

African American Legacy 20th Anniversary Celebration

Reaching Back, Giving Forward

November 2, 2023
5 - 8 PM



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

Reflections from 20 years of grant recipients....



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
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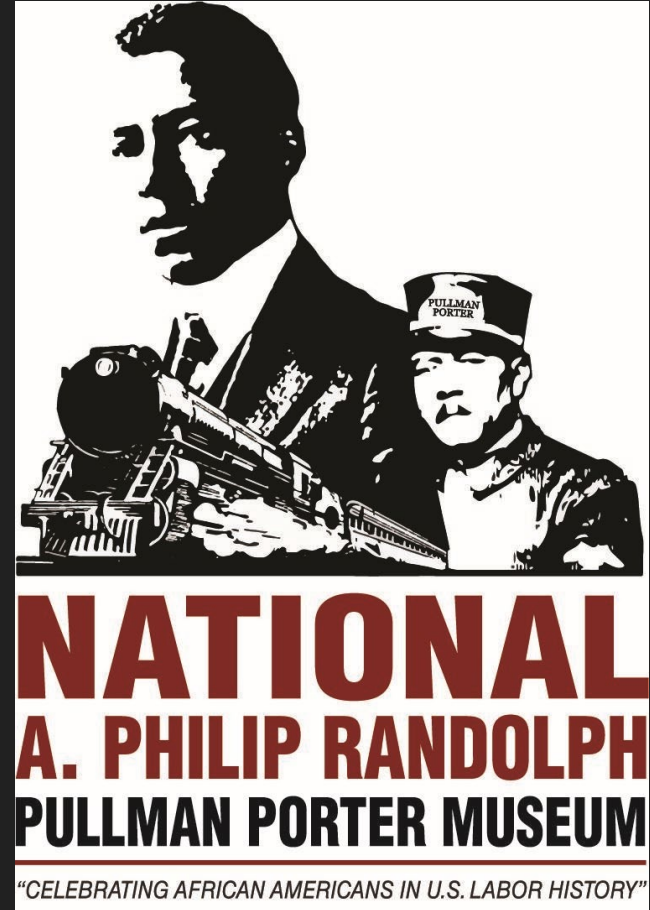


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A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum

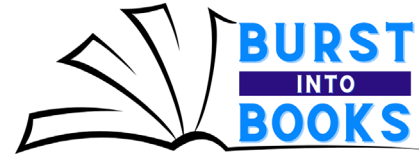
The A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum is not just a museum. We describe ourselves as new image of the Black Cultural Business in America. In 2019 we had just concluded the planning and perfecting of our pilot Cultural Economic Development (CESD) demonstration project —and planned national presentation and out of nowhere COVID -19 hit. The appearance of the pandemic interrupted the trajectory of those plans and prevented us from moving forward with the implementation of the project. As an entrepreneurial operational based business, what we needed was a lifeline to figure out how to pivot and get to holding pattern.

Our AAL grant provided that lifeline. We used the funds as seed money to establish our website presence to get us through that terrible time. We are so proud to say that AAL helped us to continue digitally and in April of 2023 we announced the implementation of the first CED project, and the expansion of the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, the cornerstone of the first Black Labor tourism District in the nation, to launch before the end of 2023.



Burst into Books

The support we received from AAL helped us to support our literacy programs and events. Such programs include our monthly book club sessions, tutoring program, book distributions and after school programs. Events include our annual spelling bee and family literacy night. The Funds helped with buying materials, paying contractors, purchasing online academic programs and books for participants. We are grateful for how the funding helped to ensure our organization could provide high level programming to the families we served.



BYP100

Funding from The Chicago Community Trust's African American Legacy Grant has supported a series of trainings for leaders and members of BYP100 Chicago Chapter.



In April 2019, BYP100 launched its first national campaign, "She Safe, We Safe", a transformative movement campaign to put an end to the different forms of violence that Black women, girls, femmes and gender non-conforming people face everyday. We created a launch toolkit and political education curriculum, hosted a campaign webinar, organized political education and training events in Chicago and across the country, and collected stories as part of the national "She Safe, We Safe" Story Collection Project.

The Chicago Chapter of BYP100 collaborated with the Black Abolitionist Network to train hundreds through the Defund Chicago Police Department Campaign. The Erase the Gang Database coalition was able to get the Chicago Police Department to change the way they track individuals accused of gang affiliation. The coalition is working tirelessly and continually to shut down the database entirely.

Chicago Eco House and Southside Blooms

We were VERY fortunate to receive three years of support from AAL and they were instrumental in helping us to grow our floral workforce development operation from a grassroots endeavor into a professional job training program that is regularly employing 20+ youth at a time.



**SOUTHSIDE
BLOOMS**

FLOWERS THAT EMPOWER
southsideblooms.com



Chicago Youth Centers

Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) is grateful for the support of African American Legacy. Through your generous contributions to our mission, CYC has been able to achieve the following:

- Previously partner with the Musical Arts Institute to provide a violin lesson program for our Out-of-School Time children.*
- Expand our STEAM programming and enhance our Makers Labs to be a space full of exploration through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.*
- Previously partner with I Am We to provide ballet and dance programming in support for our push for Health & Wellness through movement.*
- Promoting Peace and De-escalation through participation in the South Side Advocates programming to learn about violence prevention, restorative justice, and community engagement.*
- Previously partner with Lost Boyz by participating in softball practices that allowed CYC to become part of an organized league. Lost Boyz formed groups within the league to promote community engagement, volunteering, mentoring, and tutoring amongst CYC kids.*

We are thankful for the opportunities that AAL has provided for our organization and the communities we work with!

Children First Fund: The Chicago Public Schools Foundation

The “Boys II Men” Mentoring program and the Girls Mentoring program at William H. Brown STEM Magnet Elementary School were popular after-school programs. The program began in the fall of 2021 with 7 boys and 8 girls from grades 6th-8th. Thanks to the African American Legacy Mentoring grant, the program was able to expand to serve over 20 boys and 18 girls.



As a result of participating in the mentoring program, the young men of Brown STEM developed more positive racial identities, a greater sense of belonging and connection, and higher academic and post-secondary goals.

Similarly, the program motivated, inspired, empowered, and guided young girls to discover their passion in life through mentoring and educational opportunities. Participants experienced a sense of community and empowerment that encouraged them to be successful young women in the world.

EcoWomanist Institute

The AAL grant support made it possible for EWI to continue to offer innovative programming that involves and supports women leaders of African descent in EJ communities; Whether it's engaging in our nature as a healer via our Mamas & Me in Nature, Black & Brown Women's Birding, Kitchen Table Talks, Healing Chair workshops, Civic Education and Engagement or Land Justice support.





EQUITY AND TRANSFORMATION

Equity and Transformation

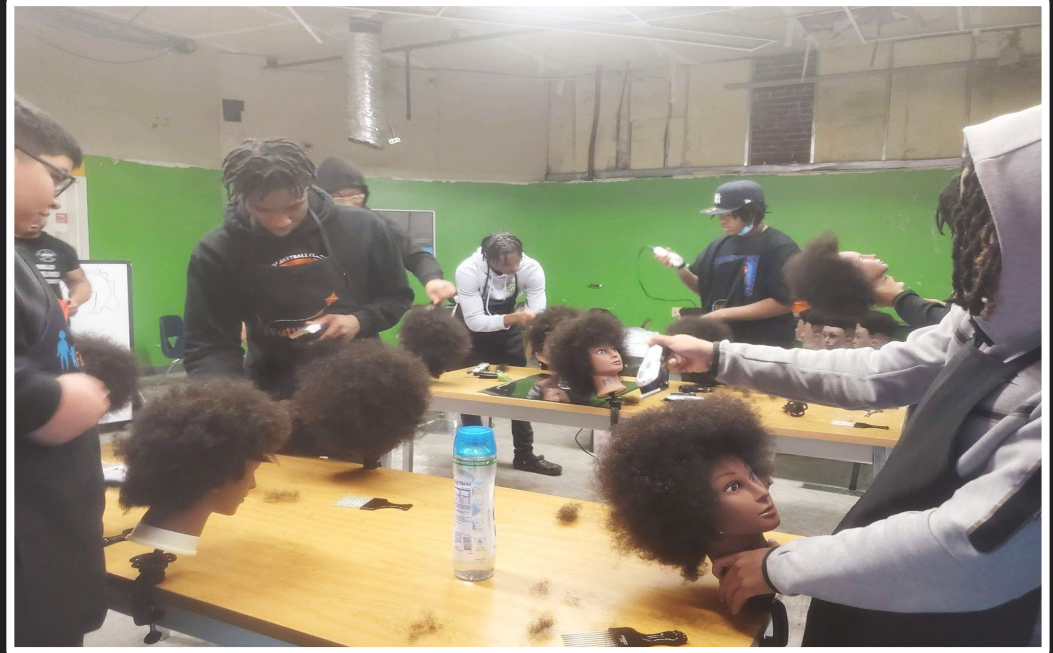
The African American Legacy grant has allowed us to provide space for Black informal workers to dream of new possibilities and provide the resources to build turn those dreams into realities.





Future Ties, NFP

The support we received help Future Ties expand our enrollment for our Future Barbers cohort. We were able to purchase equipment needed and hire an additional team member to mentor and instruct the class.



Girls Like Me

Support from AAL has strengthened our general operations and given us the flexibility of unrestricted funds. We were able to build our evaluation and metric tools, streamline our volunteer management, as well as hire part-time staff to aid in our community outreach.





Ignite Technology and Innovation

The grant we received was a testament to the profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by small, minority-owned businesses. The support in both funding and moreover the belief in our mission is instrumental in advancing our vision to create empowering spaces for individuals and communities, and we are genuinely thankful for the opportunity to continue our important work.



IMPACT Family Center

Support from AAL definitely made an impact on IMPACT digital media programming. Our youth learned valuable digital media production skills including research, preparing questions, locating people to interview, writing scripts, learning to use media equipment, transcribing interviews for closed captioning, and post production editing. These are transferable skills that can be utilized in school and careers.

The final docu-series will be a well produced project that shed a light on atrocities of incarcerating Black people and flaws in the justice system that has a negative effect on lives and our communities. Advocacy media is for US, about US, and by US.

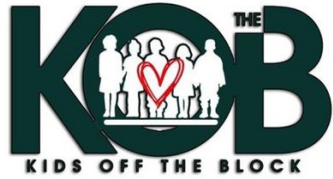


Inner-City Computer Stars Foundation

The African American Legacy's support of i.c.stars has meant we've been able to build deeper connections with our Chicago partners and create pathways for young adults to transform their lives through careers in tech and through civic leadership in their local communities. We are extremely grateful for their presence and can't wait to see what opportunities they create in the next 20 years.

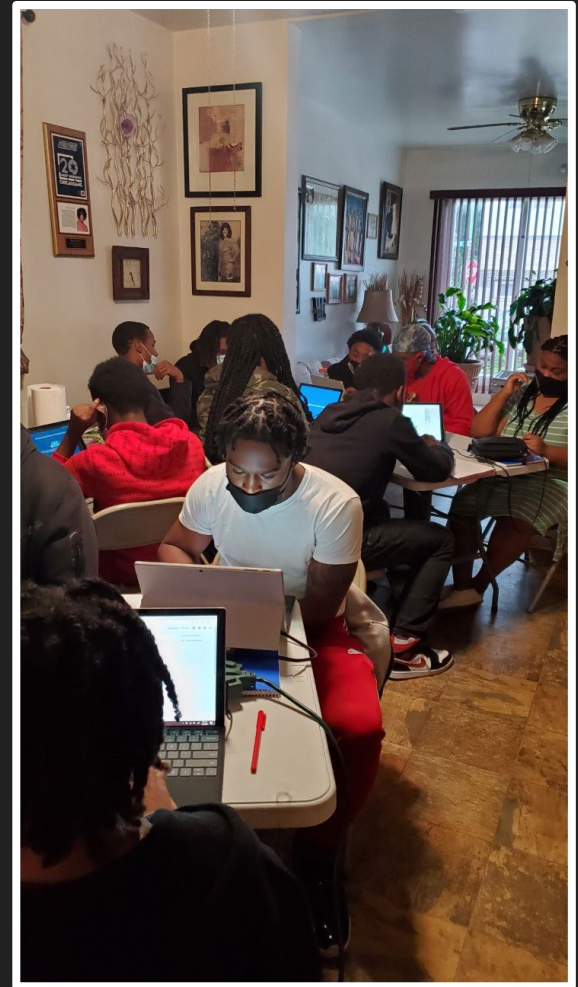


i.c.stars | *



Kids off the Block

AAL was the first organization to support our mission to impact the lives of youth/young adults living in the Roseland Community. We were given a grant for capacity building and this funding allowed us to not only build our programs but to also recruit board members and attend trainings. That was 20 years ago. Thank you so much AAL!



Kuumba Lynx



KUUMBA LYNX™
Liberation through Artistic Expression

AAL has supported us to deliver excellent and impactful programming around dance and peace circles throughout our south and west sides of Chicago. This programming brings together youth from different neighborhoods who connect around street dance but not necessarily around geographical placements. This is a success in unity across different communities especially in our segregated city. The peace circles have been inspiring as the community has become more acclimated to ways to address conflict and unpacked trauma.

Ladies of Virtue

Ladies of Virtue (LOV), used AAL funding to provide mental health workshops and counseling to 350 girls and workshops for 78 parents and mentors. Counseling supported emotional well-being and social-emotional learning. Adult workshops covered trauma-informed care, adolescent mental health, social-emotional development in young people, and other topics requested by parents. All counseling and workshops were delivered by a licensed mental health professional.



LADIES of VIRTUE
Transforming Lives. Destined for Greatness.



Light of Loving Kindness



Congratulations to the African American Legacy for 20 years of serving Black communities across Chicagoland! We are so proud to have become a part of this legacy!

In 2022, AAL funded Light of Loving Kindness (LOLK) with a grant of \$12,000. This funding helped us to hire a part-time Program Coordinator who provided coordination of our spring and summer programming to include two Self-Love Bootcamps. We hosted one Mindful Youth Ambassadors and 10 Self-Love in Nature community events. Our upcoming program, a Woman's PEACE Gathering, will kick off in 2024. We created new partnerships with Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corp and the Englewood Arts Collaborative. In addition, we held several community wellness events at Chicago block parties, community gatherings, our new southeast side yoga studio called Studio Yogi, and other locations, hosting drum circles, peace healing circles, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, grief workshops, and more

Because of funding from AAL, we were able to provide much needed human resources for LOLK. Thank you for your trust in us. We are so grateful for the opportunity to shine as partners with AAL and The Chicago Community Trust.

Lighthouse Foundation of Chicagoland

The support from the African American Legacy Fund (AAL) was crucial in helping Lighthouse Foundation respond to the needs of Black LGBTQ+ people during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. AAL funding supported our organization's virtual programming about topics like mental health, COVID-19 & HIV, and celebration/game nights that drew people together safely at a time when people desperately needed connection and community. Also, AAL provided our organization with the financial resources necessary to lead a three-day Black Queer Virtual Pride Celebration for three years, which provided compensation to Black LGBTQ+ gig workers like drag queens, vocalists, poets, and community leaders that were featured in our virtual celebration. And this vital programming came at a time when these gig workers could not gather for public performance.



**LIGHTHOUSE
FOUNDATION**



Live Free Chicago

African American Legacy's support enabled Live Free Chicago to expand our network of Chicago faith communities and system-impacted leaders working to improve public safety and transform our criminal justice system. By investing in our organization, AAL helped make possible our newly launched Community Healing Resource Center program, a statewide network of 12 sites that provide trauma-informed care, mental health services, and other essential resources to communities most impacted by gun violence. AAL's support also helped Live Free Chicago to invest in improved technology and communications systems, which strengthened our organizing efforts and ability to support our coalition partners. Using these tools, together with our partners we passed the FREE Act in 2023, which eliminates permanent punishments for people with criminal records who may wish to serve as executors of their loved one's estates.

Love to Serve

Being a grant recipient of the AAL has been pivotal to Love To Serve, Inc. being validated and worthy of being funded by other private foundations.



Love, Unity & Values Institute

We are grateful for the grant from the African American Legacy Initiative. The Love, Unity & Values Institute launched the Journey to My Better Self Career Academy in 2012 as an out-of-school program that helps under-resourced youth ages 16 to 24 achieve their career and educational aspirations. These critical resources provided the seed capital to expand the Career Academy by launching our Certified Nurses Aid (CNA) career vertical. We leveraged this funding for additional funding, allowing us to serve 23 candidates in 2022. We had an overwhelming response of 143 applicants interested in the program. Out of 23 candidates accepted, 19 completed successfully and now work for various hospitals, nursing homes, home health companies, and more. One of the graduates said, "With this program, I would not have been able to receive my CNA certification. Now, I have the confidence to pursue a career in nursing."



Lugenia Burns Hope Center

As a Black led organization in Chicago, the support from the African American Legacy fund has been invaluable to the sustaining of our critical services, leadership development initiatives and our organizing efforts.



Lugenia Burns
**HOPE
CENTER**

Monarch Awards Foundation

Monarch Awards Foundation had greater community impact by serving more families via our programs and services because of the financial support received from AAL.

Our 17th Annual Community Feeding reached 40% more families because of the support along with our Teen Mentoring Program, student support services throughout the year and scholarship contributions to high school and college students.



New Life K.N.E.W. Solutions

Thanks to AAL's support, New Life K.N.E.W. Solutions is bringing innovative solutions to revitalize Chicago's Westside. We've relocated to a new facility, invested in professional staff development and expanded our Peer Team Concept to educate and advocate for African-American individuals and families' rights in the community making mental health and wellness services more accessible.





North Lawndale Employment Network

Support from AAL provided critical funding that allowed NLEN to elevate our work and advance our mission. We couldn't be more grateful.





PROJECT EDUCATION PLUS

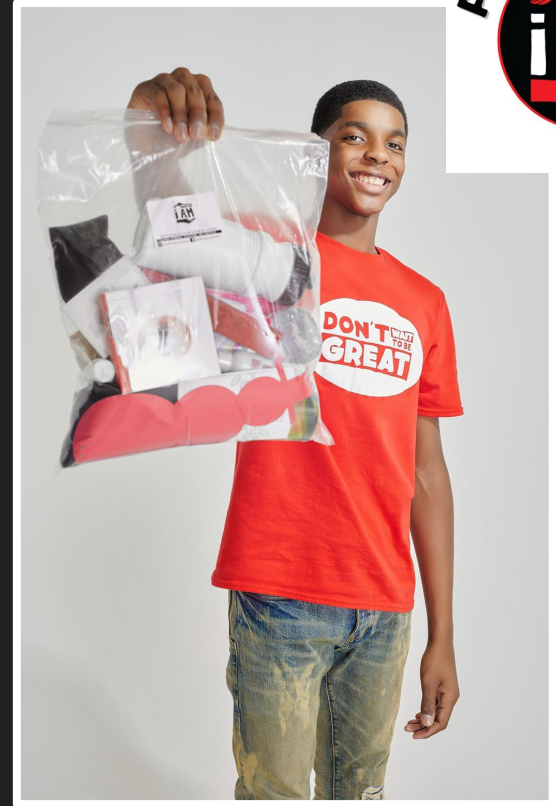
Project Education Plus

AAL funding has had a tremendous impact on our youth academic programming. Funds have helped to provide additional educational activities and with the increase in enrollment in our STEM, Literacy, Arts, & Athletic Programs.



Project I Am

The AAL support was a tremendous help to Project I Am, a small and young organization. It was amazing to receive the support as it helped validate this youth led organization and helped impact over 2,000 unhoused people in Chicago. Thank you for believing in the mission and showing the world that a middle schooler can help change the world!



Red Clay Dance Company



The funding support from the African American Legacy Fund enabled us to continue our work as a powerful "glocal" change agent that uses our "Artivism" and creative excellence to strengthen the Black community in Chicago and beyond. Through our work, we amplify voices of the African Diaspora, seek remuneration equity for artists, support Black women and create accessible excellence.



Rhonda's Angel Network Organization

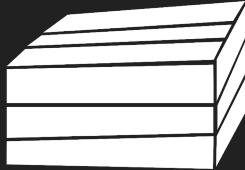
Rhonda's Angel Network Organization is truly grateful for being a recipient of the African American Legacy Grant. This grant has been a transformative blessing, empowering us to jumpstart our essential programming. With this funding, we've been able to create a personal, safe haven for young ladies, offering them a nurturing environment for in-person activities. This support has not only given us the means to provide valuable experiences but has also opened doors to opportunities for personal growth, mentorship, and community engagement. We are excited about the positive impact this grant continues to have on the lives of these young ladies and our community as a whole.



SoapBox Productions and Organizing

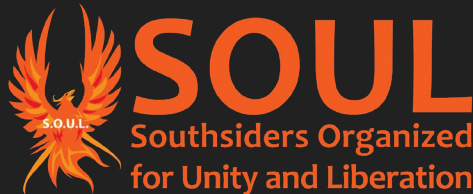
The support from AAL has supported us in putting more financial resources, capacity, and energy into three projects near the end of 2021. The impact of this support helped carry three now-organization-defining projects across the finish line that will set us up for future success in movement, media, and narrative shifting towards liberation.



SOAP  BOX
PRODUCTIONS & ORGANIZING

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)

SOUL is honored to be an African American Legacy Initiative grant recipient. Because of your support and in partnership with directly-impacted people in Black communities, we were able to continue the work of ending mass incarceration in Cook County and in Illinois. We are proud to report that due to our work to reform the pretrial justice system and reinvest resources in families in Cook County, today, the population of individuals inside Cook County Jail is the lowest it has been in four decades.



The BASE Chicago

Support from AAL has provided additional resources to meet the growing numbers of youth entering the many tutoring and mentoring activities – including college trips and a Women/Girl's Empowerment Forum.



The Black Star Project

The African American Legacy (AAL) has played an important part in the roll out of many of The Black Star Project's (TBSP) programs over the past year. These initiatives include the Kimberly Lightford/Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools, Young Black Men of Honor (adult males mentoring young men), Phillip Jackson Youth Mentorship Program (middle and high-school students mentored by UChicago and other mentors), Ambassadors of Hope (summer youth leadership development program), sporting events, Building Chicago's Next CEO (micro-entrepreneurship program), an amazing Juneteenth Celebration, STEM & technology programs, a Bronzeville Book Bonanza and Piggy Bank Hunt, participation in the Bud Billiken parade, expungement and sealing events and other gatherings aimed at closing academic achievement & wealth gaps and promoting peace in communities.

Many think that TBSP is a multi-million-dollar operation based on the excellent work it produces. Instead, this work is done with few resources, the support of organizations like AAL, parent, youth and community involvement and the dedication of staff and volunteers who believe in TBSP's mission and the legacy of Phillip Jackson. TBSP is grateful for the support of AAL.



The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago

*We were able to
expand services to
African refugees and
immigrants.*



The Gray Matter Experience

AAL has been a consistent supporter of The Gray Matter Experience for the past 4 years. Their support came at a time where there weren't a lot of organizations and foundations supporting our work. Their renewed commitment, advocacy and championship has helped add new avenues of community, advisory and strategic support that we otherwise would not have had. They were one of our first multi-year funders and that in and of itself adds a level of credibility to our organization and has helped us to stabilize our budget through the years. We are extremely grateful for their continued championship and support.



GRAY MATTER

The Kindness Campaign

The support allowed us to expand out capacity and serve more students. The general operating funds helped us overcome possible challenges with rising costs and increased demand.



The Provident Foundation

AAL awarded us a grant in support of our mentorship program, which gave us the resources to expand our reach and enhance its offerings. We will be able to provide more comprehensive support, guidance, and learning opportunities to help our scholars realize their full potential. AAL's dedication to uplifting our community is truly commendable, and we are deeply grateful for their support. In the spirit of Provident Hospital Founder, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Provident Foundation carries forward his legacy by nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals, ensuring that our healthcare system is truly representative of the communities it serves.



THE PROVIDENT
FOUNDATION

United African Organization

United African Organization (UAO) extends warmest congratulations to African American Legacy on its 20th anniversary!

We are grateful to AAL for your investment in UAO's mission by providing a lifeline to ensure that Black immigrants and refugees have access to vital resources and representation they need to navigate the complex immigration system and secure a better future. Your support nourishes their hopes and dreams, and honors the struggles and sacrifices our ancestors made in the fight for equality, dignity and justice. AAL is a shining testament to the undaunting spirit of African American resiliency, solidarity and unity!



WESTSIDE RISING

Support from AAL tremendously impacted WESTSIDE RISING as an organization. We were able to bring our organizer up to a part time position with a viable living wage. This increased our engagement and outreach capacity. As a result we were able to engage in multiple civic education and engagement events and activities including multiple candidate forums. We were also able to host a forum of our own.

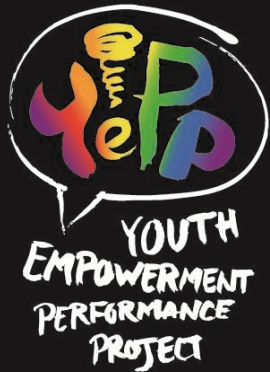
Additionally, we were able to get in the community and speak face to face with more than 900 residents about what they want to see on the westside. We were able to gain valid information and connections within the community. Thank you for your support and our continued partnership in building West side communities.



**WESTSIDE
RISING!**

Youth Empowerment Performance Project

Support from AAL allowed us to open our very first Leadership Program cohort! The “YEPP Leadership Program” is a 7-month, paid leadership development program that creates opportunities for participants ages 18–30 to learn, develop, and practice leadership skills using YEPP’s unique model of community engagement and healing through creative expression. The program provides in-depth training in the following anti-oppression & liberation frameworks: Harm Reduction, Trauma Responsiveness, Transformative Justice, Restorative Justice and Education for Liberation.



One of the graduates of this program is currently our organization's Director of Programs (Grey), and a second graduate is one of our Youth Advisory Board Member and the Board's Secretary (Meg Mia). The leadership development gained through the Leadership Program funded by AAL allowed them to develop the necessary skills to be hired by our organization.

Event Committee

Loann Honesty King, Chair

Troy Boyd, Jr.

Kim Casey

Tyrone Foreman

Graham Grady

Kafi Morgane-Patterson



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Daniel Ash
Claudette Baker
Andreason Brown
Julian Coleman
Carol Crenshaw
Amina Dickerson
Rebecca Ford-Terry
Denise Gardner
Corliss Garner
Graham Grady

Marguerite Griffin
Suzanne Griffith
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Melody Spann-Cooper



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AAL Founding Members

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Bishop Arthur Brazier
Steven Bowman
Frank Clark
Alyson Cooke
Amina Dickerson
Maxine Duster
Marshall Field V
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Denise Gardner

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Lester McKeever
Mardie MacKimm
Langdon Neal

Martin Nesbitt
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