

# EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITIES

## May Wrap-Up Report



May was a month to remember! Our mission to spread love and build power took us to new heights – literally! In addition to our tireless work on land with The Blackest Bus in America, we set sail to bring our movement to the seas.

But our work is far from over. From warrant clinics to survivor justice, every day brings a new challenge, a new opportunity to make a difference. And that's where you come in. We need your voice, your energy, your passion. Join the movement, get involved, and help us create the change we need.

Read our May Wrap-Up Report and find out how you can be part of the movement!

# ALL ABOARD THE FANTASTIC VOYAGE

## TOM JOYNER FANTASTIC VOYAGE

BVM is proud to be a first-time sponsor of the 2024 Tom Joyner Fantastic Voyage to provide scholarships for deserving students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This annual cruise is made possible by the Tom Joyner Foundation and for the past 23 years has been an integral part of helping students reach their educational goals. In a time when HBCUs are being severely underfunded, BVM recognizes the need to be proactive in our efforts to provide resources to Black institutions that support our people and provide opportunities for advancement through education.

BVM hosted an up close and personal conversation on building power in our communities by using voting as a tool to change policies that harm Black and marginalized groups the most. The “Sailing Toward Change” town hall provided an opportunity for participants to voice their concerns on local and national issues and hear effective proven solutions from trusted messengers on ways to combat voter apathy.



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## FLORIDA

Black Voters Matter traveled from Miami to Orlando! We celebrated Florida Emancipation Day, commemorating the 1865 liberation of enslaved Africans, and Haitian Flag Day, recognizing Haiti's flag creation during the 1803 Haitian Revolution.

In Orlando, we worked with partners during the special election for City Commission, District 5. Our efforts brought 10% of registered voters to the polls, forcing a runoff on June 18th.

This year, our "We Fight Back" campaign continues to support Black voters and build Black power across the Deep South and the nation. We combat voter suppression, hate, and oppression, using the tools of our ancestors and the new generation of freedom fighters.



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## MICHIGAN

The Pontiac community showed up in a BIG way for an unforgettable event! With 329 participants, we got to work with our partners Growing Real Alternatives Everywhere, Oakland Forward, The Michigan Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and Our Own Wall Street. 129 people had the weight of outstanding warrants lifted, and 200 more discovering they were in the clear while connecting with free legal aid and other empowering services.

We created a safe haven where community members could tackle traffic and misdemeanor warrants, free arrests. The warrant clinic buzzed with energy - delicious food, childcare, a wealth of community resources, and entertainment to keep the vibe positive. This was about more than just clearing warrants; it was about reclaiming freedom and unlocking potential.



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## TEXAS

Black Voters Matter and me too International have formed a powerful partnership to advance social justice and equality.

Recognizing that voting rights and gender equity are intertwined, we are working together to mobilize Black communities in the fight against systemic racism and sexual violence.

Through voter registration drives, educational campaigns, and policy advocacy, we aim to amplify the voices and power of Black communities. We visited Houston and Dallas, spreading the word about supporting survivors and strengthening democracy. Big thanks to everyone we connected with—you made this tour unforgettable! Together, we're making a difference and pushing for change.



# LIVE FROM THE APOLLO

## NEW YORK CITY

At The Apollo Theater in NYC, the powerful collaboration between Black Voters Matter and Public Wise came to life in an unforgettable event: "Black Voters Matter - A Documentary Screening & Conversation about Art as Activism."

Attendees saw how Black voters in Georgia helped change the state's politics, and they talked about how art can make a big difference in making society better. After the screening, co-founders Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown of Black Voters Matter, along with Christina Baal-Owens of Public Wise, led a discussion on community empowerment and how art intersects with activism.

Their conversation inspired attendees to take action together for progress and equality, showcasing the strength and determination of Black communities.



# TAKE ACTION WITH BVM

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



The Power Building Team hit the streets this month by meeting us at bus tour stops and tabling at local events. At the Sweet Auburn Fest alone, we were able to talk to hundreds of residents about the importance of voting in the general primary in Georgia.

Proskauer law firm officially partnered with the 501c3 Program and took their first three cases this month! In addition, to Proskauer, four more volunteer attorneys took cases this month. Now more partners are on their way to solidifying their 501c3 status!

Our text team sent over 1.5 million texts this month! Volunteers reached out to residents to encourage them to have their voices heard on reparations, criminal justice reform, and diversity in schools. Texters also sent election reminders and helped us launch our very first volunteer recruitment text campaign. Also, shout out to Okta who recruited employees to volunteer with us on May 21st for Texting Tuesdays.

# BVM IN THE MEDIA

## CHECKOUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS!

- [MSNBC - The Weekend](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [Atlanta Daily World](#)
- [AL.com](#)
- [Public News Service](#)

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