

BINGHAM FELLOWS CLASS OF 2021

BELONGING

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY

2020 WAS A YEAR THAT CHANGED MANY PEOPLE.

A global pandemic, isolation in our homes, economic uncertainty, job losses. And in the midst of all that, the largest global outcry for justice for Black lives sparked by the deaths of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, George Floyd in Minneapolis, and Ahmaud Arbery in South Georgia.

For several months, the eyes of the world were on Louisville as thousands of demonstrators marched city streets to demand change in the systems and institutions that led to the death of an innocent woman in her own home. Arrests, tear gas, sound cannons, the National Guard, police in riot gear, the deaths of David McAtee and Tyler Gerth. These events defined the summer of 2020 for countless protesters in the city of Louisville.

Every year, Leadership Louisville Center seeks to address the most pertinent issue facing our city through the Bingham Fellows program. It is no surprise that after this year, the selected topic for 2021

was **Belonging: Building a Culture of Inclusivity**. The most diverse class in Bingham Fellows history came together to better understand what a more inclusive Louisville looks like.

It quickly became clear that this group had a very specific goal: to improve the lives of Black residents in our city. This became the guiding principle for all the projects you'll hear about today. From better political representation to economic empowerment and all that means for the lives of Black folks in our community, this class sought to raise up the voices of those who have been disenfranchised, ignored, and suppressed for centuries.

Everything you'll read about here has been designed thoughtfully and strategically to increase access to political empowerment through a Black agenda, investment capital for business startup and expansion, and opportunities to benefit from increasing supplier diversity. All these build wealth and political power for Louisville's Black residents.



CLASS OF 2021

PROJECTS

EDUCATING AND BUILDING A PIPELINE FOR BLACK REPRESENTATION

THE 3003 PROJECT

Inspired by the necessity to reverse the systemic failures that led to the death of Breonna Taylor, The 3003 Project works to build a Kentucky where Black people and communities thrive with the understanding that we all rise when we rise together. An umbrella for three new organizations - The 3003 Collaborative (501c3), The 3003 Campaign (501c4), and The 3003 PAC (527) - The 3003 Collaborative will educate the community about pro-black issues. Encourage community to take action to advance pro-black issues. In addition engage, empower, and equip people interested in running for office to promote a more equitable Kentucky.

Central to The 3003 Project is scoring and engaging political candidates and building a pipeline of political candidates that support an agenda that seeks to improve the lives of Black people. In addition, the 3003 Project seeks to lobby for pro-Black legislation and broaden community awareness of the political systems and policies that have persistently and disproportionately impacted Black Kentuckians.

[HTTPS://THE3003PROJECT.ORG](https://the3003project.org)

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[in /COMPANY/THE-3003-PROJECT](#)



BUILDING BETTER CONNECTIONS FOR BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

BEBA

The Black Equity Business Alliance (BEBA) strives to accelerate the success and financial sustainability of Black-owned businesses to reduce the racial wealth gap. BEBA will connect Black businesses to strategic revenue opportunities, establish a forum for thought leadership, and foster partnerships with key business organizations to increase the representation and utilization of Black-owned businesses in the Louisville metro area. BEBA will promote a culture that celebrates entrepreneurial courage and progress at quarterly thought leadership events, culminating with an annual roundtable and gala honoring Alliance partners.



**TOGETHER, THESE
EFFORTS CREATE
CHANGE AND
EQUITY AT MULTIPLE
SYSTEMIC LEVELS.**

BRIDGE LOUISVILLE

The mission of Bridge Louisville is to facilitate the equitable, efficient and timely deployment of capital to the Black community of the greater Louisville area for the benefit of all residents with the long-term goals of measurably increasing the generational wealth accumulated by Black residents and reducing the wealth gap between Black and other residents until it is eliminated.

In order to accomplish this mission, Bridge Louisville will form strategic partnerships to connect the Black community in the greater Louisville area with financial institutions through the establishment of a lending table. The lending table, which will consist of a variety of lenders, will be facilitated by a Director and will meet regularly to hear from Black-owned businesses and Black-led projects regarding requests for funding with the objective of expediting the deployment of capital to the Black community in Louisville through Black-owned businesses and Black-led projects.

[HTTPS://WWW.BRIDGELouisville.COM](https://www.bridgelouisville.com)



WHILE NONE OF THESE PROJECTS REVERSE THE INJUSTICES OF THE PAST, THEY STRIVE TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE OUTCOMES FOR THE FUTURE.

What's next?

The Bingham Fellows program is just the beginning. Please be sure to follow and get involved with these projects as they continue to change our community for the better.

Learn more about the program:
LEADERSHIPLouisville.org/BINGHAM-FELLOWS/



**Bingham
Fellows**

ABOUT THE BINGHAM FELLOWS

The Bingham Fellows program is the advanced leadership program of the Leadership Louisville Center. Created in 1988 through a \$500,000 endowment from the Mary and Barry Bingham Sr. Fund, the Fellows are social entrepreneurs who have the imagination and talent needed to gather critical resources and create social change. Side by side with peers, participants work to develop dynamic and innovative solutions to our community's most pressing challenges. Now graduating the 29th class, the Bingham Fellows have an impressive track record of providing community issues with visibility and momentum.

The Fellows don't ponder what might be. They roll up their sleeves, shine a spotlight on an issue and put new ideas to work. Their impact includes recent projects such as the West Louisville community development organization OneWest, regular Café Louie conversations with elected officials at Louisville Free Public Library locations, a sustainable model for neighborhood 'Little Free Libraries,' creation of City Champs, a talent attraction and retention program now managed by Greater Louisville Inc., and assistance leading to the opening of the Smoketown Family Wellness Center. The impact of the Fellows goes back to the 1990s with the creation of The Housing Partnership, construction of the Presbyterian Community Center, growth of local farmers' markets, and numerous other positive outcomes.

2021 BINGHAM FELLOWS

THE 3003 PROJECT

KAT ABNER (IL '18, FL '15)
Social Purpose & Communications Manager
Fund for the Arts

LETTIE BAILEY-JOHNSON
CEO/Founder, JDEI & Leadership Coach
Gifted By Design Leadership and Consulting

FREDDIE BROWN
District Executive Director
YMCA of Greater Louisville

JENNIE JEAN DAVIDSON (LL '15)
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

YLONDA DAVIS (LL '18, FL '16)
Assistant Vice President Loan Servicing
Farm Credit Mid-America

CHERIE DAWSON-EDWARDS, PH.D.
A&S Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
University of Louisville

HANNAH DRAKE (FL '18)
Author/Public Speaker

SYLENA RENEE FISHBACK
Director
Jefferson County Public Schools

CHANDRA GORDON (BF '15, IL '11)
Executive Director
The Library Foundation

CHRIS HARTMAN
Executive Director
Fairness Campaign

NICOLE HAYDEN (IL '20)
Founder and President
Friends of Nicole 50/50 Mentoring Collaborative, Inc.

M. ANNETTE MANDLEY-TURNER (BF '01, LL '95)
Executive Director
Archdiocese of Louisville

JOHN MAYS
Director of Equity & Inclusion
Yum! Brands - KFC US

DONALD "DJ" MITCHELL JR., PH.D.
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Bellarmine University

TAWANDA OWSLEY (IL '04)
Vice President of Development
Hospur Health

VICTOR ROWE
Vice President
PNC Bank

MICHAEL WADE SMITH, ED.D.
Chief of Staff and Vice President of External Affairs
University of Louisville

TODD SODERQUIST
Vice President
Humana Inc.

JUDY SPLAN-LARIN, PSYD
Director, Human Resources & Customer Service
Brinly-Hardy Co.

BEBA

TAWANA BAIN
Chief of Authentic Connections
TBAIN&Co.

GREG BLAKEMORE (LL '13, FL '11)
President & CEO
The Nehemiah Group, LLC

KENDALL BOYD, ESQ.
Manager of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Louisville Metro Government

KRISY BUCHER
Sr. Director, Marketing Programs
Appriss

BRIAN CROMER (LL '06)
Partner and Chair of Business and Finance Service Group
Stites & Harbison PLLC

WENDY DANT CHESSER (FL '13)
President & CEO
One Southern Indiana

TIMOTHY E. FINDLEY SR., ED.D., MBA
Director, Diversity and Inclusion
TARC

SCOTT GODTHAAB
SVP, Director of Retail
Republic Bank

DANA JOHNSON (IL '05, FL '03)
Sr. Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Greater Louisville Inc.

TRACEY JOHNSON (IL '17)
VP, Group Brand Director
Brown-Forman Corporation

CHRISTIE MCCRAVY (LL '11, FL '03)
Executive Director
Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund

ALLISON SMITH, PH.D.
Asst. Director Advanced Planning and Sustainability
Louisville Metro Government

BRIDGE LOUISVILLE

TIFFANY L. BRIDGEWATER, ED.D.
Head of Lower School & Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Louisville Collegiate School

JUSTIN BROWN (FL '13)
Managing Partner
Lucia Partners

DANYEL CLAY
Vice President, Revenue Cycle & Coding
Baptist Health

KEISHA DEONARINE (LL '19, IL '16)
Executive Director of Philanthropy & Corporate Relations
Park Community Credit Union

CHRISTOPHER GARRETT (IL '12)
Controller
LG&E and KU Energy LLC

THE REV. KELLY ELLEN KIRBY
Rector
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

GLADYS LOPEZ (LL '20, FL '18)
Senior Vice President & CHRO
Norton Healthcare

ANDREW MCDOWELL RENDA
Vice President, Population Health
Humana Inc.

SARAH M. MCKENNA
Attorney
Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP

KAREN THOMAS MCNAY, ED.D.,
President
Sacred Heart Schools

CHRIS SANDERS (BF '18, LL '03, FL '01)
Attorney
Bahe, Cook, Cantley & Nefzger

THE REV. FRANK M. SMITH JR., D.D.
Executive Vice President
Simmons College of Kentucky

GEOFF WHITE (IL '10, FL '08)
Louisville Member-in-Charge
Frost Brown Todd

2021 STEERING COMMITTEE

SARAH DAVASHER-WISDOM (BOD '21, BF '15)
President & CEO
Greater Louisville Inc.

ASHLEY DUNCAN (BF '20, LL '17, IL '14, FL '08)
Director of Inclusion & Diversity
Republic Bank

JESSICA GREEN (BF '18)
Louisville Metro Councilwoman District 1 and Attorney At Law
The Law Office of Jessica E. Green

TERRA LEAVELL (BF '18, LL '14, FL '04)
President & CEO
Black Community Development Corporation

SCOTT SCHAFTLEIN (BF '20, LL '18)
Partner
EY

CHRISTINA SHADLE (FL '08)
Director of Investment
Louisville Urban League

KELLIE WATSON (BF '19, IL '04)
Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
Louisville MSD

TOM WILLIAMS (BF '18, BOD '11-'06, BF '04, LL '03, FL '97)
Attorney
Stoll Keenon Odgen



**Bingham
Fellows**