

confronting the police and demanding decent wage jobs and full employment or move towards shutting down the federal government.

Elite white support came with philanthropic funding and top public relations experts. According to Malcolm, this machinery would project the Big Six as the leaders of the formerly grassroots march, which now became about integrating into, not confronting, American society. Malcolm dismissed the "Negro Revolution" as integrationist efforts to create policy change as freedom: "These Negroes aren't asking for no nation. They're trying to crawl back on the plantation." Malcolm X argued that the finances and ideology of Black movements should be exclusively controlled by Black people.



1964 [Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party](#)

Fannie Lou Hamer led the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party into the 1964 DNC convention in Atlantic City with the express goal of striking a deal to join the Democrats. At that time the majority of [SNCC](#) members supported this goal, along with the broader progressive movement of labor, churches, and civil rights coalitions led by Reverend Martin Luther King Jr (MLK). The groups in opposition were nationalists within SNCC who were outnumbered. Earlier divisions centered on the Democratic Party began over the debate to invite white students to the South to support the efforts in Mississippi. Nationalists held that Black

communities should be the only people involved and that the organizing should be "led by them financed by them, and ideologically controlled by them" with no interest in joining the Democratic Party. In this scenario the vote was not a goal but a tactic for recruitment. Activists feared that with the entrance of hundreds of white students Black residents would not win liberation through their own efforts but view white leadership as the source of freedom. Coalition-minded leaders however argued that white allies would attract more funding, and a media spotlight that would bring added pressure on the state, breaking the back of Jim Crow. For people like Kwame Ture, only Black groups could step onto plantations to organize with sharecroppers; because, as a practical matter, white students sneaking onto largely Black labor plantations would be obvious targets that could legally be killed since they were on private property. Nationalists were in the minority; they lost the argument to John Lewis, Bayard Rustin and the coalition-minded majority of SNCC. In the end, the creation and betrayal of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) led by Fannie Lou Hamer revealed that integration into the Democratic Party was impossible as a freedom strategy. At the DNC convention the Democratic Party offered such a meaningless compromise that the MFDP rejected joining the Democrats. During the convention, major coalition figures such as Black leaders like MLK JR. were brought in to force or persuade the MFDP and to accept a deal with the Democratic Party that denied one person- one vote and true representation for Black Mississippians. After the MFDP rejected the Democratic Party's proposition, nationalist forces pursued their vision of an independent Black political party built upon the Lowndes County, Alabama Black Panther Party. Leaders such as Kwame Ture argued that Black people should control all financing, direction and ideology of Black movements.

2012 - UCLA Professor Marcus Anthony Hunter Coins "Black Lives Matter" (BLM)

Founders of the BLM organization claim to have coined the term "Black Lives Matter"; but, extensive evidence points to the term originating with sociologist Marcus Anthony Hunter. Prof Hunter claims he coined the term, later popularized by the founders. Trayvon Martin was killed on February 26, 2012.

https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1981&context=student_scholarship

2013 - BLM Financial Origins

On July 13, 2013, George Zimmerman was acquitted of all charges in the murder of Trayvon Martin. In 2013 BLM founders lay claim to coining and launching Black Lives Matter in order "to go viral." Billionaires like [Warren Buffet](#) provide funding bridges to BLM through philanthropic platforms like [Thousand Currents](#), NoVo, ActBlue, & eventually [Tides Network](#). The BLM donation link is administered by [ActBlue](#), a non-profit designed "to be a piece of Democratic Party infrastructure." These non-Black platforms have legal [control](#) and authority over BLM finances.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/28/us/black-lives-matter-patriss-e-cullors-resigns/index.html>



2014 Michael Brown, Killed. Ferguson, MO, Rebels

After eighteen year old Michael Brown was killed on August 9, 2014, his body was left in the street for hours as police antagonized the grieving Black community. Neighbors rose up and pushed police out of their neighborhood leading to a law enforcement [response](#) that revealed the war between a local Black community and the police state. Local leaders, like Darren Seals, who were onsite would explain how community response re-ignited the practice and image of Black rebellions.

2015 July 24 - The Creation of the "Movement for Black Lives" (M4BL)

Nearly 2,000 activists gather in Cleveland, Ohio as part of over 50 organizations to consolidate a new network called the

Movement for Black Lives. After launching its policy platform, foundations created the [Black Led Movement Fund](#) that would direct millions of dollars to this network.

2016 - Darren Seals, Ferguson Activist, Speaks Out Against Black Lives Matter

Calling the organization and its leaders frauds, Darren Seals argued that "leadership does not come from Yale." Seals explained that the uprising was an organic movement but that academic and upper-class Black people were using white philanthropy dollars to take over the organic movement; preventing grassroots unity even as community members were left unsupported and still struggling with police violence and lack of resources for daily life. Seals pointed out how BLM founders were taking in millions of dollars while St. Louis was struggling. Later Seals [alleged](#) that police had pulled him and his fourteen-year old brother over and warned them to "choose your enemies wisely." A few months later Darren Seals was [found](#) shot in a burning car.

2016 - BLM Speaks Out Against Violence to Police Officers in Dallas & Baton Rouge

In July 2016, after the police execution of Alton Sterling, three police officers were killed in retaliation. At a Dallas Black Lives Matter Rally, 5 officers were killed, "ambush style," after the death of Philando Castile. Facing public scrutiny BLM founders and the national organization spoke out against the killings as "[murders](#)" stating that they did not reflect the organization or broader movement.

2016 - CIA Affiliate Ford Foundation Commits \$100 Million to the Movement for Black Lives

In response to the retaliatory killings of police officers, Ford Foundation President Darren Walker committed \$100 million to the Movement for Black Lives. Ford Foundation was created in 1966 to prevent and steer Black uprisings that were leaving hundreds of cities burning with guerilla warfare led by Black communities and grassroots organizations. Ford Foundation combatted Black guerilla warfare by funding groups focused on art and cultural nationalism and Black leadership development, thus redefining Black Power as upward mobility and Black capitalism. Ford Foundation would continue to [maintain close ties with the CIA](#) as the Agency worked to use funding and lethal tactics to undermine Black movements in the US and around the world.

<https://fortune.com/2016/08/08/raceahead-why-ford-foundation-is-underwriting-black-lives-matter/>

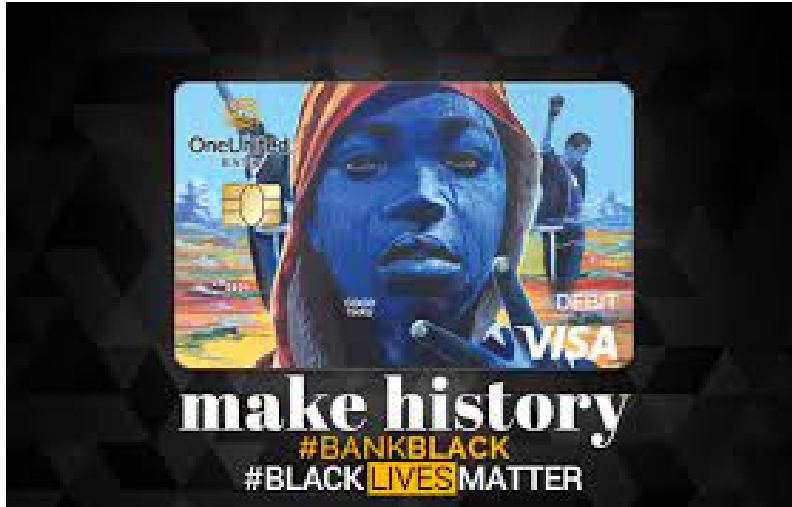
2016 - BLM Asks Thousand Currents To Be A Fiscal Sponsor

In 2016 BLM gave Thousand Currents, formerly the International Development Exchange, [control over the internal and external finances](#) for the organization under the leadership of Rajasvini Bhansali. Since then, [BLM finances have been controlled by non-Black leaders and/or organizations.](#)



2017 - Several Ferguson Activists are Killed and Incarcerated

By 2017, in addition to Darren Seals, other Ferguson activists were [killed](#) or incarcerated. Reminiscent of the (Cointelpro) assassinations of the previous Black Power era, visible local leaders Edward Crawford, Deandre Joshua, Danye Jones (along with Seals) were killed. Leader [Josh Williams](#) is now serving the longest prison term from Ferguson protests.



2017 - BLM Partners with One United Bank to Organize Black Buying Power

"Amir," a new special debit card, was created by One United Bank marketing customers to donate to BLM. This debit card was part of a campaign to organize the "Black dollar."

2017 - Patrisse Cullors joins Shaun King's Real Justice PAC

Shaun King establishes Real Justice PAC. This political action committee allowed King to fundraise large amounts with minimal legal requirements for transparency. Real Justice PAC helps elect district attorneys across the country who, as prosecutors, continue to lock up Black people. Allegations of fraud, co-optation, and "blackface" plague Shaun King and the Real Justice PAC; Patrisse Cullors joins King as a senior adviser to Real Justice.

2019 - Reform LA Jails Pays

Patrisse Cullors becomes co-founder and chair of Reform LA. While Chairperson of Reform LA, Cullors pays her consulting firm (Janaya and Patrisse Consulting) \$20K/month plus additional fees.

2020 - BLM Becomes a Corporation and Legally Commits to Nonviolence

After Baton Rouge residents shot at police officers, a police officer sued BLM and DeRay McKesson. This case was dismissed. But legal documents revealed that BLM formed a corporation registered in Delaware (a state used for housing shell companies that shield flows of money and ownership information), therefore distancing itself from the Black Power era of self-defense and

grassroots Black communities that responded with violence against police violence in Ferguson, Baltimore, Baton Rouge by labeling and defining its organization as non-violent.

2020 July - BLM Funding Taken Over by Tides

Thousand Currents transfers financial control and management of BLM to Tides, a much larger organization with even wider connections to financial elites and global capitalism.

2020 - Ford Foundation Commits \$1 Billion to Movement for Black Lives

Ford Foundation sells \$1 billion in social bonds in order to fund Movement for Black Lives affiliates like Black Lives Matter. MacArthur Foundation followed with \$125 million, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation committed \$100 million. Incorporation takes place in Delaware

2020 - BLM Forms a Political Action Committee

As a part of an effort to influence policy, BLM forms a political action committee (PAC) that allows the organization to receive large amounts of untraceable donations and fund political efforts and candidates with little to no transparency.

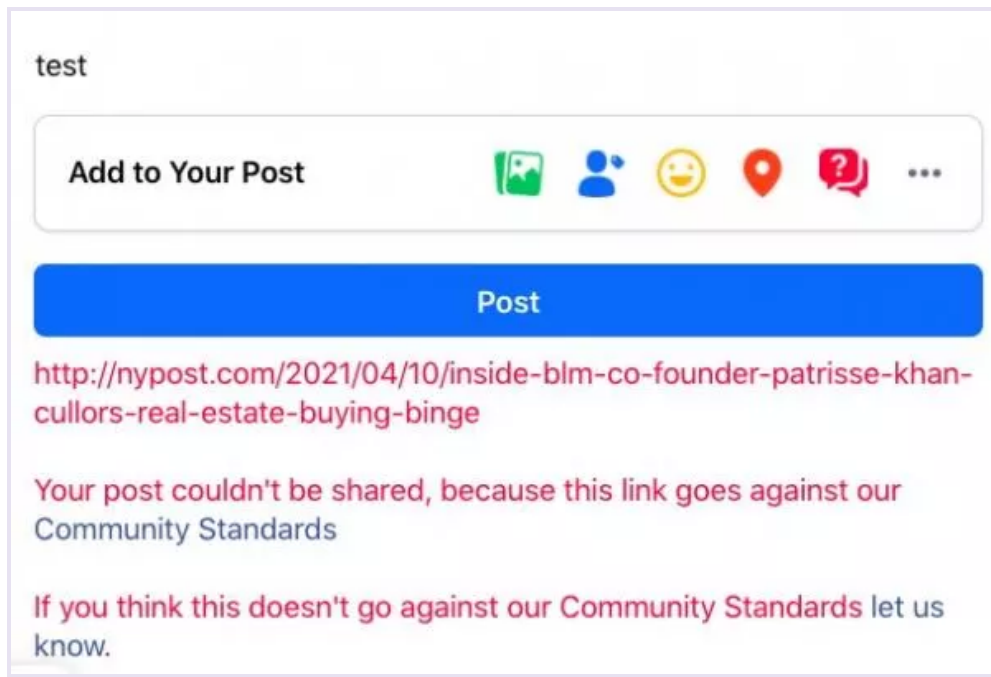
2020 Nov 8th - Biden Becomes 46th US President, BLM Declares Victory

After leading get out the vote efforts for the Biden campaign, BLM declares victory as Biden becomes President of the United States. Later the White House rejects BLM's request for a seat at the table to meet with the Biden/Harris administration.

<https://democrats.org/black-lives-matter-organizing-resources/>

2021 - After Public Scrutiny BLM Spends \$20+ Million to Allied Groups

Financial statements revealed BLM had raised \$90million following and from the March 25, 2020, death of George Floyd. In the 2020 fundraising year/cycle, 99% of the Black people killed by police were Black men. Black men made up 239 of the 241 Black people killed by police. After public scrutiny over the money raised off of George Floyd and 2020 police killings, BLM created a fund that gave 30 groups over \$20 million in 2021. Of those 30, 23 were LGBTQ organizations.



2021 April - Facebook Bans Sharing of Articles of BLM

BLM received millions of dollars from Facebook, Google, [Amazon](#), as organizations, and from Facebook co-founders. Facebook began [preventing people from sharing](#) articles critical of BLM; BLM now exists as an acquisition/asset in the tech giant's investment portfolio. Amazon, owned by Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world, [gave limited funding to BLM](#) for public relations. Paying substandard living wages, and engaged in union busting, Amazon exploits and destroys the lives of its workers, the economies of local communities. It also heavily [donates to police foundations](#) and uses its products to build for police departments a nationwide [surveillance system](#).

2021 May 27 - Patrisse Cullors [Resigns](#) from Black Lives Matter Global Network, Again

Arguing that [her resignation](#) was in the works for years, Patrisse Cullors states that she has built a solid infrastructure and [turned leadership](#) of the organization to Monifa Bandele and Makani Themba.

•

Questions to Our Communities and Allies

*Why did philanthropic organizations such as Ford Foundation—designed to destroy and dis-organize Black and third world liberation movements—commit \$100s millions to BLM & M4BL?

*What long lasting Black controlled institutions have been built by BLM in Black communities? What other institutions/organizations do we need?

*Why did BLM accept money from Amazon, Pepsi and other corporations that fund police departments that destroy the lives of working class and poor Black people?

*Darren Seals and other Ferguson activists called out BLM as a fraudulent movement tied to white capital early on.

- Why could we not hear or listen to Darren Seals?
- Does this movement have a place for people like Darren Seals?
- Do we want to make room for activists like Seals? If not, why not? If we do, how will we do so?

*Why didn't BLM ever become a cooperative or unionize its members to ensure collective decision making in a "leaderful" movement?

*Patrisse Cullors leads Dignity Power Now. Opal Tometi led the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. Alicia Garza was at Domestic Workers Alliance.

- Do those organizations adequately compensate unionized workers?
- If so, what prevented workers' rights from becoming a model for all chapters? If not, how were workers' rights overlooked?

*What was the decision making process that allowed BLM to use financial resources to get out the vote for Biden?

*What is the collective decision making structure that would allow local communities, surviving families, members, and the broader Black masses to take control and shape leadership over BLM?

*How can we get resources back under Black community control and to be managed by Black platforms? And, have autonomy from DNC-affiliated platforms?