



ACLU of Louisiana Black Donor Network – 2022 Program Timeline

March 23, 2022 - Launch Event

Venue: Maroon, a Black-owned coworking and community space

Goals: Create a philanthropic community between our Black supporters and honor their support of the ACLU of Louisiana and allied organizations as part of the historic movement for racial justice. Foster a peer learning group where BDN members can safely discuss their lived experiences, philanthropic goals in Louisiana, and the challenges they've faced in pursuing those goals.

Overview: We started the event with a [presentation](#) on Black philanthropy as movement work throughout history, and presented the goals of the Black Donor Network. We moved into dinner and conversation. The attendees sat at tables of eight, and pulled cards from their centerpieces which had [these questions](#) on them. After dinner, they shared about their upbringings, the most meaningful gifts they'd ever made, who taught them about giving, and what philanthropy looked like in their families. Together, the group started to bend and stretch the definition of philanthropy to include *all* of the giving that the Black community does, while still naming giving money as necessary and important. At the end of the group's sharing, Cubs the Poet recited a poem that he had written on site while listening. The poem sealed the group's collective identity. As takeaways, we gave black notebooks embossed with our logo, lapel pins, pens, and we printed our [BDN one-pager](#).

May 3, 2022 - GiveNOLA Day Happy Hour

Venue: Dooky Chase's Restaurant, a Black-owned fine dining bar and restaurant

Goals: Continue to create a philanthropic community between our Black supporters and honor their support of the ACLU of Louisiana and allied organizations as part of the historic movement for racial justice. Cultivate a joint gift to the ACLU of Louisiana on GiveNOLA Day, and individual gifts to allied organizations working in the spaces BDN members are passionate about.

Overview: In advance of GiveNOLA Day, a community day of giving run by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, we engaged the Black Donor Network by offering an [outreach toolkit](#). The event was an opportunity to informally gather and celebrate the group's impact on ACLU-LA and other organizations on GiveNOLA Day. On GiveNOLA Day, 12 BDN members gave a total of \$1,585 to ACLU of Louisiana.

May 18, 2022 - Virtual Gathering

Venue: Zoom Meeting

Goals: Continue to build community and a peer learning group that centers philanthropy. Identify the philanthropic goals of group members, and what support and resources members need to achieve their goals.

Overview: This meeting was programmatic, and sought to identify themes in participants' giving, including commonalities in what influences giving choices, what their passion issues are, what organizations they currently support, and what resources they would help them achieve their goals. In summary, family influences giving dramatically; members' giving is DIVERSE, and passion issues range dramatically, but most focus on marginalized communities (from local to international) and/or institutions they are closely affiliated with; and most people are eager to give more money to the causes they care about. Some already have strategies for maximizing their impact, however several participants expressed wanting to be more strategic and needing guidance on giving and investing/growing their wealth.

July 2, 2022 - Essence Festival Event

Venue: New Orleans African American Museum

Goals: Cultivate BDN members' giving by educating on the civil rights and liberties landscape in Louisiana. Create an opportunity for BDN members to connect and engage with ACLU-LA during Essence Festival - an important and impactful event for the Black community nationwide.

Overview: We hosted a screening of *Angola Do You Hear Us?* followed by a panel discussion featuring ACLU of Louisiana Executive Director Alanah Odoms, Operation Restoration Executive Director Syrita Steib, and ACLU of Louisiana Policy Strategist Stephanie Willis. This was an Essence adjacent event and not formally affiliated with the festival. [Here](#) is a folder of our photos and videos.

July 20, 2022 - TEP Center Visit

Venue: Tate Etienne Prevost (TEP) Interpretive Center

Goals: One of our Black Donor Network members of honor is Leona Tate, who integrated McDonogh #19 Elementary School with Gail Etienne and Tessie Prevost, on the same day that Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary a mile away. Ms. Tate recently purchased the school and is turning it into the TEP Interpretive Center – a museum that will be on the national Civil Rights Trail and nonprofit office space. Our goals for this meeting was to lift up the TEP Center as partner organization; honor the Black Donor Network’s historic philanthropic commitment to ACLU of Louisiana and reintroduce a giving conversation with members, and present a case for support by giving a deep dive into our scope of work.

Overview: Together, we toured the TEP Center and watched a video documenting Leona Tate, Gail Etienne and Tessie Prevost’s courageous sacrifices and actions as they integrated the building in which we held the event. We presented a \$5,000 gift to the TEP Center, to lead by example, and opened a giving conversation by presenting on the historic giving of the BDN members to ACLU of Louisiana, and by asking them to begin considering the gift they would make as part of the BDN when we conclude the program in October. Then, several staff members gave presentations on our work in voting rights, reproductive rights, and policing. This gave BDN members the opportunity to have a clear understanding of what their gifts would support, and to create connections with our diverse staff.

Upcoming:

August 2022

Celebrate Black Philanthropy Month virtually by creating a record of the work we’ve done with the Black Donor Network in the media, honoring and uplifting our members by sharing their testimonials.

September 2022

The ACLU of LA will host Michelle Singletary, an award-winning *Washington Post* columnist, book author, and financial planner, who will lead a workshop with our Black Donor Network members on building wealth and creating a philanthropic strategy. Goals: To provide resources to BDN members that support their philanthropy. BDN members will have the opportunity to work directly with this expert on designing personal wealth building and philanthropic goals.

October 2022

Final meeting to review what we’ve learned together, discuss the Black Donor Network collective gift to ACLU of Louisiana, and get feedback on the program and how we can continue to grow our base of African American supporters. We will also announce an opportunity to continue involvement in 2023.