



New York
Urban League



2025
YEAR
IN REVIEW



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LETTER FROM

Arva Rice

NYUL President & CEO



“Our work empowering communities is only successful because of our collaborative efforts.”

Dear Friends and Partners,

For over a century, the New York Urban League has served as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change across the five boroughs. As I look back on this past year, I am struck by the incredible resilience of our community and the unwavering dedication of our supporters.

This year, we achieved significant milestones across our core pillars. Our education initiatives reached new heights, from the over-enrolled HBCU Fair that provided crucial pathways for our students to the successful expansion of our school-based Project Ready Initiative and the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Scholars program.

We also deepened our focus on the future of work through innovative AI training in partnership with Google and high-impact workforce development programs like our project management certification.

Our Nonprofit Stabilization Fund continues to provide capacity building to small nonprofits providing critical needs in neighborhoods. These efforts are not just programs; they are life-changing opportunities for the New Yorkers we serve.

Furthermore, our advocacy efforts have been tireless. From hosting powerful Education Town Halls to engaging in crucial state-level dialogue, we are ensuring that the voices of our community are heard in the halls of power.

As we move into the coming year, I invite you to remain by our side. Whether through program sponsorship, advocacy, or financial support, your involvement is the fuel that powers our movement. Together, we will continue to inspire and ignite the aspirations of Black New Yorkers, ensuring that our city becomes a more equitable place for all.

In spirit and service,

Arva Rice President & CEO
New York Urban League



EDUCATION

Our Commitment: Every Child is ready for college, work, and life.

The New York Urban League links students with careers and “real life” workplace experiences designed to ignite their curiosity and empower and prepare them for a changing economy. Accomplished through school partnerships, civic groups, and other public and private sector organizations, NYUL helps students develop skills needed in the competitive job market while making their educational experience relevant to the world they will experience as adults.



2025 Highlights

2025 Education highlights come from the following programming areas:

**Empowerment
Days**

HBCU Fair

**Project Ready &
Project Ready
Mentor**

**Whitney M.
Young Jr.
Scholarship
Program**



Empowerment Days

Overview

NYUL partners with corporations in a variety of industries from finance to sports to provide young women and men from across New York City with an engaging career exploration day. Top professionals from our corporate partners and supporters share their stories of success directly with high school students to provide inspiration and knowledge of career opportunities in diverse industries.



Young Women’s Empowerment Day

Over 70 young women shadowed some of New York’s most powerful business professionals at a wide range of employers, from Google to Audacity to Macy’s. Along with guest speakers and interactive sessions, the attendees left ready to take on the world!



Young Men’s Empowerment Day

Even an extreme weather event couldn’t keep over 130 students from participating in a career exploration day that featured Microsoft, the Manhattan District Attorney’s office, Deloitte and Yahoo Finance. Participants were rewarded for their effort with an engaging, fun and eye-opening experience.

By the Numbers

- 200+** Students
- 8** Sponsors
- 13** Host Sites
- 5** Speakers

EDUCATION

38th Annual HBCU Fair

On Saturday, November 15, 2025, they came by the thousands, lining up early to be among the first to hit the tables at the New York Urban League's 38th Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair.



5K+
Attendance

\$2M+
Scholarship
Awards

2,350
Onsite
Admission

Sponsors & Partners

Thank you to our partners Malcolm Bernard HBCU Fair, Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park, and New York Urban League Young Professionals; our sponsors Wells Fargo, Amazon, Audacy, Fidelis Care, Airbnb, L'Oréal, Geico, Keybank; and the many volunteers who believed in this event, these scholars, and their potential.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 14, 2026.**

You won't want to miss out on next year's HBCU Fair!

EDUCATION

Project Ready



61 Students Enrolled

30 1:1 Counseling Hours

150 Program Hours



Overview

Project Ready prepares African Americans and other historically underserved youth, grades 8 -12, for college and careers. The program features:

- Impactful local and national partnerships
- Innovative content
- Professional development
- Targeted events, activities and programs unique to the Urban League Movement

All Project Ready programs align with the educational and youth development principles outlined in the National Urban League's Project Ready 2.0 Curriculum and the Youth Development Framework & Guide, including the use of planning and activity templates designed to encourage and support intentional programming.

Through NYUL's Project Ready program, comprehensive academic and social-emotional services are provided to public high school students. Our education staff conducts 1:1 counseling sessions and leads enrichment activities for students, helping them build the skills vital to graduating high school, being ready to succeed in college, and beginning to learn about and consider potential career choices.



EDUCATION

Project Ready Mentor

Overview

The Project Ready Mentor program is a vital initiative of the New York Urban League, aimed at empowering and guiding young individuals in their personal and professional development. The program pairs youth mentees with caring and committed adult mentors from the community and corporate partners.

We believe in the transformative power of mentorship and the profound impact it can have on the lives of our mentees. Through regular mentorship sessions, group activities, and community events, we created a supportive and nurturing environment that promotes growth, resilience, and empowerment.



15 Mentors

48 Youth Matched

180 Activity Hours

230 Program Hours

Throughout the year, our program focused on creating impactful relationships, fostering personal growth, and providing unique experiential learning opportunities for students at Bronx Legacy High School. By leveraging the knowledge, experience, and support of our mentors, we equip mentees with the skills, resources, and confidence they need to achieve their goals and excel in their chosen paths.



Activity highlights included: Careers in Tech presentation which facilitated networking opportunities, allowing students to connect with mentors and establish relationships.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project where participants came together to create care packages for donation to local students from Hostos Community College.

Mentor Mentee Night at Dave & Buster's which strengthened the bonds between mentors and mentees, creating a positive and supportive environment for ongoing mentorship and guidance.

EDUCATION

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Scholarship Program

Overview

In 2025, the New York Urban League awarded a total of \$135,000 in scholarships to empower the next generation of leaders.



Investment in Future Talent

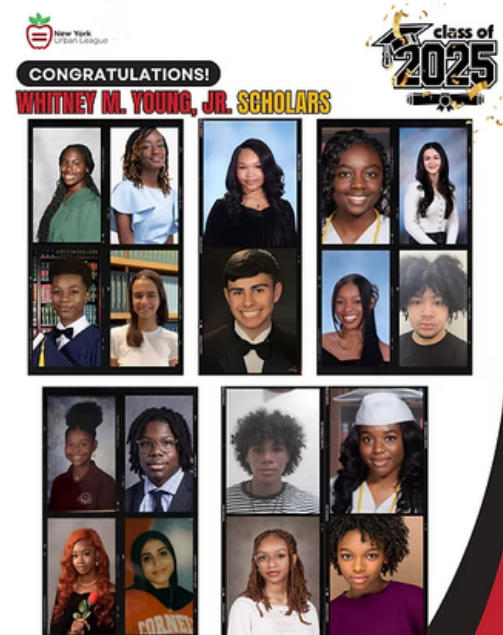
Our 2025 funding focused heavily on high-impact fields such as STEM and Business:

- **STEM Excellence:** Five scholars received the **NYPA (STEM) Scholarship** (\$10,000 each), and nine scholars were selected for the **inaugural NYUL x National Grid (STEM) Scholarship** (\$6,000 each).
- **Business & Leadership:** Two students received the **Deloitte (Business) Scholarship** (\$2,500 each) focusing on Finance and Business.
- **Community Advocacy:** Eight NYUL Scholarships (\$2,500 each) and three NYULYP Scholarships (\$2,000 each) were awarded to students pursuing disciplines ranging from Neuroscience and Engineering to Communications and Public Health.

135 Applications **27** Recipients **\$135K** Awarded in 2025

Academic Focus

Our scholars are entering the workforce of the future, with academic majors including Aerospace Engineering, Data Science, Biochemistry, Mechanical Engineering, and Finance. These initiatives underscore our ongoing commitment to ensuring STEM access and economic equity across New York City.



EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

Our Commitment: Everyone has access to jobs with sustainable living wages, good benefits and career advancement opportunities.

Employment & Career Services is proud to close out the year with meaningful progress, expanded programming, and deeper engagement across the communities we serve. In 2025, our team supported 181 clients, offering job readiness assistance, career coaching, certification guidance, and tailored employment support. This year also marked our continued commitment to integrating technology and innovation into workforce development. From attending Mastercard’s Next Gen AI Prompt Engineering event to facilitating an engaging artificial intelligence workshop at Bronx Legacy High School, ECS remained focused on preparing job seekers and students for the future of work through hands-on learning and exposure to emerging skills.



2025 Employment highlights come from the following programming areas:





EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

The Big Picture

In 2025, the NYUL Employment & Career Services division transitioned from traditional job placement to future-proofing the New York workforce. By centering empathy and intention, the team reinforced NYUL's role as a primary engine for economic mobility in the city.

The "Future of Work" Initiative

A defining theme of 2025 was the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Tech into our curriculum.

- **Next-Gen Training:** Participation in Mastercard's AI Prompt Engineering event.
- **Youth Outreach:** Facilitated hands-on AI workshops at Bronx Legacy High School.

115

Clients
Supported

13

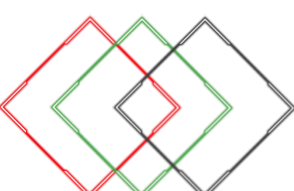
Employers
Engaged

Professional Certifications

Our partnership with Google remained a cornerstone of our technical training:

- **99** Enrollments and **42** Certifications completed
- **High-Growth Sectors:** IT Support, Data Analytics, Project Management, AI, Cybersecurity, and Digital Marketing.

Grow with Google



Strategic Ecosystem & Partnerships

We didn't do this alone. We strengthened the NYUL network through high-level collaborations:

- **Community Engagement:** Partnered with the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone to align mission-driven work.
- **Capacity Building:** Received expert coaching from WPTI (Employer Engagement) and Public Works Partners (Resource Optimization) to maximize our operational footprint.



EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

Equity Innovation Lab(EIL)

The Diversity & Inclusion Lab became the Equity Innovation Lab (EIL). This rebranding reflects our deepened commitment to not just discussing representation, but actively engineering equitable systems and innovative career pathways across New York’s most influential industries.



Equity Innovation Year In Review

Scaling Impact & Industry Access

The EIL began the year by launching "Equity Innovation Conversations" during Women’s History Month. In partnership with Chase Community Bank, we hosted an inaugural session featuring Lisa Price, Founder of Carol’s Daughter, who provided a masterclass in entrepreneurial resilience and the economic power of Black womanhood.

Advocacy in Action: Health

Recognizing that equity must extend to healthcare, the EIL collaborated with Fidelis Care and the Gentlemen’s Factory for the 3rd Annual Black Maternal Health event. This year’s summit expanded significantly, introducing Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a partner and featuring dual panels that addressed the systemic inequities in maternal outcomes, right in the heart of Brooklyn.

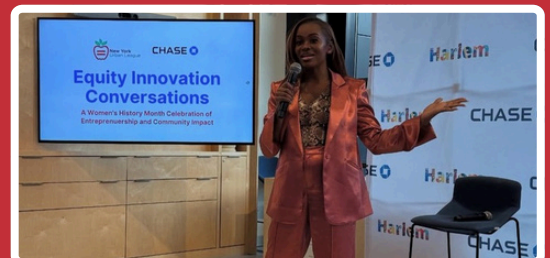
Lab at Work

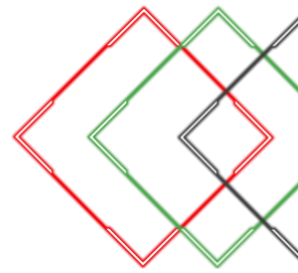


*3rd Annual Black Maternal Health Month
In Partnership with Fidelis Care*



*Introduced Equity Innovation Conversations
during Women’s History Month featuring Lisa
Price, founder of Carol’s Daughter*





EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

Equity Innovation Lab

From the fragrance labs to the AI hubs, the Equity Innovation Lab spent 2025 ensuring that "innovation" is synonymous with "inclusion" across every sector of the Empire State.



Scaling Impact & Industry Access

Building on our commitment to the next generation of leaders, the EIL deepened its partnership with The Fragrance Foundation to host the 2nd Annual Catalyst Career Empowerment event at Baruch College. This collaboration bridged the gap between higher education and the luxury sector, allowing nearly 100 students to engage in speed-networking with brands like L’Oreal and various fragrance houses. This event successfully solidified a long-term pipeline between Baruch’s diverse talent pool and the fragrance industry.



Advocacy in Action: Technology

To close the year, the EIL leaned into the future of work. In a high-tech learning experience at the Mastercard Hub on 5th Avenue, we presented "Prompt Engineering for Everyone." This NYUL x Mastercard workforce skills experience demystified Artificial Intelligence for our community, ensuring that Black New Yorkers are not just consumers of AI, but the architects and engineers of the new digital economy.



EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

Small Business SOLUTIONS Center

Empowering Entrepreneurs. Building Communities

- The NYUL Small Business Solutions Center (SBSC) empowers entrepreneurs across Greater New York City and beyond.
- Guided by a local-first, global-thinking approach, we connect business owners to essential resources and opportunities.
- SBSC strengthens entrepreneurial ecosystems through one-on-one consulting, technical assistance, workshops, and events.
- Our work supports sustainable small businesses and inclusive economic growth in the communities we serve.



In 2025, the NYUL Small Business SOLUTIONS Center (SBSC) solidified its role as a premier engine for equitable economic growth across all five boroughs. By blending rigorous technical assistance with cultural intentionality, the Center empowered a diverse cohort of emerging and seasoned entrepreneurs to scale their ventures, secure capital, and navigate the complexities of the New York marketplace.

Core Pillars of Impact

- **Incubation & Mastery:** The flagship Black Business Matters Business Plan Incubator served as the year's cornerstone. Out of an initial pool of competitive candidates, 22 businesses successfully completed the intensive 12-week curriculum, emerging with fundable, execution-ready business plans prepared for the 2026 fiscal landscape.
- **Capital Access & Financial Growth:** We bridged the "capital gap" by facilitating over \$40,000 in direct financial support. This included \$25,000 in grants and prizes—bolstered by partners like UPS, TD Bank, and the UP Foundation—and a \$15,000 pass-through grant to Stapledon Arts, proving that education is most effective when paired with tangible resources.
- **Strategic Programming & MWBE Access:** From the 3rd Annual Pitch Black Competition to specialized MWBE certification workshops featuring NYS and NYC officials, SBSC provided entrepreneurs with the "Game Plan" necessary for procurement and contracting.
- **Community-Centered Innovation:** We expanded our footprint through 3rd Space Sessions, a new series at the intersection of commerce and culture, and hosted "She Works Hard for the Money," an intimate high-touch dinner connecting 40 women entrepreneurs directly with experts in Law, Retail, and Public Relations.

EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

Small Business SOLUTIONS Center

New Programs

New Opportunities

New Ways to Succeed

Turning Education into Opportunity

- Facilitated over \$25,000 in grants and prizes, supported by UPS, TD Bank, and the UP Foundation.
- Provided an additional \$15,000 pass-through grant from the UP Foundation to Stapledon Arts.
- Reinforced a year-long commitment to pairing entrepreneurial education with real capital access.
- Expanded financial opportunities for small businesses across New York City.



Measurement	Achievement
Total Capital Facilitated	\$40,000+ (Grants, Prizes, & Pass-throughs)
Incubator Success	22 Businesses graduated with "Execution-Ready" plans
Signature Events	Pitch Black (75+ attendees) & ArtXCommerce
Strategic Partnerships	UPS, TD Bank, UP Foundation, NYC/NYS MWBE Offices

Bottom Line: SBSC didn't just teach business, we funded futures. We enter 2026 with a proven model for translating entrepreneurial ambition into New York City economic reality.

Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund



26

Organizations Funded in 2025 with grants ranging from \$35,000 to \$45,000

2025 Grant Recipients

1. Admission Squad, Inc.
2. Birthright Africa Incorporated
3. Braata Productions, Inc.
4. Brooklyn Community Bail Fund dba Envision Freedom Fund
5. Brooklyn Rescue Mission Urban Harvest Center
6. Custom Collaborative, Inc.
7. First Jamacia Community & Urban Development
8. Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy
9. Good Call NYC Co.
10. Haitian Centers Council, Inc
11. Hip Hop Theater Festival Inc d/b/a Hi- ARTS
12. MOVENYC Foundation Inc. dba MOVE| NYC|
13. Museum of Contemporary African Diasporian Art (MoCADA)
14. New Testament Church of God
15. NYTAG Inc
16. Ocean Bay Community Development Corp.
17. PureLegacee Inc.
18. Society for the Preservation of Weeksville
19. Spring Creek Recreational Fund
20. Staten Island Urban Center
21. Technology For Families in Need
22. The Alex House Project
23. The B.R.O. Experience Foundation
24. Wall Street Bound
25. We All Really Matter, Inc.
26. Yaffa Cultural Arts, Inc.

For the eleventh consecutive year, the New York Urban League is committed to co-administering the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund, providing awards to nonprofits across the five boroughs of NYC.

In 2025, the New York City Council allocated \$3.755 million to support this endeavor, of which NYUL was awarded \$1.3 million.

Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund



Overview

In 2014, the New York Urban League, Hispanic Federation, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, and Asian American Federation formed an alliance to provide capacity-building support to Black, Latino, and Asian-led community-based organizations throughout New York City's five boroughs.



CCNSF funding has supported TONYC in the process of transitioning toward codified shared leadership practices. Through partnerships with external consultants that CCNSF helped make possible, our staff has had the opportunity to train in shared accountability and decision making, and we have begun to develop the onboarding materials for new members. Long term, this will help ensure that our value of prioritizing the interests and needs of those most affected by systemic oppression is upheld not just in our culture, but in our organizational structure as well.

Theater of the Oppressed



Capacity-building support is crucial, especially as we expand our programs. The funding has been instrumental in helping us build our infrastructure, ensuring our programs operate efficiently, and enabling us to serve more girls. This support has allowed us to enhance our organizational capacity, implement robust operational systems, and expand our reach, ultimately empowering more young women to pursue careers in STEM.

With the support of the CCNSF we were able to accelerate our grant application process, build supporting multi-media collateral, and do outreach to the press. In this time we applied for ten grants and have already won three of them, securing over \$300,000 in additional funding over the next three years.

Stem From Dance



Because of CCNSF's support, *Girl Be Heard* has been able to conduct a much-needed overhaul and refresh our 10-year strong arts education curriculum and program design into a unique teaching pedagogy we call *Leadership as Ensemble*. The *Leadership as Ensemble* approach harnesses the power of the collective, centering the unique needs of young people of color to empower hundreds of NYC girls to become artist-activists and changemakers by using artistry to lend their collective voices and knowledge to solving systemic issues facing girls of color today. Through creating art, we build leaders that advocate for justice and equitable systems for themselves and their communities.

Girl Be Heard

Fundraising Events



The New York Urban League was pleased to host the Frederick Douglass Dinner along with the Champions of Diversity Breakfast and to support a team of runners in the iconic TCS New York City Marathon. Creating and participating in these special events help highlight the work and impact of the New York Urban League, introduce NYUL to new audiences and provide opportunities for further volunteer engagement. Every year we are able to honor corporations and leaders who in the spirit of Frederick Douglass recognize that there is "no progress without struggle."

2025 Highlights



Equity Summit



Frederick Douglass Dinner



**TCS New York City
Marathon**



Partners & Supporters

EQUITY SUMMIT



2025 EQUITY SUMMIT

On April 15, Jackie Robinson Day, the New York Urban League partnered with the New York Yankees to host a landmark Equity Summit at Yankee Stadium, honoring Jackie Robinson’s legacy of courage and barrier-breaking. Rooted in NYUL’s century-long commitment to civil rights and equity, the Summit moved beyond recognition to action. It brought leaders together through workshops, panels, and interactive sessions to advance a more inclusive and equitable future.

2025 Champion Honoree

The Legacy Award honored Heide Gardner, Former Global Culture Officer at Interpublic Group (IPG), a visionary leader whose enduring commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion has transformed her sector. Through bold advocacy and barrier-breaking leadership, she has reshaped systems, advanced equity, and set new standards for lasting impact.

Legacy in Action

The event featured keynote speaker Janai Nelson from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and sparked vital conversations on safeguarding our diversity ecosystem. It was a powerful convergence of legacy, leadership, and action!



59TH Annual

Frederick Douglass Dinner



Ignite The Future

The New York Urban League celebrated its 60th Annual Frederick Douglass Gala, honoring leaders who exemplify Frederick Douglass' legacy of equality and empowerment. Established in 1966, the Gala highlighted modern-day heroes and raised support for NYUL's programs advancing education, employment, and community opportunities. As one of New York's oldest civil rights organizations, NYUL continues its mission to help individuals and families overcome barriers to full participation in society.



Dinner Honorees

2025 Frederick Douglass and Ann S. Kheel Awards – New York Urban League. At the 59th Annual Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner, the New York Urban League honored Tina Byles Williams, CEO and Founder of Xpounce, and Hon. Alvin Bragg, Manhattan District Attorney, with the 2025 Frederick Douglass Medallion for their commitment to advancing racial equality and uplifting underserved communities. The evening also recognized Liz Neumark, Founder & CEO of Great Performances, with the 2025 Ann S. Kheel Award, celebrating her dedication to equality and support of NYUL's mission. These awards continue a legacy of honoring leaders who embody Frederick Douglass' spirit and champion social justice across business, arts, and public service.



Breaks Records

The 59th Annual Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner raised \$805,000, a 37% increase over FDD 2024, supporting NYUL's programs that advance education, employment, and community opportunities.





RACING TOWARD OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE

TCS New York City Marathon

Sunday, November 2, 2025

The New York Urban League is proud to be an official Charity Partner of the TCS New York City Marathon. Since 2017, our runners have supported NYUL’s mission to advance education, economic opportunity, and civil rights for underserved communities across New York City.



OFFICIAL
CHARITY PARTNER

tcs
**NEW YORK CITY
MARATHON**

Team NYUL Raises \$20k and Awareness for NYUL



Team NYUL advances the New York Urban League’s vision of a city where every child is prepared for college, work, and life, and every New Yorker has access to a living wage, full civic participation, and justice.

Through their marathon partnership, Team NYUL raises vital awareness and funds that support programs, services, and advocacy focused on education, economic self-reliance, and civil rights for Black and Brown New Yorkers.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Partnership Highlights

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP: AIRBNB & NYUL

In 2025, we launched a transformative, broad-reaching partnership with Airbnb. Their \$130,000 in operating support fueled our most vital initiatives, from the HBCU College Tour and Fair to our inaugural Equity Summit and the Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner.

Institutional Impact & Grants

- **KeyBank Impact Grant:** A commitment of \$100,000 per year for three years is allowing us to provide critical support services to students at Bronx Legacy High School. We are also extending college and career-readiness services to families at both Bronx Legacy and Careers in Sports High School.
- **Empowering Black Communities (City Grant):** With a \$100,000 award, NYUL is fostering the next generation of leaders through civic engagement workshops and a new, culturally responsive curriculum tailored to the Black experience.
- **NYSBLT Fiscal Conduit (State Grant):** NYUL was honored to be one of five nonprofits selected to help distribute \$30 million in state funding. In partnership with the New York State Black Legislative Task Force, we are ensuring these resources reach organizations tackling disparities in health, education, and economic security.

Signature Events: Record-Breaking Results

- **Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner (FDD):** We raised a staggering \$805,000—a 37% increase over 2024. We were proud to honor trailblazers Alvin Bragg, Tina Byles Williams, and Liz Neumark.
- **HBCU Fair:** Support for the next generation of scholars grew by 40%, with \$163,500 raised from seven corporate partners, including two new supporters.
- **Equity Summit:** On April 15 (Jackie Robinson Day), we partnered with the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium to host a landmark summit focused on actionable solutions for civil rights and equity.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Supporters

5K - \$9,999

Armstrong Teasdale
Grain Management, LLC
Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce
H&R Advisors
JetBlue
Ledes Foundation
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
Medidata
Metropolitan Jewish Health System -
Foundation
Municipal Credit Union
NBC 4 New York
T-Mobile UP Foundation
Ted & Nina Well

\$10K - \$20k

Audacy
Blackrock
Bloomberg
Bloomin' Brands
Charter
Citigroup
DoorDash
Susan Dryfoos
ESPN
Estee Lauder
Geico
Tom Halloran
KeyBank
National Hockey League
New York Jets
New York Yankees
OMD
Saks Fifth Avenue
Uber
Wynn and Encore Las Vegas

\$25K - \$35K

BET Networks
Cresco Labs
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
FINN Partners
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
L'Oreal
Macy's
Meta
National Basketball Association
Northwell Health
PayPal
Proskauer Rose LLP
Publicis Groupe US
TASK Foundation
The Poses Family Foundation
Tides Foundation
UPS
White & Case

\$40K - \$70K

Amazon
Diageo
Doug & Wendy Eisenberg
Local Initiative Support Corporation
National Grid
Alison Overseth & Ken deRegt
Wells Fargo

\$100K+

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Consortium for Worker Education
Fidelis Care
The Fragrance Foundation

\$1,000,000+

Department for Youth and Community Development

*Thank
You*

PRESS AND MEDIA

Amplification of The Work

In 2025, the New York Urban League’s mission was broadcast across the city and the nation, moving beyond the "classroom" and the boardroom into the broader public discourse. Our media presence in 2025 served as a megaphone for equity, resilience, and actionable change.



2025 TOWN HALLS



TOWN HALL
OUR KIDS, OUR FUTURE
A FOCUS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

INVITING LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Join us for a robust conversation focused on translating increased civic engagement into sustained local and national influence. Attendees will explore practical strategies for effectively bringing their voices and issues to the forefront, ensuring community concerns—from education and employment to justice and advocacy—drive policy agendas.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 6 - 8PM

Fordham University - Lincoln Campus Center
150 West 62nd Street
NY, NY 10023

MODERATOR
Arva Rice
President and CEO,
New York Urban League

SPEAKERS

Lurie Daniel Favors
Executive Director,
Center for Law & Social Justice
Medgar Evers College

Dr. Meisha Porter
Former Chancellor,
NYC Department Of Education

Register to Attend - [NYUL.org/events](https://nyul.org/events)



Elevating Community Voice & Vision

In 2025, the New York Urban League's Town Hall series served as a vital platform for civic engagement, bringing together national experts, local leaders, and community members to address the most pressing issues of our time. From the macroeconomic shifts of the "State of Black America" to the granular needs of NYC public schools, these convenings turned dialogue into a strategic roadmap for the next two years.

OUR KIDS, OUR FUTURE: A FOCUS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

This robust "Education Town Hall" convened community members with former NYC Schools Chancellor Dr. Meisha Porter and Lurie Daniel Favors (Center for Law & Social Justice) to move beyond standardized metrics and toward a human-centered educational model.

- **Empowering the Ecosystem:** Participants called for redefining "successful education" by empowering parents as community organizers and integrating intergenerational wisdom into the classroom
- **Civic Influence:** The session served as a catalyst for translating civic engagement into sustained national and local influence, ensuring community voices drive the policy agenda.

THE STATE OF BLACK AMERICA

Led by NYUL President & CEO Arva Rice and Professor Basil Smikle, this critical leadership discussion addressed the complex political landscape, specifically the implications of Project 2025 and new executive orders.

- **A Call to Action:** The session highlighted that resilience is rooted in community-led initiatives, mutual aid, and intentional youth support.
- **The Path Forward:** The conversation focused on translating "Economic Uncertainty" into a unified strategy for institutional strength and collective action.



THE NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE INVITES YOU TO A CRITICAL LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION WITH

ARVA RICE
President & CEO
New York Urban League

BASIL SMIKLE
Professor
Columbia University

ON THE STATE OF BLACK AMERICA
EXECUTIVE ORDERS, ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY AND THE WAY FORWARD

Help us set the stage for our work and commitment for the next two years

Tuesday, April 29th | 6-8pm

Dwyer Cultural Center
258 St. Nicholas Avenue, Harlem

Light refreshments will be served.

Visit www.nyulocalvent_details/nyul-leadership-discussion-on-the-state-of-black-america

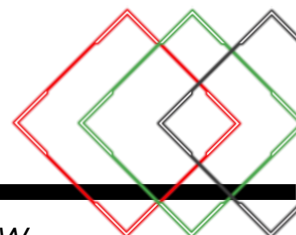
Center for Black Excellence Speaker Series



NYUL's Center for Black Excellence Speaker Series launched at The Roosevelt House at Hunter College, where SUNY Chancellor John King & entrepreneur James Rhee had a timely discussion on safeguarding and strengthening higher education for underserved communities in the current political climate.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- The impact of current policy decisions on access, affordability, and quality of higher education.
- Strategies for fostering equity and closing achievement gaps in a challenging environment.
- How math and a little kindness can help answer some of today's most pressing problems.
- Teaching agency in a world of artificial intelligence and other potentially agency-constraining forces



WHO WE ARE

NYUL Staff and Board Members



STAFF

Shalima L. McCants
Raycine Taylor
Penelope Cox
Sandra Garcia Green
Gina Ramcharan
Hallee Robinson
Lori Ann Scott
Precious Elam
Kera Redman
Yvonne Smothers
LaDonna Jones
Jolie Dumay
Sushant Das
Faria Arni

INTERNS

Shavar Mcfadden
Kayla Langley
Alexianie Negron
Lauren Ross
Sushant Das



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ward Corbett- Immediate Past Board Chair
Malcolm Ellis- Board Chair
Chadwick Roberson - Board Treasurer
Marcia Maxwell - Board Secretary
Maggie Brunn
Lloyd Chinn
Reverend Jacques DeGraff
Andrea Donkor
Andrea Gillentine
Rodney Capel
Keith Downer
Jay Norris
Laura James
Marcia Maxwell
Helen C. Shelton
Kenya Townsend
Teresa Wells
Keith L. T. Wright
Arva R. Rice - President and CEO



New York
Urban League

2025

YEAR IN REVIEW