BlackSpace demands a present and future where Black people, Black spaces, and Black culture matter and thrive.
Dear BlackSpace Family,

We constantly find ourselves both celebrating the presence of Black life as well as mourning the loss of Black futures. We are particularly reflective of our current global crises and the injustices made visible to the world due to the racially disproportionate effects of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other quality of life factors dictated by race and zip code. Continued publicly-sanctioned and anti-Black violence has a deep-rooted legacy not only in police forces but also in our own work as urban planners, architects, and designers.

We believe that as urbanists, people who are passionate about the work of public systems and urban infrastructures, we must work with our neighbors on global challenges at the local level. As interdisciplinary thinkers and actors, we can co-develop solutions that value Black and marginalized presence.

After four years of building towards our vision, with a significant effort from our newly expanded working board and the support of our diverse and growing community, we are launching BlackSpace as a national platform to protect and create Black spatial futures.

Grounded by the BlackSpace Manifesto and powered by community brunches, we announced 2020 our Chrysalis Year to articulate three-year goals, strengthen operational and financial capacity, inspire a national audience to incorporate our best practices, and cultivate meaningful community partnerships.

Thank you to all who shared in this incredible success, and mind-blowing growth, in the last year. We invite you to be a part of our expansion in the year to come.

Love,

Kenyatta McLean
Board Co-chair

Emma Osore
Board Co-chair
### contents*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>origin story</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manifesto</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who we are</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>our board</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affiliates</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abundance statement</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>our work &amp; impact</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milestones</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>financial statement</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donor list</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Click through to each section of the report.
We gathered to create nourishing spaces for Black urbanists and to assert Black urbanism in shaping the future.

At the inaugural Black in Design (BiD) conference in 2015, BlackSpace formed in a room full of Black architects, urban planners, designers, and artists all gathered as urbanists. The entire weekend centered Blackness in the making of places as a way to change how these professions serve Black communities for the better. Through chance encounters—drawn together by the aspirations to make more space in the design and planning fields to center Black experiences—our founding organizers met each other. Back in Brooklyn, we began hosting monthly brunches in each other’s apartments. At brunch, we ate well, dreamed hard, shared honestly, and grew a collective vision of an interdisciplinary design and urban planning practice that we dubbed BlackSpace.

We began to organize into working groups guided by an advisory circle to further our work. After BiD in 2017, our affiliate groups or “Cousins” in Chicago and Oklahoma City joined us and in 2018, and we took on our Collective’s first neighborhood projects. Our work energized multidisciplinary audiences nationwide to enact practices that enable Black lives to flourish in the spaces they inhabit.
We are Black urban planners, architects, artists, activists, designers, and leaders working to protect and create Black spaces. Our work includes a range of activities from engagement and projects in historically Black neighborhoods to hosting cross-disciplinary convenings and events. While what we do is very important, the way we do it is also critical. Acknowledging our triumphs, oppressions, aspirations, and challenges, we've created this Manifesto to shape our growth as a group and our interactions with one another, partners, and communities.
We are a collective of dedicated and talented professionals guided by a working board, consensus-based decision making, and our Manifesto.

To embody justice-oriented design practice centering Black and marginalized lives, we co-designed governance structures and decision-making processes to hold ourselves accountable to one another, our partners, and the communities we serve.

Founded in New York City, BlackSpace is currently a working board and part-time hired support who, together, manage business operations and vision building efforts as well as support our growing national network of affiliate city groups.
our working board

Aldea Coleman (she/her/hers) Managing Member – Content Committee
Specialty: Planning & Policy
Policy Director with the North Carolina Department of Transportation

Armando Sullivan (he/him/his) Managing Member – Programming Committee
Specialty: Transportation
Transportation Planner at Sam Schwartz

Beryl Ford (she/her/hers) Managing Member – Programming Committee
Specialty: Art
Institutional Giving Team at The Museum of Modern Art

Daphne Lundi (she/her/hers) Managing Member – Governance Committee
Specialty: Urban Planning, Policy, and Climate Adaptation
Senior Policy Advisor with the NYC Mayor’s Office of Resiliency

Emma Osore (she/her/hers) Board Co-Chair, Member – Fundraising Committee
Specialty: Arts, Culture, & Community Development
Director of Community at NEW INC at the New Museum

Ifeoma Ebo (she/her/hers) Managing Member – Content Committee
Specialty: Urban Design & Urban Strategy
Director of Predevelopment at NYC Department of Housing
Preservation & Development
Founding Director of Creative Urban Alchemy

Joshua Broadway (he/him/his) Managing Member – Communications Committee
Specialty: Architecture, Art, & Academia
Junior Architect at Ennead Architects, LLP

Joyous Pierce (she/her/hers) Member – Programming Committee
Specialty: Art & Academia
Executive Director of the Harlem Arts Alliance

Justine Johnson (she/her/hers) Member – Finance Committee
Specialty: Transportation & Community Relations
Mobility Strategist, Los Angeles at Ford Mobility

Justin Garrett Moore (he/him/his) Interim Managing Member – Finance Committee
Specialty: Urban Design, Planning, & Policy
Executive Director of the NYC Public Design Commission, Urban Patch Co-Founder

Kenyatta McLean (she/her/hers) Board Co-Chair, Member – Governance Committee
Specialty: Economic & Community Development
2020 Master in City Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Kyra Assibey-Bonsu (she/her/hers) Member – Communications Committee
Specialty: Storytelling and Community Development
Marketing Program Manager, Host of No Country For Moving Podcast

Peter Robinson (he/him/his) Member – Content Committee
Specialty: Design, Education & Community Engagement
Urbanist

Dr. Sophonie Joseph (she/her/hers) Member – Communications & Fundraising Committee
Specialty: Visual Arts, Culture & Data Visualization
Community Planner & Advocacy Coordinator at TakeRoot Justice

Camille Applewhite (she/her/hers) Ex Officio Member – BlackSpace Chicago, Founder
Specialty: Landscape Architecture & Human-Centered Design
Landscape Designer at Terra Engineering, Ltd.

Vanessa Morrison (she/her/hers) Ex Officio – BlackSpace Oklahoma, Co-Founder
Specialty: Community Development Specialist
Urbanist

Our working board developed from the contributions and leadership from our advisory circle and working groups. Continued appreciation to all BlackSpace working group members who have built this collective including: Jennifer Allen, Amina Hassan, Jenneh Kaikai, Quardean Lewis-Allen, Cara Michell, Chris Rice, Justin Romeo, Rafael Smith, and Michael Williams.
Inspired by our work presented at our second BiD convening in 2017, we heard from groups in other cities with interest in replicating our model. BlackSpace Chicago became our first affiliate group, or “Cousin” In 2018, BlackSpace Oklahoma joined our family. In addition, the BlackSpace model and Manifesto have inspired interest from future Cousins, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, DC, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, and Seattle. This overwhelming interest from Black urbanists in cities everywhere reinforces the need and opportunity for a national platform that develops valuable research, tools, and practices for Black-led planning and design.

In the past year our Cousins have held historic Black neighborhood walking tours, hosted large symposia on Black storytelling as placemaking, and helped save the historic Brockway Center where Black women organized for a century.
Black futures will manifest through the creative possibilities of asset-based urbanism, not traditional deficit-focused practices.

We exist to subvert scarcity-fueled design and urban planning interventions that perpetuate harm in Black communities and stifle Black urbanists. We operate from the perspective that articulating and funding existing assets of Black neighborhoods and urbanist circles can unearth innovative change.

In New York City alone, there is abundance and assets in the 65 predominantly Black neighborhoods and over 1,700 Black urbanists ready to create new methodologies for social and spatial change.*

* 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
Through our four pillars of work, we co-created spaces to acknowledge, affirm and amplify Black presence in public life.
We used our Manifesto and collective skills to co-design projects that serve the needs and desires of Black communities.

**Highlights & Features:** In collaboration with foundations, community organizations, and locals, our network began working on neighborhood-level heritage conservation projects in historically Black neighborhoods in 2018. Our work in New York City ranged from mapping and capacity building strategies to convenings and cultural happenings.

In 2019, we launched and distributed the *Co-Designing Black Neighborhood Heritage* playbook, a set of planning strategies and tools for engaging and expanding existing Black cultural assets.

**Our neighborhood strategy projects directed $21,000+ to local Black-owned businesses.**
We delivered workshops to catalyze new ways of protecting Black culture and people within neighborhood projects.

**Participating Institutions:** Alabama A&M University, Association for Community Design, AIA New York / Center for Architecture, Cornell University, Design Futures, Harvard University, Mott Hall Bridges Academy, National Organization of Minority Architects, New York City Housing Authority, Planner's Network, Pratt University, Spaces and Places, and Syracuse University.

**Impact**  
We designed **20 customized learning workshops** for 1500+ people, sharing new ways to center Blackness in the built environment.
We gathered and inspired existing and emerging leaders who are designing Black futures into the built environment.

**Highlights & Features:** From salon-style brunches to speculative design sprints, our urbanist experiences act as incubators for new, profound unlearning and ideas. Last year, we partnered with the *I, Too Arts Collective* in the historic home of Langston Hughes to activate the site with urbanists to reflect on the built environments of Black vanguards. We ended 2019 at the *Brownsville Heritage House* for a night of local history and Black heritage conservation talks. In response to our community’s need for healing and well-being in the first half of 2020, we brought together a national audience over two days to celebrate Juneteenth. Artists, doctors, and other healers offered abundance-based strategy workshops for collective liberation of Black bodies, minds, cultures, and places.

**Impact**

Our urbanist experiences gathered **220+ Black urbanists** in New York City and online.
We interrogated traditional design and urban planning structures that inform and influence urbanist practices.

**Highlights & Features:** In support of self-authorship and local cultural production, in 2019, we partnered with *Power in the Pen*, a writers group in the historically Black Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY. BlackSpace co-produced the groups first self-titled anthology of work and their first public reading. at the Brownsville Heritage House.

Member Emma Osore contributed an essay to Columbia University Press’ *Preservation and Social Inclusion: Issues in Preservation Policy* series chronicling the rich public heritage of the Brownsville community.

Members Peter Robinson and Ifeoma Ebo’s Manifesto-based architecture and housing studio at Cornell University’s College of Architecture, Art, and Planning was profiled in the May 2020 issue of Cornell’s architecture journal, *Plate*.

Our published content has evoked our 5,700+ person online communities to interrogate traditional planning and design to deepen their practices.
milestones

2015
Hosted first NYC brunch salon

2016
Declared our vision!

2017
Joined by Chicago and Oklahoma as affiliates

2018
Launched local heritage efforts in affiliate cities

2019
Published our Manifesto and Playbook!

2020
Announce Chrysalis Year to focus on operations

2021
Host first national multi-day customized learning experience

2022
Black urbanism brunches grown nationally in affiliate cities.

2023
Build Manifesto-based projects in public
* From May 21, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019 we raised $34,446.75 through grants, individual donations, honoraria & sales. Here is how we used it!
2019 donor list

Special shout out to all of our supporters! We see you and we deeply appreciate you.

**INDIVIDUAL DONORS** • @bmoredoc • Aiysha, Brian, & Zeki • Alejandra Ruiz • Allison Beck • Amanda & Rich Mitchell • Amanda Miller • Amina Hassen • Anthony Campusano • Ashley Flintoff • Bridget Burns • Brysan Brown • Bucky • César Mantilla • Charlette R. • Christina Hymes • Christopher Rice • Clarissa Cummings • Courtney Cogburn • Craig Slatin • Daniel E. • Daniel McPhee • Danielle Kavanagh-Smith • Daphne Lundi • Dasjon Jordan • David Robinson • Deanna Ping • Debra Kratz • Douglas Sorocco • Elana Rose Beale • Eliseba Osore • Elita & Corinne Walker • Emily Genser • Emily Peck • Emma Osore • Emma Pfohman • Eric D. Shaw • Eric Enderlin • Erin Barnes • Farrah Lafontant • Gayle Lennox • George Piazza • Ifeoma Ebo • Ifeoma’s Mama • Imani Day • Jabari Allen • Jenneh B. Kaikai • Jennifer Allen • Jessica George • Jhaniel James • Jocelyne Churchill • Joemmy Ramirez • John Schettino • Josetta Adams • Josh Spiro • Julie Stein • Justin Garrett Moore • Justin R. • Justine Johnson • Karen Kubey • Kemi Ilesanmi • Kenyatta McLean • Kethia Joseph • Kimberly Driggins • Krishna Davenport • Krzyaztof • Kyra Marie Assibey-Bonsu • Laura MacMillan • Lawrence Haseley • Layman Lee • Lee A. • Lena P. Afridi • Lilith Winkler-Schor • Lindsey Saldivar • M. L. Gardner • Marilyn Griffin • Marvin W. Chaney • Mike Mosley • Miriam Parson • MIT DUSP c/o 2020 & faculty • Mitchell Silver • Nicole B. • Nicole Mangiere • Nicole Payne • Nina Cooke John • Njoki Gitahi • Noah L. • Oren Hirsch • Paul Lozito • Rafael Sergio Smith • Rebecca Gillman Crimmins • Renae Widdison • Rita Taylor • Robyne Walker Murphy • Rose Florian • Sam Facas • Sarah Lidgus • Shannan Scarselletta • Sheila Allen • Sheila Whitsett • Shin-pei Tsay • Stephen Erdman • Tara Duvivier • Theresa Hwang • Tiffany-Ann Taylor • Tyler C. Paige • Uthman Olowa • Will Khoury-Hanold • CORPORATE DONORS • GrowHouse NYC • HECTOR • Initiate Studios • Latent Design • Studio Luz Architects • Urban Patch • INSTITUTIONAL DONORS • Brooklyn Community Foundation • The Graham Foundation • J.M. Kaplan Fund

*This report recognizes the people who made gifts during fiscal years FY19 as well as FY20.*
Be a part of realizing a present and future where Black people, Black spaces, and Black culture matter and thrive.

manifest the future with us!

contact contact@blackspace.org • follow @blackspaceorg • visit www.blackspace.org