

The Power and Legacy of Miami's Black Diaspora

A Testament to Black Immigrant Builders and the Soul of Miami

For the past 11 years, our annual State of Black Philanthropy has brought Miami together to celebrate the legacy of generosity and leadership in our Black community, reflect on the opportunities and barriers that shape our collective future, and hold ourselves accountable to continued bold action.

This year, we celebrate Miami's Black diaspora from the Caribbean and Latin America, including Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas. These families built Miami from the ground up. From griot traditions to Sunday plate lunches, from rumbas to mutual aid networks, Black immigrant communities have shaped the culture and institutions where Miami's soul lives.

We share this work to illuminate contributions often absent from official records, while recognizing the richness of Miami's Black diaspora extends far beyond what we can capture here. At a moment when data faces erasure and immigrant communities live in fear of harassment and deportation, we hold fast to sharing the information our communities need to advance equity, action, and dialogue.

We also need the voices of community champions to tell the stories behind the data.

Click here to listen to leaders of Miami's Black diaspora as they share stories of resilience, vision, and community power.

3 in 10
Black residents
in Miami-Dade County are **foreign-born**

Miami is home to the second-largest Black immigrant population in the United States. Their impact strengthens Miami.

A Brief History

- **1880s** — Bahamians migrate for economic opportunity
- **1960-70s** — Haitian families flee political turmoil
- **1970-80s** — Jamaican migration grows as families seek stability
- **1980** — Mariel boatlift brings Cuban refugees, including Afro-Cubans

$14.5B
Black immigrants' **annual contribution** to Miami's economy

Through the Black diaspora, Miami rose.

From the **Bahamian pioneers** who founded Black Coconut Grove in the 1880s, part of the Black electorate that made up nearly half of Miami's voters when the city incorporated in 1896,

and the **Afro-Latino coalition** builders from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and beyond who preserved rumba, Carnival, sacred dance, and other Afro-Caribbean traditions that pulse through Miami's artistic and social life,

to the **Haitian families** who transformed Edison/Little River into Little Haiti, a name activist Viter Juste coined to honor the community's cultural and civic power,

with our **Jamaican leaders** who established vibrant commercial and cultural corridors through Liberty City and North Miami, strengthening Miami's Caribbean identity and economic vitality.

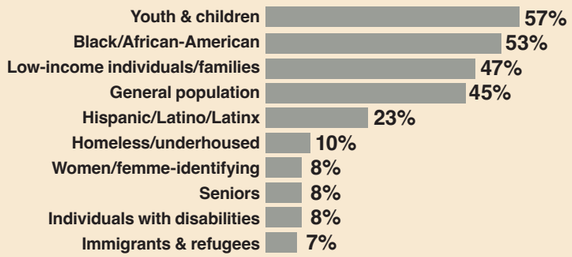
Miami's Black Nonprofit Sector

28% of nonprofits serve Black and immigrant communities

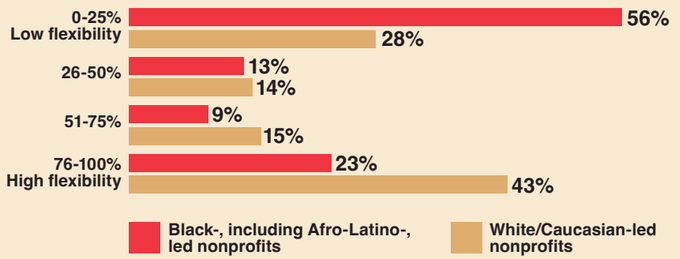
30% of nonprofit leaders are Black, including Afro-Latino

47% of nonprofit board seats are held by BIPOC leaders

Who do our Black, including Afro-Latino, nonprofit leaders serve? They provide vital programs across Miami, with many supporting youth and children (57%), the Black community (53%), and our most vulnerable families (47%). **Investing in Black- and Afro-Latino-led nonprofits strengthens all of Miami.**



Budget flexibility is the freedom to move money where it's needed. In Miami, that freedom is unequal: Black-, including Afro-Latino-, led nonprofits face tighter constraints than white-led organizations. **What does this reveal about donor trust?**



Miami's Black Diaspora

	OF TOTAL BLACK POPULATION
97,703 Haitians	24%
25,414 Jamaicans	6.3%
3,880 Bahamians	1%
N/A Afro-Latinos	Data not available

25+ Distinct and vibrant cultures spanning Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin and South America that shape Miami's Black diaspora – more than we feature here.

2X Nationally, Black Americans have consistently given **3-4%** of their income to charitable causes, **nearly double the rate** of other ethnic groups.

In Miami's Black immigrant communities, this tradition takes many forms: supporting both local organizations and homelands, building cultural institutions, preserving heritage, and strengthening mutual aid networks.

The Miami Foundation commissioned artist Cornelius Tulloch to capture the richness of Miami's Black diaspora, including the piece that appears on the cover, *Diasporic Care*.

THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

We are deeply committed to supporting nonprofits and the leaders empowering Black communities. **Click here to learn more.**

We gratefully acknowledge the research that informed this report, including data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey and Give Miami Day registrations; demographic analysis from Pew Research Center, Migration Policy Institute, and Brookings Institution; historical sources including University of Miami Libraries, Vizcaya Museum, The New Tropic, and The Atlantic; and philanthropic research from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.