



Black Public Media Receives \$500,000 Funding Increase from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Additional support aims to increase diverse perspectives in public media

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 22, 2021) – The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) announced that Black Public Media (BPM) will receive a \$500,000 funding increase starting this fiscal year. The funding, which brings CPB annual support to more than \$1,850,000 for FY2021, will help the organization in its mission to fund, produce, distribute and exhibit works in media that convey the depth and breadth of the global Black community to the broadest audience possible.

“Black Public Media is very grateful to CPB for this generous funding,” said Leslie Fields-Cruz, executive director of BPM. “It not only affords us the opportunity to continue to bring the talented voices telling the stories of Black life front and center, but it reminds us that we work within a community of public media professionals who all strive to create and showcase content that genuinely reflects the diverse communities in which we all live.”

BPM is a non-profit organization founded in 1979 to support Black filmmakers and media creatives and to foster national public media programming by and about people of African descent. Its signature works include *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, which remains public television’s only series dedicated solely to stories from and about the modern African Diaspora; the filmmaker and creative development program, 360 Incubator+ and its culminating pitching session, PitchBlack; and BPMplus, a program that trains creatives in emerging media and technology. BPM, headquartered in Harlem, receives annual funding from CPB, the steward of the federal appropriation for public broadcasting.

“Black Public Media began in Ohio 40 plus years ago to bring quality TV and film projects that explore the true breadth of the Black experience to American audiences,” said Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), Congressional Black Caucus chair. “BPM remains the only organization within public media dedicated solely to this mission. I am thrilled to see it receive this well-deserved funding increase in acknowledgement of its singular work to nurture and train Black creatives and to identify outstanding media content that tells our stories.”

The \$500,000 funding increase is one of five that CPB is making to members of the National Multicultural Alliance (NMCA), which also includes the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB), Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) and Vision Maker Media (VMM). Since its founding more than 50 years ago, CPB’s mission has been to provide universal access to high-quality programming, especially for the unserved and underserved. CPB uses a strategic framework called the “Three Ds” — Diversity, Dialogue, and Digital — to reflect its commitment to innovation, inclusion and community engagement.

“CPB’s commitment and funding for diverse filmmakers and storytellers spans decades and has resulted in content that educates, informs and inspires mutual understanding and respect,” said Pat Harrison, CPB president and CEO. “Our increased support for the National Multicultural Alliance will build on that foundation and ensure that public media’s content reflects the broadest range of cultural and social perspectives. The NMCA comprises individual organizations that encourage and fund diverse storytellers whose voices and experiences might never be heard without their support.”

ABOUT BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA

Black Public Media (BPM) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public about the Black experience. Founded in 1979, the nonprofit pursues its mission by developing, producing and distributing innovative Black media content through public media outlets and by investing in visionary Black content makers. For more information, visit blackpublicmedia.org.

About CPB

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally managed and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services. For more information, visit cpb.org, follow us on Twitter [@CPBmedia](https://twitter.com/CPBmedia), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CPBmedia) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cpb) and [subscribe](#) for email updates.

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