MAS Board

- Hassan El-Alami, President
- Hossam Al-Jabri, Vice-President
- Yusufi Vali Treasurer
- Loay Assaf, Clerk
- Jennifer Trickett, Director
- Zahra Hailoul, Director
- Asma Shaqrah, Director

Your Management Team

- AbuBakr Fakhry, Youth Director
- Ayesha Kazmi, Executive Assistant to ED
- Hayfaa Ali, Executive Assistant to the Imam
- Kehiria Maruf, Office Manager
- Mustafa Hannigan, Marketing Director
- Rasha Azoni-Hannigan, Sustainer, Masajid & Volunteer Coordinator
- Suzan El-Rayess, Director of Development
- Yusufi Vali, Executive Director

For our facilities, spiritual and accounting staff members see prior pages

Looking Forward

2016 – 2017 Programs

InshAllah we will continue to grow our programming over the next year around the four Prophetic spheres of ilm, Lived Spirituality, Community, and Service.

In the sphere of **Knowledge**, Shaykh Yasir plans to offer at least three courses: "the Etiquettes of Learning", "Aqeeda", and "Fiqh". We hope to supplement these offerings through our partnership with the Boston Islamic Seminary (see complementary courses below).

In **Lived Spirituality**, Imam Muhammad Nabil Mustafa will inshAllah start offering courses on Qur'anic Tajweed for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Students as well as conducting regular qiyams.

In **Community**, we will inshAllah launch an additional 8-11 yr old program (Junior ARKAnum), a 17-18 yr high school/college student program, build more solid relationships with local MSAs, build much stronger relationships among sustainers, partner with ICNA Relief and MCSS to service struggling individuals in a much more wholistic manner, synergize the cafe with ISBCC's programming and more robustly support our New Muslims programming.

In **Service**, we will inshAllah partner with our neighbors and local institutions to get Roxbury St. and the King St. Play Area Park – right behind the mosque – cleaned up. Both currently are often littered with trash. We will inshAllah be holding bi-weekly clean ups and partner with the city to implement more sustainable ways to ensure the street and the park are clean.

2016-2017 Hires

To execute the above programs, we hope to add a high school/college Youth Director, an Associate Imam, and a Programs Director to our team, inshAllah. Please support your ISBCC so that we can grow our team to add the programs and services that will better serve our community's needs.

Capital Projects

We will inshAllah renovate the Sisters' Wudu Area, and the Boston Islamic Seminary will continue to raise money for Phase II of the ISBCC.

Boston Islamic Seminary

Fall 2016 course offerings

- Islam in Modernity
- Heroines of the Quran
- Sciences of the Quran
- Islam in America





**THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BOSTON
CULTURAL CENTER**

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