

THE STATE OF BLACK PHILANTHROPY

2025

Celebrating Black Freedom



THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

Artist: Cornelius Tulloch
Cover Art: *Crafting Liberation*, 2025

For the last four years, we have been honored to partner with artist Cornelius Tulloch to create the visual identity for the State of Black Philanthropy. This year's event centers around freedom: The freedom to live, the freedom to thrive, and the freedom to write the future. Centered in those freedoms is respect for those who have trail-blazed to build a thriving and prosperous Black community in the past, in the present, and in the future.

This artwork exists as a composite image, and also as three separate pieces forming a triptych showcasing different freedoms. It documents and speculates the future of Miami's Black communities as it develops. From the ornate vernacular architecture of the past to contemporary aesthetics, this artwork visualizes the complexity of contemporary Black Miami. The "Freedom to work" collage (front cover, left) highlights prominent historic Black businesses and entrepreneurial spaces in Miami, showcasing the scales of economics within the Black community. "The Freedom to live" collage (front cover, right) depicts a collage of the Black home and how craft and history influence the cultural legacy and contributions of Black craft in the built environment. It also depicts the transformative and vital life of the porch as a place for fostering community. Lastly, "the Freedom to write the future" collage (back cover) depicts expressions of culture, music, and dance that make up the vibrant cultural fabric of Miami's urban landscape.

These images culminate into a celebratory art piece honoring this special 10th anniversary of the State of Black Philanthropy and all the contributions our community continues to make to fortify a strong future for Miami's Black communities — crafting a path of Liberation and Freedom that envision a boundless future.

This report was guided by the wisdom of many community voices.
Special thanks to Dr. Maria Ilcheva, Walter Jenkins, and Roshell R. Rinkins.

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

BLACK PHILANTHROPY IS LOVE IN ACTION —

intentional efforts to build a thriving future for Black communities, and to strengthen and shape our world through the leadership and generosity of Black people.

The Miami Foundation is committed to building a stronger, more equitable Miami for everyone who lives, works, and plays here.

Our annual State of Black Philanthropy brings community leaders together to celebrate and collectively examine the contributions of the Black community towards our overall prosperity and the active efforts to limit its impact and capacity. Our intention with this event is to hold ourselves and our community accountable for bold action.

Last year, we released our second edition of the State of Black Philanthropy report, which was a testament to Black entrepreneurship, the resilience of Black women against racism in medicine, and Black agency. We dug deep into local and national data to remind us that despite all progress and efforts showcased on behalf of the Black community, support does not show up equally for everyone, regardless of excellence.

This year, guided by our friends and leaders at a time of increasing divestment from, and intimidation for, prioritizing equity, this report focuses on the basics — fundamental freedoms as experienced by the Black community. Black liberation by any other name is simply the **freedom to live, thrive, and write the future of our collective home**.

To write that future honestly, we must first reckon with the past. The inequities we see today are not by chance;

they result from deliberate inequitable practices. Miami's zoning laws restricted where Black residents could live until 1964, stunting generational wealth before it could take root. In the 1960s, the construction of I-95 tore through Overtown — a flourishing cultural and economic center — displacing over 10,000 Black residents and dismantling a community known as the Harlem of the South. These were not isolated events. They were compounded over decades by policies that withheld loans, stripped land, and redirected opportunity elsewhere.

Those inequities continue to reverberate still today: For example, Black households in Miami earn, on average, \$14,000 less than Black households nationally, while white households in Miami earn nearly \$12,000 more than their national average¹. These numbers are not just statistics — **they are the stories of families working twice as hard for half as much**.

As we work toward a thriving Miami for all, leaning into our community's data is an incredibly powerful tool. In this report, we shine a light on metrics that guide our understanding of what the **freedom to live, thrive, and write the future looks** like for Miami-Dade's Black community. A few indicators alone, of course, do not do justice to the nuanced and complex experiences of an entire vibrant community. We hope that it serves as a starting point to spark conversation and warrant action. Miami's Black community **will thrive** — let's assert our collective commitment to writing this future together.

INTRODUCING THE FREEDOM FRAMEWORK

MIAMI'S BLACK COMMUNITY IS STRONG, GENEROUS, AND ABUNDANT IN LEADERSHIP.

Over the last ten years, since the start of the State of Black Philanthropy, much can be celebrated about the good happening across Miami's Black neighborhoods — increased graduation rates, increased household income, increased employment — to name just a few ways Black Miami is thriving. Despite this good, vast inequities still persist, and we feel an urgency to hold ourselves accountable to looking deeply at places where more progress is still needed.

THE RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED LIFE

FREEDOM TO LIVE

Housing
Education
Safe & Healthy Environment

BUILDING A SELF-SUSTAINING FUTURE

FREEDOM TO THRIVE

Racial Wealth Gap
Intergenerational Assets

SHAPING OUR COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE

FREEDOM TO WRITE THE FUTURE

Migration
Gentrification

We've borrowed from the powerful work of the **Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework** to explore indicators that have been researched as proven levers for transforming societies, adding local data sources as relevant to complete the picture. A few pages of data in a report will never lend a full understanding of the historical and complex interplay of factors that shape and define the Black experience. The data outlined here is a snapshot upon which to spark a conversation. As equity efforts are being defunded across the nation, Black history is being withheld from classrooms and workplaces, and data is removed from national websites, we feel a responsibility to lift-up information that underscores the reality of deep, historic, persistent inequities both nationally and here in our own community. We do this to continue to push for change, a shared sense of responsibility to live out our highest values, and use this data to catalyze action.

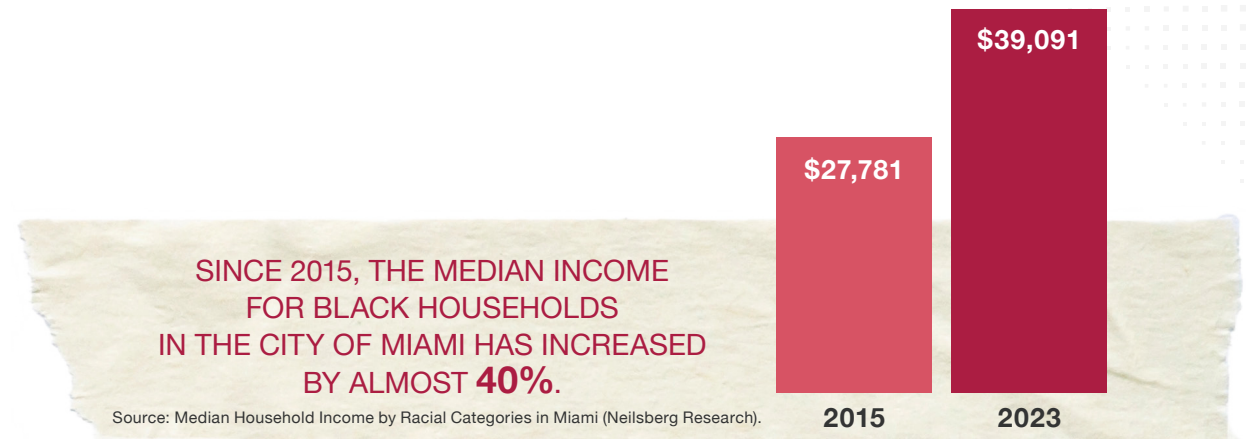
THE RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED LIFE

FREEDOM TO LIVE

The foundation of a dignified life is integral to freedom — safe housing, access to quality education, and a healthy environment. These are not privileges; they are human rights. When we secure these essentials, we set the stage for generational opportunity. The data snapshots in this section are one way to demonstrate the vast disparity in housing, education, and healthy environments as experienced by the Black community in Miami-Dade — resulting from a long history of systemic and policy injustice.

ECONOMIC AND HOUSING STABILITY

Miami is in a chapter of rapid growth and continued evolution. As our community becomes a stronger contender on the world stage — in finance, technology, real estate, and other key industries — it is imperative for us to ensure that our growth is inclusive. One positive indicator is that household incomes continue to rise across all demographics in Miami, with notable growth for Black Miamians.



HOUSING

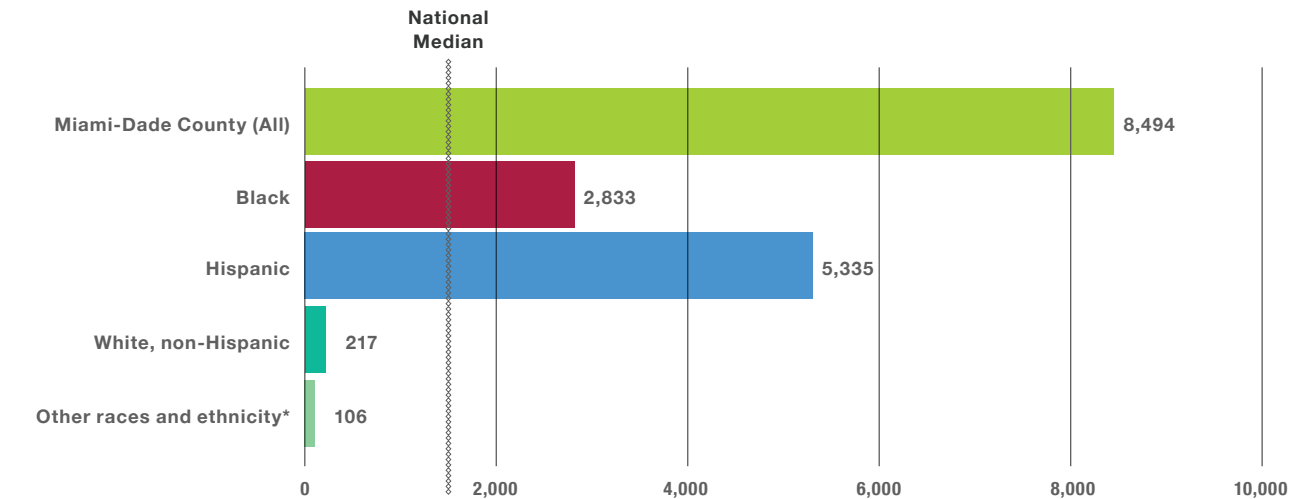
While Miami’s growth and outlook is promising, it is remiss not to acknowledge that this growth hasn’t been fully inclusive. **15% of Miami-Dade’s residents still live in poverty as per the latest data²**. This is highest for Black Miamians (21%), followed by 15% of Hispanic residents, and 10% of white residents. Half of the residents are paying more than they can afford for housing. Renters are at the forefront of this, with a majority of Black and Hispanic households being at risk, compared to others³. Rent-burdened households have higher eviction rates, increased financial fragility, and wider use of social safety-net programs⁴.

18% OF MIAMI-DADE BLACK RESIDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING POVERTY LIVE IN HIGH-POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS, COMPARED TO ONLY 2% OF WHITE RESIDENTS IN POVERTY. THIS IS 9X THE DIFFERENCE.

Miami’s housing crisis is deepening with rising costs, climate change, and demographic transitions, all adding to the complexity of unaffordable property costs. This increases the risk of segregated communities and increased housing insecurity. Communities with higher levels of class-based segregation suffer from lower levels of economic stability and health, which can erode people’s sense of power, autonomy and feelings of belonging.

MIAMI’S YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CRISIS IS WORSE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, WITH BLACK AND HISPANIC CHILDREN AT A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RISK. HISPANIC STUDENTS COMPRISED ALMOST 63% OF MIAMI’S HOMELESS YOUTH, FOLLOWED BY BLACK STUDENTS AT 33%.

Number of Public-School Children Who Experienced Homelessness During the School Year



The number of students experiencing homelessness is based on the number of children (age 3 through 12th grade) who are enrolled in public schools and reported by local education agencies as having one of the following as their primary nighttime residence at any time during a school year: a shelter, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement; unsheltered (e.g. a car, park, campground, temporary shelter, or abandoned building); a hotel, motel (because of the lack of alternative, adequate accommodations); or in other people’s housing because of a loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.

Source: Housing Stability Data | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative

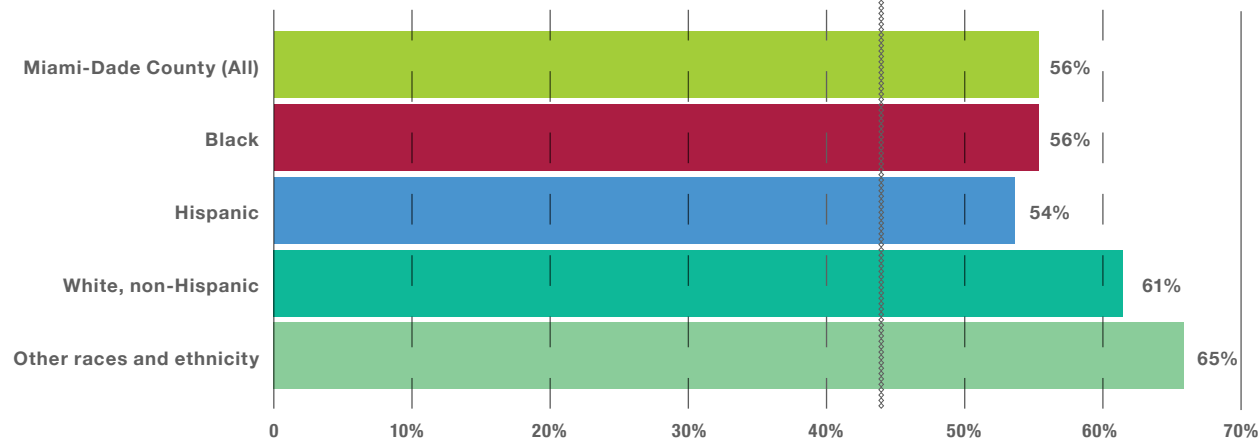
EDUCATION

Education — from preschool to college — is key to economic and social mobility, boosting achievement, expanding opportunity, and shaping identity along the way. Research consistently shows that access to preschool, quality public education, and diverse classrooms positively influences economic outcomes in adulthood⁵. Specifically, high enrollment in quality preschool is associated with higher shares of a community’s children being prepared to start school ready to learn, with the cognitive and social skills required to succeed in an academic setting and beyond.

MIAMI-DADE EXCEEDS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT ACROSS ALL DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS, GIVING OUR CHILDREN A STRONGER HEAD START.

Share of 3 to 4-Year-Old Children Enrolled in Nursery School or Preschool

National Median



This metric reflects enrollment in nursery or preschool as reported by parents.

Source: Access to Preschool data | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative

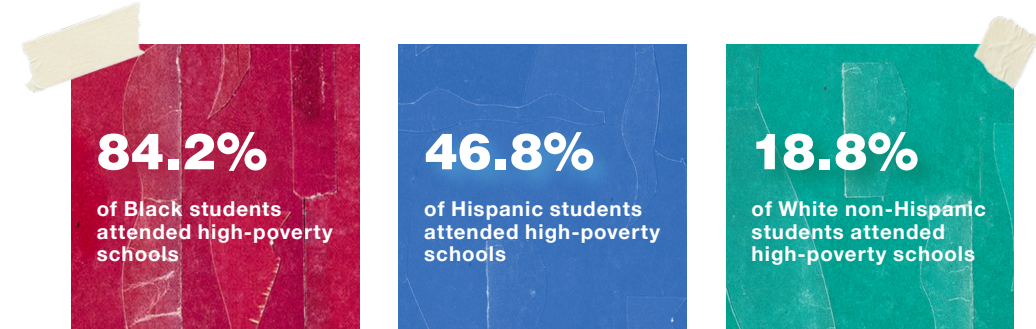
While we should celebrate the higher-than-national average enrollment, the rising costs of living in Miami-Dade are making child-care costs unaffordable for most families, second only to housing costs.

A TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD WITH AN INFANT AND PRESCHOOLER WOULD CONSUME AT LEAST 25% OF A HOUSEHOLD BUDGET ON CHILD CARE WARRANTING A MONTHLY EXPENSE OF \$2,000+.

Access to Quality Schools

School quality is an important predictor of student achievement. Smaller class sizes and higher teacher quality are key components of school quality and are associated with increases in student achievement, as measured by grades, test scores, and college attendance⁵. Under-resourced schools are less likely to provide these safeguards.

Attendance in High-poverty Schools



Source: Access to Schools | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative

DESPITE FACING RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND HISTORICAL DIVESTMENT, BLACK STUDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE ARE GRADUATING WITH STEADILY IMPROVING RATES — MOST RECENTLY AT 88%, JUST BELOW THE COUNTY AVERAGE OF 92%⁶.

SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

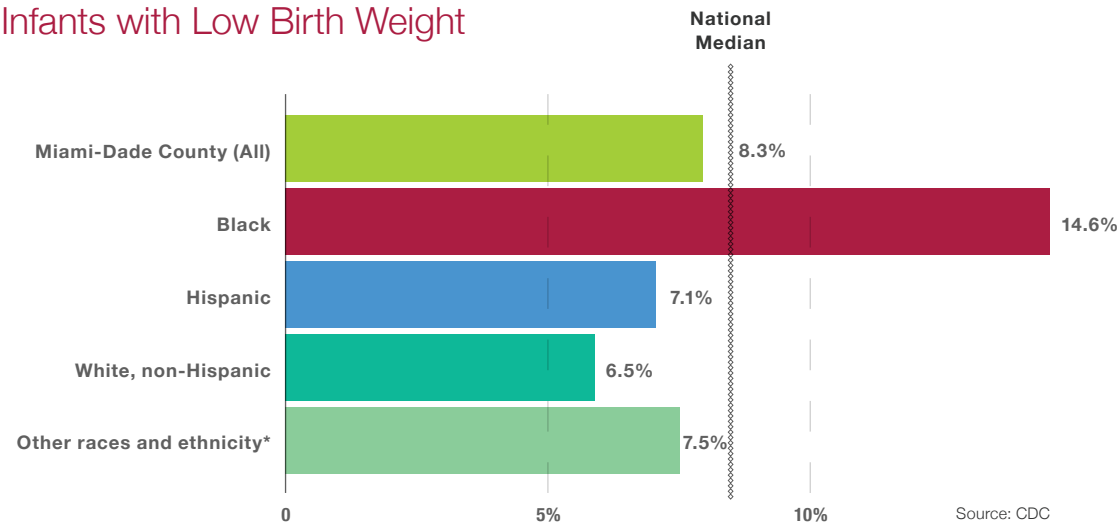
There is a growing body of research pointing to evidence of racism historically and within the current health care system in the US, affecting access to and use of health services in many ways⁷. This points to the role that racism and discrimination play in health disparities. For example, fewer hospitals are built in areas where people of color live, and health providers may neglect to listen or believe patients of color or offer subpar pain management⁸.

Neonatal Health

Neonatal health or newborn health outcomes mirror the grim pattern observed in Black maternal health data as highlighted in our last year's report. This is critical since childhood health problems can negatively affect physical health in adulthood, which can, in turn, affect employment opportunities and wages⁹.

BLACK NEWBORNS IN MIAMI-DADE ARE AT DOUBLE THE RISK OF WHITE NEWBORNS FOR LOW-BIRTH WEIGHT: ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER RISK FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES LATER IN LIFE.

Share of Infants with Low Birth Weight



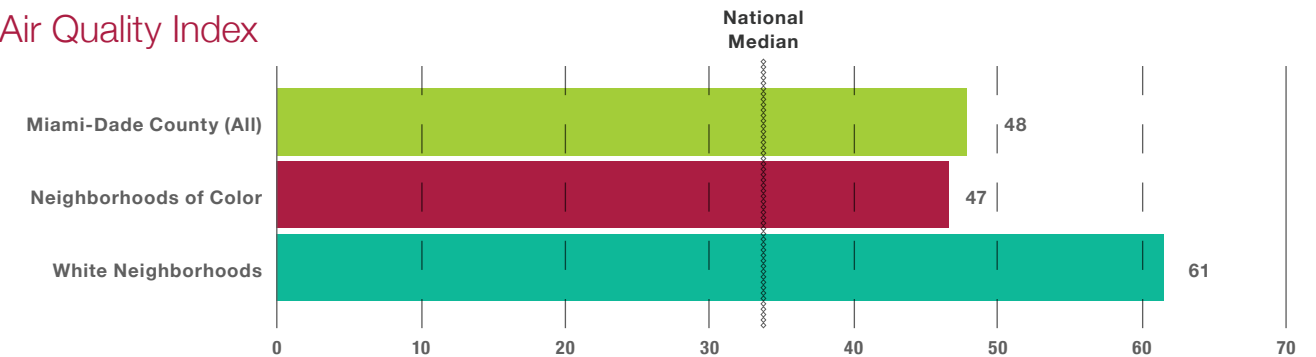
This metric reflects the share of infants born weighing fewer than 5 pounds 8 ounces (or 2,500 grams) of all live births.

Healthy Environment

Low environmental quality, such as poor air quality, extreme heat, vulnerability to disasters, and exposure to toxic wastes, can be barriers to upward mobility and exacerbate the burdens of poverty.

MIAMI-DADE RANKS HIGHER FOR AIR QUALITY COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL MEDIAN. BUT, BLACK AND HISPANIC NEIGHBORHOODS RANK LOWER THAN WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS.

Air Quality Index



This index is a combination of Standardized Environmental Protection Agency estimates of carcinogenic, respiratory, and neurological hazards in the air measured at the census-tract level. A higher value indicates less exposure to toxins harmful to human health. Neighborhoods of color are census tracts where at least 60 percent of residents are people of color. White neighborhoods are census tracts where at least 60 percent of residents are non-Hispanic white.

In addition to air quality, research shows that neighborhoods where 90% or more of residents are experiencing poverty have 41% less tree canopy than neighborhoods where only 10% or less of residents are experiencing poverty¹⁰. This results in neighborhoods having less protection from the natural cooling effect of the leafy covers of trees, increasing vulnerability to heat-related illness¹¹. This is stark considering the higher proportion of Black residents living in poverty in Miami-Dade are at risk of extreme heat in our increasingly warming climate — Black and Brown-majority neighborhoods like Overtown, Opa-locka, and Homestead are considered “high vulnerability” against extreme heat.

**BUILDING A
SELF-SUSTAINING FUTURE**

FREEDOM TO THRIVE

Economic empowerment isn't just about survival — it's about creating ecosystems where Black families and businesses can flourish for generations through their own agency. Building wealth and financial security helps people withstand economic shocks, invest in health, and gain autonomy. Children in wealthier families also tend to have stronger academic, health, and behavioral outcomes¹². Simply put, a thriving community starts with opportunity and catalyzes future opportunities for generations to come.

RACIAL WEALTH GAP

Throughout the history of the United States, there has been persistent inequality in wealth and homeownership between Black and white families. Additionally, systemic barriers and historical inequalities, such as disparities in credit access and discriminatory housing practices, have hindered Black households' ability to accumulate and diversify their wealth comparably.

Composition of Net Worth by Race

| | BLACK | WHITE |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Stocks | 2% | 8% |
| Other Wealth | 3% | 24% |
| Liquid Assets | 6% | 6% |
| Vehicles | 11% | 3% |
| Business Assets | 14% | 23% |
| Retirement | 19% | 17% |
| Home Equity | 44% | 19% |

Source: Federal Reserve | The Racial Wealth Divide And Black Homeownership: New Data Show Small Gains, Deep Fragility | NCRC

Latest data reveals
BLACK WEALTH
represents
15%
of **WHITE WEALTH**

Looking at this national data¹³, we can see the differences accounting for composition of wealth between Black and white households:

- White households have a variety of sources of wealth, including real estate property (the largest component of 'other wealth') while Black households rely heavily on homes, vehicles and retirement.
- The spurt of Black entrepreneurs played a role in enhancing assets for Black families, with a doubling of reported business ownership from 5% in 2019 to almost 14% in 2022. This is despite the challenges that Black entrepreneurs face in securing business loans.
- White households often have broader access to financial resources, education and networks that facilitate investments in higher-return assets like stocks and business ventures, contributing to more substantial wealth growth.

INTERGENERATIONAL ASSETS

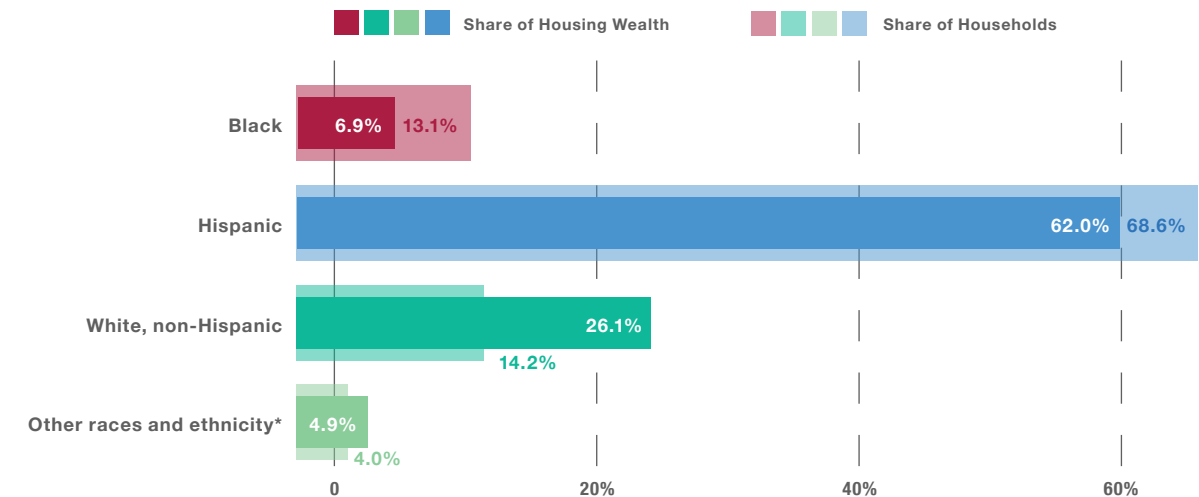
Baby Boomers are poised to leave inheritances upwards of \$84 trillion to their children and grandchildren — a wealth transfer that's predicted to be largely concentrated in the hands of America's wealthiest families. Data shows that white families are nearly three times as likely to report having received an inheritance compared to Black families¹⁴. Stock market participation is another avenue to build intergenerational assets.

39%
OF BLACK FAMILIES
own stocks either directly or indirectly

66%
OF WHITE FAMILIES
own stocks either directly or indirectly

Furthermore, the median value of these stock holdings is much higher among White families at \$67,800 compared to \$16,500 for Black families¹³.

Ratio of the Share of Total Home Values Owned by Racial or Ethnic Group to the Share of Households of the Same Group.



Source: Wealth Building Opportunities Data | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Framework

This metric reflects structural inequities in access to wealth among different racial and ethnic groups. Home value is based on the primary residence home and is self-reported. This metric does not account for the extent of mortgage debt, and does not account for other important demographic variations, such as differences in age composition across social and ethnic groups. As such, this metric may not fully reflect the size of the housing wealth gap.

SHAPING OUR COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE

FREEDOM TO WRITE THE FUTURE

“Our futures are strangers to us. This isn’t just a poetic metaphor; it’s a neurological fact. Actively imagining our future can make the future feel more urgent, prime our brains to pay closer attention to it, and motivate us to actively shape the future today.”
 – Institute for the Future

WHAT IS SHAPING MIAMI TODAY – AND WHAT MAY IT LOOK LIKE TOMORROW?

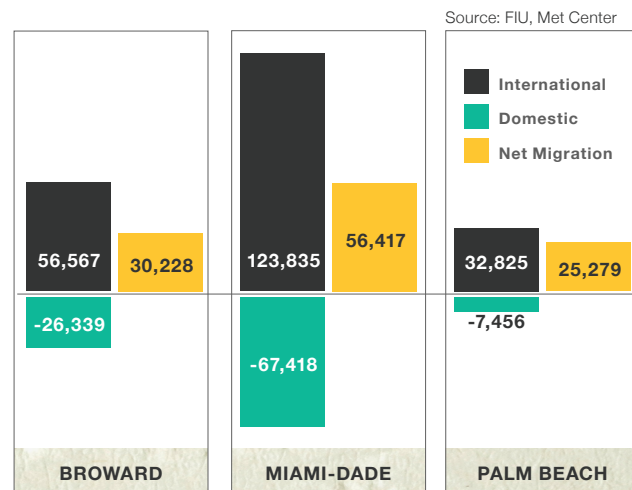
To transform the experience of entire communities, we need to look forward — we must examine our freedom to write our collective futures. In exploring this freedom, we see that both cost-induced migration and climate gentrification are factors that may challenge Black Miami’s freedom to shape their own future narrative.

MIGRATION

South Florida’s counties had a positive international net migration and a negative domestic net migration.

Miami-Dade presents a complex picture of population dynamics and is at an interesting point in its demographic journey. M-DC has 70% Hispanic, 17% Black, 14% white and 2% Asian residents¹⁵. International migration, especially from Latin America, continues to fuel the county’s status as the nation’s most populous majority-Hispanic county. At the same time, the county experienced significant negative net domestic migration, meaning more residents are leaving to other parts of the country than moving into our community. This is likely driven by the housing affordability crisis and high cost of living overall¹⁶.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, between July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024, Miami-Dade experienced the highest net domestic migration of all Florida counties: **67,418 people moved out of the county.**



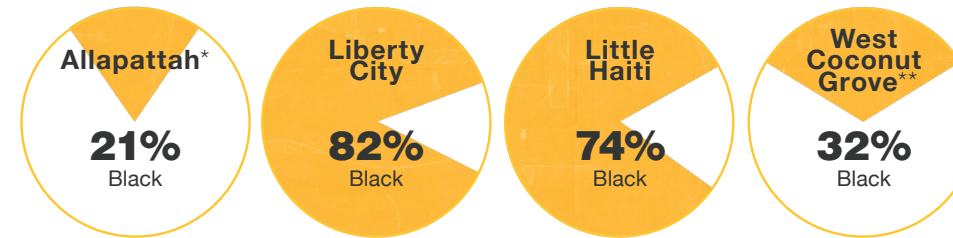
THE AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF OUT-MIGRATING HOUSEHOLDS IN M-DC WAS APPROXIMATELY \$99,000, WHILE THE INCOME OF IN-MIGRATING HOUSEHOLDS WAS \$176,000¹⁷.

GENTRIFICATION

Miami has also been at the brunt of gentrification — a process of neighborhood change that includes economic change in a historically disinvested neighborhood by means of real estate investment and new higher-income residents moving in — as well as demographic change — not only in terms of income level, but also in terms of changes in the education level or racial make-up of residents¹⁸.

As a coastal city, our community particularly experiences “climate gentrification.” As concerns about sea-level rise and flooding intensify in the low-lying coastal areas, elevated neighborhoods situated on a higher ground are facing more gentrification. These elevated zones which were historically subject to divestment and dominated by Black and multi-racial communities are now prime property for new development.

A Look at Miami’s Communities Most at Risk of Gentrification Today:



*Allapattah has 72% Hispanic residents and has historically been a significant economic and cultural hub for the Dominican diaspora in Miami.
 ** Neighborhood’s Black population dropped more than 40% between 2000 and 2020, to 2,600, while the number of white residents shot up 178% to 2,150¹⁹.

If this trajectory continues, it will bring broad neighborhood transformation, with both upsides and downsides. On a positive note, rising median household incomes boost purchasing power, new talent in fields such as tech and finance can invigorate the local economy and bring new business investments. On the negative side, communities can lose cultural richness and long-standing residents, with businesses — like those in Little Haiti — displaced, and a resultant brain drain that leaves some industry sectors facing labor shortages.

THIS FUTURE IS BEING WRITTEN NOW.

We know that the answers to our future lie in the resilience and ambition of our own communities.

In Miami’s past, the future was written when:

- Miami-Dade county residents advocated for district representation, which led to the election of Black commissioners.
- Incorporated in 2003, Miami Gardens became Florida’s largest Black-majority city and a hub of Black civic and cultural power, home to events like Jazz in the Gardens.
- Allapattah rallied national attention to protect its immigrant-led, small-business economy.
- Overtown resisted erasure through local activism and the restoration of the Historic Lyric Theater by the Black Archives.

JOIN US IN CO-WRITING OUR FUTURE BY BUILDING ON THESE PILLARS:

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer with the Black-led and Black-serving organizations in our community.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Learn Black Miami’s history at the Black Police Precinct Museum and the Historic Lyric Theater.

BLACK LEADERSHIP

Champion Black leaders, ensuring diverse voices in public and private spheres.

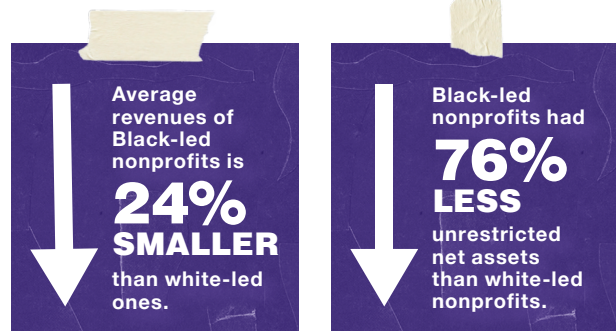
A LOOK AT INVESTMENTS IN RACIAL EQUITY

NATIONAL TRENDS

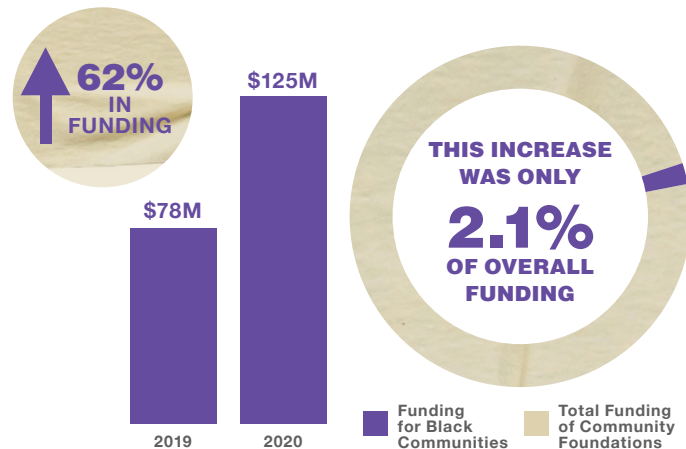
A look at historical giving trends reveals persistent funding gaps for Black-led and Black-serving nonprofits. A notable 2020 study by Echoing Green and The Bridgespan Group documented stark disparities²⁰.

2020 was a watershed moment for America, catalyzing a national reckoning with institutions responding to calls that Black leaders and activists had been signaling for decades. This resulted in much-needed increased philanthropic investments. For example, the 50 biggest US public companies collectively committed \$49 billion dollars. Community foundations also granted \$125 million to Black communities in 2020, an increase from \$78 million in 2019 — though this increase only represented 2% of overall foundation funding²¹.

The post-2020 infusion of funds was significant, but short-lived. With the uncertainties of sociopolitical climates, these modest gains are now once again threatened. Now more than ever, we need local institutions to invest in leaders closest to the issues that can uplift entire communities across lines of differences.



Source: Bridgespan report



Source: NCRP

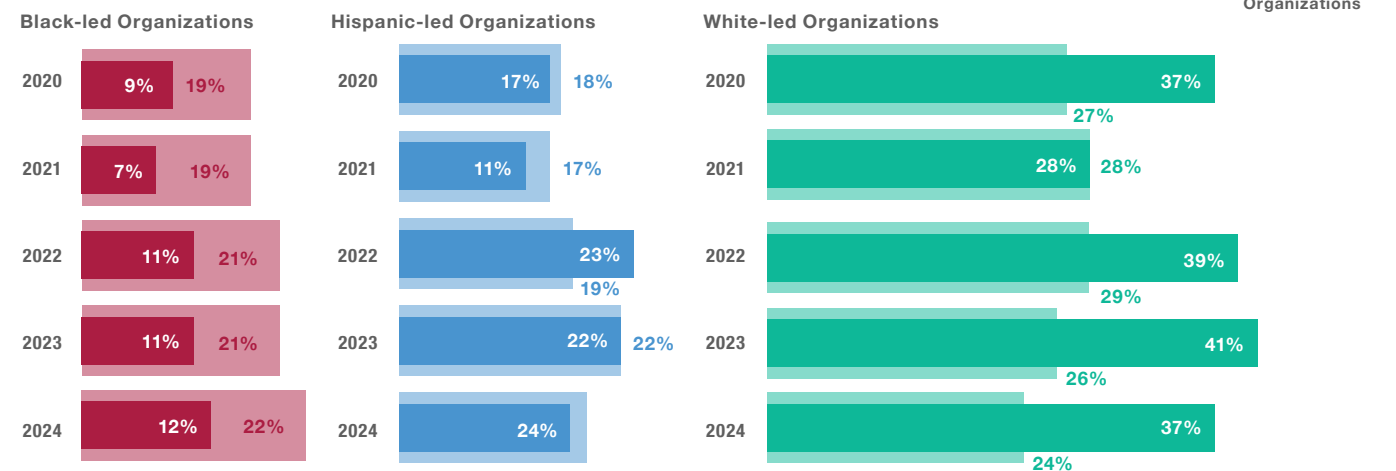
LOCAL TRENDS

Each year, closer to home, each year we learn about the overall operational and fiscal health of thousands of our local nonprofits thanks to our annual movement of generosity — Give Miami Day. Last year, Give Miami Day saw a record-breaking 100,000+ donations from 51,755 donors totaling over \$39.5 million to 1,276 organizations. Digging deeper into the data, we can learn more about nonprofit leadership and associated gaps and opportunities in funding.

Give Miami Day 2024 Leadership Profiles



In 2024, Black-led nonprofits were 22% of the ecosystem but only accounted for 12% of the total dollars raised.



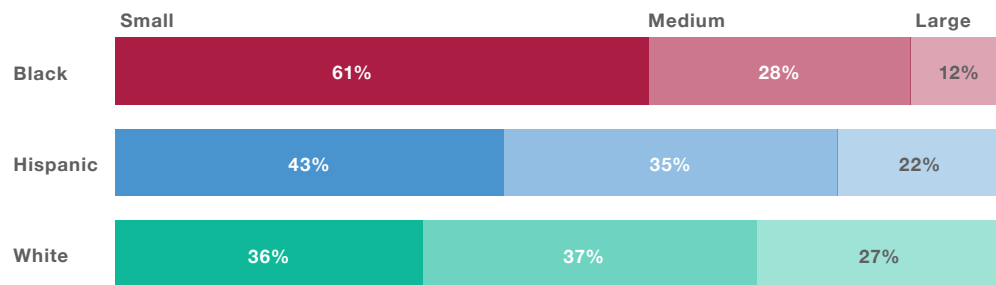
This disparity has persisted over time — the same is not true for Hispanic or white-led organizations.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

1. BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SMALLER BUDGETS, TIGHTER RESERVES, AND LESS FLEXIBILITY FOR HOW THEY CAN SPEND THEIR DOLLARS.

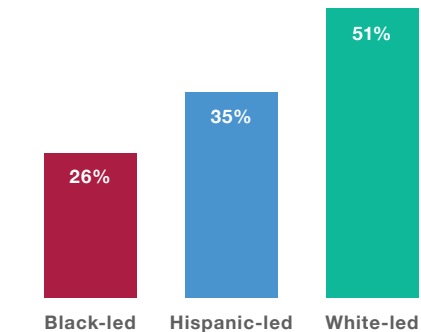
Black leaders consequently must work harder and smarter to stretch their budgets to make their desired impact on our community. This often means that Black leaders have less time for innovation, allocating most of their time to fundraising and fiscal management.

Over Half of Black Leaders Work with a Small Operating Budget of Less than \$250,000.



More than half of white-led organizations can spend at least half of their budgets flexibly, compared to only a quarter of Black-led organizations.

Additionally, only 8% of Miami’s nonprofits reported having a permanent endowment in our latest Give Miami Day data. 15% of white-led organizations have this critical buffer compared to only 3% of Black-led organizations. Black leaders are also less likely to own their operational spaces (24% vs 33% for white-led organizations).

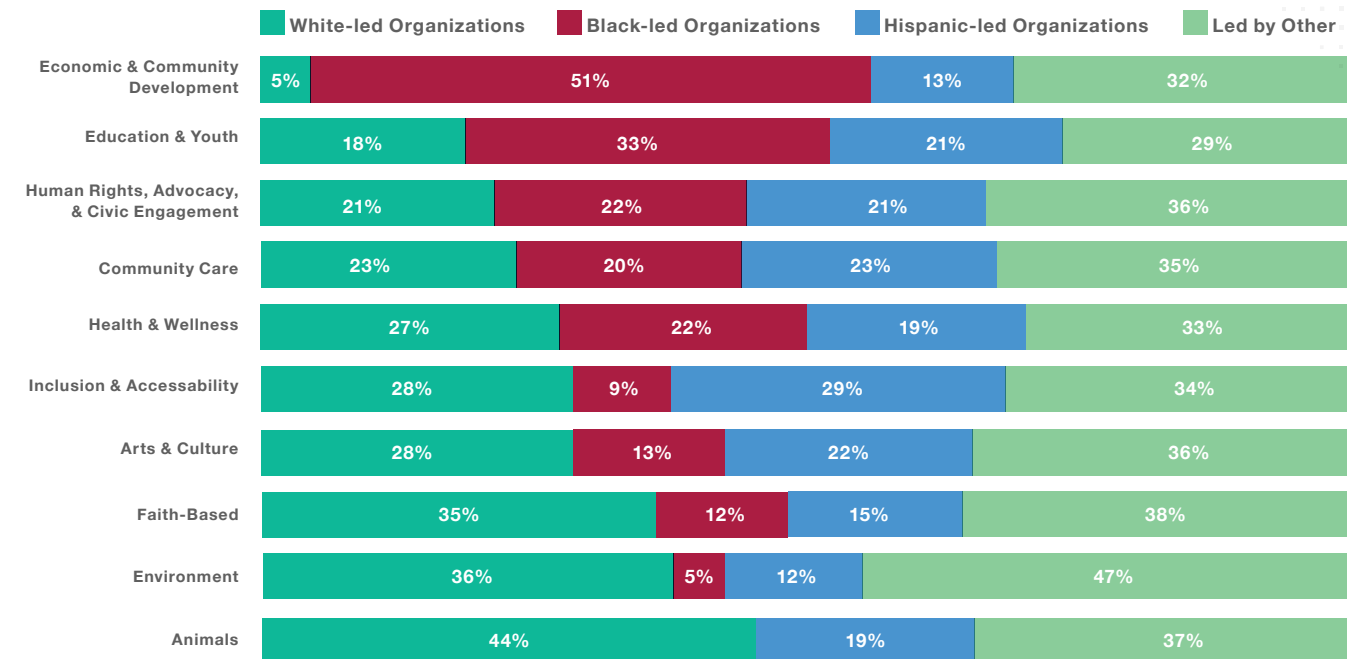


The percentage of organizations reporting that at least half of their budgets are flexible.

2. BLACK LEADERS DISPROPORTIONATELY LEAD ON ISSUE AREAS THAT RECEIVE LESS FUNDING.

When we look at the breakdown of leadership across the different mission areas that nonprofits address in our community, we see an uneven distribution. Black leaders are driving critical missions like economic development, education and youth development, and advocating for human rights and civic engagement for our community.

The Percentage of Organizations in Each Category by Executive Leader’s Race/Ethnicity



This uneven distribution is particularly pertinent since not all categories receive comparable investments. For example, Black leaders are advancing missions like “economic & community development” — a category that receives significantly less funding compared to others: only 2% of all Give Miami Day dollars went to this category, falling at the bottom of all ten issue areas. Additionally, Black-led organizations received only 29% of the funds in this category despite accounting for more than half of the nonprofits working on this issue area. For majority white-led mission areas like “environment” and “animals”, these areas receive disproportionately more dollars than the percentage of participating organizations.

OUR COMMITMENT

For nearly 60 years, The Miami Foundation has been committed to a stronger, more equitable Miami where all people thrive. We hold ourselves accountable to that commitment each year by reviewing our own investments and internal practices to make sure that they reflect our highest values and our commitment to equity.

Leadership on Our Board, Staff, and Advisory Council: Our commitment begins with ensuring our leadership is reflective of Miami's vibrancy and diversity. We're proud that our Executive Committee and Board reflect that commitment, including, but not limited to, 40% Black representation on our Executive Committee and 25% Black representation on our Board at large. Our extraordinary team and Community Advisory Council also reflect the rich diversity of Miami.

\$1 million Invested in Racial Equity: In partnership with bold funders, we launched the inaugural Saltwater Fellowship focused on addressing racial inequities in our region. The highly competitive Fellowship invested \$1 million in 10 leaders whose work across multiple sectors is moving the needle toward a more equitable Miami. This year, we gathered these high-impact leaders each month to invest in their strength, both individually and as a collective. During our second year, we will continue to invest in their leadership, carefully curating customized mentorship and development opportunities to amplify their impact for all of Miami.

\$18.1 million Unlocked for Business Owners: Powered by Wells Fargo, Miami Open for Business (OFB) has infused \$20 million into Miami's small-business ecosystem over the last three years — prioritizing asset ownership for entities in historically overlooked and underinvested areas. While the benefits were felt across the entire small-business sector, we are proud to see the program's reach after a rigorously competitive process.

- Miami's Black-led small businesses were able to enhance technology, capital, and commercial property by tapping into \$9.6 million in funding.
- As an antidote to the research showing many Black business owners struggle to access traditional financing, 28 entrepreneurs received nearly \$1.9 million in low-interest capital loans and 21 leaders additionally received \$4.5 million to purchase their own commercial property.
- \$2.1 million was awarded as technology grants to 189 organizations.

Multi-year, General Operating Grants: Our signature multi-million dollar grant cycle is a direct investment into the most pressing needs of our communities, from ensuring safer neighborhoods to our youth's education and development. The 2023-2025 award cycle reflected Miami-Dade's diverse landscape with 29% of the grant partners being Black-led, and 70% led by those who identified as a person of color. The recently launched 2025-2027 grant cycle received over 894 applications from leaders across Miami's neighborhoods and continued to echo our community's diversity: 32% applicants identify as Black, 30% Hispanic, and 26% as white.

\$1.35 million for Diverse Arts Leaders: After reviewing multiple studies demonstrating the benefits of students having access to arts leaders of varied backgrounds, as well as research revealing that local arts funding underinvests in these leaders, we launched the Momentum Grants Program in partnership with philanthropist Dan Lewis. This highly competitive grant program ultimately selected three extraordinary leaders for multi-year investments totaling \$1.35 million. We are proud to announce that Mr. Lewis has doubled down on that commitment and has pledged an additional \$1.35 million to renew his bold commitment for another three years.

**Commitment to Racial Equity is not a box to check off.
It requires us to reflect, listen, and improve year after year.
Our only way forward is together.**

**As we celebrate our 10th year of State of Black Philanthropy,
we doubled down on this commitment for Miami with even
more purpose and clarity.**

- 1 Prosperity Now
- 2 Poverty rates from ACS survey 2019-2023 | Miami-Dade Matters
- 3 Miami-Dade County Housing Needs Assessment, 2003
- 4 Report: American Families Face a Growing Rent Burden | Pew Charitable Trust
- 5 High-quality education | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative
- 6 “Know your data” Tool | Florida Department of Education
- 7 Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status and Efforts to Address Them | KFF
- 8 Access to health services | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative
- 9 Neonatal health | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative
- 10 Trees are missing in low-income neighborhoods | Scientific American
- 11 Health impact of urban green spaces: a systematic review of heat-related morbidity and mortality | Nazish et al, BMJ Journal
- 12 Economic inclusion | Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative
- 13 The Racial Wealth Divide and Black Homeownership: New Data Show Small Gains, Deep Fragility | NCRC
- 14 USBC Black Investment Report
- 15 U.S. Census Bureau: Miami-Dade County Quick Facts
- 16 People Are Leaving Miami-Dade Than Any County in Florida | Miami New Times
- 17 IRS Data
- 18 What Are Gentrification and Displacement | Urban Displacement
- 19 Piece of original Miami endangered: West Coconut Grove’s Black history slipping away | Miami Herald
- 20 Racial Equity and Philanthropy | Bridgespan
- 21 Black Funding Denied: Where are we two years later? | NCRP

CLOSING WORDS

and what do we know of freedom?
By: Darius V. Daughtry

And what do we know of freedom?

Seems an elusive concept
when breaths are belabored.
Steps slowed to a trudge
Shackles
Strait jacket
Lack of movement
Hearts don’t even beat a free rhythm,
or so it seems.

Mountains of moments and movements
burst at the seams.
And we have dreams
that are memories
waiting to be unlocked.

For our bones know
that we are a free people.
Wind has been at our backs;
some have just forgotten how to fly.
Wings have been clipped,
tripped before we could take flight

But there is fight.

And one day,
We will run
Like river
Euphrates
Nile
Sweet water

And we will smile.
Like showing all our teeth —
molars and everything.

And we will sing
songs our mouths can’t remember
but our souls recall.
Calling out to the yesterdays in our blood,
and it runs
like the rivers that flow
all through the continent
all through the City
all through Granddaddy
and Mama
and all the people ‘round the way.

And one day,
they won’t only be dreams.
For we know freedom.
Show it on our songs,
our bop
our ability to fly free
dance on clouds
and claim the Sun as crown.

What do we know of freedom?

Everything.

**Darius V. Daughtry is the CEO & Artistic Director
of the Art Prevails Project, a local Miami nonprofit
making art more accessible to all.**

**JOIN US,
GUIDE US.
SHAPE WHAT COMES NEXT.**

**WANT TO
FUEL A MORE
EQUITABLE
FUTURE?**



Invest in The Miami Foundation's Racial Equity Fund and support leaders working to build a stronger and better Miami.

**THE MIAMI ■■■
FOUNDATION**

