

ABOUT US

At the African American Leadership Forum (The Forum), we believe the future we envision is one we must intentionally design. As a visionary think-and-do tank, we transform data and research into bold, actionable solutions that dismantle racial injustice and reimagine systems to center Black liberation. Grounded in Black-centered strategies and guided by Afrofuturist principles, we work to end racial inequity in all its forms across Minnesota, forging pathways to a just and thriving future.

Our flagship initiative, the Black Agenda for Change, is more than a blueprint—it's a declaration. Through research and data analysis, focus groups, design sessions, and large-scale convenings, we craft legislative priorities that not only advocate for transformative change but also lay the foundation for ground-breaking, generation-shifting advancements. Our work calls on elected leaders to enact policies that empower Black Minnesotans, ignite collective uplift, and harness the potential of innovative technologies to reshape systems for equity. In 2025, we are radically focusing our efforts on Economic Prosperity, Generational Wealth—through Housing—and Education, crafting solutions that propel Black futures into bold new realities.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Economic sovereignty begins with imagining ecosystems that empower our community to access self-determination through unlimited access to economic possibilities. To unlock opportunities in the future, we examine what happened in the past and arrive at the right strategies to propel our economic visions forward. As we reach for the equitable future we deserve, we challenge our policymakers to prioritize investments in Black-centered businesses, communities, developments, and initiatives—fertile and rich ground for our collective and sustainable growth.

- + Community-Led Investments:** Strengthen **place-based investment** strategies through Community Benefit Ordinances that prioritize community investment and ownership, safeguarding against displacement.
- + Access to Capital:** Pass the **GroundBreak Coalition Capital Access and Innovation Fund** to expand opportunities for Black entrepreneurs, real estate developers, and homeowners.

- + **Economic Self-Determination:** Support initiatives that directly **bolster Black economic ecosystems**, driving wealth and power into the spaces and places where Black Minnesotans live, work, and raise their families.

GENERATIONAL WEALTH BUILDING

Homeownership remains one of the most powerful pathways to generational wealth. Yet, systemic barriers have long denied Black families access to this power. To reshape the narrative, policymakers must act decisively to eliminate the housing disparities that hold Black Minnesotans back from building and transferring wealth.

- + **Improved Credit Building Opportunities:** Ensure the **reporting of rent payments to credit bureaus** to strengthen credit building and help aspiring homeowners improve their credit scores.
- + **Expand Housing Support:** Encourage **employer-sponsored housing savings accounts** to empower first-time Black homeowners.
- + **Secure Housing Investments:** Pass the **Our Future Starts at Home Constitutional Amendment** to increase funding for homeownership programs, rental assistance, and homelessness prevention.

EDUCATION

Liberatory education is the heartbeat of resilience, empowerment, and boundless possibility for Black families—a catalyst for reimagining futures where every Black student thrives. We believe education is more than a tool. We imagine education as a gateway to unlearning white supremacy and rediscovering and designing worlds yet unseen, where innovation, unfettered imagination, and cultural pride converge. To unlock the infinite potential of Black students, Minnesota must create and invest in schools and programs that go beyond merely providing access. Abundant learning environments require safety, equity, and transformation—inside the classroom and beyond.

- + **Expand Youth Opportunities:** Imagine a network of learning hubs where Black students engage in cutting-edge technologies, mentorship rooted in ancestral wisdom, and career pathways that align with their dreams. Centralized **funding for out-of-school programming** can serve as the foundation for these visionary spaces, bridging opportunity gaps and opening doors to futures unbound by limitations.

- + **Foster Restorative Justice:** Envision schools as sanctuaries of healing and empowerment, where **restorative conferencing, youth diversions,** and holistic interventions weave together supportive environments that **reduce chronic absenteeism** and **promote school safety.** These models replace punitive measures with practices that nurture relationships, foster belonging, and celebrate the brilliance of Black students, creating ecosystems where they are free to grow, thrive, and lead.

CALL TO ACTION: DESIGN THE FUTURE WITH US

Your voice and actions matter. Join us in advancing the Black Agenda for Change:

- + Share our mission and proposals on social media.
- + Contact your elected officials to demand their support for our initiatives.
- + Testify at local or state public hearings to amplify the call for equity.
- + Follow The Forum for updates and opportunities to engage throughout the year.

Together, we rewrite the narrative, transform our systems, and co-create a Minnesota where Black futures thrive boldly and unapologetically.