Black Lives Matter Movement

- #BlackLivesMatter was found in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon’s Martin’s murderer.
- Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise.
- It is an affirmation of Black folks’ humanity, our contributions to this society, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression.
BLM Guiding Principles

- Diversity
- Restorative Justice
- Unapologetically Black
- Black Families
- Black Women
- Black Villages
- Globalism

- Loving Engagement
- Empathy
- Queer Affirming
- Transgender Affirming
- Intergenerational
- Collective Value

BLM5280


- From hosting Black mother-daughter dinners to disrupting the corporatization of the Denver MLK Marade and holding a 135-hour vigil for Black folks to grieve and dance away the constant trauma of police brutality, BLM 5280 is committed to emboldening all Black people to lead, love, heal and thrive.
Our Mission

Working with residents and organizations in Denver, Black Lives Matter 5280 builds more loving and united Black communities while eliminating anti-Black violence and racism. To expose, address, and eradicate structural oppression in Denver, BLM5280 uses a holistic racial justice approach that strengthens health and wellness, community building, educational programming, economic sustainability, and direct-action strategizing. This approach to racial equity is fortified by a commitment to economic justice—one that counters the ongoing effects of slavery and the continuous exploitation of Black labor, while challenging white supremacy. Our chapter is part of a national movement, aligned in Black love, power, and liberation, embodying the declaration that Black Lives Matter—regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, immigration status or location, gang affiliation, profession, ability, economic status, and religious beliefs or disbelief. Also keeping with the national movement, BLM5280 centers and celebrates the lives and leadership of Black women and girls. We firmly believe that communal visions of liberation are the way forward into a beloved society that affirms gender equality, racial equity, and social justice. Our work is to cultivate communities of abundant joy where all Black people are emboldened and empowered to lead, love, heal, and thrive.
Community Wellness Squad

• The BLM 5280 Community Wellness Squad responds to “asks” from the community.

• When community members request assistance for community concerns that align with BLM 5280’s mission, the Community Wellness Squad fields the request and responds.

Community Wellness Squad

• Crisis Services

• Displacement Defense/COVID-19 Relief Fund

• Momma’s Day/Father’s Day Bail Funds
Economic Justice Squad

- The Economic Justice Squad is active in the fight against gentrification in the Denver metro area.

- Address systemic economic inequities and inequalities.

- Environmental justice.

Economic Justice Squad

- Anti-gentrification efforts:
  - Addressing lack of affordable housing in the Denver metro area
  - For instance, members were present at the ink coffee protests and subsequent meetings to discuss the negative impacts of gentrification on Black, brown, and Indigenous populations in the Denver metro area.

- Change the Name St*pleton

- Supporting Black owned businesses

- Cannabis industry and reform

Colorado governor pardons 2,732 people with convictions for possessing up to one ounce of marijuana

House Bill 1424 gave Gov. Jared Polis the ability to pardon people with convictions for possessing up to two ounces of marijuana, but he opted to act only on cases where people were convicted of possessing one ounce or less of cannabis.
Education Squad

- The Education Squad of BLM 5280 aims to support students, parents, and educators of color in Denver and Aurora area schools.

- Aims of the Squad are to address pressing issues which result in disparities in the school system, including school discipline issues, school-to-prison pipeline factors, educational equity, and ineffective cultural training.

- The Education Squad is presently comprised of mostly K-12 educators within the local school system.

Education Squad—Freedom School

- The Black Lives Matter 5280 Freedom School was founded in July 2018.

- The mission of the BLM5280 Freedom School was to create an immersive environment, affirming of Black identity where Black educators could teach BIPOC children to become racially literate, advocate for themselves, and critically challenge white supremacy.

- Honoring the legacy of the Freedom Schools built by the Black Panthers, BLM5280 provided meals, technological support, educational supplies, and literature for each student at no cost.
What Can I Do?

Dismantle Racism!

**Personal**
- Private beliefs, prejudices, and ideas individuals have

**Interpersonal**
- The expression of racism between individuals

**Institutional**
- Discriminatory treatment, policies, and practices within organizations and institutions

**Structural**
- System in which policies, practices, and other norms perpetuate racial inequality/inequity
**Personal and Interpersonal**

- Have you financially contributed to organizations and foundations dedicated to social justice and/or anti-racism?
- Do you regularly support Black businesses?
- Are you having conversations about race with family? Friends? People of Color?
- Have you joined an organization committed to anti-racism?
- Are you reading books written by Black authors? Watching movies or television shows with Black lead or all-Black cast?
- Are you attending city council meetings or legislative hearings?
- Have you supported local Black artists or musicians?
- Have you questioned the educational inequities in your child’s school system? Or is their school diverse to begin with?

**Structural and Institutional**

- Is there a diversity plan?
- Are you addressing microagressions at work when they happen?
- Have you spoken up about diversity in hiring and promotion decisions at work?
  - Don’t fall for the myth of meritocracy. Highly qualified people of color don’t get hired all the time.
  - Are projects and assignments being allocated equitably?
  - Is there an explicit and objective process for promotion?
  - How is pay determined?
- Are guest speakers or panelist diverse?
- Do you hold biased opinions on “professionalism?”
- How is the organization contributing to community or grassroots efforts?
The Next Generation

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Q&A

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