

THE President's Circle



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

President's Circle Supporters

Spring is here! We have finished up the month of March with the inaugural Empowerment Summit featuring the release of the 2024 State of Black America® The Civil Rights Act of 1964: 60 Years Later, which delves into the legislation's historic role in transforming American life and its present-day impact.

We continue to execute, expand, and elevate our work for equity. This edition of PC Perspectives will highlight our Entrepreneurship and Education work. I am especially pleased to include the story of artist, gallerist Ed Dixon, as well as interviews with two Urban League leaders, Adenike Huggins, SD, Education Policy/ Advocacy, and Kendell Monk, SD Business Executive Exchange Program (BEEP).

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

Highlight NUL Staffer: [Adenike Huggins](#)

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

AH: I am Senior Director of Education Policy and Advocacy and work within the Education and Youth Services division on our **out-of-school programs, Project Ready, Youth Council, and Youth Leadership Summit**, as well as on our education policy and advocacy initiatives.

P&A: Tell us more. What do the out-of-school programs do?

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

At our inaugural Empowerment Summit in Washington, D.C., we released the **2024 State of Black America® The Civil Rights Act of 1964: 60 Years Later**.

This historic legislation, which has fostered unprecedented, steady progress toward equality in our nation, is under threat by extremists, state and federal legislatures, and the judiciary system.

To be clear, Black America is strong, proud, and resilient, and we will not, on our watch, allow for the erasure of 60 years of progress and gains.

AH: **Education happens everywhere.** It starts at home, follows you through your traditional school day, and occurs in all the spaces before, after, and in between.

Our out-of-school programs prepare young people for college and career and really demystify the process for them. Project Ready includes activities like college tours, company site visits, speaker series, internships, and mentorship. We meet each child where they are and focus on personalized support to help them identify and pursue their unique goals. Also, through the **Youth Council and Youth Leadership Summit**, young people connect virtually and in person, have opportunities to gain leadership and technical skills through hands on projects, and overall, build confidence and community that will stick with them.

P&A: Why are the out-of-school programs important to the young people served?

We are building young African American leaders, learning, exposure, and mentorship are a big part of that journey. For me, I had strong mentors growing up, however too many African Americans, experience a dearth of people modeling leadership. *"Young people thrive when they have support, are sufficiently challenged, and are given opportunities. And that is what we do".*

EDUCATION DIVISION



IMPACT ON THE GROUND (Con't)

Highlight NUL Staffer: Kendell Monk

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

KM: I lead the Business Executive Exchange Program (BEEP), a legacy initiative, founded in **1969** (Black Executive Exchange Program), was recently relaunched and expanded in 2022.

P&A: Tell us about your work. What does the BEEP program do?

KM: We partner with select corporations, HBCUs, and other educational institutions to expose undergraduate/graduate students and alumni to diverse career paths, early career opportunities, and a network of professionals. It is a platform for ongoing learning and development via paid internships, online courses, on and off campus events, and more. To put it simply, **we educate**

I encourage you to read the special report titled **Evaluation for Progress on the Biden-Harris Administration**, and our **2024 Equity Index**, which measures progress toward all of our economic empowerment areas like education, employment, housing, health, and civic engagement.

To read the report visit:

[State of Black America](#)

As part of Black History Month, the Education and Youth Development and Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiative divisions hosted Justice Now: **Advancing Black History Then & Now**, which delved into the evolving understanding and dissemination of Black history, as well as rising challenges including censorship of our history in the education system and other institutions.

To watch the video, visit:

[Justice Now: Advancing Black History](#)

[Then & Now](#)

WATCH JUSTICE NOW SERIES



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

Last year, the **National Urban League's 13 Entrepreneurship Centers** secured \$71.5 million in new contracts and financing for small business and provided management resources and support to over **25,600 entrepreneurs** to help start, grow, and sustain their businesses.

Ed Dixon, artist and owner of the fine art gallery, Edward A. Dixon Gallery in Dayton, OH, is part of this success.

Ed first opened his gallery in 2016, steadily growing from humble beginnings to a global convergence of art worldwide – from Cuba to Liberia, and Canada to the New Zealand and beyond.

Like many small businesses, the Covid-19 pandemic forced Ed to downsize, but by August 2022, he reopened and was ready to expand.

young people on what they can be and show them the way.

P&A: Why is BEEP important to the young people served?

KM: ***Being privy to the game helps young people make better decisions***, more confident decisions, and earlier decisions that will impact their career and life. For myself, I did not know all the opportunities available and how to apply my degree, how to network and the importance of it, and how an internship can prepare you for an entry level position and career advancements. **Young people in the BEEP program learn core skills early**, both how to use their hard skills to fulfill a job function and how to develop soft skills to navigate any workplace culture. Our young people are 80% minority backgrounds, and often first-generation college students, the exposure to these opportunities is life changing.

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

KM: **No other organization has the reach** to change communities, transform individual lives and advocate for what is needed.

By connecting with his local Urban League Affiliate, Ed began to invest in marketing and operations. He participated in one-on-one sessions and in the Access to Capital workshop.

He received funding from the Dayton Resiliency Fund, and the pinnacle, secured a \$10,000 loan from the Small Business Administration.

Through unwavering determination, strategic collaboration, and relentless pursuit of opportunities, the Edward A. Dixon Gallery stands as a testament to resilience, resourcefulness, and the power of community support.

Learn how the **National Urban League's signature Entrepreneurship Center Program**, provide management counseling, mentoring, and training services geared toward the development of management skills that will enable minority entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, obtain financing or contracts, and **preserve or create jobs**.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DIVISION

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

2024 Inside the Movement Series

(exclusive for President Circle)

As a vital part of the Urban League Movement, we invite you to join our senior leadership and President/CEO Marc H. Morial, to learn more about our work through a series of virtual conversations, the Inside the Movement series is exclusively for our President's Circle supporters.

RSVP via email: Tcruzcons@nul.org

[Click here to rsvp for link](#)

May 22nd from 2-3 pm (ET) - Education Workforce & the Movement

June 25th from 2-3 pm (ET) - Creating Justice & Equity

Oct. 2nd from 2-3 pm (ET) - Entrepreneurship, Housing & Health

Upcoming Signature Events

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.

To learn more, please visit: [Events](#)

Expand Your Impact

Donate by Stock

Did you know that **donating appreciated stock** can make a meaningful difference for both your tax return and further our efforts for economic empowerment and social justice? Watch [this video](#) to learn how it works or donate your stock with this [secure tool](#) today!

Consider a Revocable Living Trust

Estate planning is an essential act of personal and financial empowerment. A Revocable Living Trust (RLT) or will is the best way to protect the people, pets, and communities you love, give exact instructions on how to handle your estate and build generational wealth, and start a legacy with the National Urban League to change lives and transform communities.

To learn more or to start your estate planning today, using our free tool via FreeWill,

Visit: FreeWill.com/NatUrbanLeague

Donor Newsletters

Other Ways To Give

Follow us!

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)