



Welcome to the Throne

# Queens

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PRESENTS

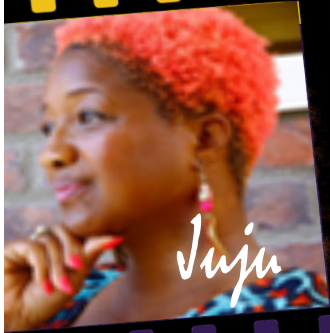
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#IEBWC

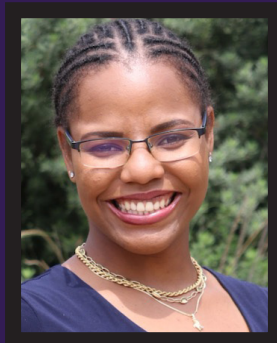
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**SCAN**



*Ayanna Ibrahim Balogun*  
**QUEEN MC**



*Rakayla Simpson*  
**QUEEN MC**

ROYAL  AGENDA

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WELCOME  
CHIEF DR. AYANNA IBRAHIM BALOGUN  
RAKAYLA SIMPSON

EB BOARD PRESENTATION  
CHIEF DR. AYANNA IBRAHIM BALOGUN

PRAYER & INVOCATION  
DANIELLE OSONDUAGWUIKE

BREAKFAST

POET  
LAUREN STEWART

SPEAKER  
REV JUJU

MAGAZINE PRESENTATION  
CHIEF DR. AYANNA IBRAHIM BALOGUN

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SHEBA JENNINGS

MUSIC SELECTION  
MIRRAJE

SURVEY

QUEEN'S PRESENTATION

CLOSING

GROUP PHOTO

*Your mindset changes when you get serious  
about finding your purpose and walking in it.*



*All Are Uniquely Beautiful*

## *Our Board Members*



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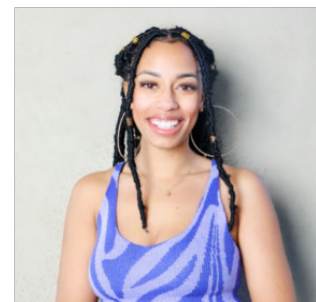
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Chief Dr. Ayanna Ibrahim Balogun  
Executive Director



Ahmari Cameron  
Executive Assistant

Emerging Beauty, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment of women, young girls and families in the areas of Health, Wellness and Education. Emerging Beauty, Inc. supports programming and advocacy work on social issues like gender and racial discrimination, educational inequities and health disparities.

One of Emerging Beauty's signature programs, Building a New You (BANY), educates and develops young women of "culture" from an inside out approach regarding the "true" meaning of beauty. Using "Beauty" science as a catalyst and Social Emotional Wellness as a resilience factor, BANY inspires young women to learn, grow and affirm who they are. Emerging Beauty, Inc. also supports the community by sponsoring the uniforms for a local young men's athletic group that serves as a youth intervention and prevention program. In the Inland Empire, we also provide scholarships for our African American scholars.

One of Emerging Beauty's largest events/fundraisers for Black women in the Inland Empire, is "A Queen's Meeting" (AQM). The annual event is a convening of royalty devoted to celebrating and affirming the divine power and purpose of the Black woman inside of her family, community and herself. During the celebration, several Black women are recognized as "Queens of the Community" and are honored for their passion and hardwork within the community.

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# Black Women's COLLECTIVE

INLAND EMPIRE



The vision of the Inland Empire Black Women's Collective (IEBWC) is to build power and solidarity for Black women and their organizations, strengthen the Black community and expand Black consciousness regarding the intersectionality of our lives and work. We provide a collaborative space to hear the voices of women, discuss ideas and prioritize their collective needs. In addition, we provide them with the tools, training, political, economic, and social strategies designed to engage them in the self and communal empowerment process to remove systemic barriers to accessing justice, liberation, and success. The ultimate goal is to help Black women and girls to thrive in their communities.



The broad goals of the IEBWC are to amplify Black joy and a sense of actual achievement by building consciousness of the issues facing women and the solutions they can actualize; expanding women's leadership skills so women can sustain their efforts interdependently, and strengthening the political power of black women so there can be the architects of their ambitions and their communities.



For upcoming events, more information on how women can stay empowered and connected, please scan the QR code and complete the survey. Join us today!

EMAIL: [blackwomenscollective.ie@gmail.com](mailto:blackwomenscollective.ie@gmail.com)



# Events 2022



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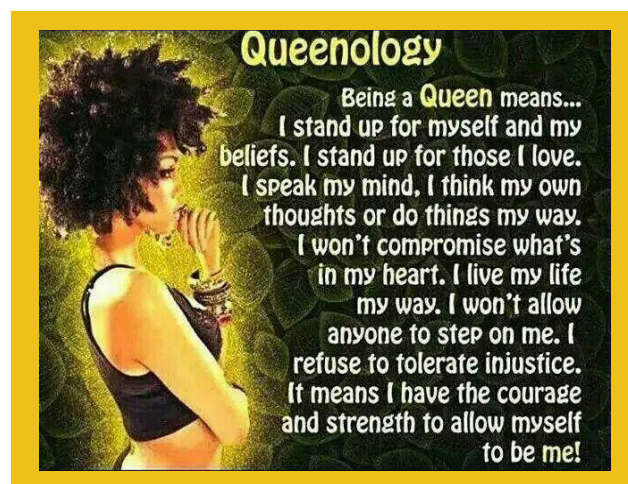
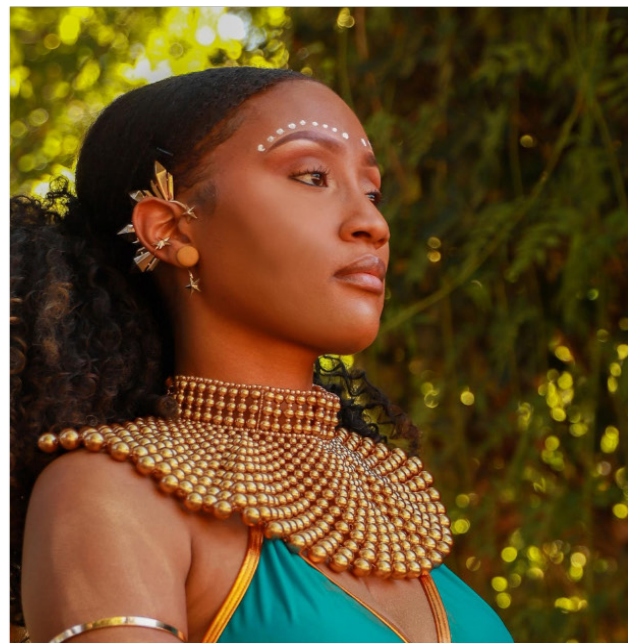
# QUEEN OF THE COMMUNITY

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What is a QOC?

She holds her head high as a queen, carrying her torch quietly. Her stature is well respected by those who encounter her company, intrigued by her journey of resilience, bravery, and sacrifice. Many will seek her out for her advice because she will only offer the truth as she understands that a lie can cost a love-one everything.

Her royal position as a mother, daughter, sister or friend comes with great responsibility that can exude self-sacrifice, however, she ensures the safety and wellness of her village by maintaining a full cup overflowing with love, wisdom, and knowledge. She is not perfect, but she is crowned for being a conqueror and a relentless leader in the view of those she presides. A community queen knows her worth is priceless, and her potential is limitless.



## Our Queen of Community Honorees in 2022

Felicia Jones  
Carla Towns  
Mary D. Welch



Queen of  
Community

# Joette Spencer Campbell

Community Impact

Joette Spencer Campbell worked as an employee for San Bernardino City Unified School District for 28 years, including the last 20 years as a sociological services specialist, where she has had a bird's eye view of parent concerns.

In 2005, she was part of the original group that started the Concerned African American Parents Alliance. Joette currently serves as education chair of the San Bernardino branch of NAACP and has been vocal about her support for tuition-free public charter schools. But she also believes that both charter and public schools should be held to the highest standard, particularly for Black students who are not up to par in Math and English.

As a member of the community, Joette continues to use her background in education to make a lasting impact on the lives of students and families for future generations to further the development of the city of San Bernardino.





Queen of  
Community

# Vickie Lobo

CEO of Knock Knock Angels

"As an advocate for the community, we make sure families HAVE ENOUGH."

Vickie Lobo is a wife of 17 years with a blended family of eight children and nine grandchildren. She is a beautiful example of what perseverance and dedication to a dream look like. She is an experienced realtor and CEO of Knock Knock Angels.

Aside from her domain as a realtor, Vickie is also a community leader and speaker with a vision of adding value to the community while inspiring others to be more giving and compassionate human beings.

In 2014 she formed Knock Knock Angels to aid victims of crimes, homelessness, and domestic violence. Families were able to move into fully furnished properties giving them better housing to thrive in. When she started the organization, the work was only done during the holiday season, and it has morphed into doing several makeovers in a month.

Some of her greatest works in the community was helping San Bernardino County convert an entire RV park into housing for chronically homeless and mentally ill citizens, and during COVID, she provided welcome home kits and moved them into hotels and shelters.

Today, Vickie has branches in Denver Colorado, and Washington state. She continues her work, demonstrating generosity and how it can grow into a beautiful contagious weed of love. "As an advocate of the community, we make sure families HAVE ENOUGH."





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Queen of  
Community

# Vonya Quarles Esq.

Co-Founder of Starting Over, Inc



Vonya Quarles Esq. is a native Californian and the co-founder of Starting Over, Inc., a transitional living and reentry service provider. Starting Over, Inc. has been operating for over ten years and has helped over 1700 men, women, and children address immediate housing needs while working to address long-term solutions that include systems change. Vonya blends experience, education, logic, and love, into an organic concoction that has helped to organize and lift the voices of people who have been historically marginalized

Vonya was a 2011 Women Organizing for Justice Fellow, 2012/13 Women's Policy Institute Fellow, 2013 Eleanor Jean Greer Leadership Academy Fellow, 2015 W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) Fellow, a 2019 Rosenberg Leading Edge Fellow, and is currently a Springboard fellow working on Family Reunification, Equity, and Empowerment. Vonya has fused these developmental opportunities with her own lived experiences to become a powerful and competent systems change agent that works within ever-widening circles.

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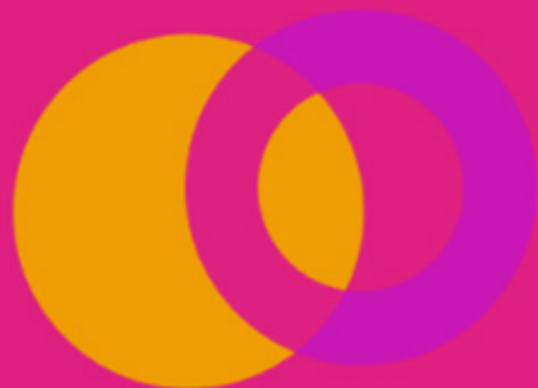
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# BLUEPRINT TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

By Chrystal Harris



being the blueprint to the brand new building, no one asks who made it, or who put the work in. Finding a way to make a lane for ourselves, but also making sure you get the recognition you deserve. When we are in these

leadership roles sometimes we are still ignored. I have had to come to the table, analyze the conversation, observe and take the knowledge. When they least expect it, everything I have gained can be flipped back on them and they are forced to see me. Although it was difficult, it was rewarding. After all the work I have done, I get to step back and see the beautiful building I created. You get to see the diamond chandeliers and the beautiful architecture and you appreciate it so much more.

## What does it mean to have financial freedom and how do we start?

Financial freedom starts with a journey of self. I spent years working a 9 to 5 clocking in and clocking out wondering how I could create more for myself. I had to identify who I was and what set me apart from others, and what I was good at? I took those tools and used them to my advantage. I wanted to create a passive income that helps me do the fun stuff. I want the new shoes, the bag, the trips. I had to think outside the box to bring a seat to the table. Boxing was a passion of mine, I had this talent I wasn't doing much with and decided to expand. I became certified, then started teaching which created a small lane for me to make extra income. Freedom starts with your mentality. Finding small things that you love to do and do in your everyday life, can turn into something that can create an extra lane of income.

## What does that stake for us, as Black people, if we don't start looking at avenues to be financially liberated?

If we don't start to look for avenues to become financially liberated we will be stagnant. Like quicksand, if we stop pushing we will sink. It is a continual push to want more and not be a hoarder of information. We want to be a branch for other people. As long as we continue to share information, gather, have meetings of the minds we can continue to grow. Creating resources and tools for others to build around us is essential for growth.

## Any final words you want the queens to know regarding the first steps to financial freedom... words of wisdom...

Success is walking away from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. It can be achieved by those who don't know failure is inevitable. Wherever you are and no matter how busy you are as long as you are looking for a grain of salt for change you are able to move forward.

## What is it like being a black woman business owner in the Inland Empire?

It is difficult to be a black business owner in the Inland Empire. You have to become the blueprint. Sometimes





# A WOMAN'S CALL FOR WELLNESS AND PURPOSE

By Danielle Osonduagwuike



## What is spiritual and mental wellness to you?

To maintain spiritual and mental wellness you must live with a sense of purpose, having a connectedness to all portions of who you are. Realizing that you have to be accountable for the graces over your life. Sometimes we don't take responsibility for the things we have been favored to do. There is a purpose you are created for, and you are given a partnership with the spirit who will help guide you to the person you were created to be. Being spiritually well means that you know you are dependent on God but have a responsibility to others to be his representative on the Earth. Walking in your sense of purpose, and knowing who you are, and who you are supposed to be, is where you become well.

## How do you maintain your own mental and spiritual wellness with all the roles we play whether your mom and employee a businesswoman, an owner or a wife?

Making sure I maintain my desires to be in alignment with who I am spiritually, helps me maintain my own mental and spiritual wellness. That alignment helps because if you do things outside of that, you are unable to maintain the structure and strength you need to uphold everything else. You can get overwhelmed because you are taking on too many things that are outside of your role. Additionally, you must be the same person, in every role you step into. You can't be a mom and not be a leader. You can't be a mom and not be the one who is physically, mentally and spiritually fit because someone is watching you. You have to be in alignment at all times, and you are accountable to fit that role.

## How should one start their spiritual or mental journey?

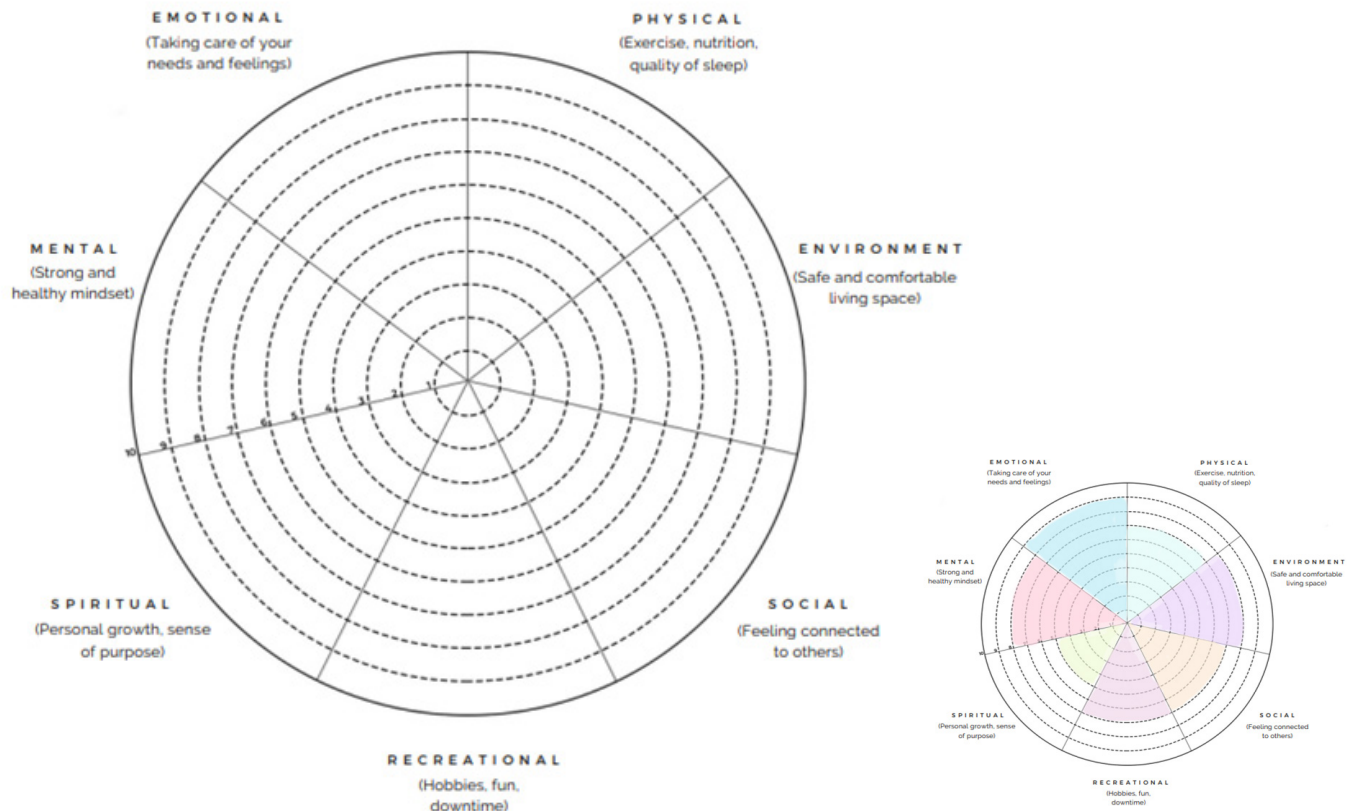
There should be a schedule, and a routine. It looks differently for everyone. For me, I wake up at 3 or 4 AM so I can have my time with God. I need this, in order to get through my day successfully. I have different calls I get on, and then I go to work. After work, I try to dedicate my time to family. My boys - I call my husband and sons. We get on the line and make sure we hear each other's voices each day. This helps me block out when I have time to help others, or to take the space to say no and build boundaries for my own wellness.

## What do you want them to know in order to start their journey?

Starting your own wellness journey starts from within, in the desire to want it. We sit around and try to be everything to everyone and those things can take you away from who you are supposed to be. When you center yourself in your spirituality, you become true to yourself. You can support others, while having the bigger picture that you are a part of something much bigger. Starting your journey is knowing all these things, so you can love yourself the way you are supposed to be loved.

# 7 Pillars to *Self-Care*

Find out where you are and what changes you need to work on. Rank yourself inside outwards, 10 being mostly satisfied, and 1 means that you are struggling with balancing certain areas of your life. Color the spaces on the wheel to see what areas you need to focus on.



1. MENTAL - Practicing mindfulness
2. EMOTIONAL- Healthy coping strategies and having self-compassion, daily affirmations.
3. PHYSICAL- Taking care of your body; exercise, nutrition, and proper sleep.
4. ENVIRONMENTAL - Taking care of spaces and place around you.
5. SPIRITUAL- Taking care of your soul, seeking purpose, praying, and identifying your values.
6. RECREATIONAL- Finding hobbies and enjoying new experiences.
7. SOCIAL- Having healthy relations and connections with respectful boundaries and honest conversations.



# CREATING THE SPACE

By Ahmari Cameron



## With all the demands in life, how do you prioritize family?

You have to make space. Family is my top priority because of the examples set and how I was raised. It has to be a conscious decision. How am I going to work in time for my kids today? How can I make them feel seen, heard and loved? I have younger children, 1 and 3 so when I wake up in the morning the first 3 hours is routine for them to have their mom's full attention. For me, this means special breakfasts, bikes outside, learning videos and whatever crazy games my son wants to play. This means on the weekend when dad is home, we take time away from our phones to just enjoy our family.

## How have you broken any generational curses or expectations put upon you as a mom?

The generational curses I want to break have to do with judgment, finances and education. My emphasis is on acceptance, budgeting, and learning within my home. You have to be conscious. There is work done to heal and change to create a better space for your family to thrive.

## What goals do you have for your family ?

I would like to put my family in a place to have generational wealth, continual healing, and the ability to feel confident in themselves and their power. I want them to walk in their truth, not only my children, but my brothers, sister, parents and partner as well.

## Describe your joy in putting family first and any words for any new moms/new queens:

The joy I have received for growing my family is unmatched. I was made to be a mama, and I wouldn't change a single thing. For new moms, I won't say it gets easier, but it changes and you will change with time so will your kids. Everything will work out in its own beautiful way. You've got this and you can do this. Trust in your higher power, trust in your family and your ancestors. You will survive.





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What are some of the issues we should be advocating for as Black women?

1. The priority should be: the Black family! Black families are under attack. In the media, you see a lot of polarization between Black women and Black men. It's as if we are postured for competition instead of being a family unit. As females, we have to be aware of when that attack comes and make sure we're keeping our sisters uplifted, our men encouraged, and our children protected.
2. As Black women, we take on so many roles, but we need to prioritize public education for our children and make a decision about how we want to move about those spaces. We've constantly been struggling to fit into systems that weren't created for us and we need to have some real conversations about enhancing the system while simultaneously creating another. Our students deserve the right to matriculate through school knowing and affirming who they are, their true history, understanding their own talents, and being taught about the connection of schooling to "real" life.
3. We have to pay close attention to Erasure. Black women, in particular, move in spaces where intersectionality of gender and race are a threat to some. Being a part of both marginalized groups makes it very easy for other people to target and try to push you out. One strategy we use to combat this narrative is creating our own sister circles. Our sister circles are affirming, spiritually and emotionally encouraging.
4. Black women need to leverage the power of collective activism in an era of racial deflection. Smoke screens around terms like diversity, equity, inclusion, CRT are terms thrown around as enemy terms. Instead of validating the meaning of the terms, the terms are weaponizing deflection tools used to perpetuate anti black racism and protect white fragility.

# THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTIVISM

By Chief Dr. Ayanna Ibrahim Balogun



It's the unwillingness to see that we matter in ALL spaces. So I think our collective activism has to be harnessed in maintaining our right to vote and our right to a democracy and just right to "be" in America.

5. There are so many other things but those are the big ones: education, black family, erasure, the need for collective advocacy work in effort to avoid racial deflection tactics. Through collective activism, we can combat these issues together. That's why we developed the Inland Empire Black Women's Collective. IEBWC unites us around issues that matter to us, and the goal is to use our collective power to have an impact in these areas in our community.

Where do you start? Where do you begin?

You begin. Thinking about the history of my grandmother, where she started, my mom and where she started. Where I am today and where I started. I never thought that I would be engaged in many things, but I started seeing opportunities. An attitude of being a black woman too. Because we say, "You know what, in the time it takes for me to explain it to you, I might as well do it!" You just start doing the work and start having a voice in spaces where people are often used to seeing you silence. Standing up and using your voice in whatever space you're in and other spaces will open up more opportunities. It will open up and be beautiful.

In so many spaces, how do you prioritize your community service devoted to these issues ?

In all my spaces I stand for education, Black families, women and girls. Period. I offer my time, talents and knowledge in these areas and I volunteer using my talents, skills and knowledge. I don't change who I am.



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# BLU Educational Foundation



BLU Educational Foundation provides educational and human services programming to youth, adults and organizations, with a mission, to build healthy productive communities. Our initiatives focus on education, health & wellness, civic engagement, leadership development, advocacy, and the Arts.

BLU partners with nonprofits, governmental agencies and educational institutions in various capacities to support the development, coordination and implementation of programs and policy. Additionally, BLU convenes groups around issues impacting communities of color.

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**Black Equity Initiative**

Is composed of Inland Empire organizations that share a desire to improve social conditions through empowerment, education, and policy change. Guided by a deep commitment to the liberation and self-determination of black people

**Black Workers Center**

The mission of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center is to increase access to quality jobs, reduce employment discrimination, and improve industries that employ Black workers through action and unionization.

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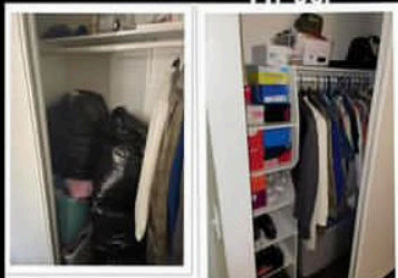
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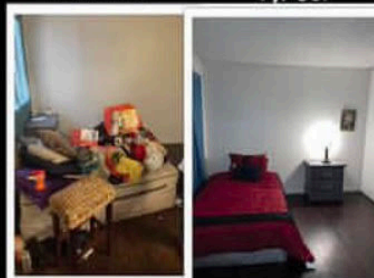
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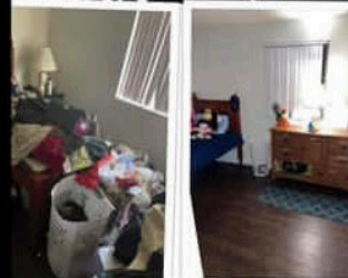
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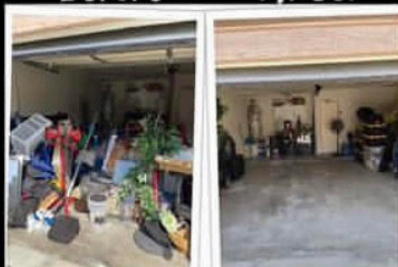
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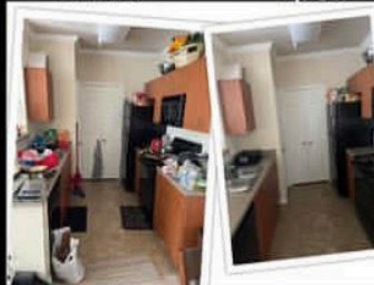
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A photograph of two women embracing. The woman on the left has dark braided hair and is wearing a dark top. The woman on the right has short white hair, glasses, and is wearing a dark top with a fur collar. They are both smiling warmly.

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