



2022 Award Nomination Form National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

***Please see Nomination Instructions (afpcc.org) for information on completing and submitting nominations**

Nominee Information

Nominee

Name:	<hr/>		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	
Organization:	Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado <hr/>		
Address:	1550 Larimer St #518 <hr/>		
	<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Apt./Unit #</i>	
	Denver	CO	80202
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>
Primary Phone:	303-558-1050	Alternate Phone:	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Email:	info@ulfcolorado.org <hr/>		

Category of Nomination (please check ONLY ONE)

- ☐ Lifetime Achievement
- ☐ Outstanding Large Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Small Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Foundation
- ☐ Outstanding Philanthropist
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Fundraiser
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Grantmaker
- ☐ Outstanding Service Organization
- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer
- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- ☐ xx Inspiration Award

Nominator Information

Submitted/Nominated By:

Name: Jasmine Elizabeth

First

Last

Organization: Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado

Address: 1550 Larimer St #518

Street Address

Apt/Unit #

Denver

CO

80202

City

State

ZIP Code

Primary Phone:

Email: jasmine.elizabeth@ulfcolorado.org

Relationship to
Nominee:

Staff

How did you hear about us? community

If your nominee is not selected, would you like them to be notified that they were nominated? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If your nominee is selected, can we share a copy of the nomination with them? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Refer to the Nomination Instructions for Complete Directions

Please remember:

- Each nomination must include:
 1. Nomination Form
 2. Nomination narrative
 3. Two letters of support (additional letters will not be accepted)
- The nomination deadline is **Friday, July 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM (MST)**
- No exceptions!
- All nominations must be complete when submitted
- If you would like feedback on your nomination from a member of the Awards & Selection Committee (not the judges) before formally submitting your nomination, please submit your draft materials by **July 8** via email with a note to that effect.
- Complete nominations must be emailed to DeAnn Acosta, CFRE, deann@afpcc.org.

Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado afpcc.org

Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado
Inspiration Award

What are the nominee's specific achievements?

Concerned with the drastic underrepresentation of African Americans within various professional, service, and civic environments in 2007, the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado (ULFC) was created by former Mayor Wellington Webb, Former Senator Angela Williams, and business owner Richard Lewis to develop, support, and create a tangible network for leaders of color. A primary goal is to improve the representation of minorities by diversifying corporate and nonprofit boards, commissions and other decision-making bodies and to inspire social change through community service.

ULFC inspires people to use their voice and power to create spaces where everyone can thrive. Over the last fifteen years, ULFC has improved the social and professional trajectory of nearly 500 individuals, which has had a ripple effect on individual communities and the state of Colorado. The leadership program has a 98% completion rate and an alumni engagement rate of over 70%. The Alumni of this program are elected officials, teachers, artists, entrepreneurs, executives, mothers, and fathers – people from all walks of life using the tools received from ULFC to create tangible change in their respective fields. ULFC alumni can be found in organizations such as Kaiser Permanente, DISH Network, Janus Foundation, DPS, Ball Aerospace, Denver Water, FirstBank, and in small business throughout the Denver region.

As a part of the organization's commitment to community service, each year ULFC fellows complete two high-impact community service projects that focus on the needs of the community. Since 2007 ULFC has completed over 40 community facing projects. Thanksgiving in July, a community barbecue for people without homes, is one of ULFC's most special projects. Over the last six years, ULFC has gathered volunteers, resources, and developed partnerships that have enabled them to serve over 2500 unhoused neighbors with hearty meals, backpacks, hygiene products, haircuts, and more.

What impact has the nominee had on the community through financial contributions and/or volunteerism?

ULFC creates the change we want to see in the world. Over the last fifteen years, ULFC has provided over \$100,000 in scholarships for fellows in the non-profit and education sectors to complete the program. ULFC fellows have impacted the lives of thousands of underserved families and children through volunteerism and community service projects. At the height of COVID-19, ULFC launched Bridging the Gap Initiative to provide financial support and resources to small businesses, entrepreneurs and families that were impacted by COVID 19. The focus was primarily small Black owned businesses in Northeast Denver, most that didn't qualify for government or bank loans or support. ULFC provided small stipends/grants to families to help with household expenses and groceries and limited operational grants for small businesses and entrepreneurs to support operating expenses. Through their Bridging the Gap Initiative they gave:

- Provided \$105K in grants to small businesses in Far Northeast Denver

- Provided \$50K in financial relief to minority entrepreneurs and families

Each holiday season ULFC hosts the annual Mingle Jingle toy and monetary gift drive for low income and underserved families. Each year the ULFC community spends a weekend wrapping and delivering thousands of gifts to families across the greater Denver metropolitan area. To date, ULF has made more than 1000 children smile and provided over \$50,000 in financial support to nearly 500 families.

What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

The Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado is powered by volunteers, a working board, and alumni – because ULF is a small but mighty organization, service and volunteering is their heartbeat and philanthropy their lifeline. Many believe you have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist, however ULFC teaches their community otherwise. The leaders of the organization instill the importance of giving their time, talent and treasure to serve the community and they demonstrate this by sowing all three into the organization without compensation.

How does the nominee adopt a spirit of inclusion? (i.e. inviting broad participation, mentoring young professionals, hiring diverse applicants, etc.)

The Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado was created in response to a direct need from marginalized and underrepresented communities. Understanding the importance of voice and the inequity experienced when a community is lacking a voice, ULFC is committed to inclusiveness, equity, and an unapologetic belief that thriving is a right for all rather than a privilege for some. Inclusion and community need drive the ULFC vision, mission, purpose, and is the reason their work is always done in connection with the community. They regularly engage with the community through surveys, forums, partnerships, needs assessments, town hall meetings, and alumni membership. Constant and broad engagement is vital because they understand the community is not monolithic and the needs vary and can change in an instant.

As an organization that exists to empower people to thrive in all areas of life, it is important to include all people. Our engagement process with the community happens both internally and externally. We start internally with our board members, alumni, program evaluation, and communications. The board is diverse in gender, race, ethnicity, and life experiences. Externally, ULFC is boots on the ground focusing on youth, families, community leaders, NPO's, affinity groups, local schools, the church community, the local arts and cultural community (graffiti artists and DJs), and small businesses such as community barbershops.

ULFC has emerged as one of the most trusted and effective organizations focused on serving the interest of the Black community and bridging the gap between communities statewide.



Dear Selection Committee:

I would like to express our organization's enthusiastic support of the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado's application for the Inspiration Award.

As a Senior Vice President of FirstBank, I've had the honor of working with the Urban Leadership Foundation for 5 years and have seen firsthand their dedication to providing leadership training in BIPOC communities, as well as their commitment to fostering ethics and integrity in those future leaders. Along with training future leaders, Urban Leadership Foundation has also found numerous ways to be creative and collaborative with FirstBank to contribute to the success of the community.

The economic ecosystem they've also implemented has been central to fostering a solid network of organizations and institutions, benefitting the wellbeing of communities of color. It's been inspiring to work alongside Urban Leadership Foundation in these efforts.

Every time I've mentioned them to others, the reaction is always positive and that's largely attributed to the impact they've made in the community. The wealth of goodwill and social capital they've built up is consistently being paid forward within the community, demonstrating their dedication to uphold the ideal of advancing inclusion, diversity and equity while also focusing on civic responsibility.

Dr. Ryan Ross, President and CEO of Urban Leadership Foundation, also exemplifies the ideals of the Foundation's Mission to continuously improve the professional and social trajectory of the BIPOC community.

On behalf of FirstBank, I highly recommend Urban Leadership Foundation for the Inspiration Award.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dunn
Senior Vice President, FirstBank

July 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Urban Leadership Foundation (ULF) has been a significant contributor to my organization. They have taken us under their wing and supported our students and community in a variety of capacities; I will share with you a little background about how our partnership came to be. I served as Principal of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College for 9 years. The Black Student Alliance at my school took a trip to Washington DC for a college and culture trip in 2019. Part of their trip included visiting an HBCU and the African American History Museum. Because of this trip, a revolution took place. A fire ignited inside of several of our students' questioning administration, including myself, why they were not learning about Black history in school and why we had to travel across the country for them to learn about their history.

In the summer of 2020, a group of my students formed a podcast, *'Know Justice Know Peace; The Take'* in response to the murder of George Floyd. They wanted a space where they could express themselves and share frustration and concerns, have thoughtful dialogue, and speak toward social justice topics that mattered to them. This platform provided a space for healing and transformation for students; it also created an opportunity for advocacy and accountability in seeking answers and solutions in areas where there were inequalities and injustice.

Our students approached the Denver School Board voicing their concerns pertaining to inequities in curriculum. They discovered a history book that made them excited to learn about Black history and wanted district support in approving this for all schools in the district. Thankfully, we were introduced to the Urban Leadership Foundation around this time. They not only supported our efforts in raising money for purchasing books for every teacher, but went above and beyond in seeking and matching donation efforts to ensure that we achieved this goal. Thanks to the support of ULF, the district understood the importance of purchasing this material for the school and financially backed our efforts in obtaining this curriculum. With that goal accomplished, we were able to reallocate the generous donation from ULF to continue our efforts in supporting Denver Public School's Black Excellence Plan initiative.

ULF has been instrumental in donating toward future trips to Washington, DC for our Black Student Alliance group; they have also provided scholarship opportunities for our students to participate in their social justice workshops.

The Urban Leadership Foundation understands the importance and value behind uplifting and supporting our Black students and their educational experience. We look forward to implementing the ideas and brainstorm we have dreamt about working on together, with your support. Their backing and advocacy for IDEA in our school not only positively affects the students in our building, but is causing a ripple effect that is reaching local, national, and international audiences.

It is with great honor and humility that I send this letter of recommendation to you in support of the Urban Leadership Foundation. Their support for our school is invaluable; we are truly blessed to partner with them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Grayson

Kimberly Grayson