

BLACK IMAGE CENTER

2024

ANNUAL

REPORT

**BLACK
IMAGE
CENTER**

3209 La Cienega Ave.
Culver City, CA 90232

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

DEAR BLACK IMAGE CENTER COMMUNITY,

AS WE REFLECT ON THIS PAST YEAR, WE ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE INCREDIBLE ARTISTS, STORYTELLERS, AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE. BLACK IMAGE CENTER WAS FOUNDED TO PROVIDE BLACK PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CREATIVES WITH THE SPACE, RESOURCES, AND COMMUNITY NEEDED TO THRIVE, AND THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF THAT VISION.

THIS YEAR, WE WITNESSED THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF OUR WORK, ENSURING THAT BLACK HISTORIES AND VISUAL LEGACIES ARE PRESERVED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME AND THAT INNOVATION IS SAFEGUARDED IN A WORLD THAT IS INCREASINGLY VOLATILE. THROUGH INITIATIVES LIKE THE BLACK FAMILY ARCHIVE, WE ARE NOT ONLY RECLAIMING SPACE BUT ALSO STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE DEDICATION OF OUR TEAM, THE PASSION OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS. AS WE LOOK AHEAD, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE BLACK STORYTELLING IS CELEBRATED AND TREATED WITH CARE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS JOURNEY WITH US.

WITH APPRECIATION,
MAYA, SAMONE + KALENA
BLACK IMAGE CENTER



MISSION

WE ARE A 501C3 ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO UPLIFTING LA'S BLACK STORYTELLERS THROUGH COMMUNITY, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES. OUR MISSION IS TO RECLAIM STORIES, ESTABLISH PIPELINES TO THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY, AND BUILD ONGOING LEGACIES BY PRESERVING LA'S BLACK HISTORY.



OUR PARTNERS

BLACK IMAGE CENTER IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES AND BRANDS THAT SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF UPLIFTING BLACK STORYTELLERS. FROM PARTNERING ON AN ARTIST RESIDENCY TO SUPPORTING A FILM FRIDGE AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR CORNER.

THE GETTY FOUNDATION
FOR FREEDOMS
CINESTILL FILM
REPARATIONS CLUB
LAS FOTOS PROJECT
MILK
HEAVY MANNERS LIBRARY
SAMY'S CAMERA
CRAP EYEWEAR
BURNTSIENNA RESEARCH SOCIETY
RED EYE CREATIVE
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGENERATION ARCHIVE
PIZZA ANANDA
CRENSHAW JUICE COMPANY
LEI'D COOKIES
CUSHY COLLECTIVE
IT'S-IN-SCOPE
YOUTH SERVICE
FILM SCOUTS
YOUTH TO THE PEOPLE
FIREBRAND CREATIVE HOUSE
TAPE

OUR TEAM

MAYA JUNE MANSOUR

Co-Founder

SAMONE KIDANE

Co-Founder

KALENA YIAUEKI

Co-Founder

ASTRID KAYEMBE

Community Coordinator

**POWERED BY 20+
VOLUNTEERS**

BY THE NUMBERS

Our programming is geared to two distinct audiences — photographers and patrons of the arts. These numbers are representative of the impact of our programs including, but not limited to, family photo archiving, film screenings, workshops and artist residences.

This year, our online community surpassed 15,000, which is instrumental to our organization's discovery. Through our free film fridges, we were able to distribute free rolls of film both from our space and from our satellite fridge at Reparations Club.

42

programs

887

participants

15.3K

Instagram followers

300

free film rolls distributed

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ZANELE MULHOLI WALKABOUT

The Black Image Center community was invited to a private walkthrough and artist discussion as a part of Southern Guild's latest exhibition featuring Zanele Muholi, an acclaimed South African Visual Activist and photographer. Participants were able to ask the artist more about their practice, activism and process.

BURNTSIENNA ART BOOK REVIEW

Black Image Center is partnered with Burntsienna Research Society to present the next installment of a three-part series on artbooks-as-reference material for photographers considering publishing their own artbooks. A select cohort explored photography artbooks for inspiration in layout, tone, and approach, while discussing the importance of archiving their work. The program was led by Jason E.C. Wright an educator, photographer, and Director at Burntsienna Research Society.



\$HORTY FILM FESTIVAL

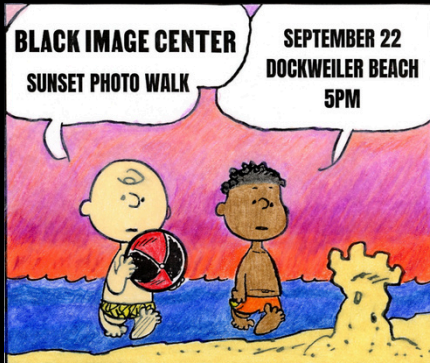
\$horty was a night of short films that showcased a variety of works across genres made by Black directors. Filmmakers were invited to submit their shorts for consideration. We received an overwhelming number of entries, and we are excited to make \$horty a recurring program to allow as many filmmakers as possible to showcase their work.

BLACK FAMILY ARCHIVE: SOUL FOOD

Black Family Archive is a quarterly program that brings Black families across Los Angeles together in celebration of intergenerational bonds of love and kinship that build our communities. For this iteration, we continued our existing partnerships with Getty photo preservationist Ronel Namde and Ode2LA photo archiving Regeneration and new partners Perennial Memory Lab, Its-in-Scope and T.A.P.E for additional activations.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



SUNSET PHOTO WALK

Black Image Center Photo Walks allow community members to get outside while practicing photography. Locations have included View Park, Kenneth Hahn, and Dockweiler Beach. Photo Walks are also a great opportunity to try out a camera that you're not that confident with yet, or borrow a camera from Black Image Center for participants who don't have one.

CYANOTYPE WORKSHOPS

In this beginner cyanotype workshop participants will learn to prepare emulsion, create a negative image or create an image on a different transparent material, and develop an image with a simple bath using acid and intensifier. We will focus on using natural daily objects like feathers, flowers, and leaves to combine and create graphically impactful images.



SUMMER SCHOOL WITH NEW CRITS

Artist-mentors from NewCrits, a community of artists working to democratize access to arts education, mentored 14 artists from the Black Image Center community. The summer school, which was meant to challenge the students in the ways they make, think, and understand their practice and the practice of others, culminated in an exhibition at Alabaster Projects Gallery called "Black Pacifica" curated by NewCrits and a member of the Black Image Center.



OUR SPACE

BLACK IMAGE CENTER HQ OPENED ITS DOORS IN 2022, AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN THE HUB FOR ALL BLACK IMAGE CENTER ACTIVITIES. THE VERSITILE SPACE IS USED FOR WEEKLY CO-WORKING, FILM SCREENINGS, WORKSHOPS, MIXERS, RESIDENCIES AND SO MUCH MORE.



CO-WORKING

In 2024, we grew our volunteer community, which allowed us to sustain co-working which is now a staple program and key for our community, networking and program development.

BURNTSIENNA RESEARCH LIBRARY- IN-RESIDENCE

Burntsienna Research Library took residence in our space as a browsable research library of artbooks for ethnographic research.

BIC INTERNS

This fall, we hosted two interns from local colleges. Interns were assigned required reading based on their field of study, tasked with supporting various programs, and completed The Artist's Way.

GENERATIONS BLENDED BY DESHAUNAE MARISA

This year, BIC hosted Generations Blended, an interactive art piece set in the heart of Los Angeles that explores the themes of identity, belonging, and the transition to adulthood.

FINANCES

OPERATING EXPENSES

Rent & Utilities	\$58,662.74
Team + Facilitators	\$103,042.61
Program Equipment	\$26,215.71
Legal + Accounting	\$12,583.73

TOTAL	200,504.79
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FUNDING SUMMARY

Donations	\$40,810.26
Grants	\$107,845.00

REVENUE

Classes	\$24,131.89
Fee For Service	\$23,891.61
Miscellaneous	1,975.12

TOTAL	\$199,653.88
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Thank you.



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