



Dear esteemed friends and colleagues,

Since its inception in 2010, African Diaspora Network has flourished into a formidable network, passionately focused on Africa and its community. We have brought together Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa, fostering a vibrant platform for knowledge-sharing, resource exchange, and collaboration. Through our entrepreneurship accelerator programs, ADN has lent crucial support to grassroots African and Black startups in Africa and the U.S., providing essential training, funding, and nurturing a thriving community.

This incredible journey of growth and impact would not have been possible without the transformative relationships we have cultivated with our valued partners, dedicated team members, esteemed executive leadership council, and visionary board. We are equally thrilled to welcome **Mr. Manoj Jain, Chief Financial Officer at SingleStore**, as a new board member, and **Ms. Ella-Tamar Adhanan, Senior Vice President at Silicon Valley Bank, Division of First Citizens Bank**, as a fresh addition to our esteemed Executive Leadership Council.

Among the remarkable individuals who have played instrumental roles in ADN's work are **Debra Pacio**, ADN's Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Manager, and **Muhammed Bah**, the Innovation & Diaspora Engagement Officer. Debra has been a part of ADN since 2015, transitioning into a full-time employee in 2021 before embarking on her next adventure as an educator at the Fremont Unified School District. Muhammed Bah, an equally hard working and committed young man, will now pursue his master's program at Duke University, and we extend our heartfelt best wishes to them both on their new paths.

Furthermore, we welcome our new team members: **Abdulrahman Gabriel**, joining as the Diaspora and Community Engagement Officer, and **Brett Cave**, as the Entrepreneurship Programs Manager. We are eager to introduce and share more about these exceptional individuals below.

As always, thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission and vision.

With warm regards,

Almaz Negash

Almaz Negash
Founder and Executive Director
African Diaspora Network

Welcome to the ADN Board



Mr. Manoj Jain
Chief Financial Officer at SingleStore

Manoj is an accomplished finance executive with a proven track record of success in high-growth technology companies. Based out of Silicon Valley, Manoj has held key leadership roles in companies such as SingleStore, CrowdStrike, Financial Engines, SquareTrade, and Marin Software. Prior to his work in the technology sector, Manoj spent over a decade with PricewaterhouseCoopers, gaining valuable experience in finance and accounting. In his last gig as the CFO at SingleStore, Manoj played a pivotal role in the company's growth, helping it raise over \$275M in equity funding and scale operations from \$20M to over \$75M in annual revenue.

Welcome to the ADN Executive Leadership Council



Ms. Ella-Tamar Adhanan

Senior Vice President at Silicon Valley Bank, Division of First Citizens Bank

Ella-Tamar Adhanan is Senior Vice President at Silicon Valley Bank, Division of First Citizens Bank, driving global business development and market expansion. Her work concentrates on empowering entrepreneurs and investors from emerging international markets through SVB's platform as they scale in the US. Before assuming her current role, Ella was part of the Global Fund Banking team at SVB, focusing on banking and lending services to venture capital and private equity firms in New York. Her prior experience also includes a pivotal tenure at Morgan Stanley, where she served as a fixed-income advisor to institutional investors.

Welcome to the ADN Team



Brett Cave

Entrepreneurship Programs Manager, African Diaspora Network

Brett is a former Fulbright-Hayes Fellow and accomplished, impact-driven Program Manager, entrepreneur, and trainer with over 10 years of expertise across the educational, nonprofit, corporate, and technology sectors. Brett has an undergraduate degree in French from Clark Atlanta University and Masters in International Intercultural Management from the School for International Training. She is passionate about education, the advancement, and positive sustainable development of the continent and people of the African diaspora.



Abdulrahman Gabriel

Diaspora and Community Engagement Officer, African Diaspora Network

Abdulrahman Gabriel is a 2022 Georgetown University graduate. He studied Government, African Studies, and Arab Studies. Prior to joining ADN, Abdulrahman worked at Terra Alpha Investments, a sustainable investing firm focused on making ESG challenges a major variable in the global markets. At ADN, Abdulrahman supports the team in facilitating, researching, and coordinating in between the multiple initiatives and programs of the organization.

Save the Date: Black Philanthropy Month Session

Poverty, conflict, high youth unemployment, and governance issues are realities in Africa that sometimes make it difficult to see what else is happening, such as the increase in innovative start-ups, growth in fintech infrastructure, alternative energy solutions, and healthcare advancements.

Changing the narratives on Africa is a collaborative effort that should be intentional and strategic. Philanthropy can play an important to catalyze solutions. The 2023 Black Philanthropy Month (BPM) [event](#)

organized in collaboration with Africa Diaspora Network and Afrigrants Foundation has convened a panel of experts for a conversation on this important theme.

Transforming the African Narrative through Philanthropy

August 23, 2023 at 4PM WAT
Register at bit.ly/bpmwebinar23

Co-Chairs



Thelma Ekiyor
Chairperson Afrigrants/
Co-Founder, SME.NG



Almaz Negash
Founder and Executive Director,
African Diaspora Network

Presented By



Register Today

Celebrating Change Makers in
African Affairs

Top Most Influential People in U.S.-Africa Relations

Forward 



For Travis Adkins, strengthening cooperation with Africa is as much a personal calling as it is a strategic priority of the Biden administration. "Being descended from the African continent, I have even that much more incentive to make sure that we're reconnected strongly and in ways that are mutually beneficial to the US and to Africa," the former Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa at USAID told Morocco World News last year. The USADF is the only US government foreign assistance agency focused solely on Africa and its prioritizes direct investments in smaller enterprises in the continent.

Forward 



The numbers speak for themselves. In the last 10 years, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) has supported \$12.2 billion of transactions to sub-Saharan Africa. And as America's policy towards Africa continues to shift from aid to trade, EXIM's contribution to the economic transformation of the continent will only gain in importance. Just this year, EXIM provided a \$900 million loan to Angola to build two large-scale solar power facilities, a project that in every way encapsulates America's new economic strategy for the continent. Reta Jo Lewis, an American attorney, former diplomat, and politician who is widely respected in international relations circles, is a trusted figure to execute that strategy.

Forward Global launched a series called Top 35 in which they track the most influential people in many realms. Their first list looks at the relationship between the United States and Africa, which has changed a lot since the Biden Administration declared it was "All in on Africa's future." Special congratulations to our partners, Travis Adkins, CEO of the U.S. Africa Development Foundation, and Reta Jo Lewis, President and Chair of the Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States for their inclusion in the list.

[See the Full List](#)

Open Hearts Big Dreams Ready Set Go Books Honored Among “Best in the World”



Open Hearts Big Dreams (OHBD) is delighted to announce that two of their OHBD-Ready Set Go Books (RSG) have been honored with Gourmand Awards 2023. My Five Senses, by Elizabeth Spor Taylor, was listed as First

in "Food Books for Children—Africa." And Letter from a Plow Nation, by Dr. Worku L. Mulat, was listed as Second in "Sustainability Books" and noted under "Africa Fund Raising." Founded in 1995, the Gourmand Awards are selected each year from over 100,000 publications from 230 countries/regions around the world. The awards have been compared to film's Oscars. This year's Gourmand Awards Ceremony for the Best in the World took place in Sweden.

[Read the Press Release](#)

Support African Diaspora Network



Looking to have a more active role as a member of African Diaspora Network?

Learn more about ways to engage:

- Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at brett@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more.
- Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#)
- Fill out the ADN Engagement form [here](#).

A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).



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