BLACK FEMINIST FUTURE

2021 Annual Report

2021 at Black Feminist Future

Mission & Vision

Black Feminist Future (BFF) is a political hub focused on the dynamic possibilities of galvanizing the social and political power of Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people towards liberation. We do this by building and nourishing the leadership of fierce Black feminists, fortifying aligned organizations and movements, and shifting cultural norms.

We envision a world where all Black women, girls, and gender-expansive folks are safe, joyful, cared for, powerful, self-determining, and thriving. We envision a world where freedom is our birthright, and we are in abundant, nurturing, and interdependent relationships with our communities and the Earth.



Values

- ☆ Authentic & unapologetic
- ☆ Interdependent & community-oriented
- ☆ Committed to power building
- ☆ Accountable
- ☆ Focused on collective care
- ☆ Disruptive of BS
- ☆ Willing to grow & value multiplicity
- ☆ Courageous

Meridians

We are grounded in Black feminisms through our values and meridians, which are:



2021 at Black Feminist Future



Strategic Priorities

Shift the material conditions for Black women, girls, & gender-expansive people in the U.S. & across the African diaspora.

Nourish and develop Black feminist leaders.

Disrupt the culture of misogynoir and advance Black Feminisms.

Align and strengthen organizations & movements towards building a 21st-century feminist movement guided by Black feminist politics.

A Message from Chief Rabble Rouser



This last year, 2021, ushered in big changes globally and for Black Feminist Future. The ongoing pandemic kept many of us at home, distanced from the people and places that nourish us, so BFF responded with ***Jubilee: A Black Feminist Homecoming***. Jubilee was the celebration the times demanded and our hearts yearned for. It was the love letter we all needed and the launch of our national membership program to build the broad base of fierce Black feminists needed to ***Squad Up*** and continue the fight for ourselves and our communities.

We're extremely proud of launching the ***Abortion Is Freedom*** campaign to contest extreme laws restricting access to health care, which have a disproportionate impact on Black people.

We also trained Black feminist leaders at **Canon**, our most advanced offering in the **Black Feminist Organizing Schools** series. But none of it would have happened without you standing by our side and in the tradition of the Black feminists who paved our way.

Our commitment to freedom for all Black people has never wavered, and you were with us for every step we took toward liberation! THANK YOU for your trust in Black Feminist Future and the work we do.

Paris Hatten





2021 Leadership

Staff


Paris Hatcher


Selena Harper McLaurin


Mia Herndon


Rachel Johnson


Dominique Symone


Sophia Smart


Lisa Amaker


Sam Blakely



Advisory Committee

M.Adams
Monifa Bandele
Etobssie Wako
Lutze Segu
Mia Herndon
Clarise McCants
Savannah Shange


Yabsera Faris


Apyphanie Dawn


Sydney Kesler


Maylott Mulugeta


Crystal Des Ogugua



Jubilee: A Black Feminist Homecoming

Jubilee: A Black Feminist Homecoming, was a virtual experience celebrating the legacy, power, and possibilities of Black feminisms. On August 28, *Jubilee* uplifted a colorful and expansive production of performers, liberators, and guiding stars who told the story of Black feminist activism. We introduced ***Meridians: A Journey into Black Feminisms*** and shared concrete actions viewers could take toward our liberation. We ended this remarkable celebration with the launch of BFF's national membership program! *Jubilee* was our love letter to Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people--and we hope you felt seen and valued.

Leadership & Learning

Our L&L team supported Black feminist leadership by providing access to leading organizers, scholars, and strategists in a variety of fields and expertise to offer thought-provoking workshops, interactive activities, debates, political education, and more, all focused on the many dimensions of Black feminisms.



Canon

We created ***Canon*** to provide an advanced, rigorous leadership development and movement space for Black feminist organizers, strategists, and thought leaders to both engage with 21st-century Black feminist canonical thought and connect Black feminists across sectors, movements, and geographies. In particular, contemporary Black feminist scholars (Saidiya Hartman, Ruthie Gilmore, Hortense Spillers, Joy James, Dorothy Roberts, C. Riley Snorton, etc) are providing the theory and insight that many Black feminist leaders are using to inform their strategies and visions for their organizations and movement building. Oftentimes, in isolation and not with other Black feminists. We intend for Canon to be a space where Black feminists are able to sharpen their abilities and capacity as leaders, strategists, and theorists.

Networking and Movement Building

The NMB team spearheaded BFF's efforts to convene, support, and amplify Black feminist leadership, movements, and organizations– because only together can we achieve the bigger and more lasting wins required to reach a Black feminist future.

Okra Collaborative

BFF is a founding member of the ***Okra Collaborative***, a transnational initiative to identify, support, and engage in Black feminist activism throughout the African diaspora. Representing Black feminist organizations and movements, members of the collaborative are working together to map and illuminate the shared and individual capacity and resource needs of Black feminist leaders, organizations, and movements and to deepen Black feminist solidarity.

Mappers use scientific research methods to collect data from Black feminist organizations utilizing video, online surveys, and in-person interviews in the following regions:

1. Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean
2. Brazil (and some surrounding countries)
3. East and West Africa
4. Ecuador (and some surrounding countries)
5. North America
6. Western Europe



Once mapping is completed, the *Okra Collaborative* will build a dynamic online tool to illustrate the depth and strength of Black feminist efforts throughout the diaspora and promote partnerships for activism, organizing, and opportunities for funding.

National Birth Equity Collaborative

As Black women-led and centered organizations in the Americas, ***NBEC*** and ***BFF*** know firsthand the harm that overemphasis on family planning has caused, while concurrently minimizing our other immediate concerns– reproductive justice, birth equity/maternal health, patriarchal violence, and state-sponsored brutality and misconduct (within criminal injustice, healthcare, and child "welfare" systems). Therefore, *NBEC* and *BFF* partnered, in collaboration with *AfroResistance*, to develop and launch a global campaign to demand a radical shift in how public health, philanthropy, and international-development sectors support the diverse, complex, and multifaceted needs of women and pregnant people– centering those who are Black, undocumented, trans, queer, or criminalized.

Networking and Movement Building



Anti-Patriarchal Violence

In 2021, BFF's anti-patriarchal violence work included co-anchoring the ***Abolishing Patriarchal Violence*** table within the Movement for Black Lives ecosystem. With anchor partners *Freedom Inc*, the *In Our Names Network*, and the *Black Geographies Lab* at UC Santa Cruz, we expanded *Table* members and launched an exciting ***Kitchen Table Fellowship*** project. The inaugural *Kitchen Table Fellowship* was designed by BFF board member Savannah Shange and launched in December 2021 to resource six experiments toward freedom. Fellows are paired with mentors in table organizations and lead year-long projects that help destabilize the hold of patriarchy in Black lives.

Fellows are provided with in-depth skills training on topics such as research methods, and facilitation and communications; these are supplemented by additional trainings that align with their work. Fellows also participate in a cohort model with biweekly gatherings with topics like Sharpening Knives, which focuses on political education, and Breaking Bread, which focuses on community-building. BFF's fellow, Cherrell Brown, will be working on a project that focuses on political education and mapping non-carceral responses to patriarchal violence.

Membership

BFF's National Membership Program

At the conclusion of ***Jubilee,*** BFF officially launched its national membership program. BFF's membership exists to nourish Black feminists; shift cultural norms; and build power to improve material conditions for Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people. As a member-centered organization, BFF is aware that our community helps inform our work, campaigns, and initiatives. And with our members, we're prioritizing leadership development, community care, and joy to build the political and social power we need to win concrete changes in our lives, communities, and beyond.



Constellation



The Constellation Network has officially become the ***Constellation Member Hive***, but its reproductive-justice (RJ) focus has not changed. Fueled by their commitment to ensure reproductive justice and address the disproportionate harm to Black people who can become pregnant, *Constellation* members were active and effective in 2021. Our rights to bodily autonomy and access to all healthcare options were threatened by some of the most restrictive and inhumane bans on abortion we've seen to date, and the impact of the conservative appointees to SCOTUS. In response, *Constellation* members met in visioning salons to ideate and imagine solutions. We also offered media trainings for RJ storytellers to build narrative power, and seasonal astrology readings to help us set our collective intentions as part of our emphasis on wellness.

Mobilizations and Campaigns



Black feminisms take shape in many forms– hence, we say Black feminism(s) to refer to the work of Black feminists that is global, intersectional, Pan-African, anti-capitalist, radical, socialist, afrofuturist, and so much more. To support that work, we organize, mobilize, and act-and in 2021, you continued to be by our side fighting to help realize a Black feminist future.

Squad Up

On October 1, 2021, BFF held our first-ever, COVID-safe ***Squad Up*** event with members--and we made NOISE! We invited BFF members in the D.C. metro area, as well as those in town for the rally, to join us for a ***Squad Up Huddle and Happy Hour***, then we threw down en masse at the ***Rally for Abortion Justice*** in D.C.

We followed up with the ***Squad Up Summit***– a virtual convening for Black women and gender-expansive people to come together to learn about pressing issues and build the skills needed to take action and collectively create a Black feminist future!

Abortion is Freedom

In Fall 2021, BFF launched ***Abortion Is Freedom***, a campaign in support of reproductive-justice activism, and the reception was amazing. We provided close to 200 *Abortion Is Freedom* signs to our folks attending rallies all over the country to protest laws that restrict bodily autonomy and access to health care. In D.C., on October 1, we marched; lifted signs; and held space for Black women, girls, and gender-expansive folks to come together to speak out against racist abortion bans- because our best chance of winning this fight is together.



On December 1, BFF squadded up with the *Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Women's March, SisterSong*, and other organizations to fight for reproductive freedom outside the Supreme Court of the United States. BFF staffer Sam Blakely brought us to tears and made us proud when she shared her survivor story on the steps of SCOTUS. After the rally, many of our members enjoyed creating together at a BFF Paint 'n Sip!

Income

Donations

Individuals $63,314 (2.93%)

Grants/Foundations $2,059,140 (94.68%)

Program Income & Special Events $42,559 (1.96%)

Merch & Other $9,432 (0.43%)

2021 Financials

Total Expenses

Events & Programs $1,512,320 (81.36%)

Administration & Fundraising $346,386 (18.64%)



To our beloved community of members, donors, funders, allies, and friends– Black Feminist Future is honored to have earned your support, trust, and financial contributions throughout 2021. You stood up as a squad, shared your authentic selves and your creativity in visioning salons, and became members to ensure a Black feminist future will someday be reality. We appreciate having you with us in the fight for liberation and justice.

In 2021, your contributions allowed us to make most of our work available without charge, eliminating paywalls designed to keep too many folks on the outside. Since you gave generously, we were able to ***Squad Up*** in D.C. to raise hell for reproductive justice and offer activists the skill-building tools and training they need to continue the fight in their own communities. Your gifts meant that all those eligible who wished to be nourished in community with Black Feminist Future could join as new members at whatever level they could afford. Together, we celebrated the possibilities of Black feminisms, mourned as one, and pushed forward- inspired by the dreams of our ancestors. But without you, none of our impact in 2021 would have been possible!

All of us at Black Feminist Future thank you for sharing our vision and honoring the inherent value of Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people through your contributions in support of our work. We're still agitating, collaborating, and demanding change in 2022, and we're so glad to have you with us!