

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

As we kick off our third edition of PC Perspectives e-newsletter, I want to express my deep appreciation for your partnership. Through your unwavering commitment to our mission as part of our President's Circle, the National Urban League is well-positioned to seize the opportunities ahead. I hope you enjoy a new feature under Faces of the Movement - an interview Mr. Lorenzo Vicente from our Equitable Justice Strategic Initiative division.

In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., whose legacy and dream for equality we celebrated earlier this month, we are launching a new phase of civil rights and social justice advocacy and activism – the 3Ds to defend democracy, demand diversity, equity, and inclusion, and defeat poverty.

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

In July 2023, Marc Morial ushered in a **new era of advocacy and activism for the Urban League Movement - Empowerment 2.0.** Rooted in the organization's enduring pillars of Employment, Education, Housing, Healthcare, and Justice, Empowerment 2.0 introduces what we call:

"D3": Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, and Defeat Poverty.

As we continue with our nationwide public messaging and advocacy campaign, **"The Urban** League Fights For You," D3 will serve as the



President's Circle Suporters

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Following the 2020 elections, the assault on voting rights surged.

Numerous states introduced and enacted legislation specifically aimed at curtailing the voting practices of black and brown communities, including limiting early voting days, changes in voting locations and hours, eliminating vote by mail options, removing eligible voters from registration lists, and gerrymandering.

The National Urban League remains diligent in our fight to defend democracy and has launched

rallying cry for our collective efforts across all our programs and initiatives.

Defend Democracy: We are educating, registering, and mobilizing voters, as well as fighting for the full restoration of the Voting Rights Act, equitable representation in Congress and state legislatures, and an end to racially based gerrymandering.

Demand DEI: We are calling for diversity, equity, and inclusion—in all aspects of American life. With the dismantling of affirmative action and other backlash against the "anti-woke" diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, we are steadfast in our work to ensure an equitable path to success for our children and their descendants.

Defeat Poverty: For a nation with the largest economy in history, it is unacceptable to have double digit poverty levels and even more people teetering on the edge of financial instability. We continue to advocate and deliver direct services and programs to over 3 million people annually to connect them to education, jobs, housing, and health – the tools needed to build financial security.

Learn: How YOU Can Take Action.

Watch 2023 Legislative Policy Conference



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

HIGHLIGHT NUL STAFFER: Lorenzo Vicente

This month, the Partnerships and Advancement team had the privilege to interview Lorenzo Vicente, an Associate in the Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives division, about his frontline work to further the National Urban League's voting rights and criminal justice system reform efforts.

P&A: What is your role at the National Urban League?

LV: Within the Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives division, I primarily work on three programs: Reclaim Your Vote, Civics Education Curriculum, and Urban Expungement Program. the 2024 Reclaim Your Vote Campaign.

Through the nationwide grassroots campaign, <u>we</u> <u>register, educate, and activate voters</u> to participate in the election process and make sure their voice is heard.

To learn more, please visit: Reclaim Your Vote.

Stay informed subscribe to **Justice Now,** an Instagram Live series hosted by The Nation Urban League's Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives Division.

Recently, Jerika Richardson, Senior Vice President, of the Division, invited experts to delve into topics including Mental Health Disparities, Pride: The Right to Live Your Truth, and Ending Gun Violence.

WATCH JUSTICE NOW SERIES

Related to our work with **Reclaim Your Vote**, we have developed a **Civic Education Curriculum**, specifically for Black and Brown students served through our signature education program, **Project Ready**.

While on the road for **Reclaim Your Vote** in Columbus, GA, we held a barbershop conversation to engage Black men – a segment with very low voter turnout. A young man expressed that he didn't relate to [political] issues. At that moment, the idea for the Civic Education Curriculum emerged.

We are seeing a rise in youth civic engagement and voter participation. The curriculum aims to make young people aware of the process and empower them to engage in their communities. It's a myth that young people are not interested in or do not want to be involved. They just need to know how.

P&A: In your own words, why is it important to support the NUL?

LV: The National Urban League is a legacy civil rights organization.

We have been in the fight for over a century, **part of the conversation**, and **in the room where change happens**.

It is important for us, and organizations like us, to continue to protect, preserve, and evolve this foundation and continue the fight.

One thing that I love about my area is that we tackle issues from all angles. We do advocacy and policy work. We have direct services and programs. We follow up and involve our politicians – the ones who represent us including those new and coming up – and have been doing this for decades.

P&A: Tell us more. What do your program areas do and why are they important?

LV: Reclaim Your Vote is our flagship civic engagement campaign. Each year, and mainly in mid-term and presidential election years, we focus on six or so swing states to register, educate, and activate voters.

In 2024, with a Presidential election, our work will be instrumental, nationally and in the states of Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

CLIENT SUCCESSS STORIES

SPECIAL INVITATION - RSVP HERE



The National Urban League cordially invites you to join

Marc H. Morial President and Chief Executive Officer

Dennis G. Serrette

Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer and Special Guests for an exclusive virtual conversation

INSIDE THE MOVEMENT

The virtual conversation series, *Inside the Movement*, delves into the National Urban League's signature programs, services, and advoccacy that connect millions of Americans to education, jobs, housing, health, and civic engagement opportunities to advance our mission of economic empowerment and racial equity.

2024 Inside the Movement Schedule

Creating Justice and Equity March 20th from 2-3 pm ET

Education, Workforce, and the Movemen May 22nd from 2-3 pm ET

Entrepreneurship, Housing, and Health October 2nd from 2-3 pm ET

Kindly RSVP to <u>toruzoons@nul.org</u> to confirm your attendance. You may also reply to update your email to receive additional details about events and more via PC Perspectives quarterly e-Newsletter.

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

Join Us for Our Signature Events

Urban League Empowerment Summit

The inaugural 2024 Urban League Empowerment Summit will be held from March 4-6 in Washington, DC. The event will bring together the release of the State of Black America with our 21st Legislative Policy Conference, along with the new Energy Jobs Summit.

National Urban League Conference

The **2024 National Urban League Conference** will be held from July 24-27 in New Orleans. The largest civil rights and social justice event of 2024 brings together leaders in government, business, culture, media, and grassroots advocacy to explore the challenges confronting Black communities and create opportunities for professional and economic advancement.

Equal Opportunity Day Dinner

The 2024 Equal Opportunity Dinner will be held on November 12 in New York. The annual fundraising event celebrates trailblazing leaders in industry, media, the arts, and government who personify the National Urban League's mission of equal opportunity for the underserved.

EXPAND YOUR IMPACT

Create Your Legacy

As 2024 unfolds, it brings a fresh opportunity to write a new chapter in our lives and reinforce our commitment to building a more equitable and empowered society. You have been a cornerstone in the National Urban League's journey towards achieving

social parity and economic self-reliance for Black and other underserved communities.

Consider extending your impact. We are excited to spotlight FreeWill, an easy-to-useonline tool that offers you a free way to create your will and shape your own legacy of advocacy and support for social justice.

To learn more or create your legacy today, please visit: FreeWill

Give Us Your Feedback

The National Urban League is always eager to learn and grow. Please take 5 minutes to complete our Donor Survey.

Your responses will help us tailor our philanthropic leadership program to the interests of our growing community of supporters. We thank you in advance for your time and advice.



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