**ABFE’s: History and Milestones**

**1971** Several organizing meetings take place in New York, Atlanta and elsewhere among Blacks in philanthropy. Eight Black foundation executives (Ronald Gault, Bryant George, Harriet Michel, Carl McCall, Ernie Osborne, Roland Johnson, James Joseph, and Eldridge McMillan) attend the spring COF meeting in Montreal Canada and challenge the nomination process due to the lack of Black representation on the governing body.

ABFE’s Articles of Incorporation are filed in Indianapolis on November 15, 1971.

**1973** ABFE establishes a national office in New York and appoints an Executive Director. ABFE conducts a survey of grants reported to the Foundation Center to develop a profile of foundation contributions to minority communities.

**1975** ABFE sponsors Harlem Seminar on Accessing Foundations. President of the Board is Ernest Osborne, of SEEDCO. ABFE has 55 members.


**1979** President of the Board is Dolilla L. Cummings, of TRW, Inc. ABFE co-hosts luncheon for the President of Gambia.

**1980** President of the Board is Steve Minter. Program – Affirmative Action in the Foundation Community.

**1981** Keynote speech at annual program by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond. President of the Board is Charles Blair, of the Lilly Endowment.

**1982** ABFE sponsors Howard University seminar, Justice in the Black Community.

**1983** President of the Board is Hugh Burroughs, of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. ABFE sponsors program on Media Portrayal of Blacks.

**1984** ABFE sponsors program – Problems Confronting Blacks in Employment, Education, Housing and Other Areas.

**1985** ABFE has 71 members. Sponsors Delta Blues Festival as part of annual membership retreat in Mississippi.

**1986** President of the Board is Jacqui Burton, of the Lilly Endowment.

**1987** Program – The Black Family Today: Exposing Myths, Defining the Challenges. President of the Board is Megan McLaughlin, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

**1988** Member’s retreat on Managing Stress.

**1989** ABFE has 101 members, representing 60 foundations.

**1990** Program – Youth: Values and Self-Esteem.
1991 Programs – Africa: The Forgotten Continent and Poverty and Racism.


1993 Program – Community Economic Development, Race Relations and Public Policy.


1995 Program – Out of Control: Youth Violence in America. Office is moved to Indiana University, Center on Philanthropy.

1996 Program – Racism and Remedies: Where Do We Go from Here? President of the Board is Patricia White, of the New York Community Trust

1997 Program on The African American Community in an Environment of Change.

1998 ABFE launches new strategic planning initiative and establishes Professional Development Institute. President of the Board is Terri Lee Freemen, of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

1999 Archbishop Desmond Tutu addresses annual conference. Program on Case Study: Affirming a Future for African American Youth.

1999 Dwayne Proctor, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is Chair. Susan Taylor Batten becomes President and CEO. ABFE convenes its fifth class of Connecting Leaders Fellows at a Leadership Summit in Newark, New Jersey and organizes the Black Philanthropic Network of regional Blacks in philanthropy groups.

1999 Archon Foundation’s Miami Conference.

2000 Third Annual Development Institute on Recruiting and Retention of African Americans in the Foundation Community. Chair of the Board is Paul Spivey, of the Edwin Gould Foundation.

2000 Annual meeting held in Toronto, Canada. Membership grows to 148 members. Tim Russell, of the Sara Lee Corporation, becomes Chair.

2001 ABFE relocates to New York City. Anna Faith Jones receives Distinguished Grantmaker Award. ABFE has 100 members.


2003 Nicole Jones receives inaugural Emerging Leader Award and 21st Century Foundation receives inaugural Institutional Leadership Award. Kenneth Austin is appointed Executive Director. ABFE launches website, abfe.org.

2003 Archbishop Desmond Tutu addresses annual conference. Program on Case Study: Affirming a Future for African American Youth.

2004 ABFE launches the Connecting Leaders Fellowship program with 10 Fellows at a Leadership Summit at the Ford Foundation. W. K. Kellogg Foundation presents ABFE with the Leadership in Action Award.

2005 ABFE releases, Stepping Up and Stepping Out: Profiles in Philanthropy Responding to an American Crisis and Cultivating Change: A Statistical Review of Grantmaking that Impacts the Lives Of Black Men and Boys addressing the issues facing Black males in the US.

2006 Judy Ford, of the American Legacy Foundation, becomes Interim Chair. 209 members. ABFE holds 35th Anniversary Celebration.

2007 ABFE, along with Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute and others co-hosts foundation leaders in Seattle to discuss the plight of Black males and the role of philanthropy. Loren Harris of the Ford Foundation presents at ABFE Leadership Summit on Privilege, Power, Gender and Race: Philanthropic Collaboration in Action.

2008 ABFE releases, Stepping Up and Stepping Out: Profiles in Philanthropy Responding to an American Crisis and Cultivating Change: A Statistical Review of Grantmaking that Impacts the Lives Of Black Men and Boys addressing the issues facing Black males in the US.

2009 K.C. Burton, Trustee, Black United Fund of New Jersey is Chair. ABFE and members of The Black Philanthropic Network collaborate on strategies to increase Black participation in Census 2010. ABFE unveils its Responsive Philanthropy in Black Communities framework, associated field trainings and webinar series.

2010 ABFE celebrates its 40th Anniversary in Philadelphia with founding members in attendance. 300+ members.

2011 ABFE celebrates its 40th Anniversary in Philadelphia with founding members in attendance. 300+ members.