

Nonprofit Open Letter to the City: Center Black and People of Color Led
Organizations in Reallocating Policing Funds

June 12, 2020 New York City
Government Leaders,

As nonprofits, we denounce anti-Black racism in all its forms. **As the City quickly plans its final FY21 budget and reallocates funds from policing to community investments, we call on our City leaders to center Black and people of color-led community based organizations.** The nonprofit sector has a racial equity problem. People of color are less likely to be in senior leadership positions, ¹ **the revenues of Black-led organizations are 24% smaller than revenues of white-led counterparts, and unrestricted net assets of Black-led organizations are 76% smaller than white-led organizations.** In this moment where deadly structural racism is reflected in the ² disproportionate deaths of Black and Brown communities from COVID-19 and discriminatory policing, we call on our leaders and our sector to be accountable to communities of color not just in statements but also through resources.

**We call on the City
to:**

- Create space for and listen to Black-led organizations, like TakeRoot Justice, Girls for Gender Equity, the Anti-Violence Project, Girl Vow, Mindbuilders Creative Arts Center, National Black Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Urban League, and people of color nonprofits like Hispanic Federation, Ballet Hispanico, Asian American Federation, and Coalition for Asian American Children and Families about how funding should be reallocated
- Commit to City Council discretionary funding at FY20 levels in the FY21 budget, which is often one of the only ways small grassroots organizations led-by and serving people of color access government funding
- Increase funding for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund to \$5M in FY 2021 and restructure the initiative for FY 2022 based on recommendations by Black and people of color led community based organizations
- Increase flexibility in spending requirements for City Council member items and initiatives to allow people of color led organizations to meet immediate needs of the community
- Ensure FY20 Council member items and capital commitments be honored and expedited.

We know the City is in a challenging financial position. However any cuts to City Council discretionary funding, which only accounts for 0.42% of the City budget, are an equity issue and will have a damaging impact on smaller organizations serving communities of color. Grassroots organizations led by and serving communities of color often do not have the organizational

capacity to engage in the onerous City agency RFP process. Discretionary funding is how small organizations closest to New Yorkers and organizations led by people of color get access to public funding.

These actions the City can take will support community based organizations led by and serving those most impacted by COVID-19 and racially discriminatory policing.

¹ Thomas-Breitfeld, S., and Kunreuther, F. (2017). Building Movement Project. [Race to Lead: Confronting the Nonprofit Racial Leadership Gap](#). ² Dorsey, C., Bradach, J., and Kim, P. (May 2020). The Bridgespan Group and Echoing Green. [Racial Equity and Philanthropy: Disparities in Funding for Leaders of Color Leave Impact on the Table](#).

Signatories:

A.I.M

Alice Austen
House

America on
Tech

American Documentary,
Inc.

American Indian Artists Inc.
(AMERINDA)

Asian American Arts
Alliance

Asian American
Federation

Association of Fundraising Professionals, New York City
Chapter

Association of Nonprofit
Specialists

Bait-ul Jamaat - House of
Community

Berit Ahlgren
Creates

Boys and Girls Club of
Harlem

BRI
C

Brighton Ballet
Theater

Bronx Council on the
Arts

Brooklyn Community
Foundation

BUILD
NYC

Callen-Lorde Community Health
Center

Calpulli Mexican Dance
Company

Caps Lock
Theatre

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora
Institute

Cause
Effective

Center for Performance
Research

Center for Racial Justice in
Education

Chess in the
Schools

Children's
Aid

Chinese-American Planning
Council

Cicatelli Associates
Inc

City Parks

Foundation

Community Food
Advocates

Community Resource Exchange
(CRE)

Contemporary Photography and Visual Arts
Center

Correctional Association of New
York

COOP
Careers

Court Appointed Special Advocates of
NYC

Dance Theatre of
Harlem

Dance/NY
C

Dancers Responding to
AIDS

Day
One

Divine Rhythm
Productions

The Drug Policy
Alliance

East Harlem Block Nursery,
Inc.

El Museo del
Barrio

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space
Program

Elmcor Youth & Adult Activities (Historically
Black Led Organization for 55 years)

Engineering Conferences

International

Equity
Advocates

Eryc Taylor Dance,
Inc.

Exodus Transitional
Community

EXPONEN
TS

Fifth Avenue Committee & Neighbors Helping
Neighbors

FM
A

The Fortune
Society

FPW
A

Friends of
Judson

Generation
Citizen

Getting Out and Staying
Out

Girl
Vow

Girls for Gender
Equity

GMH
C

Good Shepherd
Services

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ,
Inc.

The GRACE
Foundation

Grand Street
Settlement
Greater Bethel Community Development
Corporation

Green Worker
Cooperatives

HANAC
Inc.

Hester
Street

HEWMAN, Welcome to
Campfire

Hunts Point Alliance for
Children

IMA
NI

India Home,
Inc.

Isaacs
Center

Japanese American Social Services, Inc.
(JASSI)

JCC of Staten
Island

JGM
Consulting

jill
sigman/thinkdance

Joffrey Ballet
School

Judson Memorial
Church

Justice for
Families

Kinding Sindaw Heritage Foundation,
Inc.

Kyle Marshall
Choreography

LayeRhyth
m

LEA
P

Lenox Hill Neighborhood
House

LES
Ready!

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community
Center

LIFT-N
Y

Madison Square Boys & Girls
Club

Mark Morris Dance
Group

Matthew Westerby Dance Company,
Inc.

The Metropolitan Museum of
Art

Michele Brangwen Dance
Ensemble

MindOpen Learning
Strategies

Mixteca Organization,
Inc.

MODArts Dance Collective

(MADC)

Movement

Research

Muslims Giving
Back

My Money

Workshop

Nail it with
love

National Dance
Institute

National Lighthouse
Museum

New York
Cares

New York City AIDS
Memorial

New York Council Navy League of the United
States

New York Lawyers for the Public
Interest

New York Society of Association Executives
(NYSAE)

New York Urban
League

New Yorkers for Culture &
Arts

NIA Community Services
Network

NMI
C

Nonprofit Finance
Fund

Nonprofit New

York

Nonprofit

TALK

NYS Harm Reduction

Association

Opportunity

Network

The Osborne

Association

Partnership for After School Education

(PASE)

Per

Scholas

Phoenix Houses of

NY|LI

Piatigorsky

Foundation

Planned Parenthood of Greater New

York

Project

Sunshine

Rebuilding Together

NYC

Renegade Performance

Group

S.O.U.L Sisters Leadership

Collective

Sabater

Foundation

Sadie Nash Leadership

Project

Sakhi for South Asian

Women

South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training
(SAFEST)

South Asian Youth
Action

Staten Island Inter-Religious
Leadership

Staten Island Not for Profit
Association

Staten Island Partnership for Community
Wellness

Staten Island Urban
Center

Staten Island Women Who
March

Stonewall Community
Foundation

Supportive Housing
Network

TakeRoot
Justice

Teens for Food
Justice

Turning Point for Women &
Families

United Neighborhood
Houses

United Way of New York
City

Violence Intervention
Program

Waterfront
Alliance

Wingo
NYC

Women Creating
Change

World Day of Prayer International
Committee

Your Time For Creative Empowerment,
Inc.

Youth
Represent