



UNITED WAY QUAD CITIES

# BUILDING BRIDGES COHORT

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 28

## Join the African American Leadership Society in the launch of our inaugural Building Bridges cohort!

We recognize the work your organization does for the African American community and invite you to apply to our six-week capacity building program designed specifically for Black-led nonprofits and grassroots organizations.

### WHAT IT IS

Building Bridges aims to uplift Black-led organizations so they receive recognition and potential funding for the work they are doing to bridge racial gaps and dismantle local barriers to success. AALS and our generous sponsors are making this program available to you for free.

Through exposure to local leaders and subject experts on nonprofit leadership, organizational development and community dynamics, Building Bridges participants will become familiar with resources, receive information, and build relationships with an established support system to help strengthen their operations and influence in the region.

- Ten participants will be chosen through an application process to take part in a six-session customized program facilitated by CoSpero
- Applicants must identify as African American or Black.
- Their business, organization or line of work must benefit the Black community and / or People of Color within our region.
- Applicants do not have to have an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
- Those with an established nonprofit may participate if they meet the above requirements.
- **AALS will provide \$1,000 stipends to participants completing the cohort** and make targeted dollars available to address individual/organization needs emerging from the sessions.

**> APPLY BY AUGUST 1 HERE.**

Questions? Contact AALS Manager  
Kayla Babers at [kbabers@unitedwayqc.org](mailto:kbabers@unitedwayqc.org).



# BUILDING BRIDGES COHORT DETAILS

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 28

Each session is virtual and about 1.5 hours long. Sessions one through four will require 1-2 hours of homework prior to each session.

*Note: While we are sensitive to putting additional demands on organizations during this time, we feel this homework is necessary for successful completion of the program.*



**Application closes end of day August 1, 2021.**

**For more information,** contact AALS Manager

Kayla Babers at [kbabers@unitedwayqc.org](mailto:kbabers@unitedwayqc.org) or call [563.344.0322](tel:563.344.0322).

## WHY IT MATTERS

Too often Black-led organizations miss out on opportunities, funding and professional networking due to lack of visibility and nonprofit status, ending up unable to scale at the rates of their white-led counterparts. Simultaneously, there has been a pattern of philanthropic neglect and underinvestment in Black social change leaders and Black-led organizations, and especially smaller, community-based organizations and coalitions.

AALS and United Way recognize that it is critical to engage greater diversity of solutions and thought-leadership to reduce disparities by race and place. In addition, funders beyond United Way must gain a better understanding of the unique strengths, opportunities and challenges that exist in the Black community.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Participant organizations will be prepared to compete for United Way funding and other grant opportunities in the region and beyond.
- Participant organizations will stabilize their operations through \$1000 grants and additional financial and / or technical support to address needs (such as annual audits, 501(c)(3) application assistance).
- Black-led organizations will achieve greater recognition in the region by UWQC/AALS work to enable and sustain storytelling on their behalf.

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# WORKSHOP CONTENT

▶ **SESSION 1 | SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**  
**HEART | SOUL | STRATEGY: ALIGNING YOUR MISSION, VISION, & PROGRAMMING**

Participants unpack strengths and opportunities of their current programming and staff and commit to clear steps to enhance their strategic approach to living out their mission.

▶ **SESSION 2 | SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**  
**TRUSTED VOICE IN A CROWDED SPACE: BRANDING**

Participants engage in a messaging workshop led by communications experts to develop their organizational narrative and craft a plan to reach their most important stakeholders through multiple channels.

▶ **SESSION 3 | OCTOBER 7, 2021**  
**FUELING THE MISSION: RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Leaders create an action-oriented business canvas and learn how to leverage their planning to drive programming, fundraising, and marketing strategy.

▶ **SESSION 4 | OCTOBER 14, 2021**  
**STRUCTURES FOR SUCCESS: BUILDING A THRIVING BOARD**

Participants develop an equity-informed plan for board recruitment and explore fundamental principles for equipping a governing board to be outcomes-driven.

▶ **SESSION 5 | OCTOBER 21, 2021**  
**STAYING ANCHORED IN THE 'WHY': DEI & PARTNERSHIPS**

Nonprofit leaders build community while discussing the unique positioning of Black-led nonprofits in today's emerging social sector.

▶ **SESSION 6 | OCTOBER 28, 2021**  
**BUILDING BRIDGES BASH (IN-PERSON)**

In-person celebration and networking event for speakers, participants and facilitators.

## SPONSORS

