

One Million Reasons to Build Letter from the CEO

Sankofa teaches the importance of looking to history to inform our future. In the Akan, Twi, and Fante languages of Ghana, the word translates to “go back and get it.”

But for Black Americans, looking back to history — to the land, building, businesses, and even housing where history took place — is not always that easy for us due to divisions caused by the ongoing public health crisis of racism that still runs deep in this country. A raging pandemic that has disproportionately taken the lives of Black Americans, higher rates of chronic illness, consistent housing instability, and disparities in access to education and economic opportunity are just some of the challenges our community faces.

Prioritizing the preservation of Black spaces for the future, and making it easier to do so, is one of the best ways we can “go back and get it.”

Owning our land, properties, and businesses and creating spaces **for us, by us** matters now more than ever to promote inclusive growth in communities. Raising Black consciousness fosters positive self-image, self-esteem, and resiliency amongst Black families and communities.

This event is another opportunity to expand our understanding of the richness of African American culture and the African diaspora, while strengthening our efforts towards advancing racial and health equity through transmitting heritage to younger generations — a critical social function as our education system continues to prioritize some histories over others. Building opportunities and space for Black girls to thrive is what motivates us.

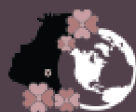
We are energized to share our One Million Reasons to Build Campaign with our corporate, nonprofit, public partners, and individual donors. On Thursday, February 23, *we are honoring Ubuntu* to raise the roof during Black History Month. We're reflecting on how we can partner with Black philanthropists to build a safe and brave space that sparks joy and fosters a sense of belonging for Black girls.

As founder and CEO of Girls For A Change, I am committed to ending the inequities and disparities that we face, and we won't stop until Black girls, their families, and communities have access to places where they feel like they belong and matter. Join me in the movement of Ubuntu!

In Power,



Sistah Angela Patton, CEO, Girls For A Change



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CHANGE