

WE ARE HERE

BLACKSPACE

Annual Report
2023-2024



BlackSpace Urbanist Collective, Inc.
501(c)3 tax exempt EIN: 83-4620589
1000 Dean Street Suite 101 Brooklyn, NY 11238

www.blackspace.org
contact@blackspace.org
[@blackspaceorg](https://www.instagram.com/blackspaceorg)



INTENTIONS & GRATITUDE

BlackSpace Family,

This annual report is a glimpse into the creativity and imagination possible when there is space for Black joy and autonomy in design—a preview into the radical possibilities opened when we bridge those gaps between people, place and power to realize racial justice with Black communities.

In partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts, we expanded our customized learning workshop program into its 3rd year to serve our largest community yet—the 10 regions of New York state. The free social and spatial design sessions for arts non-profits were led by 14 Black urbanist facilitators, who we sourced, trained, and hired for their inter-disciplinary expertise and commitment to Black liberatory design.

In collaboration with our local Cousins we hosted gatherings in Chicago, Indianapolis, and Oklahoma City, to discuss and discover how BlackSpace could improve Black public spaces nationally by supporting entrepreneurs focused on local design and planning.

We completed the physical renovation of the beloved Brownsville Heritage House's reading room. The work included three years of co-designing a community vision, design strategy, 1300+ artifact archive, and exhibition. This effort, alongside 95 total community members and 13 Black designers, amplified a necessary “public living room.” The final space harnessed the warmth and welcome of an aunties home to amplify Black art, education, and history serving majority Black zip codes in and around Brownsville, Brooklyn.

Through all of these projects, we not only invested \$700,000+ into local and Black businesses and organizations, but also, we highlighted the incredible talent and needs of Black designers, planners, and builders—giving BlackSpace a unique understanding of Black entrepreneurs in their pursuit of reshaping our built environment that center Black people, spaces, and cultures.

After almost 10 years of gathering nationally, we've been strategizing about how our Collective can grow our impact through pouring more love into Black neighborhoods by supporting Black urbanist autonomy and ownership of place-based products and services across the country.

We invite you to learn a bit about the people and projects we've done together this year—with your support. We're glad you're with us as empower Black urbanists 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 principles in design;
- 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY

Our neighborhood-level projects allow us to co-create spaces that affirm and amplify Black presence in public life. This year, we prioritized BlackSpace's first archiving, construction, and exhibition project with the 42-year-old, Brownsville Heritage House.



13

Black urbanists & firms hired



80

exhibit opening attendees



1371

artifacts catalogued



Brownsville's
"Living Room"
Opened!



Living Room Collaborators

Thank you to all the amazing co-designers, students, and volunteers for their vision, trust, and commitment!

Miriam Robertson of Brownsville Heritage House • Cathie Wright-Lewis of Power in the Pen • Mel Isidor of Isidor Studio • Peter Robinson of WorkUrban • Caroline Williams • Beau Lancaster • Archival Alchemy team including: Joyce LeeAnn Joseph, Julia Keiser, and Zakiyah Collier • BOLT Architecture • Alicia O. Ajayi • Forecast Design & Construction • Sol J. Capehart • Medgar Evers Prep • Gensler



Black Auntie Exhibit Debuts!

Through carefully curated visuals, personal narratives, and installations, exhibit visitors were welcomed to honor the historical importance of the Black auntie as a community steward. Photographs, cherished heirlooms, and everyday objects, encapsulated the enduring power of aunts and their contributions.



Exhibit Collaborators

- Brownsville Heritage House • Sur (exhibit design) • Harvard Graduate School of Design's Black in Design Conference • Open House New York

CUSTOMIZED LEARNING

Our Manifesto-based learning salons, workshops, and design charrettes are customized for groups to align projects to Black-liberatory design principles.



4.7

average workshop satisfaction score of 5



6

New York State Regions served



117

people introduced to Manifesto-based practice



New Clients Engaged!

This year we began a year-long partnership with New York State Council on the Arts to deliver free design workshops—rooted in our Black liberatory principles—to cultural, arts, and heritage nonprofits across the state’s 10 regions.



Urbanist Facilitators Activated!

Dominique Williams

Within our Project Partner program, managed by Dominique Williams (BlackSpace’s first Customized Learning Program Manager), we hired, trained, and coordinated our largest cohort to date. By adding 14 MWBE jobs, we added value to the local economy while supporting more liberatory and independent urbanism practices of freelancers and small studios from disciplines as diverse as art, transportation, and interior design.



URBANIST EXPERIENCES

Our cousins are local urbanist learning communities across the country. They hosted nine gatherings engaging 173 Black urbanists and communities in the power of Black spaces. Our national community reunited for our annual Collective Convening, for the first time in person! We explored Black urbanism practice in our cousin city, Chicago!



local events hosted

Black-owned spaces supported

urbanists gathered

Cousins Amplified Local Black Spaces!



BlackSpace OK x Oklahoma Cowboys Boley Rodeo



BlackSpace Indianapolis Meetup @ Hovitos



BlackSpace OK Black Towns Revival Weekend

Collective Convened in Chicago!



Keynote Speaker Nekita Thomas



Create Circles Not Lines Co-Design Exhibit

"Creating Circles Not Lines: BlackSpace's Co-Design Ethos" was our first exhibition celebrating the transformative BlackSpace's co-design process. Used in neighborhood projects and guided by the BlackSpace Manifesto, it showcased our approach to community imagining and building, exploring how we co-create spaces that affirm and amplify Black presence in public life. The main exhibition featured our 2022, Wolcott Street Farm project, co-designed with Red Hook Initiative. Exhibition design led by Sarah Rege, BlackSpace's first Neighborhood Strategy Program Manager.



Sarah Rege

PUBLISHED CONTENT

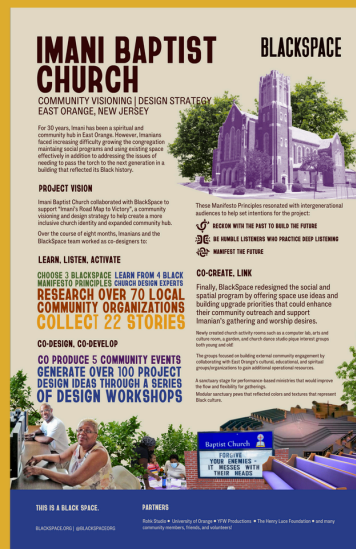
BlackSpace Manifesto Reflection Deck {Beta}

We shared this new urbanist tool for post-project reflection to measure the impact of Manifesto principles in public.

Designed to better inform urban design and community projects that promote equity, justice, and joy in spaces designed by and for Black communities.



Neighborhood Strategy Case Studies



NEW printable project case studies were added to our website to show Manifesto principles in action.

FEATURES & MENTIONS

We interrogate urban planning and design practice and amplify Black urbanists and spaces. BlackSpace members past and present were featured across 25 design publications, events, and national media.

The Local Center

Project Team:
Creative Urban Alchemy, with Agency – Agency, Liminal, Partners in Public, Public Sentiment, studio aca, and Youth Design Center



Heoma Ebo, Creative Urban Alchemy

Heoma is a Nigerian American award winning artist, architect and planner transforming urban spaces into platforms for equity and design excellence. She is an Assistant Professor of Design & Sustainability at the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York. As the founding Principal of Creative Urban Alchemy LLC, she consults on equitable design, regenerative placemaking and sustainable development strategy for city governments and civic institutions internationally.

LOCAL NEWS

With daughter as muse, Roxbury mom helps young women of color explore dreams in tech field

By Lisa Hughes
May 23, 2024 6:33 PM EDT / CBS Boston

WBZ NEWS

Reparations in Public Space

Reclaiming Sacred Ground



An interactive exhibit exploring the healing potential of public spaces and honoring African Burial Grounds through special design and community participation.

June 15 - August 15, 2024
Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace
2123 Caton Av, Brooklyn, NY

June 15 Opening Event register at bit.ly/reparationspublicspace

LUXIERE




BOLEY

Loeb Fellowship Announces the Class of 2025




From left: (top) Mariana Alegre, Pierre-Emmanuel Becherand, Dr. Leanne Brady, Shana M. Griffin, Tawkiyah Jordan; (bottom) Nikishka Iyengar, Tosin Oshinowo, Sahar Qasbi, Matt Smith, Tunde Wey.

DEMO2024



DEMO2024



BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE TOUR OF FORT GREENE



Developed in partnership with MOCADA

BRIC BLACKSPACE

DEMO2024

Memphis Cross Radio

New Music Summit on MPR June 2024 New York City

Charlie Engman
Marco Roso
Meriem Benmani
Idris Brewster
Emma Osore
Tamar Clarke-Brown
Stephanie Dinkins
SA Chavaria
ST. MORIS
Ra'ia Santos Cruz
Dorian Dine'lahai

radio.mpr.com

AM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
PM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Jun. 06 2024

ROKH is launching the next

PUBLIC ART CENSUS™

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Albuquerque BERNALILLO CO.

Spatial Futures

Difference and the Post-Anthropocene

Edited by LaToya E. Ennis, Heidi J. Nast, Alex G. Papadopoulos



palgrave macmillan

FOR THE WORLDBUILDERS EP. 049

049. New Terms and Conditions with Ravn Ruffin Feliz For The Worldbuilders

Play

PRESS RELEASES / 2023 / 07 /

THIS JUST IN: Michigan Announces New Chief Mobility Officer

Courtney Overbey Martinez Friday, July 21, 2023

Justine Johnson to join the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification, bringing extensive economic development and mobility experience to Michigan

URBAN OMNIBUS

Building Worlds In-Between

BROOKLYN.ORG

5 Brooklyn Nonprofits Igniting Change In 2024: Our \$100,000 Spark Prize Winners

PLATFORM

Transnational Hip-Hop: Reflections of Haiti

Sophisticated Mosaic

THE FUTURE OF URBANIST LEADERSHIP

1 in 3 BlackSpace members are founders of new ideas and practices in urbanism. In collaboration with local Cousins, we conducted qualitative, quantitative, and action research including one-day gatherings in Oklahoma City and Indianapolis to explore how BlackSpace might expand our support of Black urbanists and their projects.



Urbanism x Entrepreneurship Pop Up OKC was a pitch event highlighting Open Design Collective, founded by Vanessa Morrison and Lillian Timber Farms, founded by LaTasha Timberlake. Local urbanist subject-matter experts offered community feedback on new services and fundraising plans - hosted at the Black-owned, Shiloh Adventures property.

Aleiya Evison, consultant leading our co-design and research process led feedback sessions from a public audience on how people might invest in projects locally.



Urbanism x Entrepreneurship Pop Up Indy was a prototype event featuring Ubuntu Planning and Design, founded by Britt Redd. 17 members of the public prototyped Ubuntu's community engagement services. They offered feedback and discussed urbanism entrepreneurship locally - hosted at Ball State University.

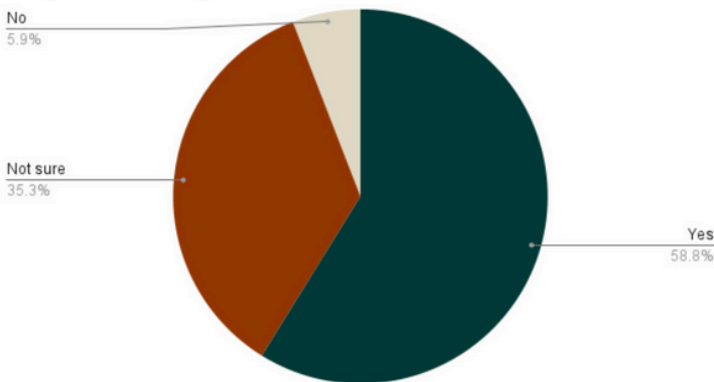


We gathered a sampling of the network we've built over the past nine years and co-designed alongside Black urbanist entrepreneurs.

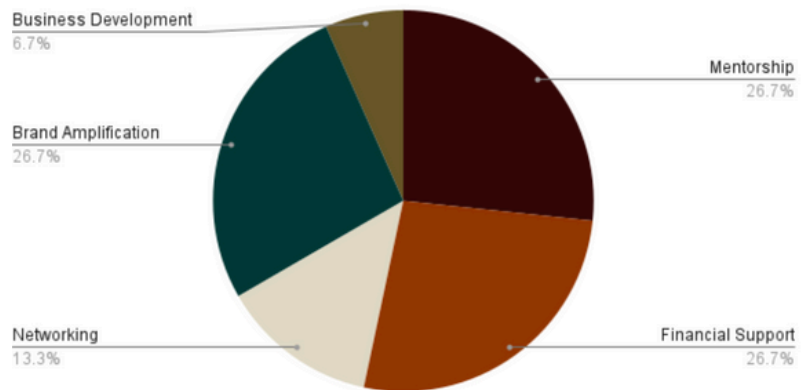
From November 2023 to February 2024, we learned that Black urbanist entrepreneurs are creating products or services aimed to improve the built environment/public space and our experience within it. In 2024 - 2025, BlackSpace is looking forward to shifting our program to meet the needs and aspirations of our neighborhoods and professional communities!

Urbanist entrepreneurs most desire mentorship, product/service design consultation, financial support, and brand amplification.

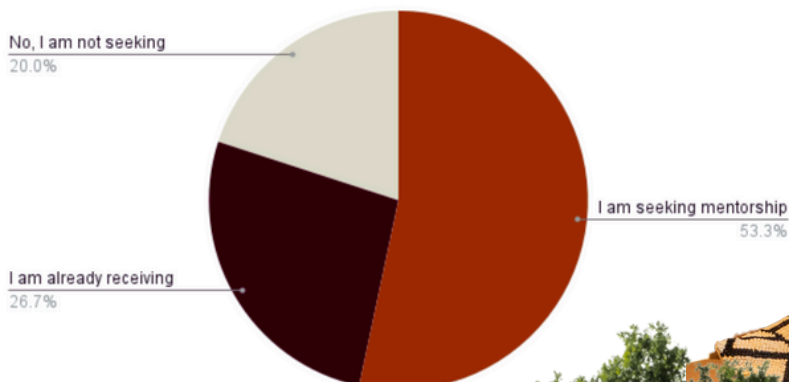
Do you need design consultations now or in the near future?



Do you need any additional type of support that you may need now or in the future?



Are you seeking or already receiving mentorship from founders who have established businesses in a similar field?





Welcome to new Board, Staff, Project Partners, Cousins, and Alumni who expanded and regenerated our Collective.

Working Board

- Amanda Colon-Smith
- Brittney Drakeford
- Devon Ginn
- Amina Hassen
- Danielle Kavanagh-Smith
- Daphne Lundi
- Kenyatta McLean
- Vanessa Morrison
- Emma Osore
- Chris Rice
- Peter Robinson
- Jessica Smith-Peterson
- Lorryn Young

Project Partners

- Kyra Assibey-Bonsu
- Cinthia De La Rosa
- Charlemya Erasme
- Aleiya Evison
- Dalaaja Foreman
- Dariella Freed
- Aly Hassell
- April Hurley
- Julia Jannon-Shields
- Jeremiah Ojo
- Sumayyah Raji
- ravon ruffin feliz
- Chopp Stewart
- Armando Sullivan
- Diane Wesh

Staff

- Sabea K. Evans
- Kenyatta McLean
- Emma Osore
- Sarah Rege
- Dominique Williams

Cousins

- Chandra Christmas-Rouse
- Beryl Ford
- Devon Ginn
- Lourenzo Giple
- RaShaunda Lugrand
- Vanessa Morrison
- Britt Redd
- Charlie Redd
- Katanya Raby
- Traci Sanders
- Armando Sullivan
- Latasha Timberlake

Alumni

- Alicia Ajayi
- Jennifer Allen
- Camille Applewhite
- Christina Beatty
- Josh Broadway
- Ajamu Brown
- Laurel Brown
- Brysan Brown
- Cheria Caldwell
- Aldea Coleman
- Ujiji Davis Williams

Alumni Cont'd

- Ashley Dickens Oso
- Ifeoma Ebo
- Ladipo Famodu
- Nick Forest
- Justin Garrett Moore
- Jasmine Graves
- Christina Harris
- Corey Henry
- Etienne Jackson
- Justine Johnson
- Tawkiyah Jordan
- Kethia Joseph
- Sophonie Joseph
- Jenneh Kaikai
- Ethan Lassiter
- Quardean Lewis-Allen
- Danicia Malone
- Cara Michell
- Ron Morrison
- Joyous Pierce
- Breanna Robles
- Euneika Rogers-Sipp
- Justin Romeo
- Natt Slober
- Rafa Smith
- Gina Sofola
- Leila Tamari
- Rosanna Valencia
- Lilliane Webb
- Michael Williams

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Revenues + Support			
Contributions and Grants	\$ 429,454	-	\$ 429,454
Other Income	\$3,261	-	\$3,261
Net Assets Released from Restriction	123,109	(123,109)	-
Total Revenues + Support	\$555,824	(123,109)	\$432,715
Expenses			
Programs	\$707,176	-	\$707,176
Operations	\$61,533	-	\$61,533
Fundraising	\$36,425	-	\$36,425
Total Expenses	\$805,134	-	\$805,134
Change in Net Assets			
Beginning of Year	\$392,333	\$228,310	\$620,643
End of Year	\$143,023	\$105,201	\$248,224

DONORS

Individual and Corporate

65 Anonymous Donors

Adam Lubinsky
Agyei Green
Alejandra Ruiz
Alexandra Belyaev
Alexis Landes
Alicia Boone
Allyson Martinez
Amanda Colón-Smith
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Amina Hassen
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Daniel Haggerty
Daniella Henry
Danielle Kavanagh-Smith
Danielle Schwab
Daphany Sanchez
Daphne Lundi
Dara Eskridge
Dasia Jenkins
David and Pam Knowles
Dawn Neely
Devanshi Purohit
devin michelle bunten
Dewey McLean
DGH Real Estate Team
Dr Ryan Woodson-Browning

Elana Beale
Eliseba Osore
Elita Walker
Emily McGoldrick
Emma Osore
Emma Pfohman
Emma Silverblatt
Erika Parker
eve gleichman
Farrah Lafontant
Hannah Gallo
Hawaa Abbajebel
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Jacob Andreas
Jennifer Allen
Jennifer Saint-Preux
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Jessica Payne
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Kamilla Hassen
Kamla Thomas
Karen Kubey
Karen Sullivan
Karla Hovde
Karmen Ross
Karyn Williams
Kathryn Anderson
Kathryn O'Neal-Dunham
Kathy Osore
Katy McShane
Kaveh Razani and Mykael Ornaun
Kelsa Trom
Kenyatta McLean
Kimberlee Barr
Kirk Allen
Kristin LaBuz
Lafayette Cruise
Latasha Timberlake
Lauren Wang
Leah Goudsmit
Lorryn Young
Louise Yeung
Lucy Cordes Engelman
Luke Knanishu
Majora Carter
Meghan McNamara
Melissa Lee

Merik Mulcahy
Miriam Moses
Miriam Robertson
Mohammed Iman Fayaz
Molly Blumgart
Morgan Perry
Nikrad Mahdi
noah allison
Noah Kardos-Fein
Nupur Chaudhury
Olivia Logan
Pacia Anderson
Pamela Blumgart
Pamela Knowles
Paul Lipson
Penelope Phy
Peter Birke
Peter Robinson
Phillip Thomas
Quardean Lewis-Allen
Rachel Skerritt
Rasu Jilani
Raymond Felton
RC Cagara
Rebecca Lemos
Richard Harper
Rosalie Geneviro
Sabea Evans
Salome Asega
Samantha Mayer
Samuel Draisin
Sarah & Geoff Carter
Sarah Chase
Sarah Krautheim
Sarah Rege
Simone Leitner
Sloan Leo Cowan
Sophonie Joseph

Stephanie McMorran
Stephanie Pereira
Stephanie VandenBerg
Stephen Butler
Theda & Eldrich Cammon
Tonya Dean/Network for Good
Troy Smythe
Vanessa Morrison
Veena Vijayakumar
Vileti Akolo
Wideleine Desir
Yelka Kamara
Zach Postone
Zack Avre
Zoe Axelrod

Foundations & Corporate Sponsors

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New York Women's Foundation
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
Aqua Hill Foundation
Gichinga-Jackson Giving Fund
New York State Council on the Arts



Our "Imagination to Build" fundraiser raised
\$12,550 from 126 supporters!

Thank you

WE
ARE
HERE

BLACKSPACE

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2023-2024

