



# BUILDING BLACK POWER IN CALIFORNIA



## OVERVIEW OF CBFF

*The California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF) was created to mobilize the resources necessary to build Black power and eradicate systemic and institutional racism.*

*CBFF 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.*

*Since inception, CBFF has raised \$63M and invested \$26M in equity and justice in California. In 2022, CBFF had 3 funding rounds, providing \$11.8 million to support over 100 Black-led organizations and our 3 statewide networks.*



Historically, philanthropy has responded to flashpoints of police violence and mass mobilizations with an uptick in temporary funding directed toward Black communities, and more broadly, communities of color. These surges in funding often are short-term, tactical, or narrowly focused. When the urgency of the moment recedes, new momentum to build lasting, organized power in Black communities is lost, and resources to build multiracial coalitions disappear.

Philanthropy has the opportunity to sustain, build upon, and accelerate the Black-led racial justice movement underway in California. This requires investing in Black-led organizations to build and strengthen their organizing power within our communities. We have a shared opportunity and responsibility to marshal our resources to tackle systemic racism in communities across California.

# SUSTAINING A MOVEMENT TOGETHER

By distributing unrestricted grants and catalyzing community, CBFF is answering the call for sustainable and flexible support that Black-led organizations and movements need to truly change culture, policy, and systems in our communities. Over the course of its five-year initiative, CBFF will continue strategically increasing the resources available to Black-led organizations (BLOs) throughout California, prioritizing the courageous and visionary grassroots advocates and organizers leading our state as a whole toward systemic transformation.



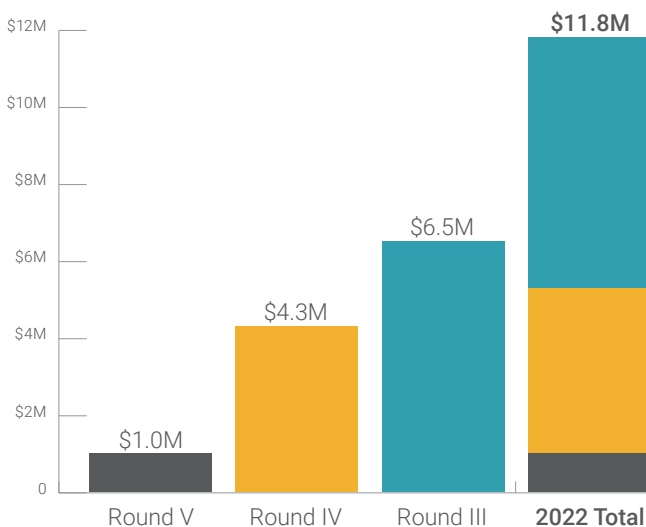
## Grantmaking

CBFF supports Black-led organizations through fast, flexible, and responsive philanthropy that meets their biggest challenges. Our grantmaking addresses organizations' key concerns and mitigates obstacles preventing Black power-building in California to ensure our grantee partners' success. CBFF provides multi-year, operational funding, and grant renewal opportunities and invests in the health and wellness of BLOs on the frontlines. We trust in Black-led organizations to use resources that best support their short- and long-term goals.



## Catalyzing Community

CBFF hosts convenings that amplify the stories and experiences of our community and creates space for questions and knowledge sharing amongst grantees, funders, and partners. The goal of these convenings is to inform philanthropy and further inspire and support the incredible efforts of Black-led organizations and networks to build power for racial justice. We bring together Black leaders across California to discuss building power for the communities they serve as well as wins, challenges, and lessons learned in their work.



### 2022 Grant Rounds

#### Round III – Grassroots Black power building: \$6.5M

- CBFF regranted to three, established Black power building networks that support dozens of Black-led organizations across the state.

#### Round IV – Policy And Advocacy: \$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.

#### Round V – Responsive Racial Justice: \$1.0M

- In the wake of the audio leak exposing institutionalized racism in the LA City Council, CBFF disbursed grant awards to five organizations working to advance Black power building for racial justice in Los Angeles.

# FUNDER BRIEFING EVENT

*In the wake of the audio leak exposing institutionalized racism in the Los Angeles City Council, CBFF disbursed fast, flexible, responsive funding to support current and existing grantees in LA. In December 2022, our Funder Briefing event in LA gathered these grantees, elected leaders, and funder partners and highlighted the stories and accomplishments of Black-led organizations on the frontlines.*

“ In Los Angeles, many of our grantees are working with communities to ensure the school district, city council, board of supervisors, and all those in positions of power are accountable to Black Los Angeles and prioritizing their issues and perspectives. ”

*Black civic engagement and the advocacy to combat anti-Black racism is a year-round endeavor – not an episodic activity connected to an election cycle or a political or tragic moment. Support for the California Black Freedom Fund ensures the permanence of networks and organizations, like the California Black Power Network, that are fighting to make this real.*

*An inclusive, multi-racial democracy and just economy are possible. But it can only be realized if we work to dismantle anti-Blackness and defend Black lives, every day.*

**– Marc Philpart, Executive Director CBFF**



“ The emergence of audio recordings of three Latino elected officials and the head of LA’s most powerful union discussing Black erasure and disenfranchisement has set the stage for an unprecedented battle. The revelation of these conversations illustrates just how deeply entrenched systemic anti-Black racism is in Los Angeles. Funding from CBFF will provide an opportunity to engage a broad base of recently activated/agitated Black Angelenos in strategies steeped in healing, power-building, power analysis, and community organizing. ”

**– Los Angeles Community Action Network**



## ROUND V SPOTLIGHT STORIES



### Dignity & Power NOW

Dignity and Power Now (DPN) is a Los Angeles based grassroots organization founded in 2012 that fights for the dignity and power of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities. DPN's mission is to build a Black and Brown led abolitionist movement rooted in community power toward the goal of achieving transformative justice and healing justice for all incarcerated people, their families, and communities.

DPN has been instrumental in driving forward and setting an agenda that directly serves Black people impacted by incarceration and criminalization in LA County. DPN is proud of recent accomplishments, including winning civilian oversight over the Sheriff's Department with subpoena power, winning a commitment from LA County to close Men's Central Jail, and securing significant funding for their Care First Jail Last roadmap. Looking ahead, DPN plans to establish a concrete timeline for the closure of Men's Central Jail, secure \$230 million to develop 3,600 non-carceral community mental health beds and establish a robust investment in a pretrial services agency. DPN prioritizes life-affirming and lifesaving demands at the center of increasing well-being for thousands of Black people and families touched by



incarceration every year. Replacing carceral infrastructure with community-based care infrastructure will result in substantial gains in the health and well-being of Black communities across Los Angeles.

*"It means a lot to have a fund focusing specifically on power building for Black people in California. The timing of these funds is also critical as Los Angeles City and County undergo important transitions in power. With specific investments and opportunities to connect to resources that advance this work, we can continue the Black power building that has made some of the most historic moments over the last decade possible."* – [DignityAndPowerNow.org](http://DignityAndPowerNow.org)

### YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is working to build a youth, family, and prisoner-led movement to challenge race, gender, and class inequality in Los Angeles County's and California's juvenile and criminal injustice systems. YJC's goal is to dismantle policies and

institutions that ensure the massive lock-up of people of color, widespread police violence, corruption, distrust between police and communities, disregard of youth and communities' human and constitutional rights, and construction of a vicious school-to-jail track. At YJC, Black liberation means Black people have adequate housing, community-based resources, and autonomy over their lives. Black Liberation means safety and freedom from police violence, surveillance, and harassment. Black liberation means Black political thought and consciousness, not just Black representation and figureheads or tokens.

YJC is proud of many program accomplishments, including establishing the Department of Youth Development in July 2022, which creates 100 new youth centers, employs 500

intervention workers, and provides 50,000 youth jobs across LA County. YJC looks forward to expanding and building programs such as Street CRED, an opioid & substance abuse prevention program.

Funding from CBFF allows YJC to provide living wages to Black organizers and invest in the campaign planning with movement partners committed to ending anti-Black racism.

*"CBFF support means that YJC has philanthropic partners free from colorblindness. It means that we can focus on the work and not on funding the work."* – [YouthJusticeLA.org](http://YouthJusticeLA.org)



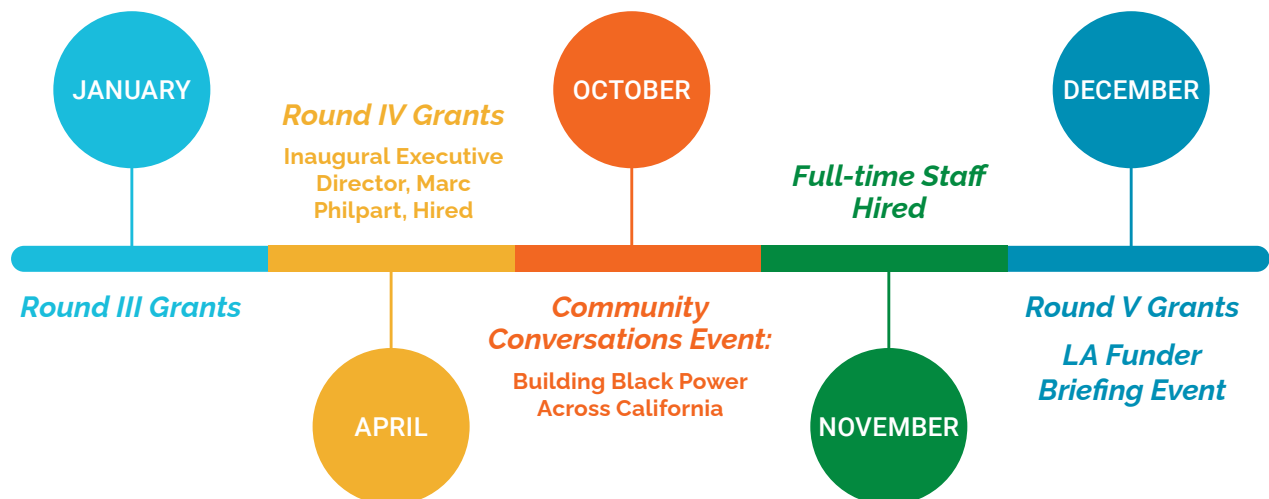
## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

In 2022, CBFF hired an Inaugural Executive Director and full-time staff. The CBFF Team demonstrated impact in 2022 through community convenings and three grant rounds supporting our three networks, current grantees, and new and emerging organizations. The CBFF team is poised to guide the fund's success ahead.



Keshia Sexton, Director of Engagement and Operations (left), Marc Philpart, Executive Director (center), and Carmen Ross, Director of Programs (right).

## 2022 MILESTONES



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



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The James Irvine Foundation

The WhyNot Initiative

Tides Foundation

Tipping Point Community

Tundra Glacier Fund

Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Weingart Foundation

Y & H Soda Foundation



*Established in Summer 2020, the California Black Freedom Fund was created to mobilize the resources necessary to build Black power and eradicate systemic and institutional racism. The first state-based fund of its kind, the California Black Freedom Fund prioritizes investments in the courageous and visionary grassroots advocates and community leaders who are transforming our cities, our state -- and our world. To date, CBFF has raised \$63M and invested \$26M in grantmaking to over 110 Black-led organizations and three statewide networks.*

*Together, we can deepen the impact of Black power-building organizations to ensure that Black communities attain decision-making power over the policies, systems, and opportunities that shape their lives. That is how we can make racial justice real in California and across the country. We call on private, corporate, and community foundations to invest in Black-led movement organizations pushing back against systemic barriers and expanding access to opportunity.*

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*Join Our Movement Today*

