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# Responding to Tragedy

## *The Solution is* **Community**

With the unfortunate reality of hate crimes being committed not just against Muslims but also Jews and other marginalized people the ISBCC firmly believes in the power of community to combat hate.

Together with our interfaith and civic allies the ISBCC utilized its voice to communicate the values and compassion that is so integral to our faith. This past fall Shaykh Yasir delivered a powerful speech on the Common for the victims

of the tragic killing in the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting. When the horrific attack on our brothers and sisters in New Zealand our interfaith allies stood by our side organized around the central theme of standing united against hate and bigotry.

We pray that Allah continues deepen our bonds and understanding with those of other faiths and we pray for the safety of all people from those who would wish them harm.

# A Community for Everyone

## Civic Engagement

This year we hosted a several civic leaders from around the state including the first ever visit from a sitting MA Republican Governor. We welcomed Governor Charlie Baker for Jumma where he delivered a message of unity and solidarity.

MA Chief Justice Ralph Gants returned to the ISBCC for his third consecutive visit to the ISBCC. The ISBCC also hosted a pre-election forum in which Attorney General Maura Healey, City councilor Kim Janey and Gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez participated.

Insha'Allah, the ISBCC will continue to build bridges and work towards common goals with our civic officials here in Massachusetts and throughout the country.

## Community in the Spotlight

This year we were proud to see members of the ISBCC community make an impact and achieve recognition for their work. This winter Shamsu Ahmed opened the first Muslim Womens hair salon in Massachusetts. Shamsu was featured in numerous in articles that not only addressed the need for an establishment like this but also communicate a positive story about Muslims when so much coverage is consumed with the negative.



“ Whether you’re a Christian or a Jew or a Muslim, I think it’s important for me to make clear to you that you have a place here. ”

Governor Charlie Baker



# In the News

## Charlie Baker, in first visit to a mosque as governor, offers message of inclusion



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Shaykh Yasir Fahmy greeted Governor Charlie Baker at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center.

By **Matt Stout** | GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 02, 2019

Stepping before the congregation, Governor Charlie Baker took the microphone at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center and softly offered “Salam,” a greeting of peace.

“How’d I do?” he then asked, as light laughter rippled through the crowd.

Weeks into his second term, Baker on Friday made his first visit to New England’s largest mosque, where he delivered a message of inclusion and embracing a community’s differences to hundreds of congregants.

We were honored to host our Governor Charlie Baker for jumma services. His visit continues to deepen our relationship with his administration, and we look forward to continue working with him on issues in the common interest of the people of our Commonwealth.

The ISBCC in partnership with GBIO hosted Massachusetts’ attorney general, gubernatorial and district attorney candidates and City Councilor Kim Janey in a forum on immigration, healthcare and affordable housing.

## Greater Boston Interfaith Organization hosts event to hold election candidates accountable

By **Aimee Ortiz** | Globe Staff, October 22, 2018, 11:45 p.m.



Local politicians joined more than 1,000 GBIO members Monday at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. (HAJJAH KAMARA)

“Faith in action” — that’s how some members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization described the group’s pre-election meeting held Monday evening in Roxbury.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez, and Suffolk County District Attorney candidates Rachael Rollins and Michael Maloney addressed more than 1,000 members of the group, who made it clear the politicians would be held accountable for their campaign promises.

As different congregations streamed into the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, members were given an information sheet and “score card” featuring each of the candidates.

## Baker Asks Police Chiefs To Adopt Hate Crimes Task Force Guidance

November 26, 2018

By **Colin A. Young**, State House News Service



Gov. Charlie Baker is urging police chiefs to adopt four recommendations from the group he revived last year amid a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across New England.

Per the [Hate Crimes Task Force](#) advisement, Baker last week suggested all law enforcement agencies designate at least one officer to serve as point person on all hate crimes. He also called for police departments to require that officer to report any criminal act that appears to be motivated by bias to a new website being developed by the Executive Office of Public Safety.

Last year the Governor appointed 17 members to his Hate Crimes Task Force. Br. Yusufi Vali was one of these appointees. The Task Force recently recommended Governor Baker to urge law enforcement agencies to take four key steps to protect against hate in the state.

Shaykh Yasir joined interfaith leaders and Mayor Martin Walsh for a vigil to mourn the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue

## Emotional vigil in Boston brings people together to mourn Pittsburgh synagogue victims

By **John Hilliard and Lucas Phillips** | Globe Correspondents, Updated October 28, 2018, 8:55 p.m.



Br. Yusufi Vali, of Arlington (center), linked arms with others and sang during a vigil for Bostonians to stand with the Pittsburgh Jewish community after the mass shooting at a synagogue. (JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF)

Religious, political, and civic leaders offered full-throated support for their Jewish “brothers and sisters” during an emotional vigil Sunday on the Boston Common, where they denounced anti-Semitism, bigotry, and the brutal violence that claimed the lives of 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue the day before.

# The Gift God Has Given Us is Community



## Community is the Engine of ISBCC

Community is at the core of everything ISBCC does and key to all of its accomplishments. With the transition of stewardship from MAS Boston to the ISB Board of Trustees the community, through the Board Recruitment Committee, has been put at the forefront of constructing a new Board of Directors that will take the ISBCC into the next phase of the institution.

ISBCC's Spiritual Programming Team has been critical in not only continuing long running programs that are key to spiritual development but has also spearheaded new initiatives such as ISBCC's first Quran School. Currently offered are beginning and intermediate level Quranic Arabic classes for adults, 1-on-1 tutoring for advanced students and a weekend school for children.

# 5 new progams

- Tuesday Night Majlis
- Being Muslim
- Tafsiirka Qur'aanka
- Kids halaqa
- Quran School

# Quran School Sign Ups 137

Spring 2019 Semester

# Spiritual Team

## Shaykh Yasir Fahmy

As ISBCC's Senior Imam Shaykh Yasir is the spiritual architect of our community.

Throughout the year he has continued his teachings on the hadith of Jibreel khutbah series with the goal of ensuring every community member has a solid understanding of their religion. Shaykh Yasir also leads ilm classes, weekly halaqa and represents the community at interfaith and civic events.

## Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant

Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant is ISBCC's Associate Imam and is responsible for community pastoral care and matrimonial services. Additionally, he leads a weekly program for new Muslims, 'Living Islam', and gives khutbah and halaqat throughout the year.

## Shaykh Mohamed Shaakir

This year Shaykh Mohamed began teaching the ISBCC's first tafsir course in Somali in an effort to ensure all of our community members are receiving their spiritual needs. Shaykh Mohamed also teaches 'Being Muslim', an ongoing program that teaches the fundamentals of Islam to new Muslims and those interested in learning about Islam.

## Shaykh Abdelmeneim Mukassabi

Shaykh Abdelmeneim is a renowned imam in the greater Boston community with decades of experience. Shaykh Abdelmeneim is headmaster of ISBCC's Quran School and provides one on one mentoring to advanced Quran students.

# Guest Speakers

## Dr. Rania Awaad

Dr. Rania is a practicing psychiatrist at Stanford University and professor of Islamic Law at Zaytuna College. The ISBCC has hosted Dr. Rania twice, for discussions on 'Nurturing Successful Marriages' and 'Emotionally and Spiritually Preparing for Fasting'.



## Chaplain Celene Ibrahim

Chaplain Celene is local to the ISBCC community, serving her Chaplaincy at Tufts University. She has served as a spiritual leader on past ISBCC Umrah trips, led halaqa at ISBCC's 'Friday Nights at the Mosque' and has taught a khateeb and public speaking workshop with Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant.



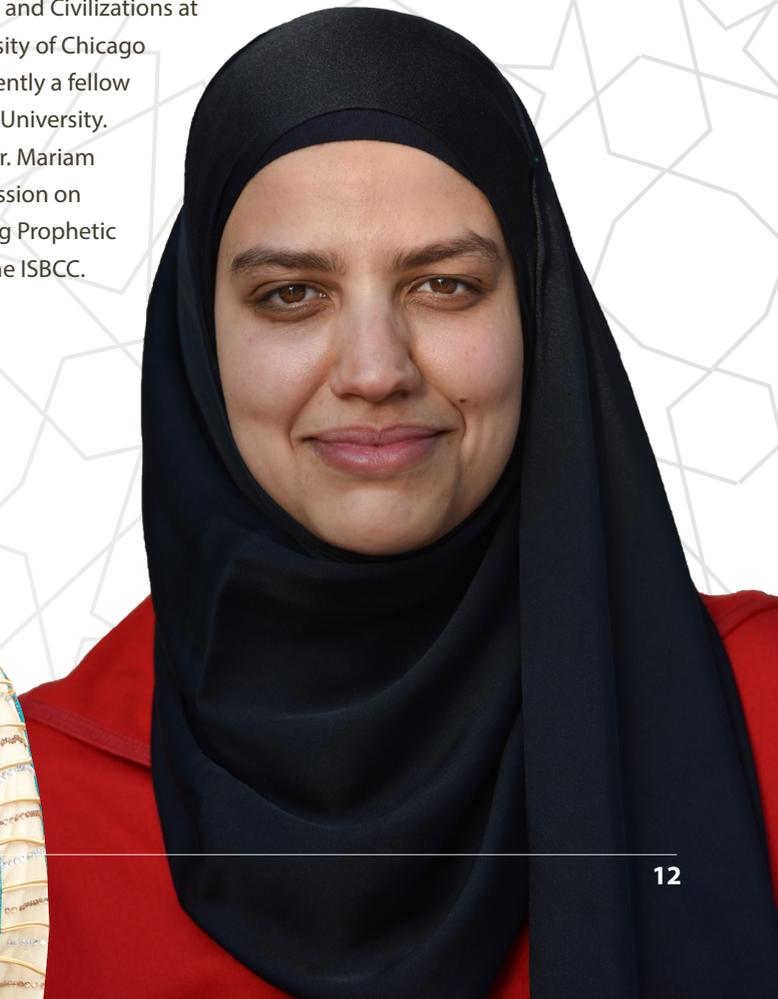
## Menahal Begawala

Menahal Begawala is a licensed mental health counselor and Khalil Center associate who visited the ISBCC and led a discussion on marriage during the 'Friday Nights at the Mosque' program.



## Dr. Mariam Sheibani

Dr. Mariam Sheibani received her PhD from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago and is currently a fellow at Harvard University. This year Dr. Mariam led a discussion on 'Embodying Prophetic Ethics' at the ISBCC.



# Youth & Families



## *The Backbone of* **Community**

The ISBCC continued its commitment to serving youth and families as we believe that they are the backbone of a healthy community. Imam Abdul-Malik and his wife, Huwa, started a monthly halaqa for children. Each halaqa includes a khatira from Imam Abdul-Malik, games and a platform for parents to connect.

This past year also saw the start of another new program, 'Paint Night'. This initiative was started by community member Nayma Islam with the goal of bringing people together through art to explore their creativity and spirituality.

Additionally, the ISBCC continued many of its community programs that everyone has grown to love. Including community socials, Eid Carnivals, community BBQ's and Eid dinners for those who are without family.

over

40

**People attended ISBCC's Paint Nights**

over

30

**Kids and parents regularly attend Kids Halaqa**

# Grants & Partnerships

## Financial Support

**\$100,000**

Barr Foundation

**\$35,000**

Hyams Foundation

**\$30,000**

Proteus Fund

**\$16,000**

Boston Children's Hospital

## Partnerships

**Civic Engagement**

GBIO

**Combating Islamophobia**

CAIR-MA

**Serving the Needy**

ICNA Relief

MCSS

**Education**

Malik Academy

BIS



## Religious Leadership

*Senior Imam*  
Shaykh Yasir Fahmy

*Associate Imam*  
Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant

*Qari*  
Shaykh Mohamed Shaakir

*Quran School Headmaster*  
Shaykh Abdelmeneim Mukassabi

## ISB Board of Trustees

Br. Anwar Kazmi

Br. Muhammad Ali-Salaam

Dr. Osama Kandil

Br. Saoud Al-Hafi

Dr. Walid Fitaihi

Dr. Yousef Abou Llaban

## Staff

*Operations Director*  
Hajjah Kamara

*Marketing Director*  
Mustafa Hannigan

*Finance Director*  
Fahmeen Khan

*Senior Accountant*  
Abdullahi Yusuf

*Transition & Strategic Projects*  
Khaoula Benghanem

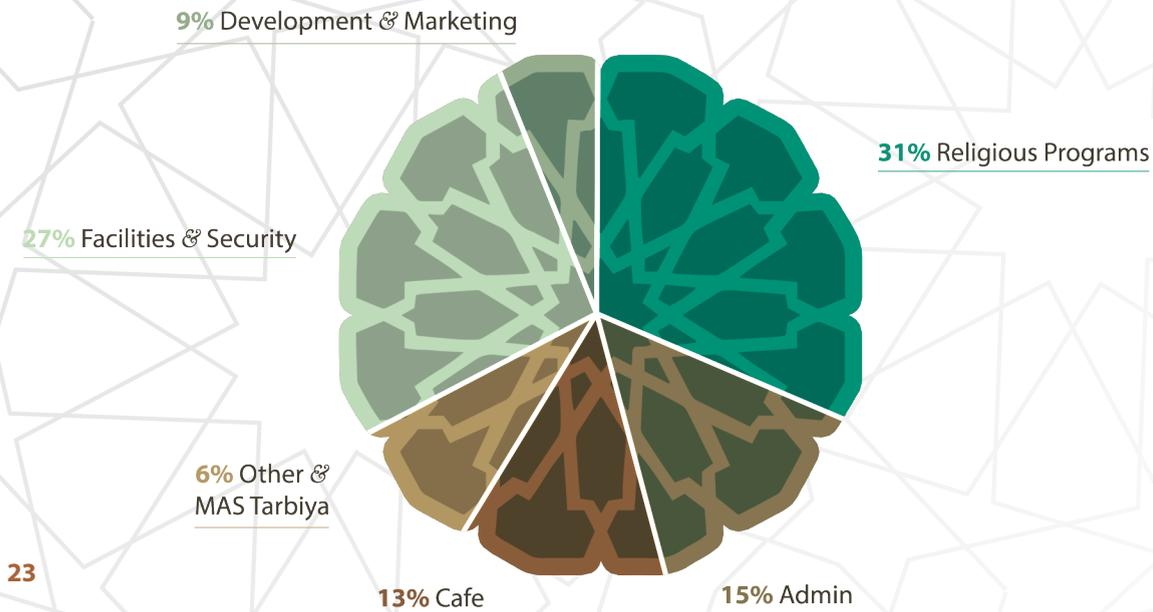
*Facilities Director*  
Helal Alwaz

*Facilities Staff*  
Haji Mohamed Hammou  
Abdeljabbar Hamiddene  
Ricardo Maestre

## Masjid Finances

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.

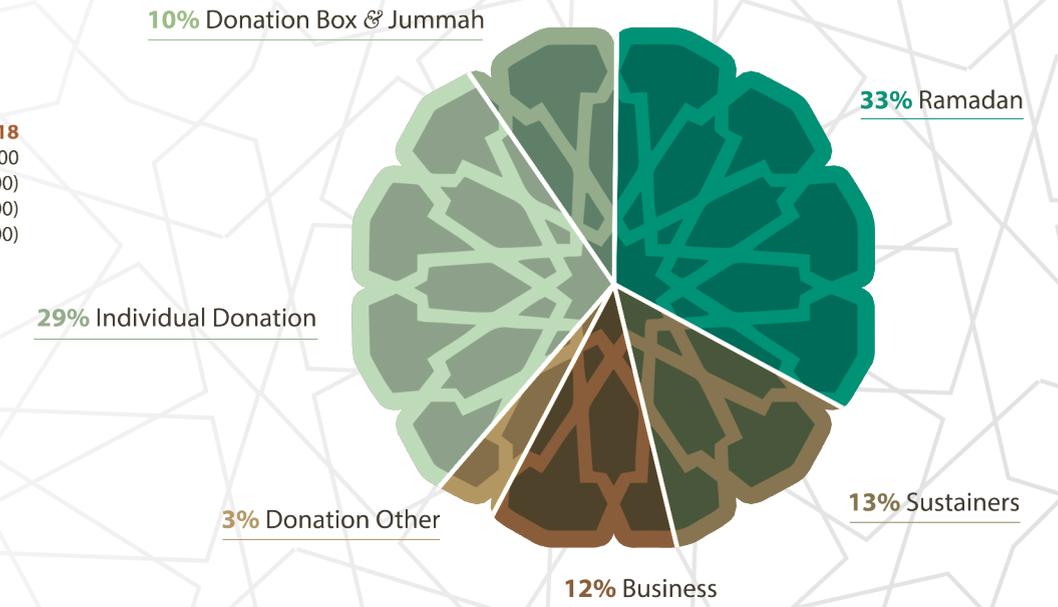
### Expenses



#### Details

Admin	\$435,817
Cafe	\$375,431
Development & Marketing	\$256,830
Facility & Security	\$797,565
Other & MAS Tarbiya	\$179,711
Religious Programs	\$933,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,979,304</b>

## Donation Revenue

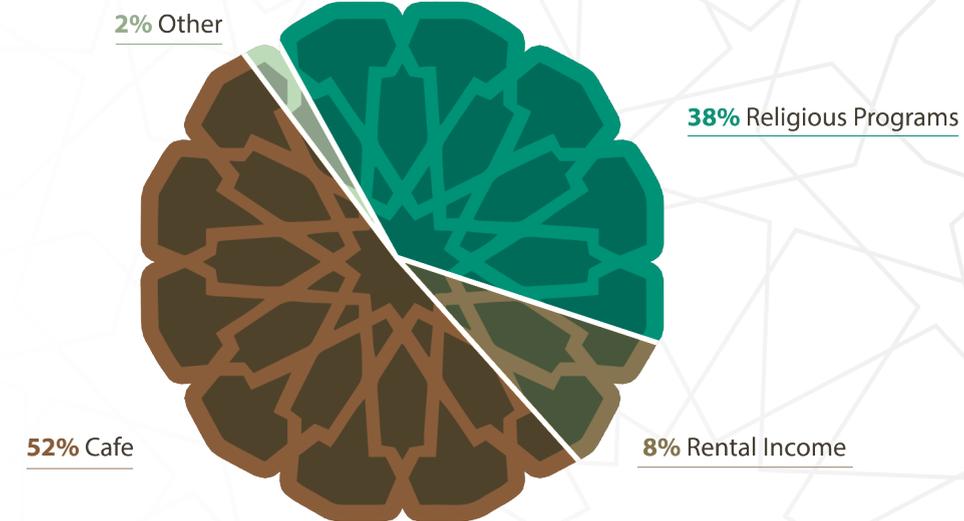


### Income Statement

Year over year

	2016	2017	2018
Income & Other Income	\$2,320,000	\$2,676,000	\$2,970,000
Cost Of Sales	(\$350,000)	(\$390,000)	(\$552,000)
Expense & Other Expense	(\$1,960,000)	(\$2,130,000)	(\$2,427,000)
Net Income	\$10,000	\$160,000	(\$9,000)

### Earned Revenue\*

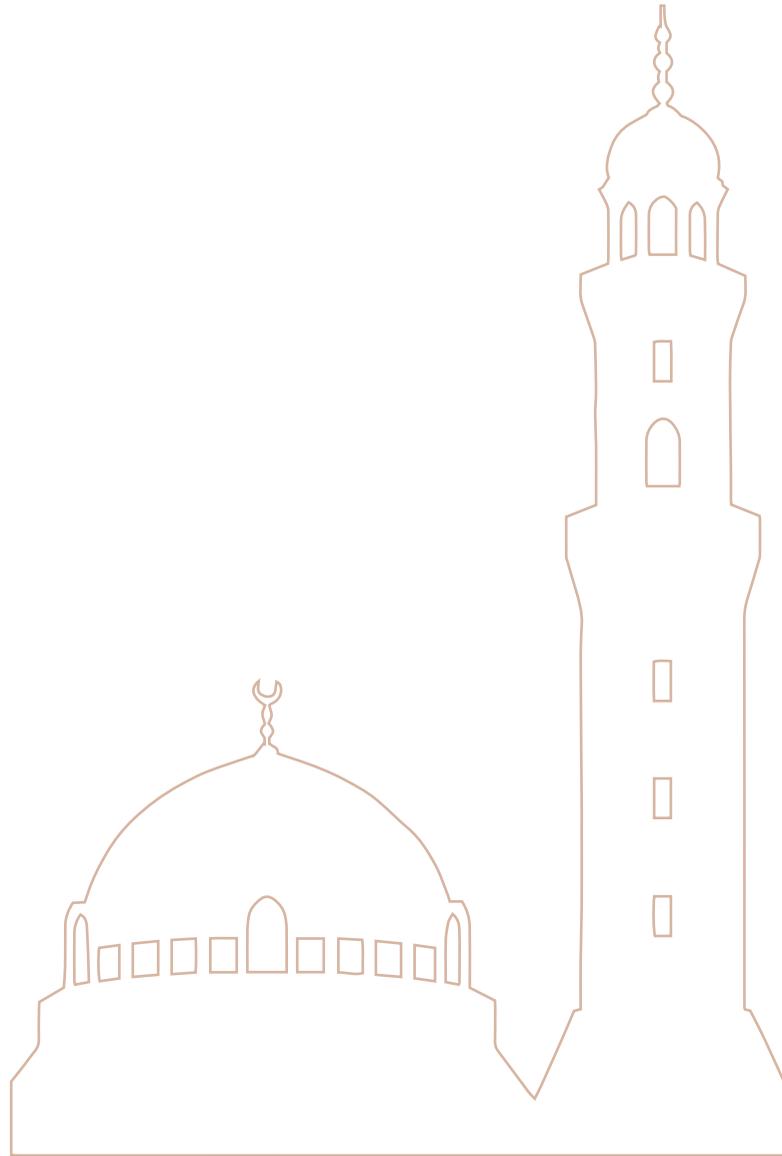


#### Details

Cafe	\$535,250
Other	\$23,781
Religious Programs	\$392,818
Rental Income	\$87,393
Business	\$224,267
Donation Other	\$65,876
Individual Donation	\$566,116
Jummah & Donation Boxes	\$186,531
Ramadan **	\$630,383
Sustainers	\$257,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,970,316</b>

\* Earned Revenue is defined as revenue where ISBCC provides either a product or service in return for a payment or where ISBCC is earning an investment on its capital.

\*\* This amount refers to actual monies collected during Ramadan. When included with pledges made in Ramadan, the total amount raised during Ramadan in 2017 was ~760k. This Ramadan our goal is to collect \$850k insha'Allah. Please give generously.



**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BOSTON CULTURAL CENTER**

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