

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.



Bingham  
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CLASS OF 2021

# PROJECTS

EDUCATING AND BUILDING A PIPELINE FOR BLACK REPRESENTATION

## THE 3003 PROJECT

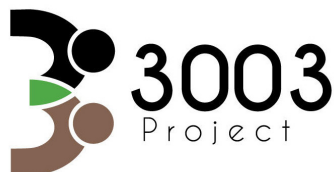
Inspired by the necessity to reverse the systemic failures that led to the death of Breonna Taylor, The 3003 Project works to build a Kentucky where Black people and communities thrive with the understanding that we all rise when we rise together. An umbrella for three new organizations - The 3003 Collaborative (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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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/](https://LEADERSHIPLouisville.org/BINGHAM-FELLOWS/)



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# 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



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