Throughout our history, the Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI) of Winston-Salem has pursued the same goal: to strengthen, support, and make a meaningful impact in local Black communities. Established in 2003 on a foundation rooted in the powerful history of giving within Black culture, BPI's supporters generously share their time, talent, treasure, and ties to advance our work.

As the only 100% Black-led funding initiative explicitly focused on strengthening local Black communities, we offer a powerful way to give back and pay it forward. Through collective giving, grantmaking, and community engagement, BPI works to ensure local organizations have what they need to advance racial equity and respond to community needs, particularly those in our local Black communities.

We recognize that racial inequities exist in all societal systems, including criminal justice, healthcare, housing, education, and employment, among many others. These systems continue to affect Black people disproportionately, and historical injustices such as slavery, structural racism, public policy, and redlining contribute to the inequities we see today.

A core part of BPI's approach is listening to directly impacted communities to identify their most pressing needs. We complement this engagement with research and data analysis to gain further insight into local issues affecting Black residents. In 2018, BPI released our first research report, Rethinking Philanthropy: An Exploration of Black Communities in Forsyth County, using the data to inform our grantmaking focus areas of Advancing Equity in Education and Building an Inclusive Economy.

BPI's second research report – The Intersectionality of Black Life and Being – amplifies community voices, needs, and recommendations for achieving a more equitable and prosperous future for Black communities in Forsyth County. We know that people closest to the issues are closest to the solutions.

Because of this, we purposefully partnered with Action4Equity and Forsyth Futures because of our shared commitment to intentional equity practices, ensuring the research process would respect and honor the time, talents, and treasures participants shared with us. This valued institutional partnership reflects a commitment to equitable research practices that de-center whiteness in culture and norms while elevating the lived experiences of directly impacted people and communities. BPI is most grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside the Community-Based Research (CBR) participants and for the invaluable insights, stories, and perspectives they shared to help ground and shape this research and report.
The Intersectionality of Black Life and Being combines quantitative and qualitative data with accurate context to guide our efforts in educating and engaging the greater community so that we can collectively use our resources and investments to build a thriving future for Black residents and communities in Winston-Salem.

In the About section, you’ll learn about the report’s methodology and intentionality around expanding the agency of Black Winston-Salem/Forsyth County residents and CBR Participants. Their collective voices form the foundation for the primary data and recommendations for community benefit presented in this report.

By leveraging the power and influence of institutions like BPI and The Winston-Salem Foundation, BPI seeks to elevate Black communities' lived experiences and recommendations for Forsyth County. We believe that delivering on this commitment, in turn, creates a more prosperous future and inclusive economy for all in Forsyth County.

Sincerely,

Shamika Starke
Director, Strategic Initiatives, The Winston-Salem Foundation

Tiffany Waddell Tate
Advisory Board Chair, Black Philanthropy Initiative