

THE *President's Circle*



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

President's Circle Supporters

Dear President's Circle Supporters,

As we begin a new year and celebrate Black History Month, I am energized by you – our President's Circle and a powerful community of Urban Leaguers. Your leadership and generosity make it possible for us to build opportunity, expand access, and ensure the American Dream remains within reach.

At the same time, we face real and mounting challenges: rising costs, persistent inequality, and growing threats to equity and safety at home and abroad. Because of you, we do not retreat in moments like these—we lead.

In this edition of PC Perspectives, we share a snapshot of the work your commitment makes possible: from historic investments

in communities, to career pathways that build generational wealth, to advocacy that defends equal opportunity and democracy itself.

Thank you for standing with us – in purpose and in action.

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

A Historic Investment: The Urban League Empowerment Center & Affordable Housing

On November 12, 2025 the National Urban League celebrated the opening of the **Urban League Empowerment Center in Harlem**—a landmark investment in both the Urban League Movement and the Harlem community. This mission-driven development includes our new headquarters and Conference Center, the forthcoming Urban Civil Rights Museum in Harlem, the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Center for Leadership, nonprofit and retail space, and 171 units of affordable housing.

The Empowerment Center stands as a national model for inclusive, sustainable community impact – made possible by partners and supporters like you.

View the opening ceremony, attended by local, state, and federal leaders; philanthropic and

**DEMAND
↑ DIVERSITY**
ROUNDTABLE

Join virtually for the latest on the fight for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the next phase of advocacy.

WATCH LIVE
🕒 Wednesday, January 22 at 11:00 AM ET
📺 [NUL.ORG](https://www.nul.org) & 📱 [@NATURBANLEAGUE](https://www.instagram.com/naturbanleague)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Demanding Accountability.

Defending Opportunity

On January 22, 2026 the National Urban League reconvened the **Demand Diversity Roundtable**, one year after its launch, to assess progress, elevate lessons learned, and sharpen accountability. The convening featured new, groundbreaking polling that challenges prevailing political narratives and reveals where the American public truly stands on equal opportunity.

Together, leaders reflected on the past year and charted the next phase of coordinated advocacy to defend equity, equal opportunity, and our multiracial democracy.

Fighting for Housing as a Civil Right

project partners; and Urban League leadership past and present including past presidents Hugh B. Price and John E. Jacob.

WATCH GRAND OPENING EVENT



Black History Month: Investing in Careers and Economic Mobility

Building pathways to lifelong careers – and generational wealth – is central to the Urban League mission. This Black History Month, we are hosting two virtual career events designed to meet professionals where they are and help them take the next step:

- **2026 National Urban League Career Week:** a five-day virtual experience for job seekers and working professionals.
- **Black History Month Career Fair:** connecting professionals and college graduates with recruiters from Fortune 500 companies.

Learn more about our Digital Career Success Series: <https://nul.org/program/digital-career-success-series>

CONNECTING PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP TO IMPACT

Launched in 2021, *Inside the Movement* is a virtual conversation series exclusively

In December 2025, the National Urban League called on Congressional leaders to take bold, comprehensive action to confront the nation’s worsening housing affordability crisis. The organization urged lawmakers to strengthen and fully fund the **ROAD to Housing Act** as part of the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act.

“Housing policy is economic policy, and economic policy is civil rights policy,”

“Congress has an opportunity and an obligation to meet the moment with solutions that expand access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for all.” - Marc Morial

[Click here to read more.](#)

WATCH DEMAND DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

Philanthropy in Action: Conversations on Giving Back

We are pleased to share the second episode of **Philanthropy in Action**, a series highlighting mission-driven partnerships and the power of giving. In this episode, Dennis G. Serrette, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, speaks with **Tom Reid**,

for President's Circle supporters and special guests. What began as a way to connect during a virtual moment has become a powerful forum bringing philanthropic leaders from across the country together to **engage directly with Urban League leadership** about our mission, strategy, and impact.

We invite you to join our **Advocacy and Policy at the National Urban League** series for an empowering conversation. See full 2026 series dates below

Chief Legal Officer and Secretary and Trustee of the National Urban League, about corporate philanthropy, workplace diversity, and shared commitments to fairness and opportunity.

WATCH PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT (Staff Highlight)

**Partnerships & Advancement recently sat down with
Brad Cauthen, Director of the Urban Reentry Jobs Program**

P&A: What is the Urban Reentry Jobs Program?

BC: The program is a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor that works with people in county jails and state prisons who are scheduled to return home within 20–270 days. Our goal is simple but powerful: helping people get jobs, good-paying jobs that allows them to support themselves and their families.

We take a holistic approach. That includes cognitive behavioral therapy through individual and group sessions, which helps to guide people in making good decisions, stressing the importance of thinking before acting, lowering impulses. With our work on the inside of facilities, we build trust with individuals and that helps us to work with them when they return home. This helps to support a successful reentry when participants are discharged back to the community.

P&A: Tell us about your role and what led you here.

BC: I've been with the NUL for two years. Before that, I worked on Rikers Island Department of Corrections, New York City's jail, leading a program that conducted group facilitation and supporting individuals with reentry services. The groups included a wide variety of topics, including family reunification, financial literacy, anger management, healthy relationships, violence prevention, etc.

At NUL, I oversee UL Affiliates working with young adults (ages 18–24) and adults (18+). I work to make sure programs are compliant with contract regulations, consistent, and doing what we said we would do. That means reviewing data, monitoring progress, troubleshooting challenges, and supporting affiliates so we're truly there for the people we serve.

Advocacy is also a big part of the work. Oftentimes, we meet people who are detained but not convicted, and because of their incarceration people lose jobs, housing, and relationships become strained due to what are often systemic issues and delays. When systems become overburdened (i.e. overcrowded jails, court calendar log jams), it has an impact on our work. It often means that people remain incarcerated longer. Organizations like our Affiliates step in to help make sure that people are supported as they transition home.

P&A: How does this program fit into the NUL's mission?

BC: NUL has been at the forefront of fighting to support marginalized populations for 100 years, and this is a very vulnerable group. Recidivism is a major challenge. About 66% of people return to incarceration within three years, and 80% within ten years. The biggest barriers are what we call The Big Four: housing, mental health, substance use, and employment.

The U.S. incarcerates more people than any other country. When people come home, we must help them deal with these primary factors that can often lead back to periods of incarceration. Job training, job placement, and retention is our mantra. We also stress the importance of connecting participants to emergency and long-term housing, as well as mental health and substance use services.

We focus on jobs where people can see a future for themselves and stay or grow. While there is nothing wrong with obtaining a good transition first job, a Quickie Mart if you will, we encourage our participants to think long-term and that is achieved through adequate training. That includes industries like healthcare, energy, and other high-growth fields. For example, semiconductors are a huge industry in New York State. We identified programs, including a two-week bootcamp at Rochester Institute of Technology, to help people take those first steps. Urban League Affiliates

across the country will continue to target these growth industries for all our program participants, including those in reentry.

P&A: Can you share a memorable experience?

BC: This work only succeeds through community. Reentry is very difficult work. Our participants have difficulty reestablishing trust with their loved ones (relationships often change after periods of incarceration, the longer they are away, the more difficult it is to reestablish), and it's easy to give up.

One of my most memorable experiences comes out of the Philadelphia affiliate, where the Reentry Director sends a daily group text to over 300 people—quotes, advice, and words of encouragement. These are people that he has met inside of the jails and prisons and have since come home. The group chat goes on for hours. The group takes over. People share resources, housing leads, job opportunities, examples of what worked for them and their reentry process and overall support to each other. It's proof that no one is alone. Whether it's Philadelphia, New Orleans, or Georgia, it may look different everywhere you go, but it's community, and its movement.

Read more about our success stories here: [NUL PH3 Brochure_FINAL.pdf](#)

P&A: What drives you?

BC: I'm driven by helping my community, African Americans and others in need. That's why I joined NUL – its mission is aligned with my mission. Personally, I grew up in New York and witnessed the start of the crack cocaine epidemic. It tore families apart – and tore my family apart. Over time I saw the lasting impact, not just my neighborhood, but neighborhoods all over the country and the immediate response was long-term prison sentences. The impact of that period still affects urban communities to this day. I'm a social worker, and I know there is a path forward. This work, building community and helping people grow and flourish, is at the core of who I am.

P&A: Why is it important to support the National Urban League and its Affiliate Movement?

BC: After 115 years, we still matter. We are still doing the work we set out to do, helping people gain employment, stability, and professional opportunities. Our communities need us now as much as ever.

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

2026 Inside the Movement Schedule

Advocacy and Policy at the National Urban League Series

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.

The Washington Bureau and Legislative Policy Conference
February 24th from 2-3 pm ET

Defeat Poverty
May 12th from 2-3 pm ET

Demand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
September 16th from 2-3 pm ET

Defend Democracy
November 10th from 2-3 pm

RSVP via email: Tcruzcons@nul.org

Save the Date(s)

National Urban League Conference 2026
July 29 – August 1 | Nashville, TN

The largest civil rights and social justice gathering of the year brings together leaders from government, business, culture, media, and grassroots advocacy to confront challenges and create pathways to opportunity .Learn More: nul.org/events

A New Year, A Renewed Commitment to Giving Back

As you reflect on your goals for the year ahead, we invite you to consider deepening your impact through the **Opportunity Circle**, our monthly giving program. Sustained support helps power the work you see here—today and throughout the year.

Learn more about monthly giving: <https://nul.org/monthly-giving>

Fueling the Next 115 Years

As we celebrate the opening of the Urban League Empowerment Center, we are reminded that lasting change is built over generations. The [Eugene Kinckle Jones Legacy Circle](#) offers an opportunity to align personal legacy with collective progress—ensuring that the work of economic empowerment and civil rights continues well beyond our lifetimes. Planned giving is a meaningful way to protect what you've built and pass forward opportunity to the next generation.

Learn more about planned giving: <https://nul.org/basic-page/create-your-legacy>.

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