

WHHR

WE

AT

2021-2022

BLACKSPACE

INTENTIONS & GRATITUDE

Woo – the past year of fog, y'all!

The gatherings and physical spaces we wanted to get back to were still confusing to navigate and the compounding grief in our communities was palpable. So, the growth and evolution required, as a Collective and individually, was different than what we've done in the past.

So, we said "no" to a lot this past year that might distract from working with people inviting us into the changes they seek in their practices and communities. We said "yes" to walk with Black-led community organizations as they dreamed and imagined the future of their spaces.

We saw a rise in our members taking leaps of faith out of creatively stifled working environments to start their own practices. With a community of support, we've seen a fuller expression of our contributions to the legacy of Black urbanism – that pushes us to creatively respond to the needs of our neighborhoods.

As a group that doesn't fit into any one box, we often express the complexity and richness of our mission and communal care work through natural systems. Like fog, tectonic plates, and seasons, we know there is a balance of organic and designed structures required in building our organization.

This annual report is a glimpse into being one year closer to the radical possibilities when there is greater public acknowledgement that spaces are not safe for Black folks (especially when not centered in design and planning processes) AND the creativity and imagination possible when there *is* space for Black joy and power in design and with designers.

We invite you into a bit about the the people we have been invited to co-design alongside and the designing we've done together. We're glad you're here with us in our navigating the complexities of uniting Black urbanists and creating social and spatial change alongside our communities.

In community,

Emma Osore + Kenyatta McLean, Co-Managing Directors



COLLECTIVE STORY

VISION

We demand a present and future where Black people, Black spaces, and Black culture matter and thrive.

MISSION

We bridge gaps between people, place, and power to realize racial justice with Black communities.

PURPOSE

We facilitate opportunities for Black urbanists to co-create social and spatial change in partnership with Black communities

STRATEGIES

- **projects** centering Blackness in local development;
- **workshops** affirming Black presence;
- **capacity building** of Black urbanists to gather, publish content, and transform practice.

ORIGINS

BlackSpace was sparked at the inaugural Black in Design (BiD) conference in 2015. Our founding organizers were drawn together by a collective vision of what Black, interdisciplinary design and urban planning practice might be.

Over brunches, in each other's tiny NYC apartments, working groups guided our first projects – inspiring urbanists in Chicago, Oklahoma, Atlanta, and Indianapolis to start meeting up, too. Now, our national collective energizes multidisciplinary audiences nationwide to enact co-creative practices that fuse Black people, place, and power.

PUBLISHED CONTENT

We continue to interrogate urban planning and design practice and push our fields towards centering Black and marginalized lives in public space. We were featured and/or mentioned by several outlets including: Oakland Museum of California's (OMCA) *'Mothership: Voyage Into Afrofuturism'* exhibit, ArchDaily's *Six Initiatives Model Ways to Practice True Design Justice*, theGrio's *Dear Culture* podcast, and the American Planning Association's *How the Nonprofit BlackSpace Centers and Celebrates Blackness in Design*.

13

publications
mentioning BlackSpace



Dear Culture

Black Legacies: Kenyatta McLean, Emma Osore

Episode 92

▶ Play

PROJECT PARTNERS

We launched our Project Partner Program, hiring our first five (5) small Black urbanist studios and freelancers to deliver Manifesto-based workshops and contract on neighborhood strategy projects.

In 2021 we surveyed our networks skills and interests and filled gaps in public audiences requests for design centering Black life. As a result, we invested in a national set of urbanists to practice Black liberatory design.

To ensure their skills are amplified and directed to critical issues with Black people, culture, and communities – we supported a competitive wage, professional growth through community building gatherings, and training and matching services with organizations making decisions about centering Black communities in design.

5

jobs created



Armando Sullivan

he, him, his
Transportation planner
and lover of maps



Breanna Robles

She, her, hers
Landscape architect
with an interest in
fundraising



Kyra Bonsu-Assibey

she, her, hers
Storyteller and podcaster
with desire to learn design



Ujiji Davis Williams

she, her, hers
Landscape Architect and started
her own practice in 2021



Vanessa Morrison

she, her, hers
Social planner with rich
advocacy experience

PROJECT PARTNERS

From skills and capacity audit of our network in 2021, 31% of respondents said they were either in "exploration" or a "transition" phase in their careers and 62% identified as "passion fueled" or "project ready". Highlighting that Black urbanists might have both: creative surplus in their working life and skills to do place-based spatial and racial justice work.

COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ORGANIZING

ARTS / DESIGN / CULTURE ANALYST

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

ACTIVISM URBAN DESIGN & PLANNING

TRANSPORTATION / MOBILITY GOVERNMENT

ENVIRONMENT / PARKS / GREEN SPACE

HOUSING CONSERVATION / PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURE

CLIMATE / RESILIENCY / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT UI/UX DESIGN

HEALTH OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

POLICY / ADVOCACY / LAW / POLITICS GAME DESIGN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FOOD JUSTICE / URBAN FARMING GRAPHIC DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION

EDUCATION / ACADEMIA / RESEARCH

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY

8

community visioning
sessions

38

design recommendations



In collaboration with the Brownsville Heritage House and over ten partners, we co-created a design strategy to expand public engagement with the 40-year-old organization and its treasured space.

We partnered with Red Hook Initiative on a community visioning and conceptual design of the Wolcott Street Farm to be a place that genuinely served their wants and desires and to be a cultural hub for the community. We reimagined and co-created a space where people can work together, collectively grow, and make something beautiful.



CUSTOMIZED LEARNING

Our salons, workshops, charrettes, and speculative design sessions are customized for groups to reflect on their current practices and inspire justice-oriented work.

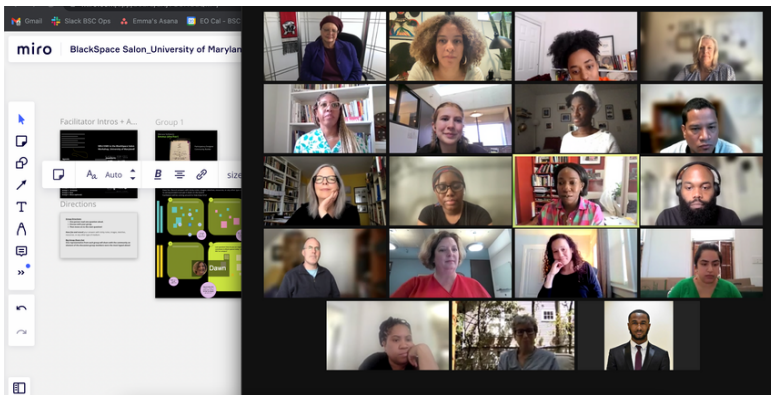
Organizations like the City of Philadelphia Department of Planning and Development and the New York Women's Foundation have used the workshops to help internal teams in determining resource allocation in housing and micro-granting processes.

5

4.7

Black urbanists trained in
Manifesto-based practice

average workshop
satisfaction score out of 5



- AIANY CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- AIR-NYC
- AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
- THE AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
- BUILD OUT ALLIANCE
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY*
- CORNELL UNIVERSITY*
- EDWARDS PROPERTY COLLABORATIVE
- HIGH LINE NETWORK
- IMANI BAPTIST CHURCH

- NEW YORK CITY PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
- PLUS POOL
- PRATT UNIVERSITY*
- RED HOOK INITIATIVE
- SAGE | ADVOCACY & SUPPORT FOR LGBT ELDERS
- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY*
- THE SYSTEMIC INSIGHT CIRCLE
- UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK*
- UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA*
- URBAN STRATEGIES INC.

*DESIGN AND PLANNING SCHOOLS

AFFILIATE COUSINS

Our cousins are liberation learning communities across the country. They host gatherings to engage Black urbanists and communities in the power of Black spaces.

NATIONAL

Free [space] Virtual Communal Learning + Gathering Series

Three virtual sessions focused on discussions and activities to inspire collective members and general public attendees to better understand concepts of Black home, freedom, and thrivance as well as how we integrate them into our practices.

Juneteenth @ Weeksville Heritage Center (pictured right)

A memory-mapping activity for all ages at Weeksville's ALL-BLACK Juneteenth Food Festival. Participants make their mark on our artist-designed map by letting us know where they find joy and what foods and places remind them of home.



PURDUE BLACK CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS:
SUSU: LUNCH AND LEARN
Featuring
ARCHITECT, DEMAR MATTHEWS
VIA ZOOM, WED: 1:30 PM | OCT 20TH
Where There's People There's Power
Demar Matthews is a Los Angeles based architectural designer
REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/DMREGIS](https://tinyurl.com/dmregis)
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BLACK CAUCUS INDIANA 80+

INDIANAPOLIS

Where There's People There's Power, a SUSU Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn Featuring Demar Matthews Architect, Los Angeles based architectural designer, theorist, and writer. Demar shared about the process of "Unearthing a Black Aesthetic"



Durag Fest Juneteenth

Celebration of Black joy with talking art, live DJ's, open mic, brunch, and a BALL in partnership with 1000words gallery.



OKLAHOMA

Household Hazardous Waste with Douglas High School

Environmental justice learn-and-ask with students from Douglas High School and Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary to inform how to address and think through accessible ways of addressing household hazardous waste containment in Northeast Oklahoma City.



NEW YORK CITY

February Brooklyn Brunch

Apartment gathering with home cooked food, salon – style discussion and design sprint activity on Black monuments in public space.



CHICAGO

Black in Design Watch Party

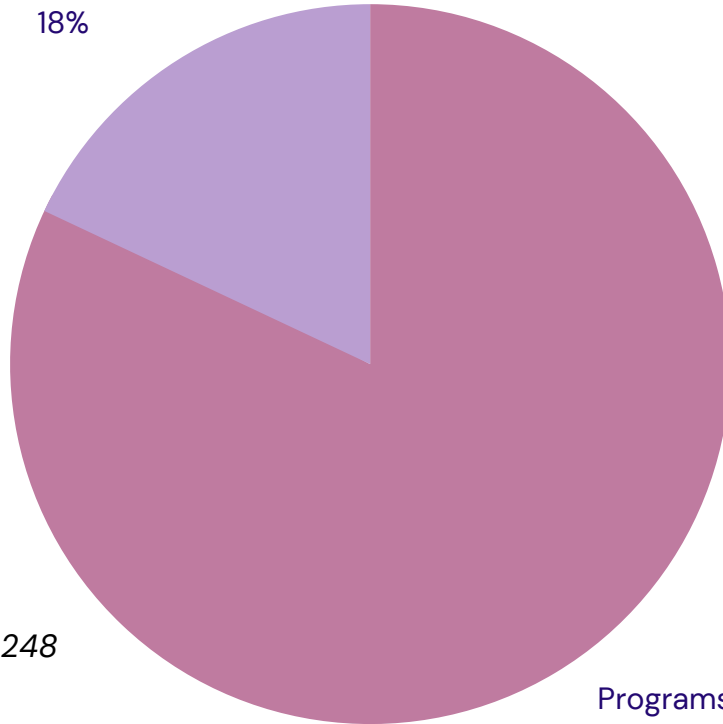
Potluck gathering at the Graham Foundation to co-watch virtual Black in Design (BiD) keynote speaker while using BiD Watch Party user guide to follow salon-style discussion prompts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

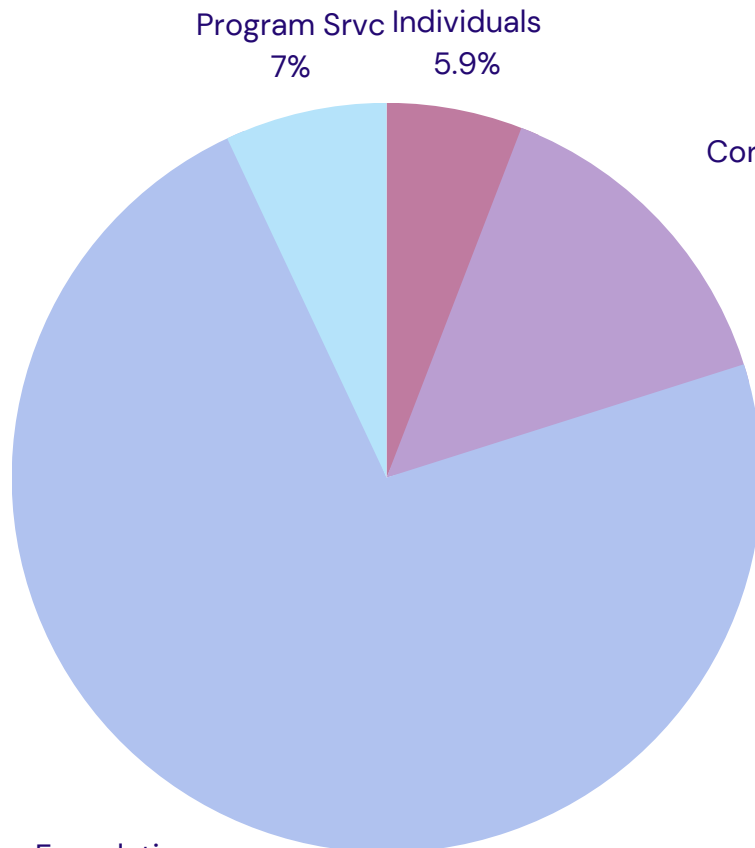
EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$364,248

Operations
18%



Programs
82%



Program Svc Individuals
7%

Corporations
14.3%

Foundations
72.9%

REVENUE

Total Revenue: \$683,718

DONORS

Individual and Corporate Donors

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Aaron Nather
Adenike Huggins
Adrian & Lydia Downzalez
Alexander Brady
Alison Ewing
Alison Mandelker-Burnett
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
Alyssa Curran
Amina Hassen
Andrea Lynch
Anna Ponting
Ariela Rutbeck-Goldman
Armando Sullivan
Ashley Brumell
ASLA-NY, APA-NY Metro, AIA-NY
Aviva Rubin
Ayodele Oti
Bahij Chancey
Beryl Ford
Brandon Frank
Bridget Burns
Brightworks Sustainability
Brysan Brown
Danielle Cameron
Daphne Lundi
Dattner Architects
David Briefel
DIALOGUE
Didi A

Eliseba Osore
Elita Walker
Ellen Ryan
Emily Ahn Levy
Emily Duma
Emily Genser
Emma Osore
Eustace L Greaves Jr
G A
Gabriella Lott
Genel Ambrose
Imani Shaw
Jacob Andreas
Januari McKay
Jennifer Allen
Jess Zimbabwe
Jessica Smith-Peterson
Jessica Taylor
Joachim Gfoeller
Jordan Shue
Joshua Barnett
Julia Thayne DeMordaunt
Julie Stein
Justin Garrett Moore
Karen Cumberbatch-Sullivan
Katy McShane
Kennedy Whithers and Associates, LLC
Kevin Clarke
KickStarter
Ladi'Sasha Jones
LaPlaca Cohen
Latent Design
The Laundromat Project
Lauren Coakley Vincent
Lisbeth Sinclair
Maddie Aleman
Mia White
Mimi Lien
Nathalie Jolivert
Neil Padukone
New Brooklyn Farms
Nicole Mangiere Nover
Olukemi Ilesanmi
OurMobilityFuture
Peg Thomas
Peter Robinson
Rachel Ehrlich

Rachel Skerritt
Radical Imagination Strategies, LLC
Rasu Jilani
Raymond Codrington
Richard Harper
Rodney Stiles
Rosalie Genevro
Sabine Smith
Sabrina Fong
Sade Elhawary
SCAPE Landscape Architecture DPC
Sheila Allen
Shelley Francis
Sophonie Joseph
Stephanie Pereira
Terremoto
Theda Cammon
Theresa Hwang
Tine DiLucia
Todd McIntyre
Tony Patrick
Tracae McClure
Tracy Stone
Vileti Akolo

Foundations

The Kresge Foundation
New York Community Trust
Robert Sterling Clark
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
1772 Foundation
Moore Philanthropy
Henry Luce Foundation
The J.M. Kaplan Fund

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT



Staff:

- **Alicia Ajayi**, Program Strategist
- **Emma Osore**, Co-Managing Director
- **Kenyatta McLean**, Co-Managing Director

Cousins:

- Britt Redd
- Brysan Brown
- Camille Applewhite
- Chandra Christmas-Rouse
- Cheria Caldwell
- Danicia Malone
- Devon Ginn
- Ethan Lassiter
- Etienne Jackson
- Eunika Rogers-Sipp
- Jenneh Kai Kai
- Josh Broadway
- Katanya Raby
- Kyra Assibey-Bonsu
- Lilliane Webb
- Lourenzo Giple
- Nick Forest
- Quardean Lewis Allen,
- Tawkiyah Jordan
- Traci Sanders
- Vanessa Morrison

Advisors:

- Aldea Coleman
- Brysan Brown
- Joshua Broadway
- Justin Garrett Moore

Working Board:

- Armando Sullivan
- Beryl Briane Ford
- Brysan Brown
- Camille Applewhite
- Danicia Malone
- Daphne Lundi
- Devon Ginn (Ex-officio)
- Emma Osore
- Ifeoma Ebo
- Jasmine Graves
- Jennifer Allen
- Justine Johnson
- Kenyatta McLean
- Peter Robinson
- Sophonie M. Joseph
- Vanessa Morrison (Ex-officio)

STAY IN TOUCH

BlackSpace Urbanist Collective, Inc.

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