Our collective brings together planners, architects, artists, and designers as Black urbanists, people who are passionate about the work of public systems and urban infrastructures. We created the BlackSpace Manifesto to practice new ways of protecting and creating Black spaces in the built environment.

manifest the future

Black futures will manifest through the creative possibilities of asset-based urbanism, not traditional deficit-focused practices. Our work subverts scarcity-fueled design and urban planning interventions that perpetuate harm in Black communities and stifle Black urbanists. Instead, we promote the articulation and funding of existing assets of Black neighborhoods and the liberation and leadership of urbanists.

In New York City alone, there are 65 predominantly Black neighborhoods and over 1,700 Black urbanists with which our national platform can partner to co-create new methodologies for social and spatial change.*

our work

We use our collective skills and Manifesto-based neighborhood strategy to engage and co-design projects that serve the needs and desires of Black communities.

We deliver customized learning workshops to catalyze new ways of protecting Black culture and people within neighborhood projects.

We craft restorative urbanist experiences to inspire leaders designing Black futures into the built environment.

We interrogate traditional design and urban planning structures through published content about urbanist practice.

* Source I: Tables for Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation, American Community Survey 2006-2010, five-year estimates
* Source II: Table B03002, American Community Survey 2012-2016, five-year estimates
Our New York City-based nonprofit is guided by a working board to support our growing national network of Black urbanists, including location-based affiliates in Chicago and Oklahoma.

Our neighborhood strategy projects directed $21,000+ to local Black-owned businesses.

We designed 20 customized learning workshops for 1500+ people, sharing new ways to center Blackness in the built environment.

Our urbanist experiences gathered 220+ Black urbanists for restoration and justice in New York City and online.

We published content to evoke our 5,700+ person online communities to interrogate traditional planning and design to deepen their practices.

* Fiscal year July 2019 to June 2020.