

THE President's Circle



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

President's Circle Supporters

Dear President's Circle Supporters,

As we face challenging times—marked by **attacks on DEI**, the disruption of critical federal programs, and rising uncertainty about the future of vital institutions—I want to begin this edition of *PC Perspectives* with a promise.

For over a century, the National Urban League has remained steadfast in its mission to create equitable opportunities for all. No matter the obstacles, we will continue to advocate for and provide life-changing services in education, jobs, housing, health, and civic engagement.

You are an essential part of that promise. Your unwavering leadership and financial support fuel our work, empowering us to advance economic opportunity and social justice in every community we serve.

Thank you for standing with us in this fight. I invite you to read more about the work you make possible below.

With deep appreciation,

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

Empowering Job Seekers



DEFEND
↗ **DEMOCRACY**

DEMAND
↗ **DIVERSITY**

DEFEAT
↗ **POVERTY**

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The Digital Career Success Series continues to make a powerful impact. This free, virtual platform is helping thousands of individuals each year build the skills they need to advance in their careers, pivot to new opportunities, or level up in their current roles. By providing accessible resources and expert-led webinars—such as [The Future of Work, The Art of Negotiation, and Next Level LinkedIn](#)—we’re giving people the tools to take control of their professional futures, achieve financial independence, and support their families.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/dcsc>

Driving Change in the Community

Established in 1942 by Mollie Moon, the **National Council of Urban League Guilds (NCULG)** has been a cornerstone of community-driven change. As an auxiliary volunteer group, the Guilds play a vital role in supporting the National Urban League and its affiliates nationwide. The members, known as “Guilders,” are dedicated to advancing the mission through financial support, promoting civic engagement, advocating for civil rights, volunteering in the community, and fostering leadership development.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/volunteer-with-the-guild>

In this issue, you will hear more from Angela Simmons-Smith, President of the National Urban League Council of Guilds and a Trustee of the National Urban League in Faces of the Movement.

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Standing up for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The National Urban League and our advocacy partners—representing top civil and human rights organizations and over 100 million Americans—have launched the [Demand Diversity Roundtable](#).

In response to the growing backlash against DEI initiatives, which threaten our economy, democracy, and hard-won progress, we are uniting to take decisive action. Together, we’re fighting to restore the core American values of equal opportunity and justice, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to succeed.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/event/demand-diversity-roundtable>

Defending Educational Equity

The National Urban League, alongside fellow civil rights organizations, is standing firm in challenging the Department of Education’s recent stance that threatens funding for schools and universities offering programs related to DEI. **We believe that every student deserves an opportunity to succeed**, and federal law is clear: educational institutions have both a moral and legal responsibility to ensure equal opportunity for all.

We are committed to advocating for policies that protect educational equity and urge schools and institutions to uphold these values, continue providing inclusive programs, and reject misguided efforts that seek to undermine this essential work.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/news/news-releases>

TAKE ACTION DEMAND DIVERSITY



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

Angela R. Simmons-Smith serves as the President of the National Urban League Council of Guilds and a Trustee of the National Urban League.

P&A: How did you first get involved with the National Urban League?

AS: I first became a member when I moved back to my hometown of Philadelphia. I wanted to make a difference in our community. Having previously volunteered with the NAACP, a few friends from my local church invited me to a meeting with the Urban League. I loved it! It was a multi-generational, diverse group of individuals, and I immediately felt at home. I joined committees that aligned with my passions—career development, social action, and fundraising—and was able to make an impact right away.

P&A: This year, you’re celebrating 31 years of service to the National Urban League. What has kept you engaged with the NCULG?

AS: It's been a true blessing. My volunteer work has expanded my circle and connected me with incredible people—some who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s, and others who are today's activists. I've grown so much as both a person and a leader, encouraged by mentors who urged me to take on leadership roles: Committee Chair, Eastern Regional Director, Treasurer, Vice President, and now President. It's become the fabric of my life.

P&A: As you step into your new role as President of the NCULG, what values and goals do you have for the Guild?

AS: I truly believe each Guilder brings something unique to the table, and embracing those qualities will only strengthen the NCULG. My goals include increasing membership, continuing our educational webinar series, creating more community-driven programs led by the Guild, and improving our communication through social media and a new newsletter.

P&A: If someone is interested in joining their local Guild, what opportunities are available to them?

AS: Bring your skills and passions! We welcome everyone. If you're a teacher, you can mentor students or facilitate professional development. If you work in healthcare, you can help with community health awareness events. If you're into marketing, we have social media and communication needs. There's a place for everyone to get involved and make a difference.

P&A: Why is it important to get involved?

AS: I believe to affect change, you have to be an active participant. The National Urban League has been around for over 100 years, and we're making a real difference in communities across the country. For anyone unsure how to help, we offer a proven platform to join with others who are dedicated to making an impact. The more people involved, the more we can achieve!

P&A: Can you share a moment when you witnessed the impact of your volunteer work?

AS: As a Black woman and mother, education is incredibly important to me. I once co-chaired a career development program where we partnered with a local community college. We focused on reaching students who might not be A or B students—those who often slip through the cracks. Our first event featured a career panel with small business owners, community workers like firemen and police officers, tradespeople, beauticians, and more. I noticed one young man slouched in the back, uninterested. I asked him what his plans were after graduation, and he said he planned to get a job. Weeks later, after he completed the program, I asked how he felt about it. His response was completely different—he was excited and had realized that there were more career options for him than he had ever considered. This is why we do this work.

P&A: Why is it important to support the National Urban League and local Urban League Affiliates?

AS: Supporting the National Urban League—both financially and through service—is crucial. We advocate for our community, especially Black and Brown people, with a focus on creating real opportunities. Whether it's providing scholarships that make the difference between going to college or not, offering mentorship programs that open doors, or helping people navigate homeownership and financial challenges, we're making a tangible difference. *Together, we can move mountains and make big strides in the fight for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.*

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

Looking for a way to grow your impact?

Many of us want to take a stand and do more in the fight for opportunity and justice now more than ever, but we also need to manage our financial commitments. **The Opportunity Circle** offers a way to give consistently and make a larger impact over time. By joining our monthly giving program, donors can contribute at a level that fits their budget—whether that's \$100, \$85, \$50, \$25 or any amount. These monthly gifts provide vital, unrestricted support for our national operations and Urban League Affiliates, ensuring we can deliver life-changing programs free of charge.

What's powerful about monthly giving is that even smaller contributions add up, enabling us to plan, grow, and sustain our work for an equitable future. By committing to consistent support, you help us do more—expanding and strengthening the movement every day.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/monthly-giving>

Save the Date – Inside the Movement

The Virtual Conversation Series Inside the Movement is [an exclusive opportunity to join the National Urban League's leadership team](#), as well as your fellow philanthropic leadership, the President's Circle, to discuss

topics central to our mission of economic empowerment and social justice. The 2025 schedule includes:

- **March 26** | 2-3 pm ET: **Looking to the Future**: The Urban League Empowerment Center and Civil Rights Museum in Harlem
- **June 18** | 2-3 pm ET: **Driving Our Work on the Ground**: Urban League Guild and Young Professionals
- **October 1** | 2-3 pm ET: **The Next Generation**: Whitney M. Young, Jr. Youth Summit, Business Executive Exchange Program, Digital Career Service Series
- **November 19** | 2-3 pm ET: **Together We Stand**: A Year End Review of Equitable Justice and Civic Engagement [To RSVP, please email tcruzcons@nul.org](mailto:tcruzcons@nul.org)

Save the Date – Signature National Urban League Events

The 2025 Empowerment Summit will be held on May 13-16 in Washington, DC. This event features the Energy Jobs convening, State of Black America, and Legislative Policy Conference.

The [2025 National Urban League Conference](#) will be held on July 16-19 in Cleveland, OH. The largest civil rights and social justice event of 2025 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.

The 2025 Equal Opportunity Dinner will be held on November 13 in New York City. 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, visit: <https://nul.org/events>

Donor Newsletters

Other Ways To Give

212.558.5300 | support@salsalabs.com

Follow us!

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