



Black Girl Freedom Fund



2021 IMPACT REPORT



Celebrate Black Girl Freedom

Black girls deserve to be safe and free, to grow up healthy and thriving, and to have joy. That's why, in 2020, we launched the Black Girl Freedom Fund and the **#1Billion4BlackGirls** campaign. Our goal is to ensure a future that abundantly resources Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth, and their families, by mobilizing investments in their innovation, health, safety, education, artistic visions, research, and joy. In our first year we focused on building capacity and structure for this audacious, yet attainable initiative to activate \$1 billion in investment for Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth by 2030, and we have much to celebrate. But let's be clear— we are just getting started.

The Black Girl Freedom Fund (BGFF) is Grantmakers for Girls of Color's largest initiative and engages Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth as decision makers in the fund's priorities and vetting process for granting resources.

Most importantly, we hosted our first round of grants via the Black Girl Freedom Fund. More than \$500,000 was awarded to organizations that focus on Black girls' wellness and safety and the best part is that an amazing group of Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth were the decision-makers on these grants!

How it All Began

Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth have been and continue to be on the frontlines of fighting for racial and gender equity, giving voice to the most pressing issues facing our society through authentic, powerful and timely perspectives. But their stories and lives are often overlooked or erased. Recognizing this, a phenomenal group of Black women and femme activists, artists, educators, and philanthropists came together to call attention to the fact that Black girls in the United States are in crisis, having been overlooked and underrepresented for far too long. On September 15, 2020, this group of Black women leaders united to launch the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign, a call for the philanthropic investment of \$1 billion in Black girls over the next decade.



Our Co-Founders

OF THE #1BILLION4BLACKGIRLS CAMPAIGN ARE

<p>Dr. Monique W. Morris</p> <p>President and CEO, Grantmakers for Girls of Color</p>	<p>LaTosha Brown</p> <p>Founder, Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium</p>	<p>Tarana Burke</p> <p>Founder, 'me too.' Movement</p>	<p>Fatima Goss Graves</p> <p>President and CEO, National Women's Law Center</p>
<p>Joanne N. Smith MSW</p> <p>Founding President and CEO, Girls for Gender Equity</p>	<p>Dr. Salamishah Tillet</p> <p>Co-Founder, A Long Walk Home</p>	<p>Scheherazade Tillet</p> <p>Co-Founder, A Long Walk Home</p>	<p>Teresa Younger</p> <p>President and CEO, Ms. Foundation for Women</p>

Highlights from our First Year



We are deeply grateful to everyone who has participated in our events, joined the necessary conversations, shared insights and wisdom, spread the word, and contributed to the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign. Most of all, our mission came to life through our game-changing work, investing in preparing Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth to be the decision-makers in our first round of grants! Via the Black Girl Freedom Fund, we invested over \$500,000 in organizations that focus on Black girls' wellness and safety.

In our first year, we were able to significantly grow support for the #1Billion4BlackGirls call to invest in Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. When we say “\$1

billion for Black girls,” we recognize that these funds need to be directly guided towards Black girls and organizations that are led by, support and uplift them, and we are mobilizing these funds. We are also showing how Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth can be decision-makers in how these resources are invested.

Notable supporters of the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign include:

Beverly Bond, Camille A. Brown, Brittany Packnett Cunningham, Marley Dias, Kamilah Forbes, Melissa Harris-Perry, Valerie Jarrett, Dr. Janice Johnson Dias, Rashida Jones, Nakisha Lewis, Tynesha McHarris, Gabrielle Union, Ada Williams Prince, and Ciara.

Generous Co-Investors

In our first year (2020-2021), the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign has mobilized \$20 million from the co-investments of over 15 institutional funders and more than 1,000 individual donors. Grammy Award-winning artist Ciara was the first person to give directly to the fund, and she donated proceeds from her song “Rooted” to #1Billion4BlackGirls. This \$20 million surpassed what philanthropy collectively invests. In 2017, one of the latest years for which comprehensive data is available, less than 0.02% (\$15 million) of the \$67 billion that foundations contributed was specified as benefiting Black women and girls, according to the 2020 “Pocket Change: How Women and Girls of Color Do More With Less” report from the Ms. Foundation for Women and the consulting group Strength in Numbers.

Black Girl Freedom Week

In February 2021, we kicked off our inaugural Black Girl Freedom Week, a week-long celebration of Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. Some of our special guests included: Rashida Jones, Kelly McCreary, Eva Reign, Naomi Wadler, Dr. Aimee Cox, DJ Quiana, OnRaé LaTeal, Dara Baldwin, and Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth from organizations including: A Long Walk Home, Girls for Gender Equity, S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective, Black Swan Academy, Marsha P. Johnson Institute, and The Brotherhood Sister Sol.

BLACK GIRL FREEDOM WEEK 2022



Click here to watch the videos and view highlights from Black Girl Freedom Week 2022! We were so grateful to have special guests including Tracee Ellis Ross, Marley Dias, Sanaa Lathan, Eva Reign, Rashida Jones, DJ Sophia, and young Black girl and femme philanthropists in conversations about the leadership and innovation of Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth.



First Round of Black Girl Freedom Fund Grants

In spring 2021, our first cohort of BGFF Youth Grantmaking Council members came together to make decisions on our inaugural round of grants, which focused on Black girls' wellness and safety. These young people spent time defining what wellness and safety means to them and co-creating our vetting process for grantmaking decisions. Most importantly, these insightful youth served as the final decision-makers for this inaugural round. They selected six grant recipients that they believed clearly centered the wellness and safety of Black girls and gender-expansive youth.

Our inaugural BGFF grantee partners are:

The F.I.N.D. Design Nashville, TN



MISSION & VISION

The F.I.N.D. Design serves black girls and other girls of color African and African American-centric models that foster sensitivity and understanding to girls of color's unique needs. The organization's goal is to provide a space for black girls to heal, deal with, and feel, while receiving the tools and resources necessary to walk in their authentic selves.

Get Smart B4 U Get Sexy California



MISSION & VISION

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) has a team of young people implementing Get Smart B4U Get Sexy, a comprehensive sex education program with Black youth/young adults ages 14 - 30. Using a reproductive justice lens, peer educators, advocates and activists develop and share a sexual health education curriculum, build skills and share practical tools that support healthy living, while listening to address the concerns, issues, challenges and experiences of the young people they are touching.

**Healing the
Black Body
National**



MISSION & VISION

Healing the Black Body is an offering to create, build, and practice healing and liberation in Black queer and trans communities through performance, movement, and Black Feminism. This work starts with Black queer and trans girls and gender expansive youth at the center - we facilitate their processes in determining themselves, building personal power, and developing care practices to define and implement arts based tools for their safety, sustainability, and thriving.

**The Hive
Community Circle
South Carolina**



MISSION & VISION

The Hive Community Circle (The Hive), is a culturally specific peer advocacy organization serving womxn and girl survivors 11+ via peer based programming rooted in trauma-informed, strength based, healing justice work fostering safety, wellness, and self-sufficiency.

**Pretty Brown Girl
National**



MISSION & VISION

Sheri Crawley founded Pretty Brown Girl in response to overt and subtle forms of bias towards Black girls with issues on gender and racial inequality. Pretty Brown Girl has impacted over 100,000 girls nationally through its community outreach and revolutionary SEL program. In 2020, the Pretty Brown Girl Academy was launched to provide a virtual safe space for girls to let their voices be heard, gain a sense of belonging, and build sisterhood.

**3D Girls Inc.
Atlanta, GA**



MISSION & VISION

3D Girls, Inc has a mission to educate and empower young women and girls to be advocates for themselves and their families. In order to fulfill our mission, it is essential that we model and expose others to the critical disparities that serve as barriers for black girls through our programs and services.

Grantee Summary Statements

OUR QUESTION: What is most important for people to know about Black girls and gender expansive youth and their wellness and safety?

The F.I.N.D. Design

RESPONSE

Is the importance of having culturally competent and relevant spaces that allow them to grieve the loss of being denied human emotions because of the negative consequences black women suffer for simply expressing such emotion. Black girls need spaces to “be” without repercussions.

Get Smart B4 U Get Sexy

RESPONSE

Black girls and gender-expansive youth are not a monolith. They deserve to be listened to. They deserve protection and kindness. They deserve safe spaces to learn and develop autonomy over their lives. Their safety and wellness needs to be prioritized. Their wellness and safety are central to an equitable future.

Healing the Black Body

RESPONSE

What is most important for people to know about Black girls and gender expansive youth and their wellness and safety is they have the power and knowledge to define wellness and safety for themselves, and it is our duty to nurture their determination with the utmost priority.

The Hive Community Circle

RESPONSE

It is critical for people to know and understand that the wellness and safety of Black girls and gender expansive youth is non-negotiable. This has less to do with the fact that they fall within the margins of inequities, but more about their freedom, healing, and future they are deserving of because of their existence.

Pretty Brown Girl

RESPONSE

Black girls have one of the highest rates of unaddressed mental health needs but have less support, putting them at a higher risk for depression and anxiety.

3D Girls Inc.

RESPONSE

With more than 55 million children losing their familiar environments, families losing their income and the increased impacts on social and emotional wellbeing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for black youth to feel safe and valued. This is even more the case for black girls and gender expansive youth who are at higher risks of suicide, depression and health disparities that may inhibit a prosperous future.

Continued Impact Through Grantmaking

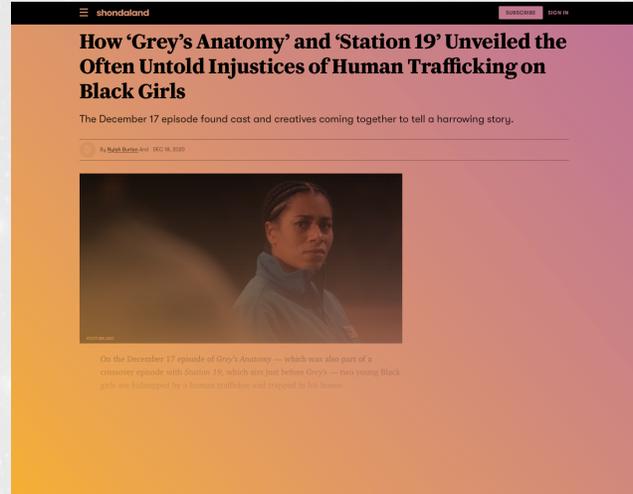


In the fall of 2021, we held an open call for applications for the Black Girl Freedom Fund. This round was open to organizations that center the leadership of Black girls and gender-expansive youth. We were especially excited to invite Black women and femme-led organizations to apply for this round of funding. Recipients will be announced in Spring 2022.



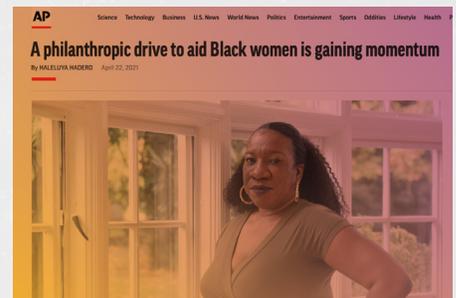
On the screen: Shondaland

In December 2020, Black Girl Freedom Fund partnered with ABC and Shondaland's "Station 19" and "Grey's Anatomy" for a special 2-hour winter finale series crossover. These powerful episodes, written by Felicia Pride, focused on how human trafficking disproportionately impacts Black girls. We are grateful to creative teams like those at Shondaland and ABC for raising visibility about the ways that we fail to protect Black girls, while also uplifting their power and resilience. Special thanks go to Kelly McCreary, Felicia Pride, and the actors and teams at ABC and Shondaland for utilizing their social media platforms to give more information about these issues and uplift #1Billion4BlackGirls and the Black Girl Freedom Fund.



In the News

Black Girl Freedom Fund and the #1Billion4BlackGirls campaign have made an impact across media and platforms. Our call to invest abundantly in Black girls resonated in multiple ways, and has been featured in various publications including *Essence*, *Inside Philanthropy*, and *Associated Press*.



Mapping and Tracking Resources

There is currently a dearth of data on how much money is being invested in Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. As part of our commitment to mobilize \$1 billion, we are developing a robust strategy to map the resources that are intentionally moving to Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth. This is a critical effort to support our ability to mobilize financial resources in support of movements and organizations centering Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. We will share this tracking process with our community soon and will be able to provide more information about where there are opportunities for deeper investment.

Join the Journey

**FOR SOMETHING INCREDIBLE. SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.
SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE PHILANTHROPY FOREVER.**

By being a part of the work of the Black Girl Freedom Fund, you are part of making way for Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth to move philanthropy forward.

Black Girls As Philanthropists and Decision-makers

The decision-making process for grantees from the Black Girl Freedom Fund is centered around Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. Who can better tell us what investment is needed in their future? We listen to them, learn from them, and make space for them to hone their philanthropic leadership skills and put important financial resources behind philanthropic priorities which create a more just and inclusive world for them.

A Matter of Trust

Gone are the days when “philanthropist” was defined as white, affluent men, whose names were often etched onto the buildings of institutions. Across all of our initiatives at G4GC, including the Black Girl

Freedom Fund, our philanthropic practice is rooted in an idea we call “reciprocity as praxis.” This theory builds on the philanthropic practices of our ancestors, and the knowledge that Black communities have always been philanthropic. Black philanthropy has been a powerful force for generations, and we continue that work of generosity and building community through the Black Girl Freedom Fund.

We invite you to join us. We invite you into this sacred space, where we are changing the world each day, each grantee at a time. We invite you into this celebration of Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth and of creating a future that is richer for making this critical investment in them.

While Black girls are leading the way in this endeavor, it’s all-hands-on-deck for this work to be accomplished. Everyone has a role to play, and we invite you to find your part and join us today.



Thank You

Thank you for your continued support as we celebrate and center Black girls, femmes and gender-expansive youth. And thank you for continuing to show up for Black girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth in your communities and around the country.

For more information on how to support the Black Girl Freedom Fund and join us in the journey, please contact blackgirlfreedomfund@grantmakersforgirlsofcolor.org





Black Girl Freedom Fund



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1billion4blackgirls.org