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Charlotte's Black Philanthropic Collective Marks 20 Years of Giving and Community Investment

Pioneering giving circle reflects on \$2.2M in collective philanthropy, cultural impact, and two decades vested in Charlotte's ecosystem of Black-led nonprofits and the communities they benefit



Photo credit | Alvin C. Jacobs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Launched on June 8th, 2006 as New Generation of African American Philanthropists, NGAAP is Charlotte's trailblazing Black philanthropic collective. NGAAP has, since its founding, invested more than \$2.2 million in grants and other resources to strengthen the local ecosystem of Black-led nonprofits, advocate funding equity, and amplify seldom-celebrated stories of Black generosity.

The volunteer-driven group is celebrating its 20th anniversary throughout 2026, marking two decades of pooled giving, community organizing, and a bold reimagining of philanthropy in the Queen City. Entering its third decade, NGAAP is making moves to scale up and establish The New Trust, a community-rooted, Black-founded philanthropic intermediary. With support from local and national partners, NGAAP aims to chart new paths for equitable and responsive funding with The New Trust. For a booming city like Charlotte to sustain vibrancy and safety, opportunities for growth and thriving for every neighbor and community are imperative. Bolstering organizations closest to the work is key, because when these organizations are underfunded, entire communities are under-supported.

With 17 founding members, **NGAAP was established on a simple but radical premise:** that philanthropy is not the exclusive domain of the wealthy, but rather a deeply rooted expression of love, care, and collective power that shapes and nurtures community. Twenty years later, the group has grown to over 100 members and leveraged its capital with grantmaking, volunteerism, civic engagement, research, and community collaboration.

"Reaching 20 years is a testament to what happens when a group decides to trust and invest in the genius of community," said Founding Member Cathy Peterson. "From our first gathering, we knew that tapping into the spirit of generosity — that has always existed in Black communities — and channeling it with a culturally grounded giving circle would be powerful. Two decades in, we're proud of what we've built together, and we're just getting started."

Throughout its history, **NGAAP has directed support toward nonprofits and projects routinely overlooked by mainstream philanthropy**, with a strategic focus on racial funding equity, cultural abundance, and broad-based collaboration. The collective’s membership spans generations of Black civic leaders, professionals across sectors, and changemakers who share a vision of Charlotte as a healthy, safe, and prosperous community where every resident can live, work, and flourish, now and for generations to come.

“Support from NGAAP has been more than significant—it has been a lifeline, especially during the last few years,” asserts Harold Rice, Jr., founder of the Black Social Capital Initiative (B-SCI). “As programs and resources for Black communities continue to be rolled back, NGAAP’s unwavering commitment as a funding partner has become even more critical. Their investment in B-SCI has strengthened our ability to build community, foster leadership, and create opportunities that empower Black leaders and their families.”

NGAAP’s “20-Year Platinum Milestone” also carries forward its international reputation as a long-running, expansive Black giving circle that is “reframing portraits of philanthropy.” The collective has proved a pacesetter in global celebrations of Black Philanthropy Month, earned awards for its publication *Giving Back*, and broken new ground with the multimedia exhibit *The Soul of Philanthropy*, developed in partnership with Johnson C. Smith University. **Its initiatives have helped expand understanding of who gives, how giving happens, and why it matters—shifting perceptions of philanthropy to be more inclusive and representative.**

Anniversary programming and community celebrations, such as *The Cookout, Platinum Edition*, are planned during 2026. Details will be announced at ngaap.org and via NGAAP’s social media channels.

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About NGAAP Philanthropic Collective: Formed in 2006, NGAAP is Charlotte’s Black philanthropic collective. Together, its members serve as catalysts for community transformation by investing time, talent, and treasure for impact today and thriving communities for generations to come.

The collective’s ways are both relational and strategic: making grants and channeling resources; connecting and empowering nonprofits with networks, public platforms, and knowledge; and shaping opinions and influencing action with expertise and forward-thinking ideas to chart new paths in philanthropy. **ngaap.org**

