



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 23 | OCTOBER 23, 2023 | FOCUS ON SOUTHERN BLACK GIRLS



Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium

The Southern Black Girls and Women's Consortium (Southern Black Girls, SBGWC) is a collective of Black women in philanthropy, activism and girls' work, who hold deep roots in movement-building. Southern Black Girls was established in 2017 via a strong partnership between the Black Belt Community Foundation and three additional anchor institutions, (the Appalachian Community Fund, the Fund for Southern Communities, and the TruthSpeaks Innovation Foundation) to provide resources and opportunities for Black girls and women in the South. Fed up with reports confirming that Black girls and women receive less than one percent of the \$4.8 billion in philanthropic investments in the south, Southern Black Girls launched the Black Girls Dream Fund to embody their mission and raise \$100 million over the next decade to financially empower the goals of Black girls and women.



From left to right, SBGWC founders: LaTosha Brown, Co-Founder of the SBGWC and Black Voters Matter; Felecia Lucky, President of the Black Belt Community Foundation; Margo Miller, Executive Director of the Appalachian Community Fund; Alice Jenkins, Executive Director of the Fund for Southern Communities

"Black girls and women are still fighting for the rights, resources and recognition they deserve," says Felecia Lucky, BBCF President. "Through our work, we are able to fill this vital funding gap and improve the quality of life for generations of Black girls and women." To date, they have already awarded \$2.2 million to 71 organizations and special projects across 12 southern states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Joy is our Journey Dream Bus Tour is a free event specifically designed for Black girls, young women, and gender-expansive youth, between the ages of 12-24, as a safe space to connect and exhale. A mini-festival experience, each tour stop features several exciting interactive workshops and programming centered around health and beauty, arts and culture, entrepreneurship, S.T.E.M., and dream-building. In partnership with local community organizations, each event is held outdoors and features music, food trucks, game stations, swag bags, giveaways and so much more!



SBGWC partnered with music artist Megan Thee Stallion's Pete and Thomas Foundation for the 2022 tour, which was an exciting month-long caravan that journeyed through multiple cities in five southern states including Atlanta, GA, Elaine, AR, Little Rock, AR, Selma, AL, Wilcox County, AL, Livingston, AL, Jackson, MS, Houston, TX and Birmingham, AL.

The next The Joy is our Journey Dream Bus Tour will take place in Summer 2024.

Sources: 1billion4blackgirls.org (9/10/20); blackenterprise.com (8/19/22); southernblackgirls.org; Photos courtesy of Intown Imagery

"We believe Black women & girls hold authentic & true solutions to the challenges present in our lives. My vision for SBGWC is to elevate the voices & leadership of women & girls & to bring those solutions to light"

– Malika Berry Rogers, Executive Director of SBGWC

- APPLY NOW -

#BlackGirlJoyChallenge

The #BlackGirlJoyChallenge is back and better than ever! This time, we are partnering with Megan Thee Stallion's Pete & Thomas Foundation and giving girls, young women, or gender-expansive youth between the ages of 12-24 an opportunity to win \$550! We invite you to spread joy to yourself, your friends, your family, and your community by applying.



The #BlackGirlJoyChallenge promotes JOY as a vital element of mental health and self-care, and we want YOU to be a part of the movement. If you are a Southern girl aged 12-24 residing in one of the 13 southern states, this is your opportunity to make a difference!

Apply today and share your plans to bring joy to your community for a chance to win a \$550 challenge award. Applications are open until **October 25th**. Learn more, apply now, and join us in spreading JOY: blackgirljoychallenge.org

95%

of Black Girl Joy Awardee respondents reported that SBGWC introduced them to **joy** as a self-care & mental health strategy



Prepared by BBCF Communications Team

For more information, visit us online: blackbeltfound.org or contact us via phone: (334) 874-1126 or email: info@blackbeltfound.org