A YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZATION.

MISSION
BUF of Michigan is committed to supporting, developing and implementing impactful youth empowerment programs through collaborative partnerships for the underserved and underrepresented in the community.

WHAT IS BUF?
Founded in 1970, the Black United Fund of Michigan, Inc., (BUF of MI) was established with a mission to provide funding and support to community based non-profits that targeted Education, Community Development, Cultural Enrichment and Economic Development in Michigan’s diverse communities. Beginning in 2015, BUF shifted its emphasis to developing partnerships that have a wider impact on positively shaping the future of underserved and underrepresented youth. Through the E.Y.E.S. (Empowering Youth for Everyday Success) Initiative, thousands of youth have been empowered to help themselves, their families and communities.

HOW DOES BUF OF MI HELP THE COMMUNITY?
Through partnerships with others, BUF is able to enhance and expand services and programs to those in the community most in need. BUF of MI’s slogan, “Partnerships for Impact” recognizes the importance of cooperation to address the problems of our community by drawing upon the strengths of our programs and other organizations, businesses, and individuals.

HOW DOES BUF RAISE MONEY?
BUF raises money through direct contributions, annual fundraisers, grants, corporate and foundational support, and annual workplace payroll deduction campaigns. BUF has a growing list of clients who utilize the organization’s fiduciary expertise.

FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS
BUF of Michigan is excited as we continue to expand and enhance our goal of “partnerships for impact.” We continue to work with a variety of partners including those in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. We seek to expand the minds of young people through innovative, engaging, educational, and exciting programs that lead to socially and emotionally healthy lives and equip youth with the tools for a successful career.

ART FOR EVERYONE.
That’s our motto at Park West Gallery, the world’s largest art dealer. Since 1969, we’ve brought the experience of collecting fine art to more than 3 million people around the globe.

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PROGRAM

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
Carolyn Clifford
News Anchor
WXYZ-TV

PART I
OPENING
The Zone Dance Center
POST OF COLORS
Western High School International ROTC
NATIONAL ANTHEMS
Talia Brown, Jamiyah Hudson
SPECIAL GREETING
Mike Duggan, Mayor, City of Detroit
WELCOME
Rosalind Denning, Board Chair

GREETING
Mercer Brown, 7th grader
INVOCATION
Minister Hodari Brown, Triumph Church
GRACE
Sarah Vaughn, 5th grader
DINNER IS SERVED
DINNER MUSIC
Provided by Detroit School of Arts & DJ Fortitude
SOLOIST
IMANI

STATE OF OCCASION
Ken Donaldson, President & CEO
BUF 45 SCHOLARS GRADUATE
Chris Leffore
BUF 50 VIDEO PRESENTATION
Taylor Hale, Miss Michigan USA
50TH ANNIVERSARY BUF APPEAL
Michelle Robinson, President & CEO MMSDC

2021 IMAGE AWARD
2021 Recipient – Big Sean
MUSICAL SELECTION
Detroit Youth Choir
CAKE PRESENTATION
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PART II (LIVE STREAM)

PART III
BUF 50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS
RAYFORD AWARD
2021 Recipient – Marvin Beatty
CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR AWARDS
GALA CO-CHAIR AWARDS
PASSING OF THE GAVEL
2021 Co-Chairs & 2022 Co-Chairs

MUSICAL SELECTION
Detroit Youth Choir
CLOSING REMARKS
Kenneth Donaldson
BENEDICTION
Rev. Dr. Louis Forsythe, II
Pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

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Heritage Optical • UAW Region 1A CAP • Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
GREETINGS

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Community Partners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 50th Annual Gala for BUF of Michigan! Our theme, “Fifty and Forward,” exemplifies our strength and determination to continue to connect youth through our programs and partnerships to empower them for everyday success. Moving forward, as in the past, BUF will address the needs of youth, including at-risk and the underserved throughout metro Detroit and the state of Michigan at large. Please stand with us as we work to prepare the next generation for success. Together, we will make a difference!

Rosalind Denning
Chairperson,
Board of Directors

Dear BUF Partners, Friends & Family,

Thank you for helping us celebrate Black United Funds’ legacy of 50 years in the community. Together, we have impacted thousands of youth, adults and communities for over five centuries to strive despite various social, economic and even the current COVID 19 pandemic challenges. It is our vision to continue to uplift, encourage and empower those that are underrepresented and underserved. Let us take this historical moment to passionately and intentionally commit to the goal of “Fifty and Forward.”

Kenneth Donaldson
President & CEO
CO-CHAIRS

**50TH ANNIVERSARY CO-CHAIRS**

Dr. Ken Harris  
President and CEO  
National Business League  
Dr. Harris serves as the 12th President/CEO of the National Business League, Inc., founded by Dr. Booker T. Washington in 1900. The League continues to promote economic enterprise and financial literacy for African Americans throughout the United States and international trade with Africa and the African Diaspora.

Michelle Robinson  
President and CEO  
Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council  
Ms. Robinson is the President & CEO of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC), MMSDC, founded in 1977, is dedicated to certifying minority businesses, assisting in their development and networking them with the organization’s corporate members.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CO-CHAIRS**

Pamela Alexander  
Director of Community Development  
Ford Motor Company Fund  
Pamela Alexander is Director of Community Development for Ford Motor Company Fund. In this position, she is responsible for leading Ford Fund’s community engagement and outreach strategies, and initiatives with key nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.

Andrew Barrow  
Manager, Employee Advocate Program  
Magna International  
Andrew Barrow is HR Manager of Magna’s Employee Advocate Program at Magna International in Aurora, Ontario. He leads the Employee Advocate team in the USA, and Canada.

Reginald Humphrey  
Director of DEI Partnerships  
General Motors  
Reginald Humphrey is the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Partnerships for General Motors. He is responsible for managing GM’s process of inclusion, which consists of over 300 certified diverse suppliers.

**AWARDEES**

**RAYFORD AWARD**

Marvin Beatty  
Vice-President of Community and Public Relations  
Greektown Casino-Hotel  
Marvin Beatty is recognized from BUF of Michigan for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support to BUF and our community at large.

**IMAGE AWARD**

Big Sean  
Music Recording Artist, Philanthropist and Founder  
The Sean Anderson Foundation  
Sean Anderson, famously known as “Big Sean,” is recognized from BUF of Michigan for his outstanding philanthropic community support to the underserved and underrepresented.
50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDEES

INDIVIDUALS

FOUNDER AWARD
Denise Lewis
This award is presented to Denise Lewis, a founding member of BUF of Michigan. We thank Denise for her trail blazing vision, support, and dedication with other founding members in the establishment of BUF.

FIRST ATTORNEY
Gregory Reed
This award is presented to Gregory Reed for supporting BUF of Michigan as the first attorney. BUF thanks Mr. Reed for making sure BUF was compliant as a nonprofit in every legal area.

FIRST ACCOUNTANT
George Johnson
This award is presented to George Johnson for his unwavering support as the first accountant. BUF thanks Mr. Johnson and George Johnson & Company for many years ensuring that BUF fiscal arm was compliant and in good standing.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
Crystal Robertson
This award is presented to Crystal Robertson for supporting BUF of Michigan as an outstanding volunteer. BUF thanks Ms. Robertson for her unwavering dedication of time and resources to ensure BUF’s mission thrives.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
Beverly Morrison-Green
This award is presented to Beverly Morrison-Green for supporting BUF of Michigan as an outstanding volunteer. BUF thanks Ms. Morrison-Green for her unwavering dedication of time and resources to ensure BUF’s mission thrives.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION CAMPAIGN
Wayne County Community College District
BUF thanks Wayne County Community College District and acknowledges WCCCD as the first Payroll Deduction Campaign. WCCCD continues to support BUF 50 years later.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION CAMPAIGN
Comerica Bank
BUF of Michigan acknowledges Comerica as one of its top employee giving campaigns. Today Comerica’s employee giving continues to lead the way.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION CAMPAIGN
Henry Ford Health System
BUF of Michigan acknowledges Henry Ford Health System as one of its top employee giving campaigns. Today HFHS employee giving continues to lead the way.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Jason Anderson
Aki Alvin
Dr. Jim Bridges
Terri Brinson
Allan Brodgen
Dr. Jason Brooks
Nancy Brown
James Brough
Kevin Butts
Dr. Michael Cato
Carolyn Clifford
Shirley Conery
Dr. Patricia Crisp
Kevin Fite
Dr. Janice Field
Mabel Fox

BUF STAFF

Kenneth Donaldson
President & CEO
LaCherryn Hoost
Director of Operations and Assistant to the President
Dr. Linda McClain
Director of Programs
John McClain
Senior Staff and Campaign Specialist

Rosa Worth
Administrative Assistant
Delphine Harris
Volunteer
Angela Mitchell
Financial Manager
Curtis Clark
Office Assistant

BUF CONNECT (MILLENNIALS)

Hodari Brown
Erica Uzzel
Stefanie Smith
Michael Dorsey
Mary Pickard

BUF ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Cortnie Squirewell
Courtney Bell
Brandon Bell
Lisa Bell
Keith Crisp
Cameron Cobb

SPECIAL THANKS

Lt. Gerod Funderberg
Saba Gebri
Lt. James Harris
Dr. Avery Jackson
Robert Jamerson
Brandon Jones
Chevon Kay
Justin Kimpson
Chris Kinsey
Tiffany Martin
Matrix Human Services
Dr. Glynda Moorer
Ayshah Mumin
Dorris Nwamba
Michelle Parizon
Lisa Phillips

10

Sydney Bierria

Vista Maria

SABA GEKU
The Black United Fund of Michigan (BUF of MI) was birthed in the ruins and aftermath of the fiery summer of 1967 when Detroit erupted in one of the deadliest most costly urban uprisings in the history of the United States. In 1970 BUF of Michigan boldly emerged from the ashes of the insurrection as a stabilizing inner-city community force of self-determination and revitalization.

Led by legendary community development activist and social worker Brenda L. Rayford, 15 courageous Detroiters united for impact in a small basement office on Detroit’s westside to establish the Black Causes Association, an alternative funding and resource center. Over the years the name for BUF has changed from Causes Association, Detroit Black United Fund, to its present name of Black United Fund of Michigan Inc., which is also Known as BUF of Michigan. Their vision was to provide funds and support to community-based non-profits, including start-ups that focused on Education, Community Development, Cultural Enrichment and Economic Development in Michigan’s diverse community. These start-up and non-profits seldom had the capacity to approach traditional funding sources to provide unique solutions to long-term problems.

BUF provided seed money to thousands of organizations throughout Michigan. A number of history making organizations like The Sphinx, Jackets for Jobs, DAPCEP, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Detroit Youth Choir, just to name a few were provided seed money when they did not have the capacity to reach out to larger funders. Additionally, BUF assisted these organizations in developing sustainability plans, offering space for hosting meetings and small events, linking volunteers and program providers, and sourcing equipment.

In 2010, BUF of Michigan’s Associate Director, Kenneth Donaldson was appointed the President and CEO in upon Mrs. Rayford’s retirement. In 2015, under his leadership, BUF of Michigan shifted its emphasis away from mainly being a funding organization to being a program-oriented organization. The agency dedicated its efforts to partnering with others to ignite revitalization in the Metro Detroit community by impacting the lives of our youth. BUF believes we must have a vision for the future and that future must begin with affording greater opportunities for young people to achieve their dreams and ultimately become productive citizens in the community.

Through strategic partnerships with corporations, businesses, other organizations and individuals, BUF implemented the innovative E.Y.E.S. (Empowering Youth for Everyday Success) Initiative. The Initiative seeks to address the need to equip children and youth who are under-represented, underserved and at-risk with resources and tools that help them succeed academically, financially, socially, and in career planning.

Taylor was crowned Miss Michigan USA 2021 on August 7th, in Port Huron, Michigan.

An entrepreneur, she runs her own personal styling and custom suit business, Taylor Mack Style, and plans to spend her year as Miss Michigan USA advocating for working women, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy.

She is excited to represent the state of Michigan at Miss USA this November 29th live on FYI.
AT PISTON GROUP, WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

Piston Group is proud to partner with BUF of Michigan and their commitment to supporting, developing and implementing impactful youth empowerment programs in the community.

Thank you for investing in tomorrow’s leaders

Bank of America is proud to support the Black United Fund and the E.Y.E.S. (Empowering Youth for Everyday Success) Initiative for showing our young people that hard work, teamwork and reaching for excellence can lead to a bright tomorrow.

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For more information on Piston Group capabilities or partnering with us, visit our website at www.pistongroup.com.
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Making it possible.

Every day, Magna works to make the impossible possible – on the roads and in our communities. We are dedicated to supporting programs and organizations that make a difference in people’s lives and the world around us.

We are proud to support the Black United Fund of Michigan 50th Anniversary Gala, in their mission to support, develop and implement impactful youth empowerment programs through collaborative partnerships for the underserved and underrepresented in the community.

Together we can make it possible.
Youth is our future. Let’s make it great.

We’re big fans of people who look out for people.

Congratulations to the Black United Fund of Michigan on 50 years of making a difference in Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Hard work doesn’t always get the recognition it deserves, so when it makes a community better, we take notice. Thank you for all your efforts, and keep making us stronger.

Until every person in every community in Michigan is truly and fully served and represented, we will be a proud supporter of Black United Fund of Michigan, Inc. Fifty Years & Forward.

We are as unique as our fingerprints that mark individual human identity. Great things happen when we come together and connect our unique talents, ideas, cultures and experiences.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

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IT’S A PRIVILEGE TO BE YOUR PARTNER

We are proud to partner with Black United Fund (BUF) of Michigan and share your commitment to improving economic opportunity and stability in your community.

www.skillman.org
CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY

The DTE Foundation is celebrating the partnerships that the Black United Fund creates, serving underrepresented, underserved youth by exposing them to opportunities and improving crucial skills for lifelong learning and a fulfilling career. Working together, we bring fresh, bold ideas forward to improve lives.

We Celebrate You

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK UNITED FUND ON 50 YEARS OF BUILDING MINDS AND CHANGING LIVES!
At Faurecia we believe that diversity is a **strength and that great things are possible** when people work together to reach a common goal. That’s why we’re proud to support the **Black United Fund of Michigan 50th Anniversary Benefit Gala**. We know that the exceptional work of partners, like you, will drive the change required to secure a successful tomorrow for today’s youth.

**Thank you for leading the change.**
We don’t see it as caring for our community

We see it as caring for our family

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Do not go where the path may lead;
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail!

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulations Black United Fund Inc. on 50 years of trailblazing!

From the Service Learning School District

Detroit Service Learning Academy
21005 W. 7 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 541-7619

Redford Service Learning Academy
25840 Grand River Ave., Redford, MI 48240
(313) 539-4115

Oak Park Service Learning Academy
21700 Marlow St., Oak Park, MI 48237
(248) 206-7402

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From Michelle Sourie Robinson and Michael Robinson

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www.detroitseniorsolution.org
Orchards Children’s Services

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Locations

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Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: 248-258-0440
Fax: 248-258-0487

Genesee County
444 Church Street
Flint, MI 48502
Phone: 810-239-3264
Fax: 810-239-3394

Macomb County
42140 Van Dyke Rd., Suite 206
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
Phone: 586-997-3886

Washtenaw County
1995 Highland Dr., Suite F
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Phone: 734-622-0217
Fax: 734-327-6425

Wayne County
7375 Woodward Ave., Suite 2510
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Phone: 313-416-0200

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ON YOUR
50th ANNIVERSARY

From the MMSDC

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PROJECT AVIATION
THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT
The program provides a positive forum for minority youth to explore the array of career opportunities available in the field of aviation/aerospace/avionics.

FUTURE DOCS OF TOMORROW: SINORMS
In collaboration with Wayne State University, the program host cohorts of underserved students who express an interest in the medical arts and need additional academic and social supports.

FINANCIAL LITERACY
We assist under-served youth and families to improve their understanding of how to obtain and manage money, so they can live a financially stable and secure life.

ACHIEVE AND ACCELERATE: OVERCOMING CHILD ILLITERACY
The Achieve and Accelerate Program has helped to improve the reading, writing and mathematics skills of children by providing needed educational tools in the form of specific adaptive and assistive technology.

ENTREPRENEURIAL & EMPLOYMENT
BUF exposes youth to non-traditional and entrepreneurial opportunities through partnerships with local businesses.

BUF’S NEWEST PROGRAMS
BUF recently launched a Project Communications program for youth interested in pursuing a career in broadcasting and journalism. We will soon implement the pilot of our Young Ladies of Color-Rise (Resilient Innovative, Sacred, Empowered) program geared for girls, ages 12-18.

E.Y.E.S. INITIATIVE
BUF of MI innovative Initiative titled E.Y.E.S. (Empowering Youth for Everyday Success) equips underserved youth with the tools to succeed academically, financially and socially.

AT PISTON GROUP, WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.
Piston Group is proud to partner with BUF of Michigan and their commitment to supporting, developing and implementing impactful youth empowerment programs in the community.

For more information on Piston Group capabilities or partnering with us, visit our website at www.pistongroup.com.
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