



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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[www.blackfundersnetwork.org](http://www.blackfundersnetwork.org)

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Future  
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## Our Supporters



## Dear Black Funders Network Community,

As we reflect on the past year and the five years that brought us here, we are deeply proud of what we have built together. The Black Funders Network of the Bay Area (BFN) has continued to deepen its role as an intentional and dynamic space for Black leaders in philanthropy to connect, grow, and lead with purpose. Rooted in legacy and propelled by a shared commitment to community impact, our work is shaped by members through collective learning, strategic collaboration, and an unwavering focus on effectiveness and equity. It is sustained by the relationships we nurture, the clarity of vision we hold together, and the trust that allows us to imagine more.

Over the past year, we launched new programs, expanded our reach, and strengthened our community through moments of celebration, reflection, and bold ideation. These efforts reflect both the maturity of the network and the energy of what is emerging. Our members, partners, and allies continue to shape the field of philanthropy by centering lived experience, building power, and advancing impact that is both strategic and deeply rooted in community.

This 2025 Annual Report offers a look at how BFN has evolved since 2020, highlighting our growth, membership demographics, and program engagement, while also previewing the strategic framework guiding our direction for 2026 and beyond. Together, these insights affirm where we have been, illuminate where we are now, and invite our community to help shape the next chapter of impact.

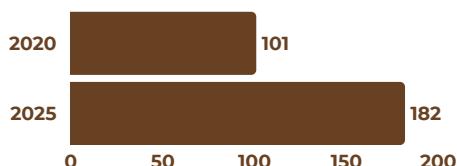
With Gratitude and Partnership,

Paula Ambrose and Byron Johnson  
BFN Co-Chairs

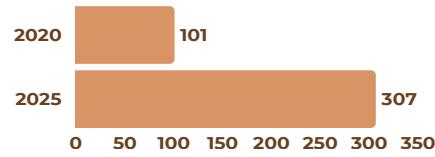
Chantel Walker  
BFN Managing Director

### BFN's Reach and Influence Continues to Grow THEN (2020) vs NOW (2025)

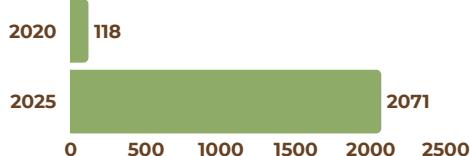
#### Total Number of Members



#### Total Number of Engaged Funders



#### LinkedIn Community of Followers



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When I moved to the Bay Area almost four years ago, I was new to the philanthropic space and eager to connect with fellow Black professionals.

Over the past few years, BFN has been instrumental in shaping my vision for my philanthropic future in the region. Thank you, BFN, for playing such a valuable role in my professional journey.

- Kathleen Badejo

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### Strategic Framework



Create a network that is innovative and connects professionals in the Nine-County Bay Area Region and Greater Bay Area.



Cultivate a space for Black funders to show up authentically that is inclusive of the African Diasporic experience.

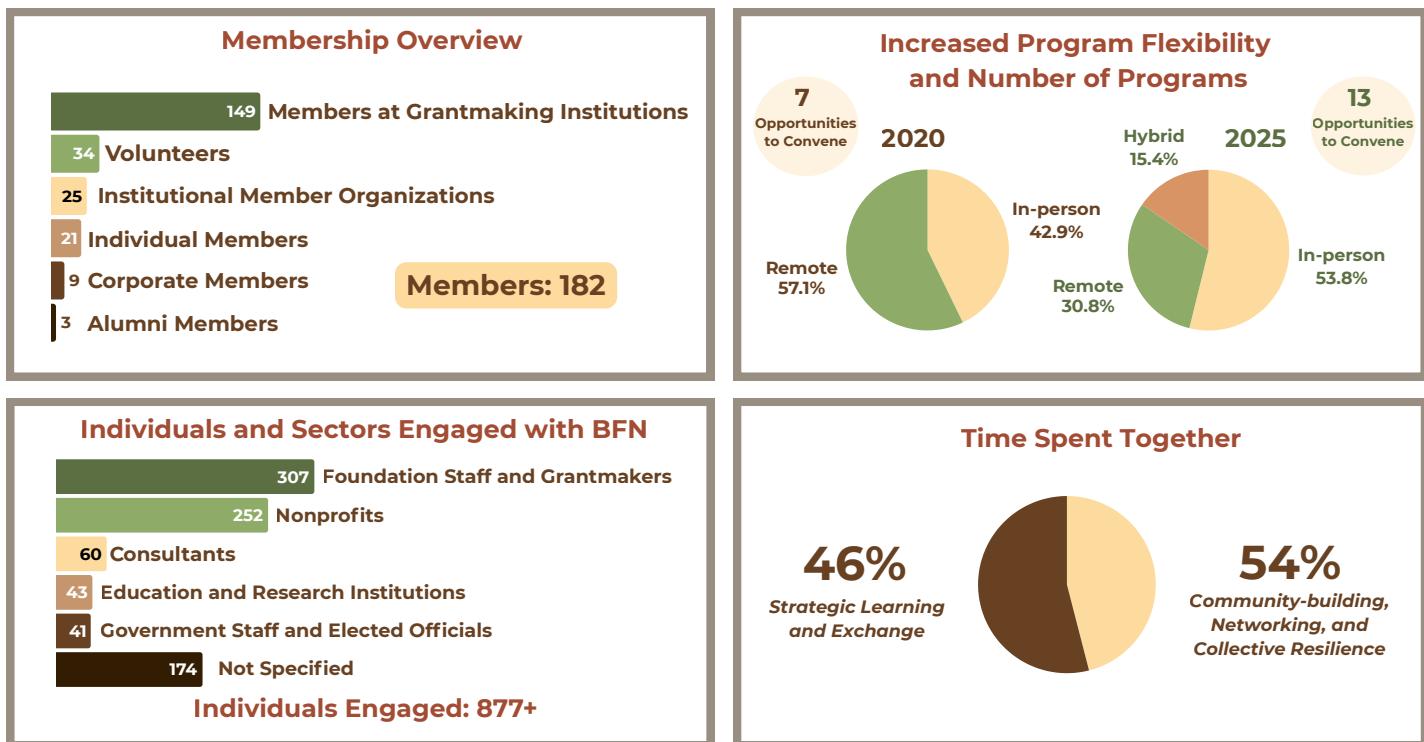


Support the pipeline for Black leadership in philanthropy by provide resources and strategic convenings to support new and experienced Black-identified grantmaking professionals.



Uplift the case for investments in Black-led social change, and align funders to strategize ways to meet the need.

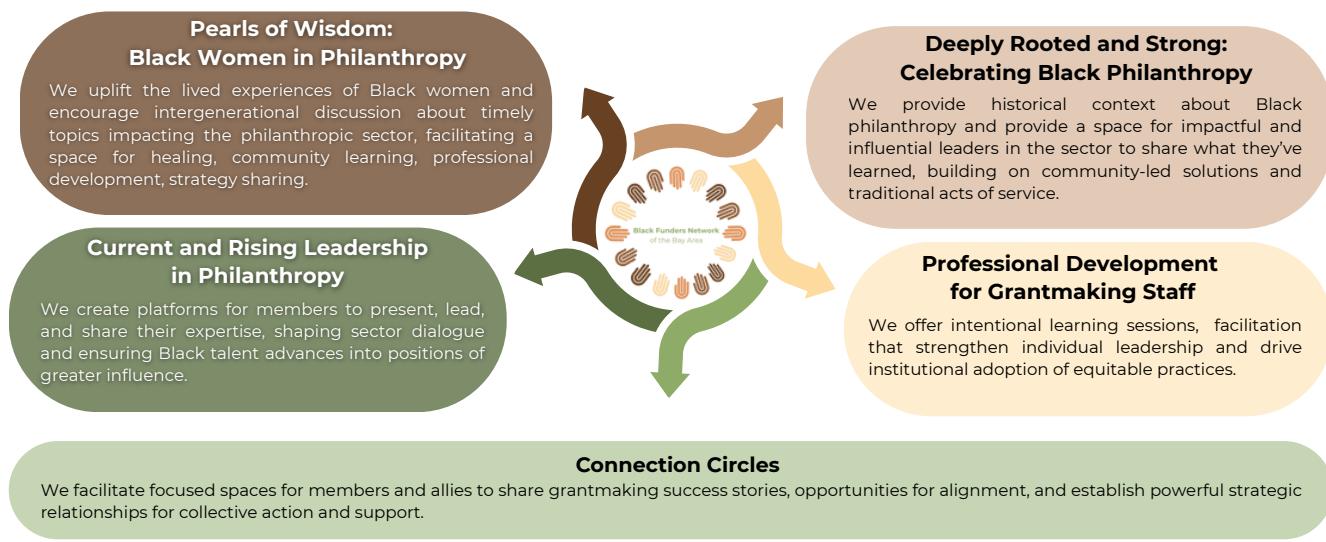
# 2025 at a Glance



## Member Input



## Core Programs



# 2025 Program Highlights

## January

### Trailblazers: A Black Philanthropy Panel

Insights on Driving Resources to Support Black-led Social Change Infrastructure

**Key Insight:** Impact is not just about the capital moved, but the proximity and trust built within the community to make those investments viable.

## March

### Pearls of Wisdom: Black Women Advancing Racial Equity in Philanthropy

Learnings and approaches to cultivate and amplify collective power: meeting the moment to support equity work while centering joy, resilience, and internal well-being

**Key Insight:** Spaces like BFN are critical to providing the communal space where joy and resilience are cultivated as strategic assets, ensuring that we meet growing needs with aligned power.

## September

### Deeply Rooted and Strong: Celebrating the History of Black Philanthropy

Honoring roots in mutual aid as a foundational practice

**Key Insight:** "Giving back" is an act of liberation that has always been a practice in our community. There are deep ties between traditional mutual aid practices and modern philanthropic leadership.

## October

### Grantmaking Success: Sharing Our Cross-Sector Strategies and Insights

Sharing successful examples of cross-sector collaboration benefiting Black communities locally and statewide

**Key Insight:** Collaborative cross-sector work breaks down institutional silos, and can be a strong strategy to accelerate collective impact.

## Fifth Anniversary Celebration

We honored the founders, sustainers, and allies who built the foundation upon which BFN now stands.



**BFN Founders Award Recipients** | Awardees Left to Right: Raquiba LaBrie, Steve Barton, James W. Head, Cedric Brown, Ruth Williams, and Paula Ambrose.

Honoring individuals who supported the Black Funders Network of the Bay Area's foundational development.



**BFN Fifth Anniversary Award Recipients** | Awardees Left to Right: Kathleen Badejo (on behalf of William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), Retha Robinson, James Head, Michelle Myles Chambers, and La Roux Pendleton

**Legacy Award: James W. Head and Retha Robinson**  
Honoring Longstanding Contributions to Philanthropy

**Sustainer Award: Michelle Myles Chambers**  
Honoring Administrative and Operational Staff at All Levels of Leadership

**Rising Leader Award: La Roux Pendleton**  
Recognizing a leader making meaningful contributions to support Black communities

**Ally Award: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**  
Recognizing Grantmaking Institutions with Significant Positive Impact



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Black Funders Network of the Bay Area provides a profound opportunity for Black professionals in philanthropy to connect, collaborate, and exchange innovative strategies. I find deep satisfaction in helping to strengthen this network, which ultimately amplifies our collective wisdom and impact throughout the Bay Area.

- Dakarai Aarons  
BFN Board Member