2025 IMPACT REPORT

SUSTAINING THE WORK, SHAPING THE FUTURE



BLACK FREEDOM FUND

A MESSAGE: FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Community,

Six years ago, in a moment of reckoning for our country and for philanthropy, Black Freedom Fund (BFF) was born. Co-created with organizers, leaders, and community members who knew that the scale of the crisis demanded something different, Black Freedom Fund launched as a five-year initiative with a clear mandate: address philanthropy's persistent underinvestment in California's Black-serving organizations.

In 2025, Black Freedom Fund made its most significant transition yet — from an initiative to California's first and only Black community foundation, an enduring home for Black freedom. I want to take a moment to honor the president and CEO of Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) Nicole Taylor, whose visionary leadership helped plant the seeds of this institution and whose belief in Black power building helped make this moment possible.

Today, we are living through a defining and difficult moment: the rise of authoritarianism, economic warfare waged through budget cuts and policy attacks, a devastating affordability crisis, and compounding threats to the rights and safety of Black communities. In the face of these challenges, we refuse to retreat. At BFF, we believe these urgent times call on all of us to act boldly, strategically, and together.

We have put that belief in practice by showing up when communities need sustained partnership most. Nearly two years ago, devastating wildfires swept through Los Angeles County, causing widespread destruction in the historically Black communities of Altadena and Pasadena. In response, we launched the Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund in partnership with the California Community Foundation, grounded in our commitment to a recovery shaped by those most impacted and supported by philanthropy as they rebuild on their own terms. Since its launch, the Black LA Relief and Recovery Fund has distributed over $7.1 million to 40 trusted organizations supporting direct aid delivery, stabilizing families, providing trauma-informed care, and organizing long-term recovery and accountability efforts.

Our work has always been about more than grantmaking. Community organizers and directly impacted people are fighting every day to win power over the decisions that shape their lives, seeding solutions, shifting narratives, and building the kind of durable infrastructure that makes change possible across generations. Our initiatives help strengthen that work by providing organizations with legal education and support through LEAD® for Racial Justice, strengthening digital security, creating opportunities for Black communities to engage directly with policymakers, and bringing funders together around shared challenges and opportunities. Black Freedom Fund exists to resource that ecosystem: not reactively, but with the sustained, strategic investment that transformative change demands.

Looking ahead, we are building toward an enduring institution. That means growing our endowment so that BFF has the capacity to advance Black freedom, not just today, but for generations to come. It means expanding the ways we wield power beyond traditional grantmaking and building new capacities to connect, strengthen, and accelerate the broader Black power-building ecosystem. And it means staying rooted in the communities and values that brought us here.

Thank you for being part of this work. Together, we are securing a future where all Black people can live with dignity, safety, opportunity, and power.

In Solidarity,

Marc Philpart
President & CEO, Black Freedom Fund

"AT BFF, WE BELIEVE THESE URGENT TIMES CALL ON ALL OF US TO ACT BOLDLY, STRATEGICALLY, AND TOGETHER."

SECURING A FUTURE WHERE ALL PEOPLE THRIVE:

BLACK FREEDOM FUND GRANTMAKING



PHOTO COURTESY OF
LIVEFREE California

IN 2025, BLACK FREEDOM FUND GRANTED $8,150,150 TO BLACK-SERVING, POWER-BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF
United Women of the Horn

We believe those closest to the issues impacting our communities know best how to solve them. That's why we invest in leaders and organizations, advancing community-led and centered solutions to secure a future where all people thrive.

Our investments prioritize courageous and visionary grass-roots organizations, supporting powerbuilders who often do not have access to traditional philanthropy. Black Freedom Fund provides multi-year, unrestricted funding, capacity building assistance, and movement infrastructure so leaders and communities have the sustained resources they need to transform systems and advance the work of achieving racial justice. We are proud to support leaders and organizations throughout the state catalyzing change across 17 issue areas.

"BFF was the very first organization to provide us with critical funding. Their early trust and financial support gave United Women of the Horn the foundation we needed to scale rapidly. Because of BFF, our organization launched leadership and empowerment workshops, designed and delivered a series of gender-focused trainings that have now equipped over 200 Black and Horn-of-Africa women with skills in public speaking, advocacy, and strategic organizing."

– UNITED WOMEN OF THE HORN

BY THE NUMBERS

BLACK FREEDOM FUND'S IMPACT

$8,150,150
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

105 ORGS
FUNDED

99% OF GRANTEES
engaged in systems change, community organizing, and building community power

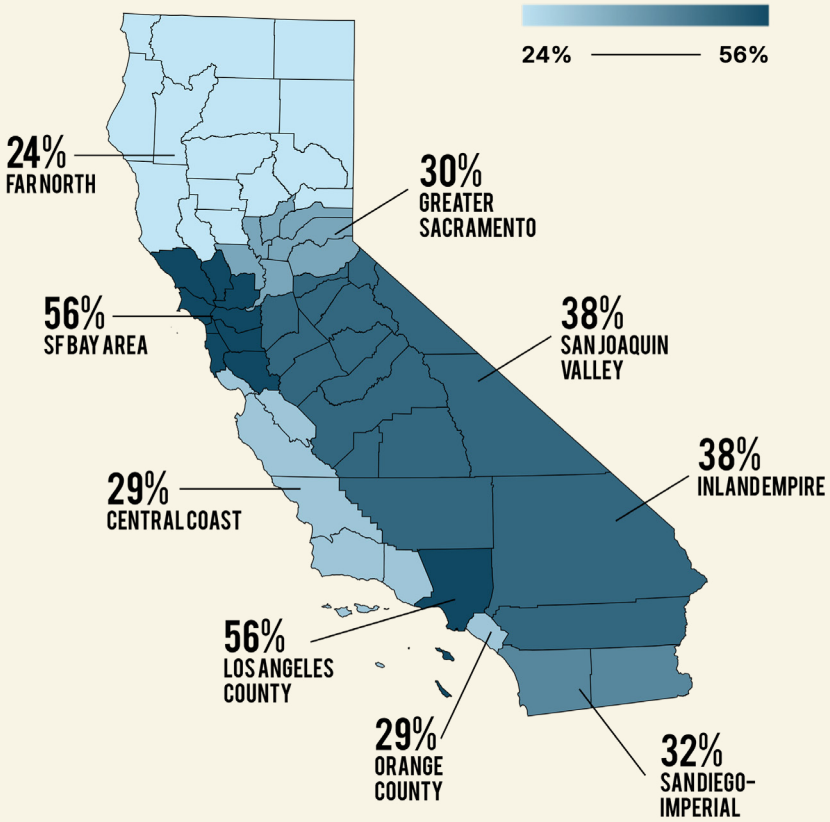
81% OF GRANTEES
engaged in policy and advocacy work, with 65% of grantees reporting meaningful policy change

46% OF GRANTEES
led voter engagement efforts, and 1 in 4 helped register 6,700+ Black voters in 2025

93% OF GRANTEES
provided leadership development programs in their community

62% OF GRANTEES
conducted research related to systemic racism (e.g., data collection, papers, reports, studies on systemic racism or anti-Black racism)

PERCENTAGE OF GRANTEES IN EACH REGION



BLACK FREEDOM FUND'S FORCE MULTIPLIER

BECAUSE OF BFF, GRANTEES HAVE:

EXPANDED team capacity enabling greater reach within the Black community and impact

ENHANCED visibility, attracting both solicited and unsolicited donors

ENGAGED in events and networking that led to new funding opportunities & partnerships with Black power-building ecosystem

70% OF GRANTEES REPORT INCREASED ABILITY TO ATTRACT FUNDING BECAUSE OF BFF

FROM 2020 TO 2025:

$50M TO **220**

DISTRIBUTED ORGANIZATIONS

In just 5 years, Black Freedom Fund invested over $50 million in organizations building power in Black communities, the largest pooled transfer of wealth to Black organizing in U.S. history.

ISSUE AREAS RESOURCED

Percentages represent the percent of grantees working on a specific issue area.

Community/Civic Engagement	81%
Educational Equity/Reform	52%
Youth Development	51%
Economic Development	44%
Health Advocacy	43%
Workforce Development	42%
Arts and Culture	41%
Criminal Justice	38%
Homelessness and Housing	36%
Environmental Justice/Climate Justice	27%
History and Heritage Preservation	27%
Gender Justice	27%
Immigration Justice	23%
LGBTQIA+ Rights	21%
Child Welfare	20%
Farming and Food Justice	16%
Domestic Violence	15%

INITIATIVES ADVANCING EQUITY AND JUSTICE

CHINEDU VALENTINE OKOBI SABBATICAL PROGRAM

Established in 2024, the Chinedu Valentine Okobi Sabbatical Program honors Chinedu Valentine Okobi, a beloved father, poet, brother, son, and Morehouse graduate who was killed by San Mateo County sheriff's deputies in October 2018. Following a lawsuit against the county, Chinedu's family used funds from the settlement to establish the sabbatical program, creating an opportunity for leaders of Black power-building and racial justice organizations to step away from the demands of the work and make space for rest and renewal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF
Okobi Family

MEET OUR 2025 OKOBI SABBATICAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The 2025 sabbatical participants reflect BFF's continued commitment to supporting leaders, families, and organizations that suffered widespread loss and disruption following the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. Despite the tremendous loss these leaders experienced, they remain determined and clear in their work to build an equitable recovery and long-term autonomy for Black communities.

Through the sabbatical program, each participant's organization receives resources to enable the leader to take a six-week sabbatical for restoration and wellness. The sabbatical program reflects a deepened investment in supporting the long-term well-being of leaders and the sustainability of Black movement leadership.

"Rest for Black people, rest for oppressed people, is an act of great revolution. The point of the sabbatical is to create spaces of deep rest, to create spaces of love, to create spaces of joy for freedom fighters, for people who have dedicated their lives to liberation."

– EBELE OKOBI, SISTER OF CHINEDU

READ THE STORIES OF OUR 2025 OKOBI SABBATICAL PARTICIPANTS

ACCESS THIS LINK AND MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ON PAGE 32 OF THIS REPORT



"Thanks to the Black Freedom Fund, I've been given something rare and radical: space to restore my spirit and prepare to rebuild—with strength and clarity."

– SHIMICA GASKINS, END CHILD POVERTY CA



"My neighbors reminded me this sabbatical would rejuvenate me and strengthen my resolve for what is needed. I acquiesce to their wisdom and begin this journey wholeheartedly."

– MARTIN A. GORDON, PASADENA COMMUNITY COALITION



"The sabbatical will allow me the time to distill the lessons from my work and understand what my next and best contribution will be."

– MARK-ANTHONY CLAYTON-JOHNSON, FORMERLY WITH DIGNITY AND POWER NOW

LEAD®
FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



With heightened attacks on racial justice programs across the country, in 2025, Black Freedom Fund's Legal Education Advocacy and Defense for Racial Justice (LEAD®) Initiative was more critical than ever. Black Freedom Fund saw an urgent need to equip grassroots organizations and funders with the legal counsel, training, and tools needed to continue racial justice programs.

LEAD® is gaining momentum beyond California. BFF is building essential movement infrastructure across the country by supporting the deployment of LEAD® in Minnesota with Black Collective Foundation MN; in Washington with Black Futures Co-Op Fund; and in Oregon with Oregon Freedom Funders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Held eight virtual trainings and three in-person trainings
- Granted $415,000 through the Resilience Fund to 10 organizations navigating direct attacks on their racial justice programs
- Trained 400+ community organizations and 50 foundations
- 100% of organizations found the LEAD® risk assessment tool helpful
- 92% of respondents believe the training helped them better understand how their organization can continue to pursue race conscious efforts with confidence
- 90% of respondents left the training with a better understanding of how community organizations can respond if targeted by anti-racial justice attacks

"Thank you for hosting these trainings. It's very reassuring to have this information and access to resources that will allow organizations to continue to support people of color in times where these communities are being targeted."

-LEAD PARTICIPANT



BLACK VISION & DEFENSE FUND

In response to growing threats to democracy and the disproportionate impacts of voter suppression, economic instability, and targeted attacks on Black communities, BFF launched the Black Vision & Defense Fund (BVDF). A collective fund in partnership with the California Black Power Network, Black Equity Collective, Bold Black LA, and Mobilizing and Edifying for Collective Community Advancement (M.E.C.C.A), BVDF represents more than 200 Black-led and Black power-building organizations across California.

BVDF is investing in both immediate community needs and long-term movement infrastructure through resourcing, education, organizing, and advocacy. Through targeted events and initiatives, BVDF demonstrates the capacity of California's Black power-building ecosystem to convene large-scale civic engagement, relationship building, and knowledge sharing efforts.

DIGITAL SECURITY INITIATIVE

In partnership with Shake Technologies, BFF provides organizations with customized assessments, trainings, and pro bono technical support to strengthen their digital infrastructure. In 2025, the Digital Security Initiative managed end-to-end programming for dozens of organizations. Sixty-two organizations requested an invitation to complete a comprehensive assessment covering 8 security domains: digital security readiness, computers and end point systems, cloud systems and security, DNS/ website security, network security, online harassment, and data retention.

- Prior to receiving support, 70% of organizations were assessed as "At Risk" or "Critical Risk"
- 48 organizations completed the assessment and received individualized reports on specific security risks and solutions
- 30 organizations completed 1:1 consultation to support implementation of the recommendations in their assessment report
- 55 security services delivered across 14 organizations

"The training and guidance I personally received from you has been instrumental in helping me be more effective in my role to support our digital security infrastructure that I know will translate to the whole organization."

- DIGITAL SECURITY INITIATIVE PARTICIPANT

EQUITABLE BLACK RECOVERY



The Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund supports community organizations working on the ground to meet the immediate and long-term needs of Black communities impacted by the devastating wildfires that swept through Los Angeles County in January 2025. Launched by Black Freedom Fund, in partnership with the California Community Foundation, this Fund is dedicated to a community-led and centered approach to equitable recovery.

Across the region, 31 lives were lost, over 400,000 acres burned, and more than 150,000 people were forced to leave their homes. Historically Black communities, particularly in Altadena and Pasadena, have been hit hard by the Eaton Fire and its aftermath. These neighborhoods – once places of promise and opportunity for middle-class Black families unable to purchase homes in other parts of Los Angeles because of racist covenants and redlining – are now sites of immense loss. Homes, businesses, schools, and places of worship have been destroyed; family heirlooms and cherished belongings have been completely lost; and daily lives and routines that anchor stability for so many have been upended. But, while the structures may be gone, the power of community remains.

2025 BLACK LA RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND INVESTMENT: $3.6M IN 37 TRUSTED ORGANIZATIONS

COLLECTIVE IMPACT OF GRANTEES:

- **33,966** total households served with essentials, such as food, hygiene products, and clothing
- **8,425** total households supported with cash assistance
- **$4,035,790** total cash assistance provided to households
- **276,348** total meals or grocery bags provided to households
- **562** total households assisted with emergency, temporary, or permanent housing
- **8,277** individuals served with mental health/ wellness support
- **40%** of grantees report Community Organizing for Recovery as a key issue area

READ OUR BLACK LA RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND IMPACT REPORT: ONE YEAR OF CARE, POWER, AND RECOVERY.

ACCESS THIS LINK AND MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ON PAGE 32 OF THIS REPORT.



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
Legacy Land Project

We are grateful to the more than 700+ donors who have contributed to the Fund. Every donation, whether $5 or $500,000, has contributed to the restoration of Dena and a community-led recovery. Together, we are ensuring that recovery is guided by the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of those most impacted.

"The Black LA Relief and Recovery Fund's investment made it possible for the Legacy Land Project to move from emergency response to sustainable systems transforming immediate relief into an enduring model of Black-led recovery, resilience, and renewal."

– LEGACY LAND PROJECT, BLACK LA RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND GRANTEE PARTNER

EQUITABLE BLACK RECOVERY FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE

In addition to funding leaders on the ground in Altadena, in 2025 BFF launched the Equitable Black Recovery Funders Collaborative to align and coordinate philanthropy around the needs and vision of the Black community in Dena.

The funder table consists of 4 working groups :

- **Housing & Community Revitalization**
- **Workforce & Economic Development**
- **Health & Wellness**
- **History, Arts & Culture**

Through this funder table, BFF is engaging and activating a growing base of philanthropic partners, strengthening internal coordination, and establishing shared norms and structures to ensure that funding decisions are guided by community-informed priorities. As a result of this work, more than 25 philanthropic partners have engaged in supporting an equitable recovery through funding commitments, providing event space, leading convenings, aligning funding, and championing support for an equitable recovery in the philanthropic ecosystem.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

Black Freedom Fund grantee partners are building community power to shape the issues that shape our futures.

TRANSGENDER, GENDER VARIANT, INTERSEX JUSTICE PROJECT, SAN FRANCISCO

Transgender, Gender Variant, Intersex Justice Project (TJIP) provides safe, affirming housing through subsidy-based programs for transgender and gender nonconforming people at a time when the demand for their services are rising sharply due to overlapping public health crises and increased violence. Recognized by the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing as an official access point, their team works one-on-one with individuals to navigate the housing system, identify resources, and secure transitional or permanent housing. Alongside this work, TGIJP launched the Naomi Jenkins Community Care Freedom School—a leadership development program rooted in healing and transformative justice. Made possible with early support from Black Freedom Fund, the program has now grown to attract additional investment from partners including the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and the James Irvine Foundation, helping build a pipeline of Black trans leaders equipped to support and sustain their communities.

"The grant from BFF has helped us attract critical start-up funding for the launch of this program. This is a leadership development program to train the next generation of community leaders to step into positions in our community organizations."

– TRANSGENDER, GENDER VARIANT, INTERSEX JUSTICE PROJECT



PHOTO COURTESY OF

Transgender, Gender Variant, Intersex Justice Project

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NEW AMERICANS (PANA), SAN DIEGO

In 2025, PANA worked to protect the safety and dignity of immigrants and refugees while educating and strengthening organizing leadership in San Diego. PANA's accomplishments include helping to pass the Due Process and Safety Ordinance, reinforcing San Diego's responsibility to protect vulnerable residents from federal overreach, and advocating to maintain the Immigrant Legal Defense Program while expanding immigration legal defense to unaccompanied minors in San Diego County.

Additionally, PANA launched the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology San Diego (TRUST SD) Coalition to lead the call for community oversight of surveillance technology. Through TRUST SD, PANA is advancing a strong, legally enforceable ordinance to address privacy and civil liberties issues, and has drafted reports and sign-on letters and advocated before the Privacy Advisory Board and City Council to shut down Flock Automated License Plate Readers.

"Because of BFF, we hosted our first TRUST SD Coalition annual Safety in Unity Conference at our Global Village site, where almost 200 residents, elected officials, and organizations learned about the harms of unfettered surveillance and its impacts on our communities, especially on our Black and brown populations."

– PANA



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
PANA

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER (BWPC), FRESNO

In 2025, BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) successfully advocated for improvements to Medi-Cal screening and treatment services, as well as enhanced licensing and reimbursement pathways for alternative birth centers, leading to the signing of the Nurse Midwifery Education Fund into law—a significant step toward expanding California's midwifery workforce.

Building on 2024 policy successes, which included securing a statewide Medi-Cal rate increase that doubled doula reimbursement per birth, BWPC continues to strengthen access to culturally responsive care through the BLACK Doula Network (BDN). The program trains new doulas, provides continuous pregnancy and postpartum support, and creates sustainable career opportunities for Black birth workers to serve their own communities. Today, BDN doulas hold hospital privileges at half of Fresno County's delivery hospitals and are approved providers for Kaiser Permanente, Anthem Blue Cross, and Health Net/CalViva.

"BFF supported implementation of our electronic health record system and strategic investments in accounting and legal infrastructure. These foundational capacity investments are essential to delivering high-quality, compliant, and community-centered services."

– BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER (BWPC)



PHOTO COURTESY OF:

BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC)

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

STUDENTS DESERVE, LOS ANGELES

Through sustained organizing, leadership development, and coalition work, Students Deserve youth ensured that LAUSD continued to invest in culturally responsive supports, community-based safety, and resources that help students thrive in 2025.

The youth-led campaign, "LAUSD Must Protect Black, Undocumented, and LGBTQ Students," encourages and equips youth to share their experience, solutions, and demands at LAUSD school board meetings, in meetings with the superintendent, and with board members.

In June 2025, following months of youth-led advocacy and public testimony at LAUSD board meetings, the school board approved major investments aligned with Students Deserve's campaign demands, including: $50 million for the Black Student Achievement Plan for the 2025–2026 school year, $5 million to expand supports for undocumented students through Dream Centers and related services, and $2 million to implement queer-affirming spaces and supports for LGBTQ students across LAUSD schools. These victories demonstrate the power of Students Deserve's youth-led organizing model and coalition-building, where students most impacted by inequities in the education system design campaigns, set policy priorities, and lead advocacy directly with decision makers.

"BFF funding helped expand our staffing structure by bringing on two part-time staff members allowing us to increase the scale and sustainability of our work. This expanded team has enabled Students Deserve to provide stronger mentorship and leadership development for youth organizers, increase outreach across LAUSD schools, and respond more effectively to emerging issues impacting our communities."

– STUDENTS DESERVE



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
Students Deserve

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

SANTA CRUZ BLACK COALITION FOR JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY, SANTA CRUZ

When the former Pajaro Valley School Board sought to end ethnic studies in local schools, Santa Cruz Black collaborated with Pajaro Valley for Ethnic Studies and Justice to hold freedom schools in Watsonville. Through these freedom schools, community leaders provided political education, grew awareness of voting rights, and shared the local history of voter suppression. And when new school board members were elected, Santa Cruz Black and their partners were successful in establishing ethnic studies as a foundational component of the district's curriculum, marking a significant step toward a more inclusive and representative education system.

"Our hope is to build a curriculum that focuses on the movements and struggles of local Black residents, past and present, for racial, political, and economic justice, dignity, and life possibility."

– SANTA CRUZ BLACK COALITION FOR JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF:

Santa Cruz Black Coalition for Justice and Racial Equity

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

INITIATE JUSTICE, STATEWIDE

Initiate Justice brings together people inside and outside of prisons to build community, elevate the lived experiences of incarcerated people, and advance meaningful criminal justice policy reform across California.

In 2025, Initiate Justice expanded voting access for people on parole by successfully advocating for the California Secretary of State to designate the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Division of Adult Parole Operations (parole offices) as a Voter Registration Agency under the National Voter Registration Act. Initiate Justice also helped secure increased wages for incarcerated firefighters deployed on active fire response and created new pathways to freedom by requiring the CDCR to establish regulations for recommending incarcerated firefighters for resentencing and release.

"Because of BFF, our organization has been able to remain active in the California Black Power Network and identify opportunities to better serve and engage Black communities in our work to end the mass incarceration and mass criminalization of our communities."

– INITIATE JUSTICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
Initiate Justice

STATEWIDE NETWORKS

Strong networks are the backbone of strong movements. Black Freedom Fund's three anchor networks, Black Equity Collective, LIVEFREE CA, and California Black Power Network, are focused on developing the sustainability of Black-serving organizations, strengthening democracy, and building Black futures.

Since 2020, BFF has invested $25.4M in these three networks strengthening Black power-building infrastructure and providing direct support and connection to more than 75 organizations.

CALIFORNIA BLACK POWER NETWORK

The California Black Power Network (CBPN) leads systems change, community organizing, and community powerbuilding through strengthening a statewide network of Black-led organizations, mobilizing residents around key policy issues, and advancing structural policy reforms that impact Black communities across California. In 2025, CBPN organized a statewide advocacy day with more than 100 community advocates and 40 legislative visits to push priority bills, generating thousands of letters to policymakers, and advancing a policy agenda focused on structural reforms such as housing affordability, youth justice reform, and reparations. Additionally, through leadership in the Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation and Truth (ARRT), CBPN successfully secured a $6 million state investment in a public education fund on reparations, supporting public understanding of California's role in slavery and racial discrimination and building momentum for reparative policies.

"BFF's support helped us expand our network to 47 organizations across 16 counties, train and deploy hundreds of grassroots leaders and volunteers, and reach tens of thousands of voters through phone banking, door knocking, and community engagement efforts."

-CALIFORNIA BLACK POWER NETWORK



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
California Black Power Network

BLACK EQUITY COLLECTIVE

Black Equity Collective (BEC) advances systems change and community power by strengthening the leadership, infrastructure, and coordination of 65 Black-serving organizations across Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. Building on the success of previous cohorts, BEC selected eight organizations in 2025 to participate in the next BUILD cohort. Each participating organization receives multi-year funding, along with technical assistance to implement Organizational Resiliency Plans that strengthen governance, compliance, fundraising systems, financial management, and internal operations. BEC also launched Regional Policy and Advocacy Tours in 2025, convening community leaders and residents across the region through listening sessions and data collection that informed the Black Permanency® Agenda, a community-driven policy framework designed to guide long-term advocacy and investment in Black communities.

"Because of BFF, BEC has been able to deepen its role as a backbone organization for BLOs across the Inland Empire and Los Angeles region, helping ensure that these leaders and institutions have the tools, relationships, coordinated narrative, and infrastructure necessary to sustain their work and advocate for their communities over the long term."

– BLACK EQUITY COLLECTIVE



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
Black Equity Collective

LIVEFREE CA

LIVEFREE California (LFCA) has empowered more than 70 Black-serving organizations with the resources and leadership needed to advance peace, prosperity, civic engagement, and evidence-based safety strategies in Black, faith, and justice-impacted communities. As the statewide powerbuilding convener and technical assistance provider for the Community Economic Mobilization Initiative (CEMI), and as a core partner in the Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation, and Truth (ARRT), LFCA mobilized historic statewide engagement around reparations and inclusive economic development. These efforts generated more than 17,000 letters and activations urging the California State Legislature and Governor Newsom to sign reparations legislation—helping secure the passage of SB 437 and SB 518, the first reparations infrastructure laws in California and the nation.

Through its inclusive economic development initiatives, LFCA also convened more than 50 organizations across California's 13 economic regions, contributing to 9 policy wins. Beyond policy and advocacy, LFCA directly implements community violence interruption and provides grants and capacity building to grassroots organizations advancing community-led healing and violence prevention and intervention strategies. This work reduced gun violence by 100% in Berkeley, while equipping regional violence interruption ecosystem partners with technical assistance, training, and resources. This community-led public safety model is now being replicated across California, including in San Joaquin, Sacramento, the Central Valley, and Southern California.



PHOTO COURTESY OF:
LIVEFREE CA

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

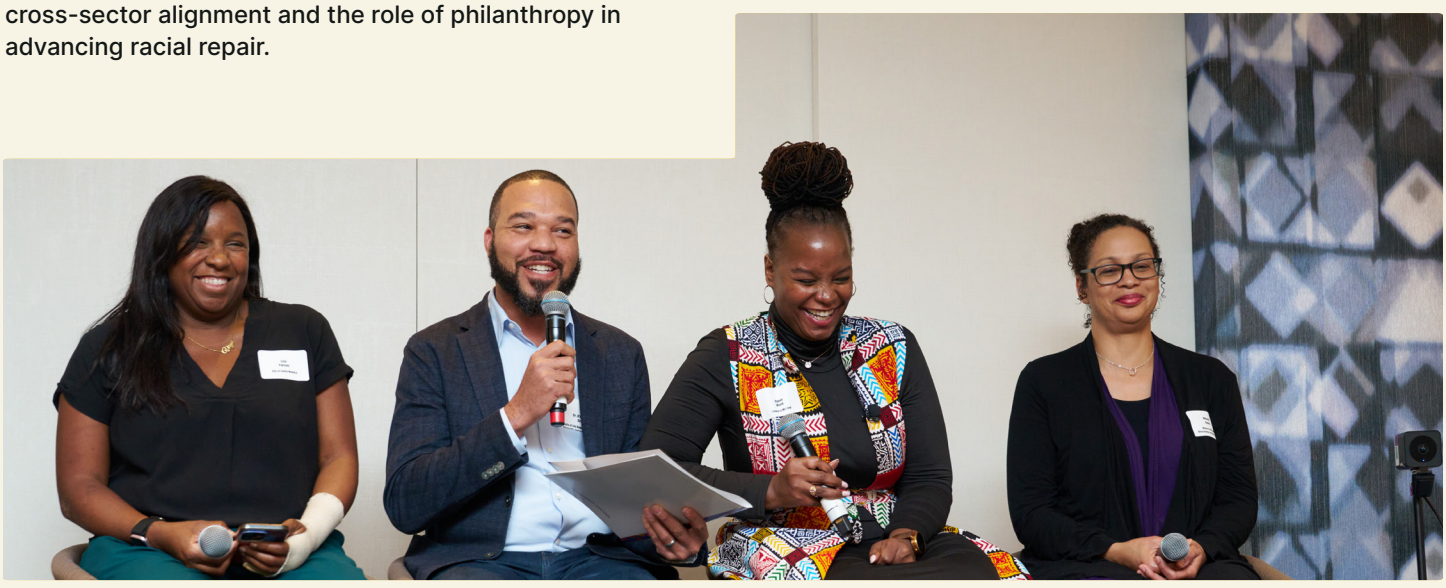
Throughout the year, Black Freedom Fund brought funders, policymakers, community leaders, artists, and advocates together to strengthen relationships, advance shared priorities, and celebrate important milestones. From building momentum for reparations and creating space for healing to marking our five-year anniversary, these gatherings reflected the power of coming together around a shared commitment to Black communities and the future we are building.

RESTORATION THROUGH REPARATIONS

California remains at the forefront of the national reparations movement as the first state to undertake a formal legislative process to study and advance reparations. Building on the work of the California Reparations Task Force and advocates across the state, momentum continues to grow around reparations as a necessary pathway to healing and justice for Black communities.

Black Freedom Fund hosted the Restoration Through Reparations event series, convening funders, policymakers, and community leaders to advance this critical work. In February, we launched the series with a virtual webinar alongside the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE), the Black Funders Network of the Bay Area, and Southern California Blacks in Philanthropy, featuring state leaders and philanthropic partners in conversation about cross-sector alignment and the role of philanthropy in advancing racial repair.

We closed Black Futures Month with an in-person convening at the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica, the site where Silas C. White, a Black entrepreneur, had planned to build the Ebony Beach Club before the City of Santa Monica seized the property through eminent domain. Grounded in this history, the gathering served as a powerful call to action, lifting up lessons on land dispossession, restitution, and community-driven pathways toward repair. Later in the year, following sustained advocacy, White's family reached a settlement with the City of Santa Monica related to its seizure of the property.



PHILANTHROPY AND BLACK COMMUNITIES: FROM CRISIS RESPONSE TO SUSTAINED INVESTMENT

On February 13, BFF, in partnership with Northern California Grantmakers, brought together funders and philanthropic leaders in San Francisco to explore how philanthropic action during times of crisis, such as the devastating LA wildfires, can drive equitable recovery and build lasting Black community power.

As Loren Harris, Executive Director of National Impact at Ballmer Group, shared during the event: “Crisis is a time of great danger or chaos. Many in our community exist in a constant state of danger and chaos. Many of our people are dealing with multiple crises at once. We need to supplement our partners’ ability to manage through a crisis.”









SOUL OF THE HOLIDAYS

On December 15, Ron Kellum Entertainment produced Soul of the Holidays, a benefit concert to support Black Freedom Fund's Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund. This joyful night of Motor City soul, gospel, and holiday classics featured a live band and all-star vocalists. At the event, Black Freedom Fund presented legendary songwriter and philanthropist Mike Stoller with the "Hope Builder Award for Outstanding Philanthropy," recognizing Mike Stoller and his wife, Corky Hale Stoller, for their commitment to survivors of the Eaton fire. The Stollers' gift is powering a local movement to help families rebuild their lives, homes, and return to their beloved community.

For many families in Altadena and Pasadena, this marked their first holiday season since the Eaton Fire destroyed homes and community spaces. The event created a space for joy, healing, and reconnection while directly supporting recovery efforts through the Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund.









FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT: CELEBRATING OUR 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

One day after the Soul of Holidays, Black Freedom Fund gathered partners, philanthropic leaders, and community members in Oakland for *From Moment to Movement*, a celebration of our fifth anniversary. The evening honored the people and partnerships that shaped our first five years while looking ahead to BFF's future as California's first Black community foundation and an enduring home for Black communities. Through reflections, performances, and connection, we celebrated how far we have come and renewed our shared commitment to the work ahead.



2025 GRANTEES

1. A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL)
2. African American Community Service Agency
3. African American Heritage House
4. AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
5. Alameda Health System Foundation
6. Allensworth Progressive Association
7. Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (ABMoC)
8. Alternative Family Services
9. Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center
10. Anti Police-Terror Project (APTP)
11. Bay Area Black Wall Street
12. Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council (BACHAC)
13. Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates Inc.
14. Because Black is Still Beautiful
15. Belle Haven Action
16. Black Alliance for Just Immigration
17. Black Californians United for Early Care and Education
18. Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation
19. Black Equity Collective
20. Black Funders Network
21. Black Futures Lab
22. Black Humboldt
23. Black LGBTQ Migrant Project
24. Black Organizing Project
25. Black Parallel School Board
26. Black Students of California United (BSCU)
27. BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center
28. Black Women for Wellness
29. BreakBox Thought Collective
30. Brotherhood of Elders Network
31. BWOPA/TILE
32. California Black Health Network
33. California Black Media
34. California Black Power Network
35. California Black Womens Health Project
36. California Farmer Justice Collaborative
37. California Hawaii State Conference NAACP
38. California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
39. Californians for Safety and Justice
40. Center for Third World Organizing
41. CHIRLA
42. Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth
43. Collective for Liberatory Lawyering (C4LL)
44. Color Farm Impact
45. Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)
46. Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MoGo)
47. Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
48. Community Interventions
49. Community Justice Center
50. Community Reflections Inc.
51. Concrete Development Inc.
52. Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement
53. Covenant House California
54. Critical Resistance
55. Dignity and Power Now
56. Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation
57. Dying to Stay Here
58. East Palo Alto Community Archive
59. End Child Poverty California powered by GRACE
60. Equal Justice Society
61. Expecting Justice/ The Abundant Birth Project
62. FIERCE Advocates
63. Fostering Promise
64. FREE TO DREAM ™
65. GAME CHANGERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
66. Gateway Educational Services
67. Haitian Bridge Alliance
68. Hands in the Soil
69. Healing Justice Santa Barbara
70. Helping Others Pursue Excellence
71. I Am SAC Foundation
72. Imoyase
73. Initiate Justice
74. Inland Empire Black Worker Center
75. Inland Empire United Education Fund
76. InnerCity Struggle
77. JUMP | Justice & Upward Mobility Project
78. Kingmakers of Oakland
79. Labor Community Services
80. Labor/Community Strategy Center
81. Lift Up Contra Costa
82. Live Free California
83. LIVE FREE USA
84. Love Not Blood Campaign
85. Mirror Memoirs
86. Montalvo Arts Center
87. Monterey County Black Caucus
88. National Association of Black Bookstores
89. Orange County Justice Initiative
90. Oscar Grant Foundation
91. PACT
92. PANA
93. Parenting for Liberation
94. Pasadena Community Coalition
95. Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association
96. Pillars of the Community
97. Positive Results Center
98. Reclaim Our Schools LA
99. Safe Return Project
100. San Diego Black Worker Center
101. Santa Cruz Black
102. Social Justice Learning Institute
103. Social Justice PolitiCorps for Sacramento County
104. Special Needs Network
105. Starting Over, Inc.
106. Students Deserve
107. TGI Justice Project
108. The Central Valley Urban Institute
109. The Community Action League (TCAL)
110. The G.R.E.E.N Foundation
111. The Hannah Project Partnership for Academic Achievement
112. The Transgender District
113. The Village Method
114. UnCommon Law
115. United Women of the Horn
116. Voice of the Youth
117. We Are Somebody Fund
118. Where Is My Land
119. Wise Choices for Girls
120. Youth Mentoring Action Network
121. Youth Utilizing Power and Praise Organization
122. ZEAL Co-Op

SUPPORTERS

Black Freedom Fund has been shaped by the community and philanthropic partners who have shared their vision, expertise, and leadership throughout our journey. We extend our deepest appreciation to our Board of Directors and CEO Circle for helping guide our work and for their steadfast commitment to resourcing Black communities and securing a future where they can thrive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Our trustees serve as stewards of Black Freedom Fund's vision, helping ensure its lasting impact for generations to come.

- **Fred Blackwell** | Board Chair
- **Nicole Taylor** | Board Secretary & Treasurer
- **Ray Colmenar** | Board Member
- **Angel Daniels** | Board Member
- **Brandi Howard** | Board Member
- **Miguel Santana** | Board Member









SUPPORTERS

CEO CIRCLE:

The CEO Circle members serve as ambassadors, strategic advisors, and help grow Black Freedom Fund's presence in the sector.

- **Fred Blackwell** | San Francisco Foundation
- **Sam Cobbs** | Tipping Point Community
- **Ray Colmenar** | Akonadi Foundation
- **Angel Daniels** | Angell Foundation
- **Shawn Escoffery** | Roy + Patricia Disney Family Foundation
- **Kendra Fox-Davis** | The Meadow Fund
- **Shane Murphy Goldsmith** | Liberty Hill Foundation
- **Chet Hewitt** | Sierra Health Foundation
- **Don Howard** | The James Irvine Foundation
- **Joanna Jackson** | Weingart Foundation
- **Miguel Santana** | California Community Foundation
- **Tim Silard** | Rosenberg Foundation
- **Brenda Solórzano** | The California Endowment
- **Richard Tate** | The California Wellness Foundation
- **Nicole Taylor** | Silicon Valley Community Foundation







FUND BLACK FREEDOM: POWER BUILT TO LAST

Since 2020, Black Freedom Fund has proven what is possible when capital aligns with the community — we build Black power, strengthen our movements, and shape the decisions that impact our lives.

Fund Black Freedom is the first campaign to fund Black power the way it actually grows: over generations, not grant cycles. We are raising $250 million to fund current-use grantmaking, build organizational capacity to accelerate progress, and grow a $200 million endowment to fund the work for future generations.

The campaign responds to a structural truth: Black-serving organizations are driving long-term systems change, yet are funded through short-term, restricted, and unpredictable cycles.

Fund Black Freedom is our commitment to closing that gap — shifting philanthropy from episodic charity to permanent investment, and ensuring that the work of building Black freedom is not temporary, but enduring.

WHY AN ENDOWMENT?



At the heart of the Fund Black Freedom campaign is Freedom Endowed — a $200 million endowment. Permanent capital creates the conditions this work has always required but rarely received: the ability to plan beyond a grant cycle, to respond to emerging challenges without delay, and to sustain leadership, infrastructure, and organizing across generations.

The question is not whether Black communities will continue to lead the work of liberation. We will. The question is whether this generation of funders will build the permanent infrastructure to stand behind them, for this moment and every moment that follows.

Without permanent capital, progress remains episodic. With it, Black freedom becomes enduring.

“BECAUSE OF BLACK FREEDOM FUND, MY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO …”

Deepen and expand our healing-centered youth and family work, strengthen parent and youth leadership pathways, and increase our visibility with other funders. The credibility and stability provided by BFF also helped us leverage additional funding opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and demonstrate the impact of our relationship-based approach to systems change.
– FIERCE ADVOCATES



Successfully leverage BFF’s reputation as a dedicated power-building funder in conversations with other donors. This “seal of approval” has been instrumental in positioning our work as a high-impact investment, helping us secure additional resources to sustain our mission of centering Black parent leadership.
– PARENTING FOR LIBERATION



Strengthen our resilience by improving our digital security, legal preparedness, and financial sustainability through valuable connections and fundraising support.
– EXPECTING JUSTICE

Expand our capacity to support local artists, cultural workers, and community members through accessible arts programming and community gatherings.
– BREAKBOX THOUGHT COLLECTIVE



"BECAUSE OF BLACK FREEDOM FUND, MY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO ..."



Hire a full-time employee to work on school district policies and statewide initiatives.
– BLACK PARALLEL SCHOOL BOARD

Expand voter education and base-building efforts by conducting ongoing phone banking and field outreach campaigns throughout the year. Many residents expressed appreciation for having a trusted organization break down complicated issues and provide reliable information in a way that was accessible and relevant to their lived experiences.
– BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS



Center Black liberation in organizing efforts while strengthening multiracial solidarity during a period of heightened fear across South Los Angeles. In 2025, as immigration enforcement raids escalated and families faced surveillance, intimidation, and the threat of separation, CoCo created on-ramps for Black and Latine residents to show up together in community defense through Know Your Rights education, rapid response, and public solidarity actions.
– COMMUNITY COALITION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



Expand leadership pipelines, strengthen civic infrastructure, and mobilize Black women and community leaders to advocate for policies that advance equity and opportunity across California.
– TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT

JOIN US

There is a place for each of us in the work of creating a more just future, and we invite you to be part of what comes next. Stay connected, follow our progress, and join us in advancing a future where our communities have the power and resources to thrive.



BLACK FREEDOM FUND

Scan the QR code to explore more data, reports and background on BFF's key initiatives.

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BLACK FREEDOM FUND