



DEMONSTRATING IMPACT



The California Black Freedom Fund is...

A **five year, \$100 million** initiative to ensure that **Black power-building** and movement-based organizations have the sustained investment and support they need to win. Using unrestricted general support grants, the Fund is investing deeply and boldly in **Black-led organizations and movements** that are changing culture, policy and systems, to make racial justice real in California. Through its first two rounds of funding – in 2020 and 2021 – the Fund provided **\$15.26 Million to 77 Organizations.**

2022 GRANTS

ROUND 3 - \$6.5M

CBFF regranting to three, established Black Power Building networks that support dozens of Black-led organizations across the state.



ROUND 4 - \$4.3M

With a focus on under-resourced regions, Round IV grantmaking invited organizations focused on policy and advocacy from across the state. 7 out of the 15 organizations funded serve the Inland Empire.

ALLIANCE FOR
Boys and Men of Color



Black Equity Initiative of the Inland Empire



Partnership for the
Advancement of
New Americans



Black Leadership Council



MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MARC PHILPART



The California Black Freedom Fund has hired Marc Philpart, renowned advocate for boys and men of color, their families and communities, as its first executive director. Beginning April 27, Philpart will oversee the five-year-long initiative to raise and distribute \$100 million so that California's growing ecosystem of locally rooted Black-led organizing efforts have the sustained investments and resources they need to eradicate systemic and institutional racism.



“ I could not be more confident and excited about our decision to entrust Marc Philpart with the role of serving as the CBFF's first ever executive director. Marc's extensive expertise and deep commitment to advancing social and structural change will be invaluable as he leads the CBFF and builds on its existing momentum.

- Nicole Taylor, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation

As executive director, Philpart will work directly with California Black Freedom Fund's Executive Committee, and partner with its Community Advisory Committee, core funders of the initiative, and additional community leaders and experts. He brings passion and creativity to the design and implementation of the initiative, which aims to identify existing solutions and new innovative ideas for changing the trajectory of Black communities in California. Included in the California Black Freedom Fund's approach is organizational and network capacity-building for the more than 100 grantee partner organizations, including policy technical assistance, convening and shared learning across grantees.

Philpart has decades of deep experience building power and facilitating systems change among Black communities and communities of color. Most recently as Managing Director at PolicyLink, he led the national expansion of the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color. Growing from three sites in California to 12, he extended the network to eight additional states – Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Alabama, Georgia and Florida – supporting grassroots organizations in their efforts to transform systems that are failing boys and men of color. In addition, under his

leadership, the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color launched an innovative campaign to end patriarchal violence and supported the passage of more than 100 bills in California fostering educational equity, improving community health and safety, expanding access to jobs, addressing police brutality, divesting from the carceral state, and ensuring voting and governance by low-income people and communities of color.

Previously in his 13-year tenure at PolicyLink, he worked directly with the Obama administration to develop My Brother's Keeper, an initiative designed by the President to remove barriers and expand opportunities for boys and men of color.

“I am excited to lead the California Black Freedom Fund, and work to champion Black organizing and power-building throughout California,” said Philpart. “For the first time in California, Black organizing, advocacy and leadership will have dedicated investment. The solutions to the systemic inequities that diminish our power are held in our communities, and through this new fund, our movements will have the resources needed to realize our collective vision of Black freedom.”

SPOTLIGHTING IMPACT FROM TWO YEARS OF GRANTMAKING

Black Organizing Project

Bay Area

The Black Organizing Project organizes Black folks in the Bay Area, with a specific focus on Oakland, to demand policy and practice shifts that result in changes in the everyday experiences of Black lives. Their current work aims to eliminate the district police department in the Oakland Unified School District while ensuring restorative practices and policies in its place.

BOP continues to work to implement the removal of policing from OUSD in a way that creates change in the experiences of Black children. They aim to expand work to create a vision for sanctuary for Black students and families in schools, build networks of Black people in Oakland, and expand their base to build the foundation for their next campaign.



They earned a seat at the table with OUSD which now allows the community to not only have a voice in the school safety policy implementation process but to have decision-making power as well.

“We were the first in the nation to remove a police department from a school district. We won the co-convenership between BOP, Community Partners, and OUSD that allows the community to have a seat at the table and have a voice in the process and decision-making power regarding school safety.”

Millionaire Mind Kids - Reimagining Our Communities

Inland Empire

Millionaire Mind Kids - Reimagining Our Communities hosts community forums and academies throughout African American Communities on emerging issues and inequities in criminal justice, education, employment, housing, and health and wellness. MMK-ROC develops grass-roots organizations that empower community members to advocate on their behalf in policy, legislation, and resources to improve the quality of their communities and their families' lives.

With CBFF funding, MMK-ROC has expanded its youth STEM programs and provided leadership in civic engagement development in policy and legislation for emerging African American leaders throughout Victor Valley's High Desert Communities. MMK-ROC has held over 15 educational forums on redistricting to inform African American communities about the impact redistricting has on policy, legisla-



tion, voting rights, and equitable community resources. The redistricting forums have engaged African American community residents to draw maps, develop community of interest documents and letters, and participate by testifying before redistricting commissioners for the State Assembly, Congressional, and local maps. Flexible funding is critical to MMK-ROC in many areas, specifically capacity building to bridge racial and gender gaps in education and STEM-related careers and sustainable advocacy capacity that empowers Black people to continue this change through succession training and management.

“CBFF capacity building funding has helped MMK-ROC leverage our funding, partnerships, and collaborations with other organizations to increase community impact. MMK led our community through the redistricting process and prepared community members to fully participate in the process to represent our own interest, and, most importantly, our continued victories in empowering community members to become more informed voters.”



Creation of CBFF

Round 1 Grants | 3 Statewide Networks \$6.35M

SPOTLIGHTING IMPACT FROM TWO YEARS OF GRANTMAKING

Healing Justice

Central Coast

Healing Justice invests in the knowledge and vision of Black parents and caregivers. The organization has aimed to balance its work in Santa Barbara and the Central Coast between the critical battles for justice such as policing and the crucially important work of inspiring the community. By taking on both stressful issues and joyful work, Healing Justice is creating a sustainable community of Black leaders.

With the support of the CBFF, Healing Justice has been able to continue its work to win independent oversight of our local police department through the creation of the Community Formation Commission (akin to a task force). Of the 13 Commissioners, 11 members trained, supported, and mentored by Healing Justice.

Healing Justice has also worked for community well-being through a variety of cultural proj-



ects. Through the Black owned and centered pop-up gallery Melanin, the group supported a showcase of over 40 Black artists from Central and Southern California. The organization has also developed children's programming and launched a show on the local public television channel called Voices of Liberation, which features interviews with local activists about key issues and also features a local Black cook or chef.

"We are so proud of our archival work and historic strategy to prevent gentrification. We created a dynamic mobile museum, accessible to the public, and we built the archive from documents held by institutions (and not shared) and the personal collections of elders. We were only able to be successful due to trusted relationships and it was an honor to create this public resource that will then be used to further our efforts to historic landmarks."

Spearitwux

Bay Area

Spearitwux is an Oakland-based organization co-created to inspire intergenerational Wellness and racial healing. Their purpose is to "create experiences to transform lives" through engaging events, workshops and retreats for Black artists, educators and healers to reflect and heal from racial trauma; cultivate meaningful relationships to sustain the Movement; and build their collective power base to shift policies and practices toward racial, social and economic justice. This healing is part of how they build Black Power in California.

In 2020, Spearitwux set out to create a Black-led cultural healing retreat in California, purchasing a 20 acre plot of land near Mt. Shasta. With the funds from CBFF, the group was able to drill a well and will install a solar powered pump. With access to water, Spearitwux will host its first Cultural Healing Retreat in the summer of 2022. Funds from CBFF have helped host strategic listening sessions to guide the vision of what heal-



ing and Black power mean to Black youth, families, creatives and community. They have also hosted a series of healing centered movement sessions - both intergenerational hikes and family yoga sessions at Black Cultural Zones Liberation Park. These sessions have provided meaningful opportunities for consistent engagement in wellness practice, as well as building of meaningful relationships. Both are essential components of their liberatory process.

er building efforts for Black Led Orgs is critical! The offer of unrestricted funds to BLO maximizes the possibilities, scope and breath of the work that is to be done to ease the suffering of our people and strategically move our efforts forward. It means that philanthropy finally understands and trusts Black folks to work together to help solve our problems. While philanthropy cannot fund revolution, it does help to alleviate the economic burdens that non-profits and CBOs have in doing frontline work. It means institutions are beginning to shift economic power, and there is still more to do."

"The development of the California Black Freedom Fund to explicitly support pow-



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS



“ We provided restorative justice services to over 2,000 students and faculty members in San Bernardino County... Survey results showed 90% of students reported feeling more connected to students on their campus after restorative circles. ”

– **Clay Counseling Foundation**
Inland Empire

“ We are overjoyed with the CBFF support. Over the years, we have been working on bare bones and sweat equity of our team of dedicated volunteers. We understood [that prior rejections from Foundations] was largely due to the fact that Black power building was not part of their vision or part of their long-term strategy to support the community. ”

– **Training Institute for Leadership Enrichment (BWOPA)**
Statewide



“ Black Thumb Gardens is a school garden program through the lens of social justice. We teach and empower youth to explore what food sovereignty looks like in their own lives and community, and equip them with the skills to make this happen. Without the CBFF fund giving us the true hand-up we needed, this would not be possible. ”

– **Black Thumb Farm**
Los Angeles Region

“ CBFF has laid a foundation to build Black power by offering the resources we need to fund our positive and impactful activities that enhance and improve the Black community in California. Often times Black-led power-building organizations are not able to obtain the tools and resources necessary to maintain long-term organizational work. We are very thankful to have CBFF looking out for our community. ”

– **Edfu Foundation**
Statewide



2022

Round 3 Grants	Regrants to 3 Statewide Networks \$6.5M	Round 4 Grants	15 Regional Advocacy Orgs \$4.3M
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ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACING BLACK POWER BUILDING IN CALIFORNIA

CBFF is adapting philanthropy to meet the challenges facing Black Led Organizations rather than asking Black leaders to fit their work into a pre-determined playbook. While persistent and systemic racism is, of course, a central obstacle to building power in California, our surveys and research have also distilled key concerns confronting Black Led Organizations. Our approach to funding is built on the understanding that fast, flexible, responsive philanthropy is essential to our grantees' success.

RESPONDING TO SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS

Black communities are on the move – quite literally. Many are moving away from (or being priced out of) urban centers. Black leaders are trying to address how to engage and organize residents in communities that may not have a strong nonprofit infrastructure addressing Black communities' needs. By analyzing 2020 census data, researchers are showing where African Americans are living and working. CBFF is tracking this phenomenon to help inform future grantmaking and fundraising opportunities.



- “ One big issue we are thinking about is the impact of gentrification and Black people being forced into areas further from urban spaces, into communities where anti-Blackness is rampant. ”
- “ As the Black community continues to move, a lot of the funding has not transferred [to keep up with this migration] creating a lopsided resource bank. ”

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE FUNDING

Many BLOs have immediate, internal priorities around strengthening their organizations. Having been denied access to flexible philanthropic dollars for so long, CBFF funding is the first truly flexible operating support some organizations have received. As a result, BLOs, just like any responsible entity, want to carefully deploy their resources and ensure their organizations will be able to contribute over the short- and long-term.



- “ To truly bring a community to a place of revitalization, it takes as long as 9-12 years. We need funders and supporters that can see that far into the future and commit to helping the community get there. ”
- “ Unrestricted funding and the amount of funding are challenges. The Black communities are being destroyed and resources are coming far too late with too much restriction. ”

INVESTING IN WELLNESS AT BLACK LED ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 has taken a heavy emotional toll on Black leaders and BLOs, many of which were already stretched thin before the pandemic. Moreover, suffering from daily injustices and responding to attacks is often traumatizing. Staff of BLOs report being mentally and physically exhausted. As a result, organizations are experimenting with new efforts to care for and bolster current staff. BLOs on the frontlines of building power for our communities are innovating to support healing and wellness. Funding this foundational work will ensure these organizations and their leaders are better equipped for the long-term struggle for equity and justice.



- “ [We need] support for organizations to strengthen resources for healing, leadership development, and staff well-being ”
- “ We need access to spaces within our community to hold space for healing and overcoming police and prison trauma. ”
- “ We want so much to take a break or go on a healing retreat. We are so often activated in response to harm, and we don't often get to step away and refill our spirits. ”

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