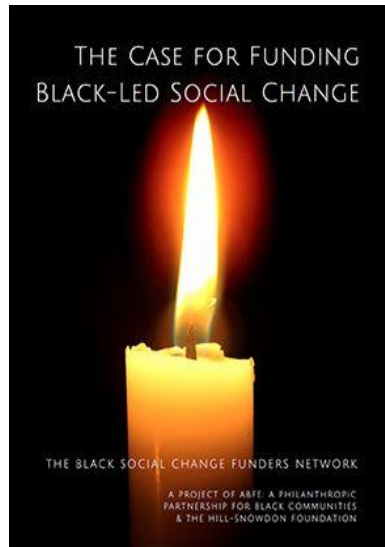


# A Conversation About Black Social Change



Tuesday, March 28, 2017

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Moderated by:

**Allison R. Brown**, Executive Director, Communities for Just Schools Fund (CJSF)

Speakers:

**Susan Taylor Batten**, President & CEO, ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

**Nat Chioke Williams, PhD**, Executive Director, Hill-Snowdon Foundation



# Welcome

- ▶ **PHONES ARE MUTED DURING WEBINAR**
- ▶ **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER PRESENTATIONS**
- ▶ **PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS DURING THE DISCUSSION USING THE ONLINE SOFTWARE**

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# About Our Speakers



**Allison R. Brown** is the Executive Director of the Communities for Just Schools Fund (CJSF), a collaborative funding project that provides resources in support of community organizers who are forcing the elimination of barriers to educational opportunity for historically under-served students and working to ensure positive and supportive school climates that affirm and foster the success of all students. Prior to joining the CJSF, Allison was a program officer with the Open Society Foundations, where she was responsible for the racial justice portfolio. Allison previously worked as a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice in the Educational Opportunities Section of the Civil Rights Division where she enforced federal statutes that prohibit discrimination in public education. She also initiated, developed, and led the Civil Rights Division's efforts to combat the school-to-prison pipeline. Allison is a graduate of Howard University and Harvard Law School.



**Susan Taylor Batten** has more than twenty years of experience in directing, evaluating and advising both public and foundation-related efforts to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. Ms. Batten joined the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE) as President and CEO in January 2009. ABFE's mission is to promote effective and responsive philanthropy in Black Communities and counts among its members some of the most influential staff, trustees and donors of grantmaking institutions in the U.S. Under her leadership, ABFE has expanded its membership base to nearly 400 individuals and has extended its reach outside of Black foundation professionals to Black donors and philanthropic civic organizations. Ms. Batten received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Political Science from Fisk University, and her Masters of Social Work degree from Howard University.



**Nat Choike Williams** leads the Hill-Snowdon Foundation in its philanthropic and programmatic work, operations and partnerships within the community. Nat manages HSF's Youth Organizing and Fund for DC programs. He is also responsible for developing learning and leveraging opportunities in these program areas. Nat is also leading up the Foundation's newly launched Making Black Lives Matter Initiative (MBLM), a three year grantmaking and strategic co-funding initiative that seeks to maximize this historic moment to begin building long term institutional and political power for Black social change and racial justice. In partnership with other social justice funders, Nat has been involved with the development of Grantmakers for Southern Progress, a network of local, regional and national funders committed to facilitating joint learning, collaboration and leveraging of new resources to help build a vibrant and enduring infrastructure for social justice in the US South, and currently serves as co-chair of the group. Nat holds a B.A. in Psychology from Morehouse College, as well as a M.A. and Ph.D. in Community Psychology from New York University.

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# *The Case for Funding Black-led Social Change*

## ▶ The Cause

- A strong infrastructure for Black social change is an essential element to securing a progressive agenda for the country as a whole.
- An inequitable distribution of resources to Black-led social change organizations over the years has hampered and restrained the growth, capacity and impact of these organizations.
- A renewed commitment by philanthropy at the level that is needed will help to invigorate Black-led organizations with the power to respond to the challenges facing our communities and our country.

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# *The Case for Funding Black-led Social Change*

## ▶ The Case

- America cannot achieve true racial and social equity without acknowledging anti-Black structural racism and white supremacy.
- All people of color suffer some form of structural racism in this society. Dismantling anti-Black racism will strike at the heart of all forms of racism in this country and Black-led organizations are the front guard of our long struggle to dismantle racism.
- We support multi-racialism as an organizing principle for building power amongst communities impacted by structural racism. However, we oppose the “fading of Black” that renders us invisible. To do so – whether implicit or explicit – denies the historical, social and political distinctiveness of Black people.

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# *The Case for Funding Black-led Social Change*

## ▶ The Call

- The Black Social Change Funders Network's (BSCFN) goal is to help revitalize and strengthen the infrastructure for Black institutional and political power through leveraging and aligning resources.
- Key components of the infrastructure for Black-led social change that need to be supported include Civic Engagement & Political Power, Community Organizing, Policy Advocacy, Economic Development and Research and Intellectual Capital, Communications and Leadership Development.
- During the next five years, the BSCFN calls for at least a 25 percent increase in giving by the nation's largest foundations to the Black community, with an emphasis on strengthening the infrastructure for Black-led social change.

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