ANNUAL REPORT
2016
Dear Family, Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our volunteers, our parents and our youth; I thank you. In just two years we have made tremendous progress in creating a pipeline of black youth civic leaders. Our youth have made great strides in achieving their own goals and have grown passionate in advocating for systemic change for themselves, their families and the broader DC community.

This year:

- 180 youth participated in our Inaugural Youth Civic Leadership Summit.
- Our Civic Leadership & Engagement programs increased the number of youth served by 50%.
- Our youth and parents partnered with young professionals to serve over 500 households during a 3-day service trip in Flint, Michigan.
- Our youth activated their power by engaging media outlets and elected officials to address issues of disciplinary policies and contaminated water in their schools.

As we enter the new year, it is our sincere hope that we do so with you by our side. Again, thank you for your commitment to our youth, to their dreams and to the betterment of their communities.

In Solidarity,

Samantha P. Davis
Founder & Executive Director
The Black Swan Academy
OUR TEAM

Samantha Paige Davis (Founder/Executive Director)
Emile Washington (Board Member, President)
Charis Goff (Board Member, Vice President)
Chanon Bell (Board Member, Secretary)
Keren Johnson (Board Member, Treasurer)

Jessica Fulton (Board Member)
Keith Towery (Board Member)
Felecia Wright (Board Member)
Christopher Randle (Board Member)

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

19
Long-term Volunteers

54
Occasional Volunteers

2,216
Volunteer Hours

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Greater Washington Urban League
- Bread in the City
- Black Upstart
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- Uprising
- District of Columbia Public Schools
- BME
- City Year
- Industrial Bank
- WE ACT Radio
- kweliTV
# Program Highlights

## Sousa Middle School Civic Leadership Program

- **Out of School time program** (year round, school year)
- 42 Students served
- 100% Retention rate
- 1,512 Instruction time (hours)
- 913 Service-Learning Hours

## Anacostia High School Civic Leadership Program

- **In-school program** (year round, school year)
- 4 Youth-led Community service events
- 2,100 Total Community Reach

## Youth Civic Leadership Summit
- 180 Students participated
- 8 Community forums/events

## Summer Enrichment Programs
- 20 Students Served

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![Image of students in a classroom with hands raised]
THE BLACK SWAN ACADEMY HAS 3 OVERARCHING GOALS.

**EMPOWER:** We create a pipeline of black youth civic leaders.

**EDUCATE:** We raise awareness on social issues disproportionately affecting Black Americans, and highlight the many positive examples that are often overlooked.

**ADVOCATE:** We advocate for the elimination of structural barriers impacting black communities.

In each we strive to center our youth, foster an environment in which they can lead and remain grounded in our values:

**PRIDE**

**PURPOSE**

**POWER**
Youth who participated in our Civic Leadership programming were given opportunities to improve their academic success, build their self confidence, develop as leaders, and explore black history & culture.

- Parents and faculty of youth in our Civic Leadership programming reported improvements in grades, attendance, and confidence. Youth also increased engagement in out-of-school extra curricular activities, involvement in leadership opportunities and strengthened their ability to give and receive healthy emotional support.

- Middle School Promotion rate/outcomes: **100%** of students were promoted to the next grade level.
- Students received awards for: Best Attendance, Most improved in Science, Most Improved in Math.
- High School Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)- **100%** of students eligible for SYEP participants
- Two students earned an opportunity to study abroad through a competitive program with DCPS
- **80%** participated in additional extra curricular activities

As an organization, BSA also provided additional opportunities for youth and their communities to build their self confidence, develop as leaders, and explore black history & culture:

**SATURDAY SCHOOL WITH NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT**

African Centered Summer program, educating youth on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as learning about the principles of Kwanzaa.

**I AM SHE: SUMMER SERIES FOR BLACK GIRLS**

Five week Summer Series dedicated to building up young black women and girls through engaging discussion and activities around intersectionality.

**YOUTH-CENTERED WORKSHOPS**

- **City Year’s Student Service Week 2016**
  - Served **70** high school students.
- **Queens Under Construction, in partnership with Boys & Girls Club**
  - Served **52** girls
Youth in our Civic Leadership programs led the planning and implementation of 4 high impact service events:

**WINTER CLOTHING POP-UP SHOPPE**
We marched and served during the MLK Day Parade in SE, DC, helping keep our brothers and sisters warm by distributing 50 coats and hundreds of articles of winter clothing (scarves, hats, jeans and sweaters).

**FLINT WATER CRISIS**
20 youth and young professionals traveled from DC to Flint, Michigan to serve and stand in solidarity with the residents of Flint impacted by the water crisis. Youth were involved in facilitated discussions with Flint youth, participated in a Community Action meeting, conducted interviews with Flint activists and then distributed over 400 cases of water to residents in Flint’s North End.

**SOCKS AND LUNCH FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER**
44 youth and mentors made and distributed 300 lunches and socks to DC residents impacted by poverty and/or homelessness.

**ANACOSTIA RIVER WITH ART REACH**
60 youth participated in a citywide art project aimed to raise awareness of the environmental concerns facing our local rivers and the ecology of our wetlands at the Anacostia River Festival.

As an organization, we supported and promoted a myriad of community events led by our partner organizations that addressed the needs of the communities we are in relationship with.

*A town hall on Policing*: Black Women and Girls: 50 women and girls convened to share stories of their experience with law enforcement and brainstorm solutions to a culture of police violence.

**Black Millennials for Flint Community Action Summit**: Dozens of community members gathered to obtain skills to fight environmental justices, in particular, lead exposure, disproportionately impacting communities of color.

**Race and Equity in Education**: Over 70 Young professionals and educators gathered to discuss ways to achieve equity in education for students of color.

**Voices of Color**: A Community Discussion About the Colorism Experience: A night exploring all spectrums of colorism, black beauty, acceptance, self love, and Black empowerment.
We have the innate power
to impact change

Youth in our Civic Leadership programs advocated on three issues this school year: Gun Violence, School Disciplinary policies and contaminated water in DC’s public schools.

To address these concerns youth and organization leaders:

- Met with Council Members
- Raised awareness of issues to stakeholders
- Engaged Media outlets
- Testified at Public hearings

In an effort to support other city-wide issues impacting our youth and families, as an organization, BSA also advocated for:

- Safe, affordable housing for low income residents
- Justice for victims of state-sanctioned violence
- Hardship extensions and improved services for families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

Held Local Candidate Forums

- Ward 8 Youth Candidates Forum
- Equitable Economic Development Forum

Donors & Supporters:

352
Individual donors

Supporters: Hattie M. Strong, Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Industrial Bank, Awesome Foundation

$29,890
Total Raised