The Slate

These 10 exemplary Black-led regrantors & national organizations were identified and vetted by the Brain Trust and confirmed after additional due diligence conducted by the Libra Foundation team.
Transforming Black communities into active, interdependent, responsive public partners that change the way power operates—at the local, state, and national level.

To get there, we work to understand the dynamics impacting our communities; we build the capacity of our communities to govern; and we engage and include Black people in the decisions that impact our lives.

There are three ways that Black Futures Lab is a different kind of project for change:

- our mission to engage Black voters year-round
- our commitment to use our political strength to stop corporate influences from creeping into progressive policies
- and our plan to combine technology and traditional organizing methods to reach Black people anywhere and everywhere we are.

**ACTIVITIES**

The **Black Imagination Incubator** gathers information about the ways that policy affects Black communities and uses that information creatively to educate and challenge policymakers. Its interlinking projects include the **Black Census Project** and **Black to the Future**.

The **Shirley Chisholm “Unbought and Unbossed” Black Politics Project** focuses on the power of our vote and building up the newest generation of Black progressive political candidates. It brings together community engagement; community mobilization and education; policy and alternative policy models; and active engagement and advocacy with elected officials and legislators. Its interlinking projects include **My Politics are Black**, **Black Candidates**, **Black-run Political Campaigns**, and **Black Campaign Financing**.

This year, our key focus is **Black to the Ballot**—registering, engaging, and activating Black voters through our national voter registration drive. We’ve partnered with 15 Black-led grassroots organizations in 9 states with the aim to register 10,000 new Black voters and get 50,000 people to pledge to vote.

“Alicia Garza
Principal

“We deserve elected officials that represent us, policies that improve our lives, and politics that reflect our lives.”
Building and centering the power of Black LGBTQIA+ migrants to ensure the liberation of all Black people through community-building, political education, creating access to direct services, and organizing across borders.

The Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP) uses leadership development, capacity building, and organizing to address the ways in which Black LGBTQIA+ migrants are targeted by the criminal law and immigration enforcement system and marginalized in the broader migrant community and racial and economic justice movements.

BLMP aims to reduce isolation, build leadership, and protect and defend Black LGBTQIA+ migrants from increasing attack through community-building events around the country, providing legal support, increasing access to services, creating regional organizing networks, and launching the 1st ever survey focused on our experiences.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **National Organizing**
  BLMP shapes and informs national efforts to resist enforcement, detention, and deportations through work within criminal justice/immigrant rights movements.

- **Local Networks**
  BLMP engages community members across the U.S. and has developed active local/regional networks—centered in Oakland, CA; New York City; the Upper Midwest (Twin Cities, Chicago, Detroit); Washington DC/DMV, and the South.

- **Deportation Defense**
  We directly engage with and support detained community members, organizing campaigns for their release and helping to connect them with local support when they are released.

- **Research**
  BLMP is transforming narratives through the inaugural Queer Black Migrant Survey, which is collecting qualitative and quantitative data on our community’s experiences.

“We build power, community, and knowledge in the U.S., while challenging the role the U.S. plays globally in creating the conditions that force us to leave our homes.”

Ola Osaze
Director
The key to effective civic engagement and community power is understanding, respecting, and supporting local infrastructure.

Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute’s mission is to increase civic engagement and power building in predominantly Black communities. We build power through authentic messaging, which directly speaks to Black communities’ issues, connects with their hopes, and affirms their humanity. Rather than leading with voter registration, we have deeper conversations around challenges that Southern Black communities are facing and center these community issues in our electoral work.

Impact in our targeted communities has been significant over our brief history. We launched a voter engagement tour, covering 8 states in 2018 and 12 states in 2019, a key component of our year-round civic engagement strategy that amplifies the work of our local network partners. We currently work in 11 states: primarily in the Deep South, and also Michigan and Pennsylvania.

**ACTIVITIES**

In our role as trainers and capacity builders, Black Voters Matter provides three types of support:

- **Financial Support** of mini-grants ranging from $500-$5,000 per county or organization to expand civic engagement.
- **Strategy Development and Training** at state convenings for network partners, and,
- **Expanding Connections and Networks** through regular information-sharing video calls.

In each of our partner states, activities generally include:

- **Voter Outreach** in target counties to create excitement around turnout, and develop a community-driven agenda for progress on local issues.
- **Multi-County Planning and Strategizing**, including conference calls and in-person convenings.
- **Communications Support** on policy issues for partners, including digital and printed materials, and soon, community radio broadcasting.
- **Supporting voter and census outreach** activities of local partners including canvassing, faith outreach, youth outreach, rides to the polls and more.
We're not political consultants, we co-create effective strategy. We're not a media shop, we tell impactful stories. We're not a PR firm, we deliver coverage of our most important issues at every level. Because, at our core, we're organizing to win.

We were created to build narrative power across diverse organizing groups working for Black empowerment and liberation. We listen to what's happening on the ground and translate that into campaigns and talking points that capture the ethos of the field.

That Juneteenth is now honored by thousands that wouldn't have otherwise known or cared; that August's Black National Convention will draw a large, broad audience; and that public opinion on racial inequities and police brutality shifted dramatically after George Floyd’s murder and the waves of protesters storming the streets, are due in large part to Blackbird's work.

**ACTIVITIES**

Blackbird powerfully amplifies the voices of Black organizing. We work with movement partners to build durable, sustainable movement infrastructure that will allow our movements to build non-partisan grassroots political power, strengthen the capacity of organizations, respond in moments of crisis, and create on-ramps for the thousands of people looking to become politically active in this moment.
We are young Black leaders emphasizing the urgency of protecting folks living on the margins of the margins, including women, girls, femmes, and the gamut of LGBTQ folk.

BYP100 is the only national, member-led, base-building organization of Black 18-35 year old activists and organizers building a Black politic through a Black, queer, feminist lens. We believe that the key to sustaining political engagement of young Black people in the United States is doing targeted and ongoing base building within the context of what they care most about.

With chapters across the U.S. (New York City, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Jackson, Durham, Detroit, Dallas, Chicago, D.C., and Atlanta) we train young Black activists in direct action grassroots organizing skills—mobilizing around issues like ending criminalization and dismantling the prison industrial complex and expanding and securing LGBT and women’s rights.

**ACTIVITIES**

*She Safe, We Safe* is our first national campaign to put an end to the different forms of gender violence that Black women, girls, femmes, and gender non-conforming people face everyday. Our goals are to increase the availability of interventions to gender-based violence that do not rely on contact with the police and to reallocate funding from the police to community-determined programs that address gender-based violence in Black communities. Our organizing efforts also include *voter mobilization, civic engagement, and election protection work.*

Prior campaigns include: *Agenda to Keep Us Safe*—a public policy platform to end mass criminalization and create systems for police accountability, centering the stories of the criminalization of Black women and girls; *#SayHerName*—two National Days of Action organized with coalition partners to lift up stories of sexual, physical, and structural violence by law enforcement officials against Black women and girls; and *Agenda to Build Black Futures*—a six-point economic justice policy platform which outlines demands to support a workers bill of rights, to “Value the Worth of Women’s Work,” and to “Support Trans Wealth and Health.”

Along with everything else, BYP100 is about the spaces it makes for young Black people to imagine a world otherwise, to embody that aspiration, and to learn how to lead and organize with it as a foundation.
Helping shift power and resources from policing and the carceral state to transformative, community-directed supports and interventions.

Borealis’ Communities Transforming Policing Fund supports communities that have been under-resourced and over-criminalized in their efforts to address police discrimination and violence.

We provide grants, technical assistance, organizational capacity-building, networking, and leadership development opportunities to our grantees and bolster power building and grassroots organizing among communities most impacted by police violence.

Larger cities’ efforts to transform policing has garnered funder attention and support because of greater consciousness of the issue, but critical organizing is also happening in often-overlooked cities and counties throughout the country, sometimes by groups who have been working diligently for years. This Fund’s focus is hyperlocal, and we help fill the gap.

**ACTIVITIES**

Organizations we fund have intervened in police association contracts, decriminalized poverty, created strong civilian oversight mechanisms, passed state laws to collect data and end racial profiling, and shifted hundreds of thousands of dollars from police budgets to community-directed needs.

Some of the Fund’s grantees “wins” include **Austin Justice Coalition’s** diversion of $150M from Austin’s police budget to community alternatives; **Women on the Rise’s** success in the closure and repurpose of Atlanta’s City Jail into a Center for Wellness and Freedom; **Poder in Action’s** advocacy for civilian oversight of the Phoenix Police Department; and **Liberate MKE Campaign’s** shift of $900,000 from the Milwaukee Police Department’s budget to housing and employment needs identified by the community.

**Amidst the explosion of COVID-19 and the recent uprisings against police violence, this quarter has been an exhausting but transformative time for CTPF grantees, including those who have long advocated for defunding the police.**
Seeking to reach millions, mobilize hundreds of thousands, and organize tens of thousands, so that Black political power is a force able to influence national and local agendas in the direction of our shared vision for Black lives.

Despite constant exploitation and perpetual oppression, Black people have been a driving force pushing toward collective liberation. In recent years, we have taken to the streets, launched massive campaigns, and impacted elections, but our elected leaders have failed to address the legitimate demands of our Movement. We can no longer wait.

M4BL formed in December 2014 as a space for Black organizations across the U.S. to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of the interventions necessary to achieve key policy, cultural, and political wins, and to debate and co-create a shared movement wide strategy.

PRIOR ACTIVITIES

We presented the Breathe Act with Electoral Justice Project, seeking to divest taxpayer dollars from brutal and discriminatory policing and invest in a new vision of public safety that defunds police and allows communities to finally breathe free.

We launched the Freedom Summer and Fall into Freedom programs—multigenerational leadership trainings that continue the legacy of the first Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Movement.

We also launched Rising Majority, an intersectional, multiracial coalition that centers our platform as a united front and identifies cross-movement sharing opportunities.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

2020’s Black National Convention will feature conversations, performances, and activations geared toward engaging, informing, and mobilizing Black communities to create and amplify a shared agenda and continue to move toward a world in which the full humanity and dignity of all people is recognized.

Black Power Rising: Vision 2024 maps our five-year trajectory to deepen impact and scale our interventions and resources toward mitigating harm, investment/divestment, and viable alternatives for all Black communities across the U.S.

Strengthening and scaling our presence across 50 states in forms that are measurable, meaningful, self-sustaining, relational (not reactionary), sustainable, and long-term.

“We center, are led by, and are rooted in Black communities and recognize our shared struggle with all oppressed people. Collective liberation will be a product of all of our work.”

Karissa Lewis
National Co-Director

Lumumba Bandele
National Co-Director
A coalition of dozens of Black-led organizations, working together for food sovereignty, land, and economic self-determination—strongly focused on resistance, healing, and transformation.

Black communities have deep historical roots in food security, production, and culture, from farming, systems of distribution, and cooperatives, to shaping the culinary traditions, production, and a wide array of food businesses—often rendered invisible by mainstream omission.

The combination of Black land loss, reduction in the number of Black farmers, excessive junk food marketing in black communities, and reduced access to healthy food infrastructure—all exacerbated by racist USDA policies and financial systems that make access to land out of reach—makes this a critical time in history.

ACTIVITIES

NBFJA is a coalition of a range of Black-led food and farming organizations focused on cultivating and advancing Black leadership, building Black self-determination, Black institution building, and organizing for food sovereignty, land, and justice.

Our platform is focused on the liberation of Black Land, Self-Determining Food Economies, and Food Sovereignty.

Our modes of action are to Build, Fight, and Fund. We focus on acquisition and development of Black land; we engage and support member organizations through political education & base-building; and we work to create sustainable community economic models.

NBFJA is the Policy Table leadership team for the Movement for Black Lives, a contributor to M4BL’s & Electoral Justice Fund’s Breathe Act, and leads contributions and visioning on food, land and environmental justice for the Black National Convention platform and the broader movement.

Black liberation is intricately connected to land and our means to community control of our food systems.
Building collectively as Southern leaders to stabilize, triage, heal, and advance our regional movements.

The Southern Power Fund is a collaborative effort of Southern movement organizations to move much needed resources to Southern frontline communities responding and resisting during this critical political moment.

Each anchor regrantee organization has a decades-long history in the struggle for Black liberation, a solid infrastructure, and deep relationships with the South’s tapestry of movement infrastructure that challenges the systemic and targeted oppression of Black, Brown, Native, Queer, Disabled, and poor communities.

Our urgent and immediate goal is to direct resources to the community formations providing essential services, information, and support to protect and sustain Southern frontline organizers.

We are collectively raising a multi-million dollar Rapid Response Fund that will be strategically distributed to community groups across the region:

- **Highlander Research and Education Center** will focus on rural organizations, mutual aid organizations, and other grassroots efforts;
- **Project South** will focus on Southern Movement Assembly joint efforts, anchor organizations, and frontline communities;
- **Southerners On New Ground** will focus on Southern LGBTQ led organizations and leaders; and
- **Alternate Roots** will focus on artists, artist-activists, culture bearers, and culture-based healing work.

To address the systemic challenges related to philanthropic investment in the South, **additional funds raised will seed a community controlled fund** to support long-term Southern community resilience planning, development, and implementation.

‘As goes the South, so goes the nation’ isn’t an opinion, it’s a fundamental fact. This country needs to shift.
We believe that centering the leadership, experiences, voice, and votes of Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, women, low-income, and young people is the path to power and a thriving democracy.

State Voices Tables is a network of nonpartisan state coalitions that work with hundreds of grassroots organizations to break down barriers to civic participation and to bring underrepresented and marginalized populations and their issues to the center of public discourse—leveraging their collective power to transform our democracy.

Our efforts in 2018 helped produce the largest midterm turnout since 1914. Nationwide, we registered over 1.8 million people and made over 28 million voter contacts. Nearly every state table recorded record or near-record turnout—even compared with presidential election years—particularly among Black, Latinx, AAPI, and young voters.

ACTIVITIES
State Voices offers key support and solutions in three core areas:

- **Capacity Building**
  Table infrastructure and leadership development—supporting state and local organizing, expanding the skill base of local leaders from impacted communities to build their power base and achieve their objectives, and fundraising and developing resources for the states.

- **Data & Technology**
  Upgraded tools and technology to meet the needs of 21st-century organizing—ensuring effective, powerful 501c3 civic engagement to organizations in all 50 states.

- **Strengthening Democracy**
  Civic Access, Civic Engagement, and Civic Representation—defending and expanding voting rights, coordinating voter registration, turnout, and voter protection, and fighting for full representation through Census and redistricting.

This year, State Voices Tables aim to register 2 million voters and conduct 30+ million voter contacts. As states continue to reel from the impact of COVID-19, State Voices will proactively ensure communities of color will be counted and their votes protected.

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“We must move beyond a narrow scope of civic engagement to one that moves us toward transformation and justice.”

Alexis Anderson-Reed
CEO