The 2023 State of Black Philanthropy
BLACK AMERICANS GIVE BOLDLY DESPITE WEALTH INEQUALITY.

The persistent wealth gap between Black and White households results from centuries of injustice and discrimination. “From the brutal exploitation of Africans during slavery to systematic oppression in the Jim Crow South, to today’s institutionalized racism - apparent in disparate access to and outcomes in education, health care, jobs, housing, and criminal justice - government policy has created or maintained hurdles for African Americans who attempt to build, maintain, and pass on wealth.”

OUTSIZED GENEROSITY.

To consider Black Philanthropy new or emerging would be ignoring a rich history of generosity spanning hundreds of years. In the face of centuries of oppression, Black philanthropists have abundantly given their money and time regardless of their economic status. A 2012 study by The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors estimated that African American households donate $11 billion a year, outpacing all other peer groups.²

Despite the persistent wealth gap, Black families have continued to contribute the largest share of median family wealth to charity.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finances. Percentages calculated to nearest whole number by Urban Institute.
Racial (IN)Equity in Philanthropic Investments.

Unrestricted funding often represents the trust between donor and donee.

Black-led organizations have 76% less unrestricted funding than White-led organizations.

Source: 2020 Racial Equity and Philanthropy from Echoing Green and Bridgespan

In 2002, Peter Dreier, an urban policy analyst and professor noted that funding for organizations focused on social justice was limited and given in small amounts. Unfortunately, there has not been significant progress in over 20 years. A 2021 report from the Lily Family School of Philanthropy found only 13% of Americans donated to racial and social justice issues in 2019, growing slightly to 16% in 2020. 2022 Giving in Florida Report found this is a little higher at the state level.

Over one in four Floridians reported giving to racial justice causes in 2021. Younger, Black, and Hispanic respondents were more likely to give to racial justice causes.

Source: 2022 Giving in Florida Report from Florida Nonprofit Alliance
RACIAL EQUITY TRENDS IN MIAMI.

One of the largest datasets offering insights into giving trends in Miami comes from Give Miami Day, with more than 80,000 donations going to more than 1,000 nonprofits on a single day. In 2022, most participating organizations were led by executive directors that identified as White (29%), Black (21%), or Hispanic (20%). A total of 234 Black-led organizations participated in Give Miami Day.

Over half of Black-led organizations participating in Give Miami Day have a small operating budget of less than $250,000. Fewer Black-led organizations have reached a medium or large size.

Regardless of organization budget size, there is a discrepancy in the percentage of funds contributed to Black-led organizations compared to the percentage of organizations with Black leaders.

While Black-led organizations make up ~20% of participating nonprofits, they receive only ~10% of the gifts.
OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY.

Sustained commitment matters. Our Foundation fears that despite several years of increased promises to prioritize Black communities, there is a quiet shift away from this work. Miami benefits tremendously from the vision, leadership, talent, and generosity of Black Miamians. To reach our potential as a region (and to lead a just society), we must double down on our investments in Black leaders and communities. We are committed to doing more.

- **$2 million Racial Equity Fund**
  We launched the Racial Equity Fund in June 2020. More than 150 funders have joined us, dedicating $2 million and co-investing in five rounds of grants to strengthen Black-led organizations doing work to support our community. This fund will continue to invest in leaders of color doing work to support Greater Miami’s Black community.

- **Equity focus infused into all Foundation grant programs**
  We reviewed our grant programs from an equity lens, making significant changes across the board. Most notably, our signature grant program shifted to exclusively fund multi-year general operating grants, prioritizing leaders with lived experience of our most pressing issues. In 2022, 38% of our community grant awardees were Black-led organizations.

- **$1.45 million to Black-led arts organizations and artists**
  We invested in Black-led arts organizations through two rounds of Black arts mini-grants. We launched the Momentum grant program, committing multi-year six-figure investments in BIPOC-led arts organizations in partnership with philanthropist Dan Lewis.

- **Community Advisory Board established**
  We built a diverse community advisory board to guide our staff, shifted grant-making decisions to committees led by community practitioners, and hosted more than 250 one-on-one conversations with nonprofit and community leaders to inform our leadership choices.

- **Over $2.5 million invested in digital equity**
  Recognizing the growing digital divide across racial and socio-economic lines, we co-built Miami-Connected to expand internet access, digital literacy, and opportunities through technology for more than 250,000 Miami residents. Of $790,000 in digital equity grants awarded in 2022, 77% went to Black-led organizations.

- **$20 million Open For Business Fund launched**
  Fueled by support from Wells Fargo, we launched a $20 million grant program investing in historically underserved minority businesses and nonprofits. Of $2.4 million deployed thus far, 81% has gone to Black leaders.

- **Give Miami Day boosts for Black-led nonprofits**
  On Give Miami Day, we enabled donors to search for Black-led nonprofits, created a Black-equity bonus pool, and heavily featured Black-led nonprofits to increase visibility and donor support.

- **Internal commitment to diversity, equity and belonging**
  Our staff reflects the powerful diversity of our region, bringing talent and perspective that makes us a stronger leadership force for Miami. 25% of our team, 20% of our senior staff (directors and up), and 20% of our Board are Black leaders. To ensure pay equity, we hired an outside consultant to evaluate our salary and hiring practices and made our salary bands public.

Commitment to racial equity is not a box to check off. It requires us to reflect, listen, and improve year after year. Here’s to the learning ahead.
JOIN US, GUIDE US.
SHAPE WHAT COMES NEXT.

Want to fuel the next round of Racial Equity Grants?

Want to share ideas, elevate nonprofits to our team, or help us improve?

Want to see this doc online? Go to: