🧠 Meet BAMIT - Project Overview for K12 Committee

🎯 Mission

Meet BAMIT (Black Alumni of MIT) is a volunteer-led initiative that connects Black MIT alumni with students in STEM programs across the country through engaging, biweekly Zoom sessions. The program aims to inspire, inform, and build bridges between generations of Black excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

We believe in keeping it **simple, scalable, and sustainable**.

📌 Goals

- Expose middle and high school students to diverse, successful Black STEM professionals
- Strengthen alumni engagement through a low-lift, high-impact volunteer model
- Partner with STEM program leaders to extend their programming with real-life career stories
- Create a repeatable framework that can be replicated by other Black alumni groups across universities

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🧩 How It Works

- **Biweekly Zoom sessions**, 75 minutes each
  - 5-minute Welcome
  - **3 alumni per session**, each presenting for 20 minutes
    - 5 minutes: Growing up
    - 5 minutes: College experience
    - 5 minutes: Career & life today
    - 5 minutes: Q&A
  - 10-minute open Q&A with students
- **Alumni Presenters:** Recruited through MIT alumni networks
- **STEM Programs:** Invited to register through an online form
- **Coordination:** Scheduling and communication handled by a small core team

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💻 Digital Infrastructure

Meet BAMIT is built with simplicity and sustainability in mind. The technical infrastructure leverages low-code tools, widely used platforms, and minimal overhead to ensure ease of use for both the public and internal volunteers.

🌐 Public-Facing Website

- **Platform:** WordPress (hosted on Bluehost)
- **Page Builder:** Elementor Pro
- **Forms:** Elementor Pro Forms (no custom PHP or plugin dependencies)
- **Custom Post Types:** via PODs Plugin

Initial Site Pages:

1. **Homepage**
   - Overview of the program
   - Links to sign-up forms
   - Optional welcome or explainer video
2. **STEM Program Sign-Up**
   - Fields: Name, Organization, Email, Phone, Website, Program Description, Grades Served, Student Count, Preferred Dates, Time Zone
3. **Alumni Sign-Up**
   - Fields: Name, Class Year, Email, Phone, Current Role, Areas of Study, Short Bio, Availability
4. **Video Archive Page**
   - Embedded video gallery of past sessions (hosted on YouTube)
   - Optional filters or categories by theme or speaker

🧠 Internal Team Infrastructure

To support streamlined coordination across volunteers and stakeholders, the internal team will use the following shared tools:

Tool	Purpose	Notes
Slack	Asynchronous team communication with threads, file sharing, link pinning, and searchable history	Chosen over WhatsApp to ensure all team members, including late joiners, can access full message history
Google Drive	Shared documents and assets	Includes project docs, planning spreadsheets, slide templates, form response exports, etc.
Google Forms/Sheets *(optional)*	Alternate or backup signup and scheduling workflows	Useful if Elementor form data needs to be mirrored
YouTube Channel	Central hub for video session archives	Videos recorded via Zoom, edited if needed, then published here
WordPress Backend	Access to STEM Program and Alumni Signups, Schedules, Video lists	Use SSO Plugin to manage access via Google accounts

🔒 Access & Operations

All tools require standard permissions: Google accounts for Docs/Drive, Slack invites managed by admin

- Backups, plugin updates, and maintenance automated through Bluehost
- Minimal custom code means easy onboarding for future admins or volunteers

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🤝 Volunteer Roles

Role	Description	Suggested Skillset
Program Director	Oversees vision, outreach, and partnerships	Leadership, strategic communication
Alumni Recruiter	Identifies and schedules alumni speakers	MIT alumni network, personable
STEM Program Liaison	Coordinates with external programs	Organized, strong communication
Scheduler/Coordinator	Manages calendar and communications for sessions	Detail-oriented, email/Slack scheduling
Zoom Host	Runs the Zoom room, records sessions, manages Q&A	Tech-savvy, calm under pressure
Media & Social Lead	Edits videos, posts on social, curates impact stories	Video editing, social media experience

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📊 Metrics & Impact

Key Performance Indicators
- # of STEM programs participating
- # of students reached per session
- # of alumni presenters engaged
- # Student and teacher feedback forms collected post-session

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💸 Year 1 Budget

Category	Budget
Volunteer stipends (e.g., Zoom host, scheduler)	TBD
Program Director stipend (Ken)	TBD
Website development & hosting	TBD
Outreach & Marketing Materials	TBD

Category	Budget
Video editing & social media content	TBD
Operations & Contingency	TBD
Total	**TBD**

🧭 Future Possibilities

This pilot effort lays the groundwork for broader replication:
- Launch chapters at other universities (e.g., Black Alumni of Stanford, Harvard, HBCUs)
- Archive and share session recordings on the site
- Expand to include mentoring, internships, or curriculum integration
- Incorporate generative AI tools or student-led tech projects as future enhancements

🌍 Philosophy

"Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity."
We focus on:
- Minimal manual effort
- Working directly with STEM program leaders (not managing student participation ourselves)
- Creating a system that others can easily adopt

🔗 Call to Action for Committee

- Approve the outlined scope and volunteer roles
- Recommend high-potential alumni for early participation
- Identify STEM programs in your network that would benefit
- Help us socialize this vision across the BAMIT community