

MEDIA RELEASE

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Black Philanthropy Month: Amidst A Season of Change, Black Giving Matters

For More Information

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BPM Architects

Principal partners on the campaign are Dr. Jacqueline Copeland-Carson of Pan African Women's Philanthropy Network, Tracey Webb of BlackGivesBack.com and Valaida Fullwood of Giving Back Project.

Background

Founded by the Pan African Women's Philanthropy Network and recognized by the United Nations and Congress in August 2011, Black Philanthropy Month was created as an annual, global celebration of African-descent giving in the United States and worldwide.

BPM 2015 is a multimedia campaign to inform, inspire and invest in Black philanthropic leadership. This year's focal concept is *A Season of Change*—a timely assertion that Black giving matters.

BPM 2015 Sponsors, to date

The Cleveland Foundation, POISE Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation, with additional sponsors invited to join the campaign

Perennial Tagline

Giving augustly, year-round

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BlackPhilanthropyMonth.com

WASHINGTON, DC — August represents an important time in the global Black giving movement. Entering its fifth year of observance, Black Philanthropy Month 2015 (BPM 2015) is part of an unprecedented coordinated initiative to strengthen African-American and African-descent giving in all its forms. High-impact events, media stories, service projects and giving opportunities compose the annual campaign, which kicked off August 1.

Dr. Jackie Copeland-Carson, founder of Black Philanthropy Month, notes, "The United Nations has declared 2015 the start of the International Decade for People of African Descent, which offers an extraordinary opportunity for concerted efforts, globally, to address the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. BPM 2015 invites our diverse communities to celebrate and renew rich, shared traditions of giving, self-help and innovation throughout the US and the world."

News reports and personal experiences of racial discord, disturbing shootings, unsettling indignities and pervasive inequities serve as reminders of why traditions of giving and collective action for human rights and social change have been vital in Black communities for centuries. As a campaign, Black Philanthropy Month 2015 comprises activities—online and in communities—to inspire people to give back in smarter and more strategic ways and transform people's lives for the better. Self-organized events, community conversations and charitable fundraising are encouraged.

Examples of BPM 2015 happenings in cities nationwide include: a multimedia exhibit on African American philanthropy in Denver, CO; a video storytelling series via social media in Phoenix, AZ; a city proclamation in Kansas City, MO; community gatherings by giving circles in Columbia, SC; a foundation-hosted Twitter chat in Pittsburgh, PA; and a philanthropy-focused luncheon by a national fraternity in Charlotte, NC. These and other observances will be profiled on BlackGivesBack.com, and a calendar of events will be featured at BlackPhilanthropyMonth.com.

Tracey Webb, founder of BlackGivesBack.com and an architect of the campaign, says, "Every year, we see BPM's impact increasing with new community events and fundraisers, broader public participation, wider media coverage, and deeper conversations and connections. Each August brings exciting examples of how our movement is growing.

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