



**The Kitchen by Cooking with Que:**  
*A Hub for Culinary Excellence*

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# **FORWARD TOGETHER**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# ABOUT US



Established in 2019, Black Leaders Detroit's mission is to provide financial support for diverse social and community impact projects originated and led by Detroiters of African descent.

## OUR CORE VALUES

1

### SHARED POWER

When it comes to achieving true equity, the solutions that members of the community bring to the table are equally as valuable as funding.

2

### BLACK EXCELLENCE

We celebrate Black creativity and innovation. We take risks to establish a fair playing field.

3

### TRANSPARENCY

We believe trust is earned not given. We are transparent in our practices, processes, and decision making.

4

### WE ARE ALL HEROES

We recognize that everyone's contribution has value and together is the ONLY way to save the day.

# A WORD FROM OUR CEO



## Peace and blessings!

2024 was another remarkable year for Black Leaders Detroit—one marked by growth, resilience, and purpose. Like every year, we faced our share of challenges. But in 2024, those challenges felt especially weighty. The kind that, in the moment, feel overwhelming. And yet, when you make it through, you realize they were refining you all along.

We emerged from those moments stronger, wiser, and more focused than ever. As we step into 2025, we do so with renewed clarity and deep gratitude—for those who support this work, those who benefit from it, and everyone walking alongside us. We're proud to share what you helped make possible in 2024. Let's keep building—together.



**Dwan Dandridge**  
Chief Executive Officer Black Leaders Detroit

# 2024

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

**\$4.1M+**



Total dispersed  
since 2019

**\$1,684,500**



in 2023

- **\$1,217,500** in no-interest loans disbursed to 56 entrepreneurs of African descent
- **\$467,000** in unrestricted grants disbursed to 114 businesses and non-profit organizations led by people of African descent

**\$700,000**



raised thanks to  
our community  
of \$1/week  
members



# THE KITCHEN BY COOKING WITH QUE:

*A Hub for Culinary Excellence*



**The Kitchen by Cooking with Que** is more than just a shared-use commercial kitchen; it is a dynamic space for culinary innovation, education, and community engagement. Designed as both a state-of-the-art kitchen and an intimate 22-seat classroom, The Kitchen serves as a gathering place where chefs,

food lovers, and aspiring culinary artists can come together to share their passion for food. Through chef tastings, cooking demonstrations, and private dining events, The Kitchen provides an immersive culinary experience for Metro Detroit's vibrant and diverse food culture.



Founded by Quiana "Que" Rice, The Kitchen also functions as a resource for licensed culinary experts who lack physical brick-and-mortar locations. It is a laboratory for learning and experimentation, offering a unique platform for chefs to refine their craft, test new menus, and connect with food enthusiasts.

In 2024, The Kitchen faced an exciting but daunting challenge—being selected to provide food service for the NFL Draft, an event expected to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Detroit. To meet this demand, Que needed a financial boost to secure products and scale operations. She turned to Black



soon as they open it up. BLD provides funding the right way—without exploiting small business owners. It’s truly a game-changer.”

Looking ahead, The Kitchen remains committed to its mission of fostering a collaborative food community, empowering chefs, and enhancing Detroit’s culinary landscape. With partners like Black Leaders Detroit, Que is proving that access to fair funding can be the key ingredient for business success.

Leaders Detroit for a no-interest loan, and the process exceeded her expectations.

“Working with BLD was the simplest loan process I’ve ever done,” says Que. “I talked to one person the entire time, everything was digital, and within 30, 60, 90 days, we had our funding. There were no hidden fees—just \$25,000, same as cash. It was an absolute blessing.”

The impact of the funding was immediate. With access to capital, The Kitchen was able to procure the necessary ingredients, expand staffing, and ensure smooth operations for the high-profile event. Beyond the NFL Draft, the loan has positioned The Kitchen for sustainable growth, allowing it to continue supporting local chefs and food entrepreneurs.

Que passionately advocates for Black Leaders Detroit, urging other business owners to take advantage of its resources. “I don’t know why thousands of people aren’t applying for this as



**Our annual ‘From Faith to Works’ Prayer Breakfast in 2024 was a resounding success, bringing together our community in a spirit of unity, faith, and determination. Held at the start of Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, this event served as a powerful platform for reflection, inspiration, and renewed commitment to making a positive impact. With esteemed speakers, heartfelt prayers, and a shared vision for a brighter future, the breakfast set the tone for a year of purpose-driven, community-focused action.**

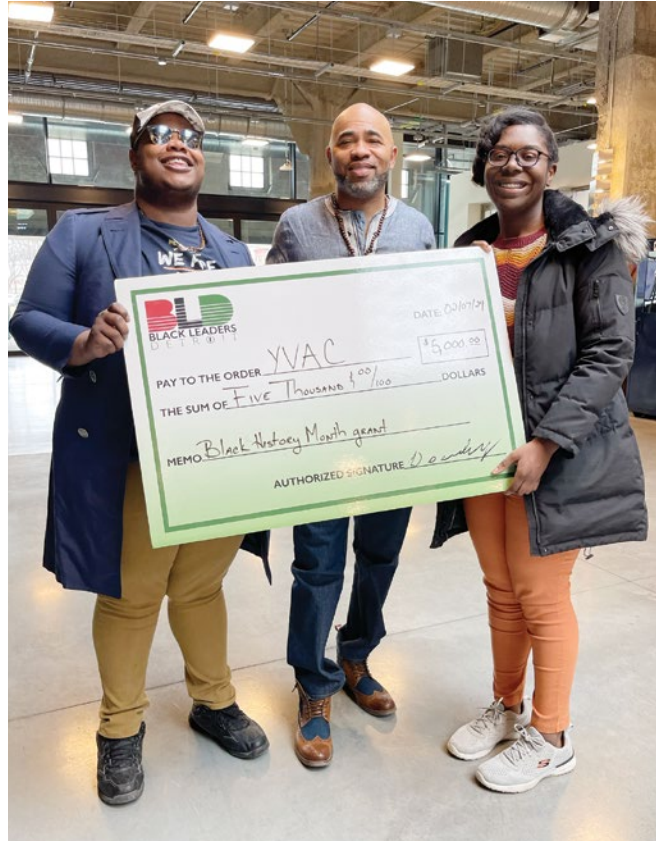


# BLACK HISTORY MONTH GRANT A DAY INITIATIVE

In honor of Black History Month, we proudly supported Detroit's community of African descent through a series of \$5,000 grants awarded to local nonprofit organizations. These grants reflected our ongoing commitment to preserving and advancing the rich cultural legacy of Detroit while investing in the future of organizations that serve the community. By supporting initiatives that celebrated Black excellence and provided vital resources, we helped create a stronger foundation for nonprofits working toward positive change.

Through these strategic investments, the grants empowered organizations focused on education, culture, and community development, enabling them to expand their reach and impact. We were honored to contribute to the efforts of these dedicated nonprofits and are excited to see the lasting benefits they will bring to the city for years to come.

Below, you'll find the list of organizations that received these valuable grants as part of our Black History Month initiative.



- Equity Alliance of Michigan, Inc
- Black Male Educators Alliance
- New Era Detroit
- BSG Tire Recycling
- Figure Skating In Detroit
- YVAC
- Detroit Hives
- Child's Play Foundation
- Youth Community Agency
- Isaiah 58 Community Development Corporation INC
- Bailey Park NDC
- The Konnection
- Developing Despite Distance
- United Community Solutions
- Detroit Fashion Community
- 1 Mother 2 Another
- 360 Detroit
- Community Treehouse Center Detroit
- Journi
- The Austin Foundation
- Evenscore (Black Tech Saturdays)

# SAM TROTTER & JANTAE' SPINKS: MERGING ART, FOOD, AND COMMUNITY AT SOMEDAY

**Sam Trotter and Jantae' Spinks**, the visionaries behind Someday, are redefining creative spaces in Detroit. Their hybrid venture—a fine arts gallery and bakery—merges culinary and visual artistry while providing a platform for underrepresented artists. With a nonprofit arm, We Will, they extend their mission further by offering mentorship, career advancement, and access to fine arts and culinary industries for marginalized communities.

Trotter and Spinks bring a wealth of experience from their time working in New York and Los Angeles with brands like Complex, Rolling Stone, and Adidas. After years of navigating the corporate creative world, they returned to Detroit to create a space that centers the voices and experiences of people of African descent.

Their first engagement with Black Leaders Detroit was through the More Money, More Impact seminar. "BLD was one of the first organizations to welcome us back into Detroit's entrepreneurial ecosystem with open arms," says Trotter. Since then, Someday has received grant funding to support their Milk & Honey Accessibility Program, which provides complimentary tea and baked goods to visitors, ensuring hospitality remains at the core of their space. Funding also helped facilitate their inaugural student exhibition, Seedling, which brought together emerging artists and established curators.



"Black Leaders Detroit is serious about uplifting Black businesses," says Trotter. "It's not just financial support—they provide real connections and opportunities that foster sustainability."

Looking ahead, Someday aims to expand its programs, create more communal experiences, and deepen collaborations that amplify artists and chefs of African descent. Through partnerships like the one with Black Leaders Detroit, Trotter and Spinks are proving that creativity, commerce, and community can thrive together in Detroit.





# JAMES “SCREAL” EBERHEART, JR.: BUILDING COLLECTIVE POWER

**James “Screal” Eberheart, Jr.** is the visionary founder and Executive Director of Motivating Inner New Dreams (M.I.N.D.S.), an organization dedicated to community transformation through entrepreneurship, mental wellness, civic engagement, and empowerment.



In 2024, he received a \$2,500 grant at Black Leaders Detroit’s More Money, More Impact fund development seminar. Unlike many funding opportunities, these unrestricted dollars allowed him to invest directly in his Community Volunteer Leadership Council (CVLC) in District 7, providing small stipends to volunteers and supporting his own wellness. “Most funding is restricted, but Black Leaders Detroit understands that people know what they need. That’s powerful.”

Eberheart sees Black Leaders Detroit as a crucial force in economic justice, ensuring dollars from persons of African descent support their communities. “We talk about economic power, but Black Leaders Detroit is actively building it.” His commitment to economic empowerment extends to his spending habits—intentionally supporting businesses owned by individuals of African descent that reinvest in the community.

Looking ahead, Eberheart is focused on expanding his impact. Through professional development and digital equity work at the state level, he is gaining new tools to bring resources back to Detroit. He also emphasizes sustainability—investing in his family and community while mentoring the next generation of leaders. “We can’t just talk about change; we have to build the systems and structures that make it real.”

Eberheart’s work aligns deeply with Black Leaders Detroit’s mission, proving that when given the right resources, entrepreneurs and community leaders of African descent can create lasting change.





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## ENTREPRENEUHERS BRUNCH







In 2024, our **EntrepreneuHERS brunch** celebrated the remarkable achievements of women business owners of African descent, providing them with a platform to showcase their businesses and connect with potential supporters. The event brought together entrepreneurs, community members, and partners in an atmosphere of collaboration and empowerment. Through networking and inspiring conversations, we created an environment where women could share their journeys and amplify their voices in the business world.

As part of the event, a pitch competition allowed four exceptional entrepreneurs to present their businesses to the attendees, who voted on the winners. Thanks to a generous funder, the prize amounts were doubled, with the top four recipients receiving \$10,000, \$6,000, \$4,000, and \$1,000 in unrestricted capital. This initiative not only provided vital financial support but also reinforced our commitment to lifting up women entrepreneurs, ensuring they have the resources and opportunities needed to thrive. We were honored to celebrate these women and look forward to the continued impact of their work in our community.

- **Jessie Feliz (1st place)**
- **Da Bomb Taco (2nd place)**
- **The Coloring Museum (3rd place)**
- **The Danger Zone (4th place)**

To ensure that no one walked away empty-handed, we surprised every participant with a \$500 grant, providing additional support to help fuel their entrepreneurial journeys. This gesture reinforced our commitment to uplifting all women business owners and ensuring they had the resources to continue their impactful work.

- **Bow-Aholic Bowtique**
- **Shaynae Clark**
- **Enerlight Candle Company**
- **For Her Cosmetics**
- **Esthi Queen LLC**
- **Exalted Moon Wellness**

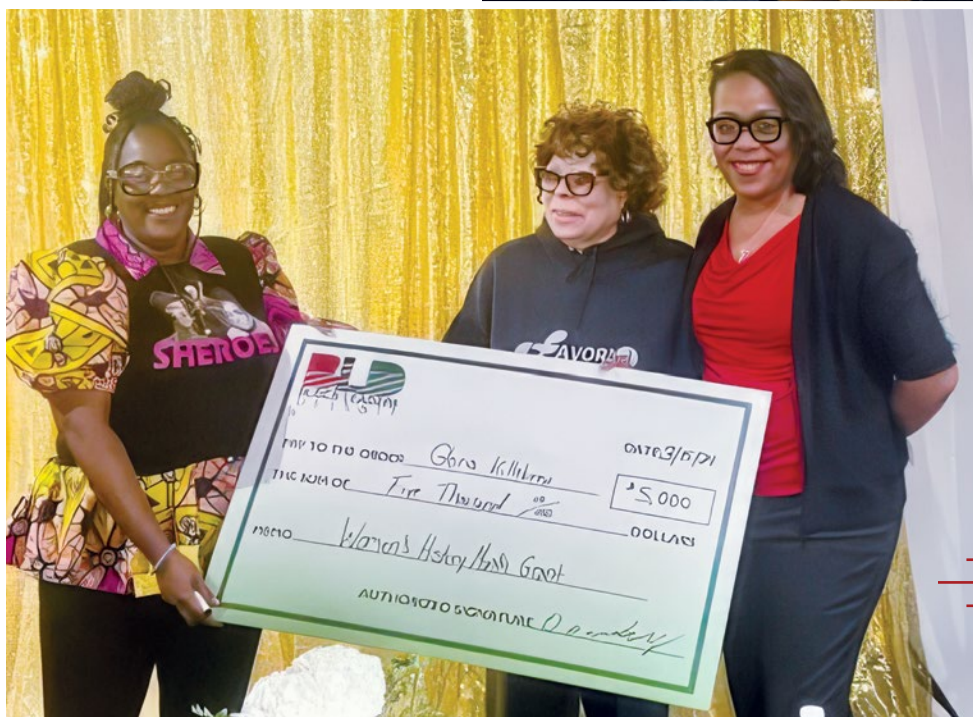






In addition to the **EntrepreneurHERS brunch**, we also distributed several \$5000 grants throughout Women’s History Month to further support nonprofit organizations and women entrepreneurs. These grants, aimed at fostering growth and innovation, were awarded to a range of impactful initiatives across Detroit, providing vital resources to organizations dedicated to community development, education, and cultural enrichment. By expanding our support beyond the brunch, we were able to reach even more individuals and organizations working to create lasting change in our community. Grantees included:

- **Detroit Phoenix Center**
- **Creative Network LLC**
- **National Association of Black Women In Construction**
- **B Intentional LLC**





# LISA SESSIONS: A TESTAMENT TO ENTREPRENEURIAL RESILIENCE

Lisa Sessions, CEO and founder of DeBomb Taco, embodies the spirit of perseverance and innovation in Detroit's food scene. From her humble beginnings launching a food truck, Sessions has grown her business with strategic support from Black Leaders Detroit, receiving funding through grants, a no-interest loan, and participation in the Black Friday campaign.

Her first grant came at the 2023 Detroit Means Business Summit, providing a crucial boost as she transitioned from full-time employment to full-time entrepreneurship. Later, she secured second place in the 2024 Entrepreneur Her competition, expecting \$3,000 but receiving a generous \$6,000 after a surprise match. Additionally, a no-interest loan allowed her to refinance high-interest debt from her food truck renovation, freeing up capital to reinvest in growth.

"The support from Black Leaders Detroit has been more than



financial—it's been affirmational. It reassured me that I'm on the right path and gave me the confidence to push forward," Sessions reflects.

With a strong foundation, Sessions is now preparing to open DeBomb Taco's first brick-and-mortar location, which will serve as both a

fast-casual restaurant and a hub for her food truck operations. Future plans include expanding to a second, more efficient food truck to meet growing demand.

Beyond funding, Sessions praises Black Leaders Detroit for its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship for individuals of African descent. "It's all in the name—Black Leaders Detroit is cultivating and funding the next generation of Black business leaders. Their support has enriched me personally, professionally, and entrepreneurially."

As Black Leaders Detroit continues to uplift and invest in businesses owned by persons of African descent, entrepreneurs like Lisa Sessions are proving that with the right resources, vision, and resilience, success is inevitable.



# FOURTH ANNUAL RIDE FOR EQUITY



The **2024 Ride For Equity** was nothing short of transformative, bringing together passionate individuals from all walks of life to pedal toward a brighter, more equitable future. The event, a major fundraising initiative for Black Leaders Detroit, saw riders take on an unforgettable journey that raised both awareness and critical funds for the work we do in supporting entrepreneurs of African descent across Detroit. The camaraderie, energy, and shared determination throughout the ride embodied the spirit of community, as participants pushed through every mile with the mission of creating economic opportunities and reducing disparities for business owners of African descent.

With each turn of the wheel, we made strides toward equity, and the event proved to be more than just a physical challenge—it was a call to action. Participants from diverse backgrounds united to raise awareness about the importance of investing in the success of entrepreneurs of African descent and uplift the community as a whole. Thanks to the unwavering support of sponsors, volunteers, and participants, the 2024 ride was a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when we come together for a common cause. We are deeply grateful for everyone who contributed to making this year's ride a success.





# RISING BLACK LEADERS

In 2024, Black Leaders Detroit launched *Rising Black Leaders (RBL)*, created by interns Ayodele Uhuru and Alana Weems to support Detroit's youth and foster a more diverse audience. RBL provides young entrepreneurs of African descent with grants, loans, mentorship, and access to an organization committed to social change, empowering them to overcome financial barriers and succeed.

For our first RBL event, we celebrated Market Day, hosted by BLD member Clarence Houston in collaboration with University Prep Art & Design and the Empowered Youth Entrepreneurship program. The event featured young entrepreneurs showcasing their creations, with BLD awarding grants to three promising business owners to support their growth and development.



## EMPOWERING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS: **CLARENCE HOUSTON'S IMPACT**

For over a decade, Clarence Houston has shaped young minds as an educator in Midtown Detroit. Passionate about economics and entrepreneurship, he led the Youth Empowered Entrepreneurship Program at UPrep Art & Design, where students develop and launch business concepts, gaining real-world skills.



Now a Humanities Instructional Coach, Houston mentors teachers to sustain entrepreneurship education while ensuring the program's longevity.

In 2023, Black Leaders Detroit partnered with Houston to award Rising Black Leaders grants to three standout student entrepreneurs. Taylor Hill launched a Cajun-inspired food business and now attends Louisiana State University. Taesean Parnell started a clothing brand in high school, and Laylah Christian developed a skincare line while joining the Michigan Black Business Alliance.

"Black Leaders Detroit made entrepreneurship feel real," says Houston. "Having them at Market Day and graduation legitimized this as a viable career path."

Looking ahead, Houston is eager to expand youth entrepreneurship programs and deepen partnerships that uplift young entrepreneurs of African descent. His work exemplifies Black Leaders Detroit's mission: investing in businesses and organizations led by individuals of African descent to build a more equitable future.

# JUNETEENTH JUBILEE

Since 2019, Juneteenth Jubilee Detroit has remained committed to honoring Juneteenth Freedom Day with a mission to celebrate, educate, and empower the community. The 2024 celebration exceeded expectations, highlighting the dedication of our passionate community members and the invaluable partnerships with organizations working toward Black community progress in Detroit.

The weekend kicked off on Friday, June 14th, with an engaging block party hosted in collaboration with the Motown Museum. This interactive event celebrated the cultural significance of Juneteenth through art, music, and educational experiences, setting the tone for the weekend's festivities. On Saturday, June 15th, *Liberation For Life* took place at the Joseph Walker Williams Community Center, offering a dynamic program filled with panel discussions, a bustling marketplace, culinary delights, fitness activities, and a vibrant kid's zone. This event emphasized health, wealth, and education while fostering community connections.

The celebration concluded on Sunday, June 16th, with the Juneteenth Freedom Festival, a collaborative effort with the City of Detroit, Metro Detroit Black Business Alliance, Detroit Branch NAACP, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and Eastern Market Conservancy. This family-friendly event showcased local artists, celebrated Detroit's rich cultural heritage, and offered diverse activities for all ages. Throughout the weekend, we proudly hosted over 12,000 attendees, engaged with more than 40 vendors focused on health, wealth, and education, and supported over 150 Black-owned businesses.



Additionally, Black Leaders Detroit distributed \$25,000 in grants to support Black nonprofits and businesses, including:

- **Black Bottom Gun Club**
- **Calvin's Hope**
- **The Collab**
- **Detroit Alphas**
- **The Good Food Truck**
- **Heaven's Elixir LLC**
- **Jo's Gallery**
- **PowerPlay Tax Services LLC**
- **Rescued By Love Ministries**
- **Rho Sigma Foundation Development**
- **Sharpe and Associates Insurance Agency**
- **Waist Bead Envy**
- **Waisted by Pri**
- **Wise Guys Chess Club**



The success of this event was made possible through the support of over 25 community partners who contributed to the programming and participation in this year's celebration. We look forward to continuing this important work and empowering our community for years to come.



# GROCERY STORE GIVEAWAY

On August 31st, we hosted a successful Grocery Store Gift Certificate Giveaway at the only three grocery stores owned by persons of African descent in Detroit: Neighborhood Grocery, Detroit People's Food Co-op, and Linwood Fresh Market. We distributed 300 gift certificates totaling \$12,500, making a meaningful impact on our community.

The event was met with great enthusiasm, as community members came together to support this initiative. Black-owned grocery stores play a crucial role in Detroit's economy and culture, providing essential goods while fostering strong community ties. By supporting these stores, we contribute to the sustainability and empowerment of our neighborhoods.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a success. Together, we are building a healthier and more equitable community.



# MORE MONEY, MORE IMPACT

The *More Money, More Impact* seminar was a dynamic success, bringing together nonprofit leaders, development professionals, and community organizations to explore innovative fundraising strategies that drive real impact. Through expert-led

workshops, interactive sessions, and insightful case studies, attendees gained invaluable tools for donor engagement, fundraising, and maximizing impact, leaving with practical resources, fresh perspectives, and new connections with like-minded professionals.

In addition, we awarded Detroit Regional Chamber memberships to two attendees and \$2,500 grants to four deserving organizations. Congratulations to the grant recipients:

- Detroit Peoples Community
- Motivating Inner New Dreams
- Teachers Supporting Teachers Everywhere
- Tima's Clarity Consulting

A special thank you to our panelists for sharing their expertise and making this event a memorable and impactful experience.





# BLACK FRIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATE GIVEAWAY



Our 2024 Black Friday Gift Certificate Giveaway was a huge success, bringing together local entrepreneurs and community members to celebrate the strength and resilience of Black-owned businesses. With great energy and excitement, the event provided a platform for entrepreneurs to showcase their products and connect with new customers, all while fostering a sense of community and support.

Participating shops included:

- Da Bomb Taco
- Teasers Boutique
- Fork In Nigeria
- Three Thirteen
- Hoopers
- The Energy Zone
- Skin Bar VII
- UR Shoe Closet
- Tauntus Cosmetics
- Wayne McGibbon Clothier

## NADONYA MUSLIM: STRENGTHENING DETROIT'S BLACK BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As the owner of Tauntus, a boutique specializing in fraternity and sorority gear, Nadonya Muslim has built a thriving business in Detroit. Dedicated to community engagement and economic empowerment, she actively supports local businesses owned by Detroiters of African descent.

Muslim first connected with Black Leaders Detroit through Sharea Ayers and has since become a key partner in the Black Friday initiative. The program has brought new customers to Tauntus through gift certificate distributions, many of whom have returned long after the promotion ended.

"Before Black Leaders Detroit's Black Friday program, small businesses like mine often stayed closed on the biggest shopping day of the year," says Muslim. "Now, thanks to their support, we see real traffic, real sales, and new loyal customers."

A strong advocate for Black Leaders Detroit, Muslim actively encourages others to donate and join the movement. "This is an organization where you can see exactly where your money is going. They invest directly in Black businesses, creating a cycle of support that uplifts our entire community."



# CHALLENGE DETROIT



**We are incredibly thankful** for the exceptional support provided by Challenge Detroit during the Black Entrepreneurship Support Challenge, from October 18 to December 6, 2024. Their expertise, passion, and commitment in helping us with the logistics for our 2025 Ride For Equity have been invaluable. We can't express enough gratitude for their dedicated efforts in assisting us as we prepare for what promises to be our most ambitious ride to date.

This year, we are taking on an unprecedented challenge with a cross-country journey from Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Wall Street in New York. This expanded route requires extensive

planning and coordination across several cities, presenting new complexities that would have been difficult to manage without Challenge Detroit's remarkable support. Unlike previous years, where the ride spanned from Detroit to the Mackinac Policy Conference, the scale of the 2025 event demands an elevated level of coordination—something we've been able to achieve thanks to their invaluable assistance.

Their in-kind support, valued at approximately \$40,000, has been truly outstanding. From recruiting and engaging volunteers to rider and membership outreach, their team has gone above and beyond. Challenge Detroit's dedication and flawless execution have been a game-changer for us, and we are deeply grateful for the time, talent, and energy they've invested to help bring this event to life.



## 2024 MARLOWE STODAMIRE MEMORIAL GRANT WINNER: COVENANT HOUSE MICHIGAN

In December, Black Leaders Detroit was proud to announce Covenant House Michigan as the recipient of the \$10,000 Marlowe Stoudamire Memorial Grant, honoring the late Marlowe Stoudamire's unwavering dedication to Detroit's small business community. Marlowe's legacy continues to inspire us all, as his work with neighborhood projects and initiatives like the Detroit Historical Museum's "Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward" demonstrated his passion for creating opportunities and uplifting those often overlooked.

Marlowe was a tireless advocate for community empowerment, serving as a catalyst for positive change through his leadership in various Detroit organizations. His belief in the power of community and his commitment to helping others will never be forgotten. Covenant House Michigan reflects the same spirit of service, offering shelter, support, and resources to homeless youth in the city. We are honored to support their mission and continue Marlowe's work of making Detroit a better place for all.



# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GRANT GIVEAWAY

Each year, Black Leaders Detroit embraces the spirit of giving through our annual 12 Days of Christmas Grant Giveaway. In 2024, we had the privilege of awarding 12 grants to outstanding nonprofits led by individuals of African descent. Selected by our dedicated staff and board members, these organizations are making a profound difference in their communities by driving positive change and supporting those in need. We are proud to stand behind these exceptional leaders and their impactful work.

The 12 recipients were:

- A Girl Like Me
- Arukah Mind, Body, & Spirit
- Atlantic Impact
- Caught Up
- Community Care Organization
- Doors To Success
- Journey Faith Group
- Money Matters For Youth
- New Metropolitan Detroit Club
- Renaissance City Chargers
- Sugar Honey Iced Tea
- We Will



## CO-OPERATIONS GRANT INITIATIVE



To keep the holiday cheer going, we were thrilled to announce the recipients of our Co-Operation Grant Initiative (CGI), a collaboration with Operations School designed to support local for-profit businesses. This initiative, launched in December, empowered entrepreneurs with tailored resources and expert guidance to enhance their operations and strengthen their businesses. By providing the tools needed for sustainable growth, CGI helped these businesses improve their foundations and set the stage for long-term success.

We were proud to help entrepreneurs in our community during the holiday season, ensuring that they entered the new year with the support needed to thrive.

The grantees were:

- Ark Industries LLC
- Clear Vision Artistry LLC
- Collective Euphoria
- Crummies Sweet and Treats LLC
- DaSweetestuknow LLC
- Faith Soars Counseling
- KIE2LAVIDA Properties LLC
- Konjo Me
- Michael Bruce and Associates LLC
- Modern Maison Co. LLC
- Moonlight Minerals LLC
- Moxied Media
- S Boy LLC
- Smith's Loving Home HealthCare Services
- Someday LLC
- Swift Energy Works LLC
- T&T Sip n' Read
- The Nacho Grill LLC
- V Agency LLC

# BUILD TO LAST

The holiday vibes didn't stop there! We were excited to announce the winners of the BUILD To Last Grant, another collaborative effort between Black Leaders Detroit, BUILD Institute, and the Detroit Economic

Growth Corporation (DEGC). This \$5,000 grant supported entrepreneurs committed to building sustainable businesses that contribute to the growth and vibrancy of our community. The grantees included:

- ASL Clothing
- Audio Engineers of Detroit
- CJ's Project Management
- DIV International LLC
- Duke Studios Detroit LLC
- Edwards Etiquette
- Embark.Live
- Epic Infants
- Fit 4 Life Health and Fitness LLC
- For The Love of Cheesecake LLC
- Good Vibz Yoga
- Jessica Blair Beauty LLC
- Jones Cleaning Services LLC
- Nettas Hibachi, LLC
- Plenti Pasta Plus More Catering & Food Truck
- Skin Bar VII
- The Standard Detroit
- Toni's Collection LLC
- Vibe Spa
- VJ Enterprises LLC
- Wendy Urban Enterprises LLC



# MBBA BLACK PARTY

What a great evening it was at the MBBA BLK PARTY! Attendees enjoyed delicious food, lively entertainment, and a sense of community all while supporting the Michigan Black Business Alliance's mission to close the racial wealth gap. In addition to the fun and festivities, BLD proudly awarded four \$2,500 grants to deserving business owners in attendance:

- Black Fridays
- Earth Goodness, LLC
- Finansis, LLC
- J&F Advisors, PLLC







## OUR TEAM

**Dwan Dandridge**  
CEO

**Sharea Ayers**  
COO

**Jarod Pratt**  
Director of Communications  
and Development

**Larenz Studavent**  
Senior Loan Officer

**Tiana London**  
Membership Growth and  
Event Coordinator

**Jasmine Johnson**  
Administrative Assistant

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Divisions Learning Manager -  
Midwest, Young Life (Board Chair)

**Quan Neloms**  
Founder, I Am In Demand

**Du'Ante Anderson**  
Area Manager, Ford Motor Company

**Dominique Campbell**  
Founder, Rise Up Higher

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**Jack Elsey Jr.**  
Partner & CEO, Detroit Children's Fund

**Chris Lambert**  
CEO, Life Remodeled and  
author of Next Level Nonprofit

**Marcus Lyon**  
British Artist and Social Entrepreneur

**Steve Cato**  
Owner, Integrity Partners

**Kate Levin Markel**  
President, McGregor Fund

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Entrepreneur, Certified Mindset & Business Coach

**Jason Allen**  
Regional Claim Manager, The Auto Club Group

**Aprila Ringo**  
Education Assistant, Central Detroit Christian

**Danielle North**  
Founder | Executive Director,  
Dream Studio Detroit | Bottom Line Detroit

**Kathy Morgan**  
Community Engagement Director,  
Flagstar Foundation

**Leon Petty**  
Owner, Go Green

**April Anderson**  
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**Tosha Tabron**  
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**Kamilia Landrum**  
Executive Director, Detroit Branch NAACP

**Terri Weems**  
President, Detroit Employment Solutions

# CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED



*Thank you!*

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to every member who has joined us in embracing the principles of cooperative economics and making access to capital possible for Black entrepreneurs. It is your unwavering support and dedication that empower us to continue our vital work.



AmeriCorps



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.







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