



# Black Power Building Organizations

February 2023

Liberty Hill is committed to supporting the work of Black-led and Black supporting organizations across L.A. County.

**Liberty**  
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FOUNDATION

# Table of Contents

## Introduction

- [Black Power Building Organizations](#) 2

## Rising Activists

- [A New Way of Life](#) 3
- [Black Women for Wellness](#) 3
- [California Black Freedom Fund](#) 3
- [Dignity and Power Now](#) 4
- [LA Black Workers Center](#) 4
- [Los Angeles Community Action Network](#) 5
- [Students Deserve](#) 5
- [Youth Justice Coalition](#) 5

# Black Power Building Organizations

Black-led organizing, and Black power building organizations, are a powerful driver of social change in Los Angeles. Since its founding, Liberty Hill Foundation has directly invested in Black-led organizing to build power in communities most impacted by systemic oppression to achieve equity and justice. We believe the people most impacted by injustice must be the ones leading the fight for justice, and we take our lead from the organizers and activists driving the movements for change. Racial justice is also embedded in the core principles of our work at Liberty Hill.

We do everything possible to ensure that more progressive, Black-led organizations have the resources, visibility, infrastructure, and leadership capacity to sustain their day-to-day work of organizing, advocacy, and collective care needed to advocate for Black lives in their communities and achieve transformational change.

This comes to life in our work to provide grants, training, and other support to our partners at Black-led organizations who are fighting the David and Goliath battles every day on issues such as housing and homelessness, jobs and wages, youth justice, environmental justice, education, policing, LGBTQ justice, and much more.

We invite you to join our community of donors and doers fighting for social justice.

If you are interested in learning more about these organizations, please contact your Philanthropy Advisor or contact [advancement@libertyhill.org](mailto:advancement@libertyhill.org).

## A New Way of Life

A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) is a nationally acclaimed, Black-led organization poised to transform the US approach to criminal justice. In August 2022, ANWOL published their annual report, which touched on their advocacy for AB 1720, which removed the candor trap for individuals seeking employment in facilities and occupations regulated by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). A candor trap is when an applicant is punished for failing to answer a question accurately regarding their arrest and/or conviction history. Since an applicant's conviction record must be checked by CDSS, AB 1720 removes the candor trap by prohibiting the CDSS from requiring applicants to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions. The removal of this candor trap protects applicants from the presumption that they are not of good character and/or rehabilitated, and may make them eligible for a criminal record exemption that would allow them to work in a community care facility and/or hold a license to own and operate a facility. All of Us or None (AOUON) is ANWOL's advocacy leadership program, which fights for the rights of formerly-and currently-incarcerated people and their families. The goal of AOUON is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison-industrial complex.

## Black Women for Wellness

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) has been a pillar of the Los Angeles community for decades. Black Women for Wellness is committed to the health and well-being of Black women and girls through health education, empowerment, and advocacy. BWW organizes innovative and relevant programs for reproductive justice, environmental justice, access to quality prenatal, maternal, and child health care, voter mobilization, and civic engagement. BWW is increasing sexual health education via social media platforms, information on viruses, birth control, relationship negotiation and also including tips on communicating with parents/guardians. BWW is sharing resources, student bill of rights, conversations planning next steps, alternative living situations for those who are displaced, economic impacts and mental health strategies. In February 2023, BWW advocated for the passage of California's landmark buffer zone law, Senate Bill 1137, which set back regulations on where oil drilling can occur within Los Angeles County, which for the majority occurs in Black and Brown neighborhoods.

## California Black Freedom Fund

The California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF) is a five-year, \$100 million initiative to ensure that Black power-building and movement-based organizations have the sustained investments and resources they need to eradicate systemic and institutional racism. CBFF prioritizes investments in the courageous and visionary grassroots advocates and community leaders. CBFF supports Black-led organizations through fast, flexible, and responsive philanthropy. CBFF grantmaking addresses organizations' key concerns and mitigates obstacles preventing Black power-building in California to ensure our grantee partners' success. With many Black communities moving (or being priced out of) urban centers, CBFF is using census data to track where Black Californians are living and working. CBFF utilizes this data to inform grantmaking and supports Black leaders as they seek to engage and organize their communities. CBFF offers flexible grants for operating costs because we trust in Black-led

organizations to use resources that best support their short- and long-term goals. CBFF supports Black-led organizations in their efforts to provide healing and wellness opportunities to staff so they can continue their important work to fight for equity and justice.

### Dignity and Power Now

Dignity and Power Now (DPN) is a leading organization in the LA region, and recognized throughout the country as well, founded by some of the national leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement. DPN has a deep commitment to BIPOC leadership and abolitionist principles. Their membership consists primarily of formerly incarcerated people, their families and communities, who organize to end the violence of and overreliance on incarceration in Los Angeles County. DPN is deeply engaged in County-level policy change work and to shifting narratives around community healing and incarceration, as one of the leaders of the “care not cages” framework that many people use. Dignity and Power Now builds power for its membership through training programs. The Dandelion Rising Leadership Institute is led by formerly incarcerated organizations to train high school students impacted by incarceration and policing. Forever Rooted is DPN’s program for adults recently returning home from prison that uses listening, story-telling, and facilitation skills to amplify the leadership and empowerment of formerly incarcerated people.

### LA Black Workers Center

The Los Angeles Black Worker Center (LABWC) is a dynamic table of workers, organized labor, community-based organizations, clergy, students, and scholars working collectively to improve the position of Black working class. LABWC is organized through various committees which include - Worker Justice Organizing Committee (WJOC), which is a grassroots leadership committee that guides and drives campaigns as well as oversees membership outreach, recruitment, and participation in the LABWC; Black Labor Construction Council (BLCC), that is a multi-craft trades committee focused on addressing underrepresented workers in the regulated construction industry through policy, practice change, and social justice workforce development strategies that expand access and retention in this difficult and historically exclusive sector. There is also the Worker Advisory Committee (WAC) which contains a network of support, industry mentorship, and occupational coaching for low-wage and underrepresented workers in a safe and judge-free environment which assists our people in navigating real work/life challenges as well as troubleshooting workplace challenges that may arise in the course of employment.

### Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)

Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) provides help to people dealing with poverty in order to create and discover opportunities, while serving as a vehicle to ensure their constituents have voice, power and opinion in the decisions that are directly affect them. LA CAN’s constituency consists of extremely low-income and homeless people, primarily those living in Downtown LA and South Central LA. LA CAN recruits organizational members and builds indigenous leadership within this constituency to promote human rights and address multiple forms of oppression faced by extremely low-income, predominately African-American and Latino, residents. Core members comprise the majority of each decision-making body at LA CAN, and staff, interns and Board members are recruited from the core membership. LA CAN is a member organization that operates

within committees relating to Arts and Culture, Downtown Women’s Action Coalition, Food and Wellness, Housing, Human and Civil Rights, and EcoHood Sustainable Housing.

## Students Deserve

Students Deserve is a team of activist students, teachers, and parents working for justice in and beyond schools. Both members and leaders, Students Deserve strategizes, organizes, develops leadership, and contributes to a broader movement for justice as a multi-racial organization that prioritizes the leadership of Black students for the sake of Black liberation. Their main goal is working towards educational equity by making Black lives matter in schools, and they are active in schools all over LAUSD, which is the second-largest school district in the U.S. Students Deserve made history in 2021 by winning its motion with LAUSD, which agreed to divest \$25 million from school police into the schools with the highest Black student populations. An additional \$13 million will be invested into funding support staff for students, which includes: counselors, psychiatric social workers (PSWs), restorative justice coordinators, pupil services, attendance counselors, and school climate coaches. Some funding will be used to expand Ethnic Studies programs. Most notably, police will no longer be stationed on any high school campus when in-person school resumes. Students Deserve established a Black Student Achievement Steering Committee to monitor the implementation and accountability of this win, and they believe this victory can serve as a model for school districts and campaigns around the country.

## Youth Justice Coalition

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is working to build a youth, family, and formerly and currently incarcerated people’s movement to challenge America’s addiction to incarceration and race, gender and class discrimination in Los Angeles County’s, California’s and the nation’s juvenile and criminal injustice systems. The YJC’s goal is to dismantle policies and institutions that have ensured the massive lock-up of people of color, widespread law enforcement violence and corruption, consistent violation of youth and communities’ Constitutional and human rights, the construction of a vicious school-to-jail track, and the build-up of the world’s largest network of jails and prisons. We use transformative justice and community intervention/peacebuilding, FREE LA High School, know your rights, legal defense, and police and court monitoring to “starve the beast” – promoting safety in our schools, homes and neighborhoods without relying on law enforcement and lock-ups, preventing system contact, and pulling people out of the system. We use direct action organizing, advocacy, political education, and activist arts to agitate, expose, and pressure the people in charge in order to upset power and bring about change.