

ADVANCING THE GENIUS OF
**BLACK-LED
CHANGE**



2023
PROGRESS REPORT

BLACK FOUNDATION
COLLECTIVE **MN**



LETTER FROM CO-FOUNDERS: BLACK-LED CHANGE IS WINNING

We begin this letter by acknowledging the pain and possibility of the past three years. We're thinking about the state of our community and the trajectory of our movement for racial justice. We're reflecting on the structures that have emerged, transformed, and no longer exist; discerning which tactics for change are effective and which are ineffective or hindering our progress. We're also considering the individuals who lead the work, including those who have assumed new roles, repositioned for increased impact, and those who have exited or are unwell. Finally, we recognize the currents shaping outcomes including the will of those in power, the participation of the people, the allocation of resources, and the strength of the opposition.

In light of this, we're led to a fundamental question:

How do we, as a collective, embody our moral values, shift power, and implement key strategies to advance racial justice for long-term, sustainable impact and tangible wins?

Since our inception, our vision at the Black Collective Foundation MN has been both pragmatic and ambitious: to realize a Minnesota where all Black people are holistically well, living in dignity and prosperity.

This vision does not belong to us, alone. Black-led change—the positive social, political, and economic movement of change led by Black people, centering Black power, and rooted in Black culture—has been actualizing this dream for as long as we've existed as a people. **Since 2020 and beyond, Black-led change has brought in transformative solutions to deliver a more just world for all of us, however, it continues to be targeted, under-resourced, and under-recognized.**

In our role as a community foundation and as a backbone organization for Black-led change, we have the honor of supporting dynamic visionaries across our state while understanding the conditions of the movement as a whole. While almost three years have passed since the backdrop of the historic uprising in which we formed, the call and need still reverberates for transformational change that honors the sacredness of Black life and advances the full possibilities of our dreams. Still, our partners are working regeneratively to usher in a new tomorrow by shifting existing systems and

creating new ones, including our own institutions, cultural hubs, and narrative platforms, ensuring our holistic well-being. **In true partnership with our community, we're advancing intersectional solutions that pair economic justice with healing justice, culture, and fortifying relationships that support community-led change.**

Thank you to all who are building with us with courage and conviction. We are strengthened by your belief in the force of Black-led change, and its ability to be responsive to the material conditions of the moment while reflective of the inherent dignity and full humanity of each of us.

In this progress report, we're proud to highlight how we are creatively and abundantly advancing the genius of Black-led change so that it reaches its full capacity of impact for good. **Together, we're supporting Black-led change not only like we want it to win, but like it's already winning.**

Lulete Mola, Repa Mekha, Chanda Smith Baker

Lulete Mola, Repa Mekha, & Chanda Smith Baker
Co-Founders, Black Collective Foundation MN



WHO WE ARE

We're Minnesota's first Black community foundation working to create a thriving ecosystem of Black-led change. Together, we are advancing the genius of Black-led change and building a community where all Black people are holistically well, living in dignity and prosperity.

WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY BLACK-LED CHANGE IS GENIUS

Black-led change is social, political, and economic change led by diverse groups of Black people. It centers the power, interests, and well-being of Black communities and often benefits all people. It is rooted in cultural practice across generations and the diaspora and reflects the inherent dignity and vision of Black people. While Black-led change continues to prove its impact and necessity, historically, Black-led change has been targeted, under-resourced, and under-recognized. The Black Collective Foundation MN is here to amplify and invest in Black-led change, so that it reaches its full capacity of impact for good. Black-led change makes the world a better place in spite of its opposition, imagine the possibilities if it's recognized and resourced properly. Our capacity to realize racial justice and create the world we envision will be limitless.



*“Black Collective Foundation MN has set a new standard for charitable giving! A standard that reflects cultural humility, sincerity, healthy and collaborative relationships. **As a member of their 1st cohort of “Black-Led Change” Fellows the process has been unmatched by anything I have experienced to date!** Their philosophy and practice of philanthropy is life changing for Black Businesses and leaders. Black Collective Foundation MN curated a process that affirms and attends to the specific “Pain Points” experienced by Black businesses and leaders everywhere.”*

Dr. Kasim AbdurRazzaq,
Community Partner & Black-led Change Fellow





WHAT WE DO:

WE INVEST IN THE GENIUS OF BLACK-LED CHANGE.

We resource organizations, visionaries, community builders, groups, businesses, faith leaders, artists, and communities who advance the power, interests, and well-being of Black communities, often benefiting all people.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Total grants:

\$1.2M
to date

\$2.2M
by end of 2023

COMMUNITYBUILDERS -PARTICIPATORY RACIAL JUSTICE GRANTMAKING

Members of the community across MN who support and advance the social, economic, and political interests of Black people are trained on the various components of philanthropy, grantmaking, and racial justice. After training, the cohort designs and makes decisions for the Collective on how and where grantmaking investments will make the most impact.

BLACK-LED CHANGE GRANTS

Supports community-centered and culturally-powered solutions by providing Black-led organizations, businesses, and initiatives with transformational grants to advance their mission. Coupled with direct investment in organizational leaders, this flexible support amplifies and sustains critical legacy and emerging work across our community.

BLACK-LED CHANGE FELLOWSHIP

Investments directly in the leaders of organizations combined with a year-long immersive experience. The Fellowship is designed to support and sustain the holistic wellbeing of Minnesota's most innovative and impactful leaders as they build resilient organizations and contribute to a strong and connected ecosystem.

RESILIENT MOVEMENT FUND

Through a nomination process, the Black Collective Foundation MN makes investments in the community to ensure the strength, sustainability, and resilience of the movement for Black-led change that was catalyzed, transformed, or impacted by the 2020 Uprising for Racial Justice.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS 2022 COHORT

Abena Abraham	Joy Marsh
Anissa Keyes	Leslie Redmond
Biance Monique Dawkins	Salma Ibrahim
Danielle Swift	Sha Cage
Del Shea Perry	Teto Wilson
Dr. Artika Tyner	Victoria McWane-Creek
Dr. Tracine Asberry	
Hassan Qais As-Sidiq	
Jeffrey Aguy	

COMMUNITY BUILDERS 2023 COHORT

A'Bryana Ware	Nafeesa Muhammad
Comfort Dondo	Niila Hebert
Dallas Watson	Sindiswa Jamilah-Bediako Georgiades
De'Vonna Pittman	Tariq Muata
Habon Abdulle	Tia Williams
Jennifer Louise Aranda	Trahern Crews
Malik Rucker	
Markus Flynn	

BLACK-LED CHANGE ORGANIZATIONS

ACER
 Abdur Razzaq Counseling & Social Architecture, PA
 Black Family Blueprint
 Intro to Success (ITS)
 N4 Collective
 ReInvesting in Communities and Housing (RICH)
 Stories by Georgia Fort, LLC
 Sweet Potato Comfort Pie
 The Aya Collective
 The Cordale Q Handy Remembrance of Me Foundation
 The JK Movement
 The Zen Bin
 Until We Are All Free Movement
 Voice of Culture
 WE WIN Institute, Inc.

BLACK-LED CHANGE FELLOWS

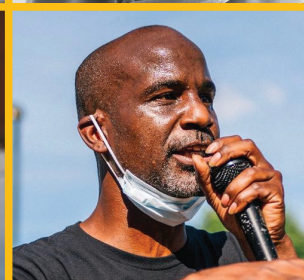
Ayolanda Evans
 Ebony Aya
 Georgia Fort
 Johnny Allen Jr.
 Kasim AbdurRazzaq
 Kenna Cottman
 Kimberly Handy Jones
 Kevin Reese
 Lewis McCaleb
 Nelima Sitati-Munene
 Philli Irvin
 Rose McGee
 Sierra Carter
 Titalayo Bediako
 Vachel Hudson

BLACK-LED CHANGE RESILIENT MOVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

612 Jungle
 African Women Youth and Resource Center
 Al Maa'uun
 Black Civic Network
 Black Immigrant Collective
 In Black Ink
 Ujima Collective
 A Seat at the Table Productions
 Flava Cafe
 Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
 African Economic Development Solutions
 Living Naturally Abundant
 OMG Media Solutions
 Project Diva International
 Sankofa Swim International
 Somali American Farmers Association

BLACK-LED CHANGES IS GENIUS







WHAT WE DO:

WE STRENGTHEN THE ECOSYSTEM OF BLACK-LED CHANGE.

The Ecosystem of Black-led change includes communities of people, organizations, and ideas that experience a shared environment and a common vision for Black people to thrive. They are interconnected and interdependent to achieve that vision. We support, connect, gather, and amplify the ecosystem to build power and strengthen our community.

PROGRESS TO DATE



Threading the Genius of Black-led Change

Threading is an annual engagement for our partners to experience the spirit and genius of Black-led Change. Leaders in racial justice philanthropy, Black-led community organizations, and businesses journey to sites across our community at the forefront of transformative work. By visiting with community partners, participants have the opportunity to meaningfully connect, expand their understanding of Black-led change, learn more about the Black Collective Foundation MN, and acknowledge the struggle that was illuminated in our community in 2020 while experiencing the progress since that pivotal year.



Rooting for Everybody Black

Rooting is an ongoing gathering series for Black people working and leading across the philanthropic, nonprofit, business, community, education, and additional sectors of the ecosystem. The space is curated for fostering connections, mentorship, relationship-building, and learning. These gatherings celebrate the greatness of our culture and provide the critical support needed for all of us to thrive in our professional lives.

WHAT WE DO:

WE BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH.

We're growing the first Black community-led Foundation with an endowment in Minnesota. An endowment allows the community to be self-sufficient by providing income in perpetuity for the genius of Black-led change.



PROGRESS TO DATE

- On May 31, 2023, the Black Collective Foundation MN ended fiscal agency and became its own independent, tax exempt, 501(c)3 non profit organization.
- We're growing the team and on track to expand leadership and capacity.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO SEED, SUSTAIN, AND ENDOW THE BLACK COLLECTIVE FOUNDATION MN IS UNDERWAY:

\$7.1M
raised to date

\$8.1M+
by end of 2023

*"When we launched, we asked, 'How much greater can philanthropy be?' **Through the Collective, we are casting forth a sustaining vision for work that is rooted in a long history of aspiration and calling in a new model of philanthropy.** Our commitment is to lead by example, continuing to step out and take meaningful action to change systems, practices, and policies within organizations and the field, and also to bring innovation and profound imagination."*

Repa Mekha,
Co-Founder, Black Collective Foundation MN



WHAT WE DO:

WE TRANSFORM PHILANTHROPY IN MINNESOTA & BEYOND.

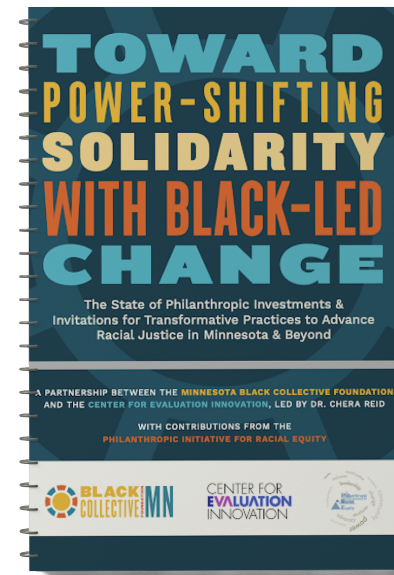
We facilitate, support, and inspire the philanthropic field to be in power-shifting solidarity to realize the promise of racial justice.

PROGRESS TO DATE

In May of 2023, the Black Collective Foundation MN partnered with the Center for Evaluation Innovation with contributions by Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) on a one-of-a-kind study.

THE RESEARCH ASKED:

What will it take for institutional philanthropy in Minnesota and beyond to move at the speed of courage and invest wholly in Black lives?



OUR INVITATIONS TO POWER-SHIFTING SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN MINNESOTA AND BEYOND:

- ☀ Trust, defend, and recognize Black leaders.
- ☀ Embrace the dual needs for economic development and healing justice.
- ☀ Meet Black people at their intersections & acknowledge the force of anti-Blackness.
- ☀ Support spaces of respite for Black changemakers in philanthropy.
- ☀ Invest in racial justice at the speed of courage.

MAY 2020 - DECEMBER 2023

Total Amount raised

\$7.1M

Total Assets

\$3.7M

By end of 2023 Grantmaking

\$2.2M

LAUNCH EXPENSES

Since 2020, we have positioned our organization as a national leader in racial justice philanthropy. Launch expenses have been applied to the Collective's operations including the production of research, events, convenings, fundraising, and core mission support, integral to the infrastructure of a sustainable organization.

FUNDERS SUMMARY

CATALYSTS

We would like to thank the Catalyst funding partners of the Black Collective Foundation MN that believe in the spirit of the work and step up with courage and conviction.

\$1M +

Target Foundation
Carlson Family Foundation
Mortenson Family Foundation
Thrivent

\$500K - \$1M

Northwest Area Foundation

\$250K - 500K

Winnebago Industries Foundation
Knight Foundation
General Mills

Black Collective Community of Funders

Voqal	Melissa Scott
Boston Scientific	Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
Women's Foundation of Minnesota	Greater Twin Cities United Way
McKnight Foundation	Graves Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation	Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Bush Foundation	Lee and John Roper-Batker
Peter and Ella Daniels	

Anonymous Donors	Kind Foundation
Aaron Coon	Lisa Davis
Ann Forstie	Lori-Anne Williams
Brianna Kocka	Lulete Mola
Carolyn Foundation	Matthew Morton
Chanda Smith Baker	Michael Schwartz
Dustin Hicks	Opus Foundation
Emily Palmer	Phyllis Rawls Goff
FutureGood	Repa Mekha
Jane S. Cowles	Stacy and Benjamin Papier-Meister
Jarod Marty-Kennedy	The Sheltering Arms Foundation
Jhaelynn Elam	

INVEST IN BLACK-LED CHANGE NOW

We are harnessing the power, leadership, and brilliance of Minnesota's Black communities to create transformational solutions to our state's biggest challenges. We want to expand who can impactfully participate in philanthropy; that's why we're inviting all people to fund this vision.

From members of our communities to people across the world invested in realizing racial justice, to established philanthropists and institutions. All contributors are encouraged and welcomed to fund our community-led change.

Contact: leadership@mnblackcf.org

Leadership

Lulete Mola, President & Co-Founder

Chanda Smith Baker, Co-Founder in Residence

Repa Mekha, Co-Founder

Team

Jhaelynn Elam, Director of Impact & Communications Lead

Stacy Papier-Meister, Director of Operations & Administration Lead

