



Organizational Support Proposal for Black Nonbelievers

Black nontheists are alone. Faced with the challenges of both racial injustice and nontheist intolerance, Black nonbelievers are doubly vulnerable. While the general nonreligious demographic is on the rise in the U.S., the numbers in Black communities are significantly lower in comparison. And as anti-racism becomes a focal point, it is apparent that something as foundational as faith is predisposing us to more oppression, and for longer periods of time.

Meanwhile, the voices of the nonreligious in the black community continue to be overlooked in the fight for racial justice. While we are uniquely qualified to address how racial, reproductive, and economic injustices intersect with religiosity, we are driven to the margins of discourse. This further increases the sense of isolation that many already experience when leaving religion and makes it more difficult for those who are seeking community and opportunities. Finally, due to the scarcity of resources, it is more difficult to locate extensive works of Black secularists for the purposes of inclusion.

Black Nonbelievers was founded to meet this challenge. We are the most recognized Black secular organization in the United States, and perhaps the world. Our mission is to provide fellowship and refuge and Blacks who leave religion, nurture, and support nonbelievers in “coming out” (ie, open identification), encourage pride in nonreligious identities, educate the public on the history and current state of nonbelief in Black communities, advocate for the rights of Black secularists, and organize events and charitable causes.

However, we need the help of the secular community.

As the recent [Black Nonreligious report](#) (jointly presented with American Atheists) shows, the challenges we face are grave - and we must adapt and grow to meet them. The secular community prides itself on its inclusivity and sensitivity to the needs of racial minorities. We hope that this community will support Black Nonbelievers as we work to build capacity and strengthen our voice. A stronger, more capable organization will better meet the needs of Black nonreligious individuals, and in the long run, increase diversity in the movement overall.

The following pages include a brief proposal, which we hope your board will consider for the year 2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

Black Nonbelievers: Support Proposal for Partner Organizations

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1. Summary

Black Nonbelievers is the foremost organization for black atheists, agnostics, and humanists. Founded in 2011 by Mandisa Thomas, Black Nonbelievers undertakes a variety of activities to support and uplift Black nontheists.

Black Nonbelievers is introducing a Partnership Program; the funds from which will be used directly to facilitate the development and provision of its outputs and impact, in addition to an expansion of its activities.

Partner organizations will receive yearly reports, which will include a brief financial statement as well as a summary of progress and achievements. They will also have premier opportunities to collaborate with BN on various projects.

For transparency, Partner organizations will be listed on BN's website and new partnerships will be announced via press release and on BN's social media platforms.

2. Description of Activities

Funds will be used in activities advancing BN's mission to empower Black secular Americans in the fight for racial justice, create programs and resources that will benefit members, and tackle the issues that directly impact our communities.

Black Nonbelievers will accomplish the above goals with the following activities:

- **Community Organizing:** Foster support communities and combat isolation facing Black nonbelievers by hosting regular support community meetings, private online forums, tabling at community events, organizing service projects, and a number of networking and social activities.
- **Outreach and Education:** Radio/YouTube shows, interviews, articles, and social media campaigns.
- **Events:** Foster dialog and advance public awareness on the issues facing Black secularists through two yearly conferences, Women of Color Beyond Belief and BN SeaCon.

At this time, however, Black Nonbelievers does not have paid staff to help accomplish these critical functions. To accomplish these goals effectively, Black Nonbelievers needs a dedicated Executive Director, and a part-time assistant.

The ED will continue to work on all aspects of the organization, including but not limited to:

Outreach and Representation

- Acting as the primary representative and voice for the organization, speaking at conferences, appearing on podcasts and other media outlets
- Responding to all inquiries and requests for interviews and project collaborations
- Writing articles for printed and digital news outlets
- Tabling at local and national secular events
- Developing and implementing marketing strategies
- Administrating website and social media accounts.

Governance and Fundraising

- Organizing fundraisers, building relationships with donors
- Maintaining BN's nonprofit status, including federal tax exemption. Filing annual registrations and reports
- Managing donor database
- Sending thank you letters and packets.

- Full Partner: \$10,000
- Associate Partner: \$5,000

Partners will receive annual progress reports on BN initiatives for accountability, and their contributions will be acknowledged by BN on social media, press releases, and a listing on BN's website. Partners will also have priority access to working opportunities with BN and will also be prioritized for cross promotion.

To support the work of Black Nonbelievers, please send a check enclosing one of the two amounts out to "Black Nonbelievers", and mailto:

135 Hopeton Terrace

Fayetteville, GA 30215

Black Nonbelievers is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, EIN# (45-3759816)