

THE BLACK LITERACY & ARTS
COLLABORATIVE PROJECT, INC.



2021

ANNUAL
REPORT



A LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

2021 was an incredibly insightful one for The B.L.A.C. Project as we celebrated one and a half years of impact. We experienced plenty of new and exciting updates, but the year certainly didn't come without its challenges. As we began to "transition back to normal" as a country, we were actively navigating fundraising activities, programming location sites, and logistics, and doing everything we could to support youth and families as they navigated the challenges of e-learning. Behind the scenes, we worked to use our platform to advocate for more robust resources, support, and opportunities for smaller, grassroots, and Black-led organizations like our own.

At The B.L.A.C. Project, our commitment and responsibility is to be an effective resource for our communities, with an intentional focus on the youth. We want our youth to gain exposure and access to art, education, innovation, social impact, emerging technology, and those opportunities still yet to be discovered. We aim to build an ecosystem of support that stimulates collaboration, community, sustainability, and growth for our communities by creating tangible opportunities for youth and families to explore. Our mission is to create a model - a self-sustaining ecosystem - that helps to create opportunities for Black youth across the country.

The consistent growth in the number of youth and families we've served is testament and validation that the work we're undertaking is both necessary and important, and we're committed to continuing to equip our community of young change-makers with the tools, resources, and networks they need to truly succeed in this world. We hope that people leave our programs and feel more empowered, prepared, and positioned to enter the world - in whatever form they plan to participate.

We have never been more proud or more inspired to keep going. We'd like to send a HUGE thank you to the entire B.L.A.C. Project team, Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Community Partners, and all of our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We are truly grateful to have your support as we continue to strive towards more growth and deepen our impact.

Yours in service,

Rochelle Levy-Christopher
Ahjah Gage



Our Story So Far

Our Mission & Vision

The Black Literacy and Arts Collaborative (B.L.A.C.) Project is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization that was created as a means to educate, empower and uplift BIPOC youth and creatives at the intersection of art, culture, and activism. By invoking radical imagination we encourage BIPOC communities to change landscapes all while inspiring new realities.

Our goal is to support, educate and elevate BIPOC in order to create an equitable starting point between them and their white peers. Through artistic expression and engagement as well as bespoke programs and events, we serve as a connection point and source for underserved BIPOC communities to access the critical education and resources needed to thrive.

Through bespoke programs, events, and varied platforms, we connect our underserved communities with mentors they can relate to, curate unique experiences and programs, provide resources and invoke activism through a cultural and artistic lens.

What does it look like when our programs are successful?

- BIPOC thrive from youth through adulthood with reliably equal access to educational development and mentorship opportunities;
 - BIPOC youth consistently achieving high scores in reading comprehension assessments and compete academically with their peers throughout their primary and secondary education;
 - BIPOC learners pursue unlimited undergraduate and graduate education opportunities;
 - BIPOC professionals enjoy unlimited career and professional development opportunities
- ... and more.

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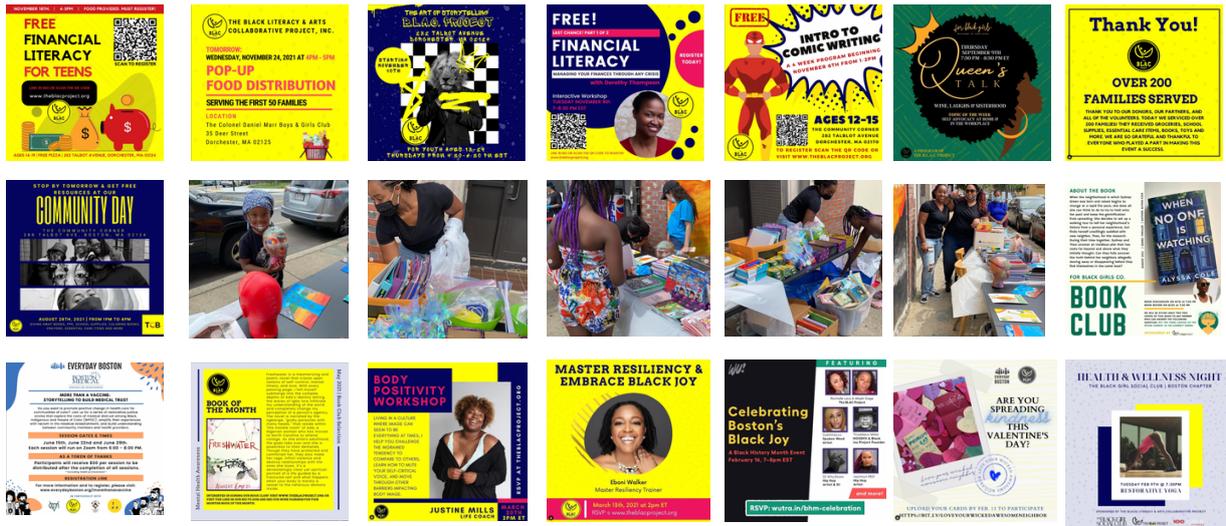
2021 Programs



Served over 1,000 youth & families



41 volunteers



Check out a few of our workshops & projects from 2021:

Literacy for All

The BLAC Project aims to improve literacy levels within African American communities by engaging families and helping them develop an at-home literacy routine with proven results that link to academic and life success.

Body Positivity Workshop

Some of us struggle with accepting ourselves and our bodies for the phenomenal works of art that they are. Full of beautiful complexities and nuance. It's a task to get out of our own head and out of our way to see ourselves in a positive light. This interactive workshop is aimed to promote positivity for our bodies and our minds.

B.L.A.C. Book Club

Introduce participants to new books by Black authors & engage critical thinking skills.

Financial Literacy

During this 2-part workshop attendees were introduced to concepts like: Budgeting, Debt Stacking, The Rule of 72, Planning for Retirement, IRA's, Investing, and more.

Storytelling to Build Medical Trust

To better understand medical distrust, and to improve health outcomes for people of color, this 18-month-long project uses story sharing as a tool to 1) Amplify the experiences and beliefs of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and 2) Strengthen understanding between health providers and community members of color.

OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

This year, despite the unprecedented challenges facing the world and our community in particular, we were able to secure funding that allowed us to provide multi-faceted virtual programming and community resources.

We are incredibly grateful for these new partnerships and are excited about creating more magic with each of them in 2022.



OFFICE OF
PREPAREDNESS
AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

2021 AT A GLANCE



Income 36,066.08

MAIN SOURCES OF REVENUE

Individual Donors

Grants

Community &
Corporate Partners

\$9,581.49

\$19,745.00

\$6,740.31

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

43%

Operational Expenses (fundraising and management tools, salaries)

51%

Program Costs (supplies, space rentals, etc.)

5%

Technology (computers)

KEY CHALLENGES:

Shift to work-from-home setup

Employee & Contractor pool expansion

Technology & Indoor Space

Supply storage

Growing The B.L.A.C. Project: Our 2022 Strategy



FINANCIAL TARGETS

Partnerships & Sponsors	\$75,000
Grants	\$100,000
Individual Donations	\$50,000

FUTURE PLANS FOR GROWTH

Staff Growth	\$100,000
Expansion of programming	\$100,000

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF REVENUE

Clothing Sales	\$15,000.00
Resource Sales	\$10,000.00

Our 2022 Goals

1 Increase Our Impact

2 Expand Our Programming

3 Permanent Location

At the Black Literacy and Arts Collaborative Project, our commitment and responsibility is to be an effective resource for marginalized communities with an internal focus on BIPOC youth and families. We want BIPOC youth to gain exposure to new ideas and realities, access to education and innovation, mental wellness programs, explore the arts, and other opportunities yet to be discovered.





THE BLAC PROJECT

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