



The Black Swan Academy  
Making the Exception...the Rule

PRIDE. PURPOSE. POWER.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

[BLACKSWANACADEMY.ORG](http://BLACKSWANACADEMY.ORG)

# A MESSAGE FROM **OUR FOUNDER**



Dear Family, Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our volunteers, our parents and our youth; I thank you. In just two years we have made tremendous progress in creating a pipeline of black youth civic leaders. Our youth have made great strides in achieving their own goals and have grown passionate in advocating for systemic change for themselves, their families and the broader DC community.

**This year:**

- ▶ **180 youth participated in our Inaugural Youth Civic Leadership Summit.**
- ▶ **Our Civic Leadership & Engagement programs increased the number of youth served by 50%.**
- ▶ **Our youth and parents partnered with young professionals to serve over 500 households during a 3-day service trip in Flint, Michigan.**
- ▶ **Our youth activated their power by engaging media outlets and elected officials to address issues of disciplinary policies and contaminated water in their schools.**

As we enter the new year, it is our sincere hope that we do so with you by our side. Again, thank you for your commitment to our youth, to their dreams and to the betterment of their communities.

In Solidarity,

*Samantha P. Davis*

**Samantha P. Davis**

*Founder & Executive Director*

The Black Swan Academy

# OUR TEAM

Samantha Paige Davis (**Founder/ Executive Director**)  
Emile Washington (**Board Member, President**)  
Charis Goff (**Board Member, Vice President**)  
Chanon Bell (**Board Member, Secretary**)  
Keren Johnson (**Board Member, Treasurer**)

Jessica Fulton (**Board Member**)  
Keith Towery (**Board Member**)  
Felecia Wright (**Board Member**)  
Christopher Randle (**Board Member**)

## THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

19

Long-term  
Volunteers

54

Occasional  
Volunteers

2,216

Volunteer  
Hours

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS:



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON



UPRISING



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



kweliTV



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## SOUSA MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*Out of School time program  
(year round, school year)*

## ANACOSTIA HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*In-school program  
(year round, school year)*

**42**

Students  
served

**100%**

Retention rate

**1512**

Instruction time  
(hours)

**4**

Youth-led  
Community service  
events

**913**

Service-Learning  
Hours

Youth Civic  
Leadership  
Summit

**180**

Students  
participated

Summer  
Enrichment  
Programs

**20**

Students  
Served

**8**

Community forums/events

**2,100**

TOTAL COMMUNITY  
REACH





THE BLACK SWAN ACADEMY HAS 3 OVERARCHING GOALS.

**EMPOWER:**

We create a pipeline of black youth civic leaders.

**EDUCATE:**

We raise awareness on social issues disproportionately affecting Black Americans, and highlight the many positive examples that are often overlooked.

**ADVOCATE:**

We advocate for the elimination of structural barriers impacting black communities.

*IN EACH WE STRIVE TO CENTER OUR YOUTH, FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY CAN LEAD AND REMAIN GROUNDED IN OUR VALUES:*

PRIDE  
PURPOSE  
POWER



# PRIDE

## WE ARE PROUD ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE COME FROM



Youth who participated in our Civic Leadership programming were given opportunities to improve their academic success, build their self confidence, develop as leaders, and explore black history & culture.

- ▶ Parents and faculty of youth in our Civic Leadership programming reported improvements in grades, attendance, and confidence. Youth also increased engagement in out-of school extra curricular activities, involvement in leadership opportunities and strengthened their ability to give and receive healthy emotional support.
- ▶ Middle School Promotion rate/outcomes: **100%** of students were promoted to the next grade level.
- ▶ Students received awards for: Best Attendance, Most improved in Science, Most Improved in Math.
- ▶ High School Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)- **100%** of students eligible for SYEP participants
- ▶ Two students earned an opportunity to study abroad through a competitive program with DCPS
- ▶ **80%** participated in additional extra curricular activities

## YOUTH CIVIC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Black Swan Academy introduced **180** black middle school youth to seven Civic Leaders at our Inaugural Civic Leadership Summit. The Youth Civic Leadership Summit is a half day experience for high school students to regain a sense of pride, purpose and power. Youth LEARNED from well-known leaders, EXPLORED careers from all sectors through hands on workshops and a mini college/career expo, AIDED in a school-based service project and ultimately DISCOVERED the leader within them.

As an organization, BSA also provided additional opportunities for youth and their communities to build their self confidence, develop as leaders, and explore black history & culture:

### SATURDAY SCHOOL WITH NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT

*African Centered Summer program, educating youth on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as learning about the principles of Kwanzaa.*

### I AM SHE: SUMMER SERIES FOR BLACK GIRLS

*Five week Summer Series dedicated to building up young black women and girls through engaging discussion and activities around intersectionality.*

### YOUTH-CENTERED WORKSHOPS

#### City Year's Student Service Week 2016

- Served **70** high school students.

#### Queens Under Construction, in partnership with Boys & Girls Club

- Served **52** girls

## WE HAVE A PURPOSE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Youth in our Civic Leadership programs led the planning and implementation of 4 high impact service events:

### WINTER CLOTHING POP-UP SHOPPE

We marched and served during the MLK Day Parade in SE, DC, helping keep our brothers and sisters warm by distributing **50** coats and hundreds of articles of winter clothing (scarves, hats, jeans and sweaters)

### FLINT WATER CRISIS

**20** youth and young professionals traveled from DC to Flint, Michigan to serve and stand in solidarity with the residents of Flint impacted by the water crisis. Youth were involved in facilitated discussions with Flint youth, participated in a Community Action meeting, conducted interviews with Flint activists and then distributed over **400** cases of water to residents in Flint's North End.

### SOCKS AND LUNCH FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER

**44** youth and mentors made and distributed **300** lunches and socks to DC residents impacted by poverty and/or homelessness.

### ANACOSTIA RIVER WITH ART REACH

**60** youth participated in a citywide art project aimed to raise awareness of the environmental concerns facing our local rivers and the ecology of our wetlands at the Anacostia River Festival.

# PURPOSE



As an organization, we supported and promoted a myriad of community events led by our partner organizations that addressed the needs of the communities we are in relationship with.

**A town hall on Policing:** Black Women and Girls: **50** women and girls convened to share stories of their experience with law enforcement and brainstorm solutions to a culture of police violence.

**Black Millennials for Flint Community Action Summit:** Dozens of community members gathered to obtain skills to fight environmental justices, in particular, lead exposure, disproportionately impacting communities of color.

**Race and Equity in Education:** Over **70** Young professionals and educators gathered to discuss ways to achieve equity in education for students of color.

**Voices of Color:** A Community Discussion About the Colorism Experience: A night exploring all spectrums of colorism, black beauty, acceptance, self love, and Black empowerment.



# POWER

WE HAVE THE INNATE POWER  
TO IMPACT CHANGE



Youth in our Civic Leadership programs advocated on three issues this school year: Gun Violence, School Disciplinary policies and contaminated water in DC's public schools.

To address these concerns youth and organization leaders:

- ▶ Met with Council Members
- ▶ Raised awareness of issues to stakeholders
- ▶ Engaged Media outlets
- ▶ Testified at Public hearings

HELD LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUMS **2**

*Ward 8 Youth Candidates Forum*

*Equitable Economic Development Forum*



In an effort to support other city-wide issues impacting our youth and families, as an organization, BSA also advocated for:

- ▶ Safe, affordable housing for low income residents
- ▶ Justice for victims of state-sanctioned violence
- ▶ Hardship extensions and improved services for families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

**DONORS & SUPPORTERS:**

**352**

Individual donors

**SUPPORTERS:** *Hattie M. Strong, Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Industrial Bank, Awesome Foundation*

**\$29,890**

Total Raised