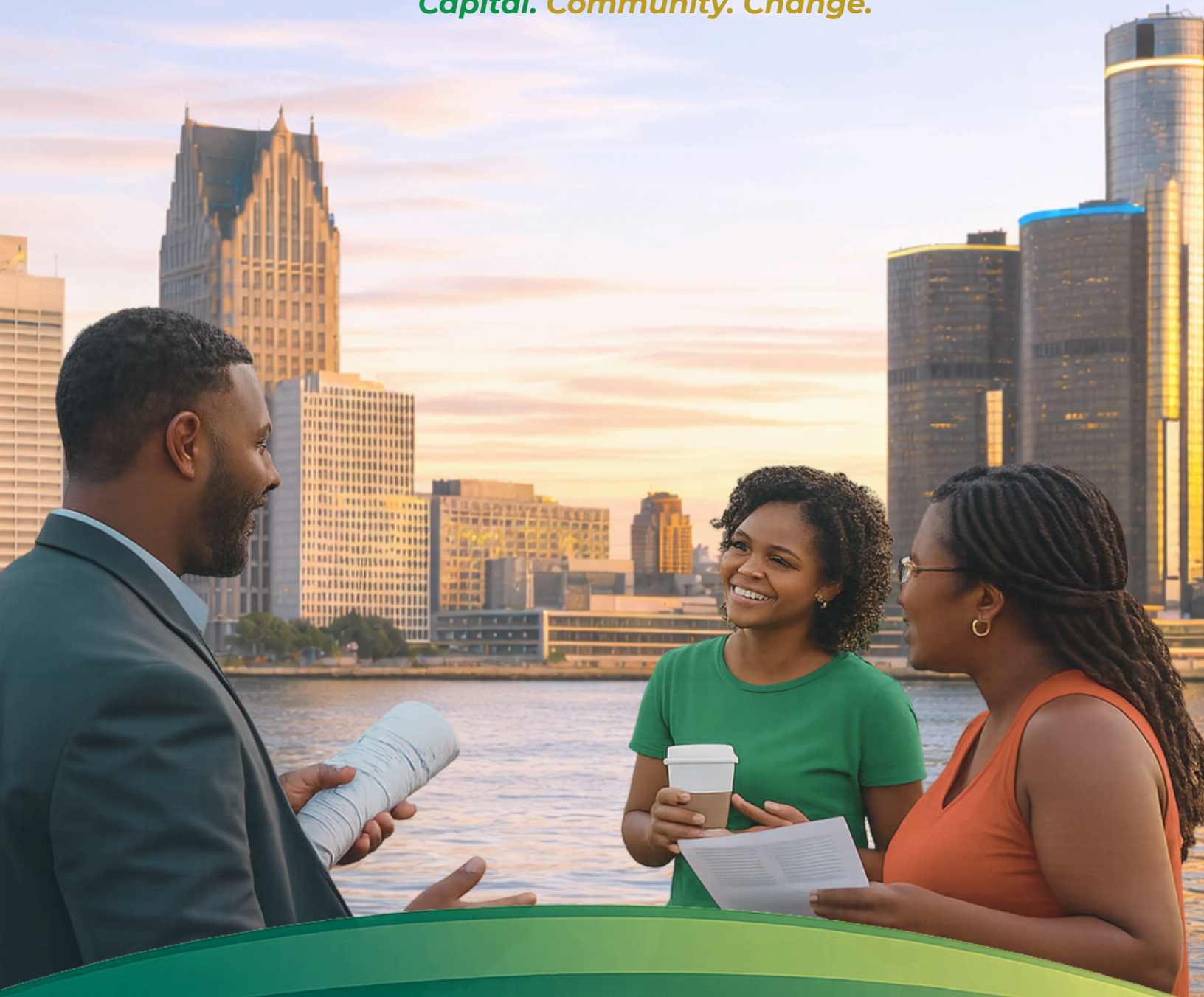




MEDIA KIT 2026

Capital. Community. Change.



Jarod Pratt | Press Contact

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Black Leaders Detroit is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating equitable access to capital for entrepreneurs of African descent through no-interest loans, unrestricted grants, and technical assistance.

Our Impact

\$6M

Capital Deployed

900+

Businesses &
Nonprofits
Supported

200+

Loans Issued

95%

Repayment Rate

Quick Facts



Founded: 2019



Location: Detroit
Michigan



Model: No-interest loans
& unrestricted grants



Expansion: Detroit +
National Programming

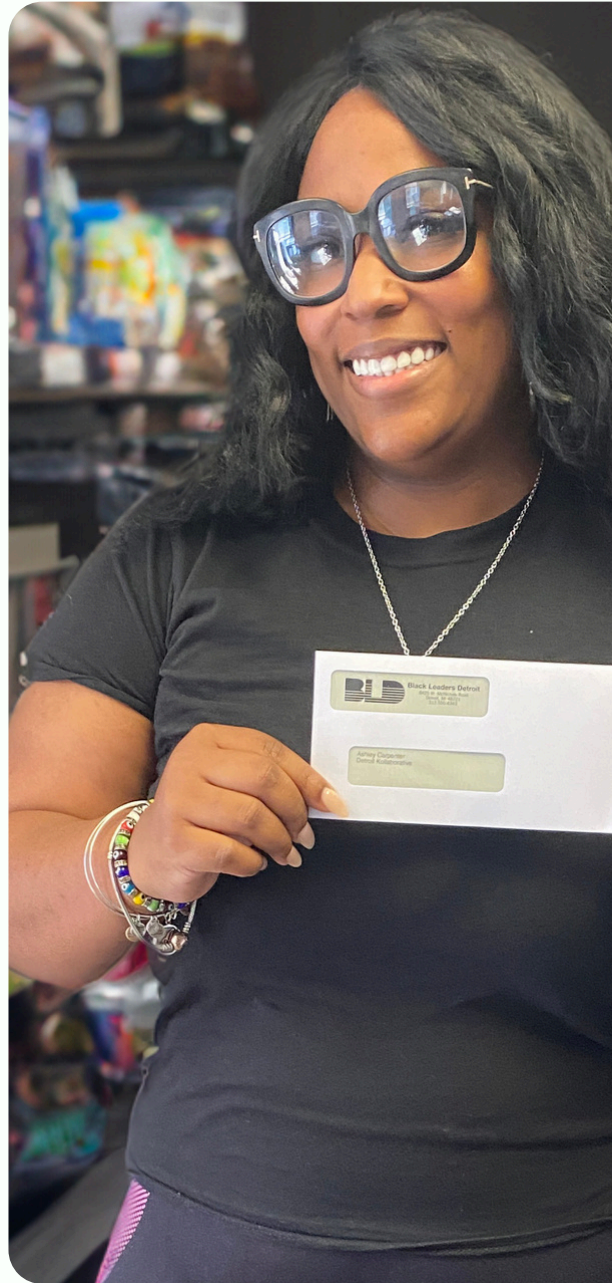


MISSION & STORY

Black Leaders Detroit was founded to address long-standing disparities in access to capital for entrepreneurs of African descent. Traditional financial systems often overlook innovative, community-rooted businesses that lack collateral or generational wealth. BLD was created as a direct response to that gap — providing flexible funding and trust-based support.

***“When capital flows more fairly,
entire communities benefit”***

In response, BLD created an alternative, trust-based funding model designed to meet the needs of businesses owned by persons of African descent. Through no-interest loans, unrestricted grants, and technical assistance, we are transforming access to capital to more inclusive, sustainable, and community-driven.



Vision: A future where businesses led by persons of African descent have the resources to thrive and build generational wealth.

PROGRAM & INITIATIVES



NO-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

No-interest capital for entrepreneurs of African descent to sustain or grow businesses

\$3M+ loaned ● 95% repayment



UNRESTRICTED GRANT PROGRAM

Flexible use funding to support businesses and nonprofits led by persons of African descent

700+ Grants ● \$1.5M+ deployed



BUILDING FUND

No-interest loans for developers of African descent to renovate residential properties

\$1.8M deployed ● 15 projects



RIDE FOR UNITY

Annual fundraiser to raise awareness about capital access issues for entrepreneurs of African descent

Formerly Ride For Equity

IMPACT STORIES AND TESTIMONIALS



Simple Capital. Real Support. Lasting Impact

Working with BLD was the simplest loan process I've ever done. I talked to one person the entire time, everything was digital, and within 90 days, we had our funding. There were no hidden fees—just \$25,000, same as cash. It was an absolute blessing.

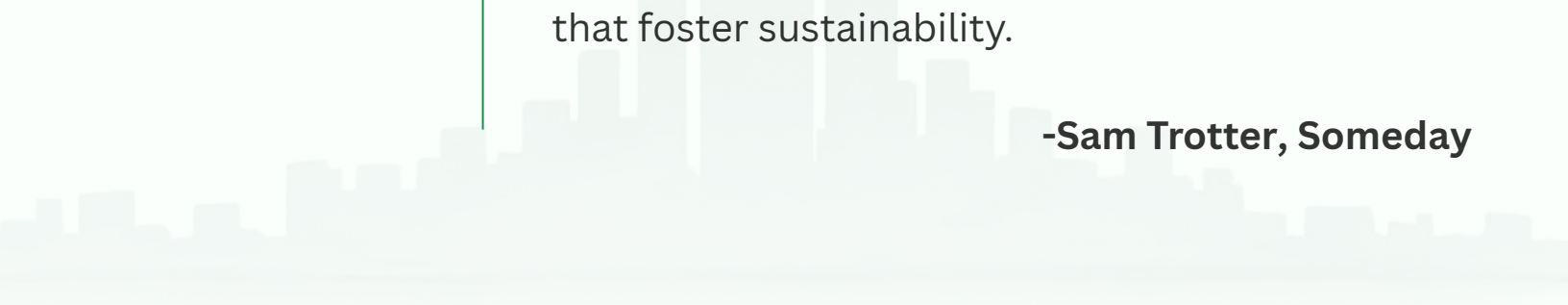
-Qiana Rice, The Kitchen By Cooking With Que

“ The support from Black Leaders Detroit has been more than financial—it's been affirmational. It reassured me that I'm on the right path and gave me the confidence to push forward.

-Lisa Sessions, Da Bomb Taco

“ Black Leaders Detroit is serious about uplifting Black businesses. It's not just financial support—they provide real connections and opportunities that foster sustainability.

-Sam Trotter, Someday



LEADERSHIP



Dwan Dandridge
Chief Executive Officer

Dwan Dandridge is the co-founder and CEO of Black Leaders Detroit. He leads the organization's vision, partnerships, and capital strategy, guiding the deployment of millions in no-interest loans and unrestricted grants to entrepreneurs and community organizations.



Sharea Ayers
Chief Operating Officer

Sharea Ayers oversees day-to-day operations, program coordination, and internal systems at Black Leaders Detroit. She works across staff, contractors, and partners to ensure funding programs and organizational initiatives run efficiently and effectively.

PRESS COVERAGE



Bridge Detroit

Black Leaders Detroit host networking, riverfront festival to celebrate Juneteenth

May 2025

Bridge Detroit highlighted Black Leaders Detroit's Juneteenth festival and networking events that blended cultural celebration with community and entrepreneur engagement. [Read more](#)



Crain's Detroit Business

Gilbert Family Foundation awards \$4M to boost Black-owned businesses in Detroit

August 2025

This article details the Gilbert Family Foundation's \$2.1M investment in Black Leaders Detroit's Building Fund and no-interest loan programs. [Read more](#)



Detroit Free Press

Detroit Mayor-Elect Mary Sheffield names transition team

November 2025

This article announces Black Leaders Detroit CEO Dwan Dandridge as a Workforce, Economic Development & Small Business Co-Chair. [Read more](#)



Sherri Show

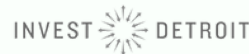
Black Leaders Make a Difference

May 2025

BLD CEO Dwan Dandridge made an appearance on Sherri to promote the 2025 Ride For Equity from Black Wall Street in Tulsa to Wall Street, New York. [Watch here](#)

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Black Leaders Detroit is supported by philanthropic, corporate, and community partners—**alongside thousands of \$1/week members** who help fuel equitable access to capital.



GET INVOLVED

Join a community committed to equitable access to capital



BECOME A MEMBER

Support businesses and non-profits led by persons of African descent through a membership model that fuels no-interest loans and grants

Memberships start at \$1/week



RIDE WITH US

Participate in Ride For Unity to support capital access through movement, storytelling, and community dialogue

[Learn more and register here](#)



PARTNER OR SPONSOR

Collaborate with Black Leaders Detroit through corporate sponsorships, program sponsorships, or event support.



VOLUNTEER

Support entrepreneurs by sharing time, skills, or expertise

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

Topics Include:

- Equitable access to capital
- Entrepreneurship by persons of African descent
- community investment
- Ride For Unity

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