

# ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ABLE) USA



The African Diaspora Network is delighted to extend a warm welcome to the [2023 Cohort of the Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship \(ABLE\) program](#). ABLE is a program designed to create new economic opportunities and advance the entrepreneurial aspirations of Black individuals through training, mentorship, and network-building.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to each member of this remarkable group of emerging entrepreneurs. These eleven entrepreneurs lead impact-driven enterprises across the United States, spanning diverse sectors including Connectivity, Data-Tech, Education, Health-Tech, Health & Wellness, FinTech, Legal-Tech, Logistics, and Renewable Energy. Their ventures stand as exemplars of innovation and a steadfast commitment to effecting positive change. They represent the vanguard of future leadership, and we take immense pride in their role as the third cohort of entrepreneurs in the ABLE program.

We celebrate them as they embark on their journey to make a meaningful impact in their respective fields and communities.



Historically, Black entrepreneurs have faced substantial disparities, encountering limited access to capital, educational resources, and networks. As [Forbes](#) has highlighted, these disparities have placed Black entrepreneurs at a significant disadvantage compared to their counterparts in other communities. ABLE is our response to bridging this divide, signifying our unwavering commitment to nurturing an ecosystem where dreams can flourish, innovation can thrive, and leadership can transcend.



However, ADN recognizes that we cannot undertake this mission alone. We invite our ADN community to actively participate in this noble cause. [Become an ABLE mentor](#) and be a part of someone else's entrepreneurial path.

As we welcome the new cohort, we extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated funders, partners, mentors, and supporters. It is their unwavering dedication to empowering Black entrepreneurs that makes this program possible.

Thank you and ADN remains steadfast and committed to positive change in Africa and the communities where we live.

## Meet the 2023 ABLE Cohort



**Serge Amouzou**  
CEO & Founder, Datatrixs

Serge Amouzou is the CEO and Founder of Datatrixs, which empowers accounting firms with continuous client advisory services. Serge previously founded a FinTech company aimed at helping service workers earn more net income and was named BBJ CEO of the Year Award recipient in 2017.



**Samuel Baddoo**  
CEO, Fleri

Sam Baddoo, founder and CEO of Fleri, grew up in Accra, Ghana, and left for Morocco at age 18 on a United Nations scholarship. His varied experiences with migration shaped his views on Pan-Africanism, immigration, and entrepreneurship, and ultimately inspired him to start Fleri, a membership-based platform for global migrants to support their loved ones back home, as an alternative to cash transfers. Sam is a serial entrepreneur and an active reservist in the United States Army. He is a Harambean, a NASDAQ Milestone Maker, and a Techstars Toronto Alumni.



**Christopher Bennett**  
Founder/ Attorney, T-I-L(R)

Christopher “Chris” Bennett, JD, MBA, CPM is the founder of T-I-L(R), a social impact law and legal technology startup, working to make intellectual property rights more accessible to the underrepresented. His law and technology work includes startups, SMEs, and enterprise size organizations. Chris has graduate degrees from Georgetown (JD), Penn (MBA), a BA in education from Morehead State University / Johnson C. Smith University, and professional certifications in Blockchain, Data Science, Energy Innovation & Emerging Technologies, and Six-Sigma, and is a Certified Public Manager and Intellectual Property Law Attorney.



**Akinsola Jegede**  
CEO, Vital Swap Technologies

Akinsola is the technical founder of VitalSwap, bringing over 7 years of experience in developing technical solutions for multinational US corporations such as Salesforce, AT&T, and StateFarm. As an immigrant from Africa, Akinsola personally encountered the challenges of international payments, the very issue that VitalSwap is passionately committed to addressing. With expertise as a seasoned systems architect and entrepreneur, Akinsola’s journey fuels his dedication to creating innovative solutions for global financial accessibility.



**Tyrell Junius**  
Co-Founder & COO, Tiami Networks

Tyrell served as an Associate Director at the Atlantic Council’s Africa Center, and subsequently ventured into the entrepreneurial realm, co-founding Tiami Networks, where he is the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Under his stewardship, Tiami Networks is playing a vital role in connecting remote and underserved areas with reliable connectivity, fostering an environment of digital inclusion. Tyrell is synonymous with social impact and community upliftment and is a seasoned professional with a strong dedication to humanitarian efforts.





**Rhode Malivert**  
CEO, K-12 Preparatory Academy

Hailing from Haiti, Rhode journeyed to the United States at the age of 12. Commencing her professional career as a Chemical Engineer, Rhode's aspiration was to catalyze positive transformations in people's lives. Following a span of 14 years in the corporate realm, her entrepreneurial spirit birthed the genesis of K-12 Preparatory Academy that focuses on the educational empowerment of learners. K-12 Preparatory Academy has extended its reach to distressed corners of the globe, collaborating with organizations in Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Poland.



**Bobola Odebiyi**  
Founder & CEO, CrossKudi

Bobola Odebiyi, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and the founder & CEO of CrossKudi. Bobola began his career as a taxi driver in Chicago before working his way up to becoming a CPA. Bobola has provided tax consulting services to hedge fund and private equity clients at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) and co-led the PwC global Blockchain Community of Interest that trained colleagues on implementing emerging technologies to serve clients better. As an immigrant himself, Bobola fully understands the challenges that the 47 million US immigrant population experiences financially, which is the target audience of CrossKudi.



**Sarah Odiavbara**  
Chief Technology Officer, Craftmerse, Inc.

Sarah Odiavbara is an experienced full-stack developer with experience in creating and building e-commerce web platforms. She is the CTO of Craftmerse, an online marketplace platform that connects African handmade brands with global buyers and international retail stores. She has worked and helped grow companies that have raised over \$1M in revenues. She is dedicated to building world-class modern web applications and crafting high-performance web experiences for customers.



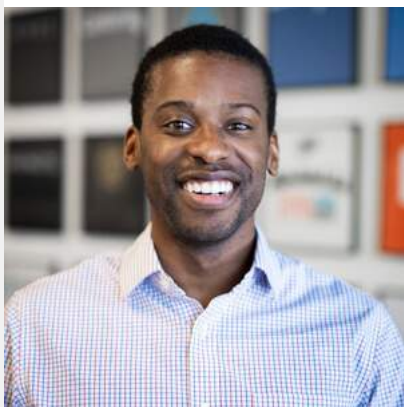
**Omolola Omishore**  
CEO, TheraMotive

Lola Omishore, founder of TheraMotive, is a first-generation Nigerian-American Doctor of Physical Therapy based in NYC. With over 10 years of experience, she is an accomplished physical therapist, published research author, Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist, and Certified Athletic Trainer. She began her career treating elite athletes across the globe, providing 'healthcare on demand' and has worked with a diverse range of patients including Professional Athletes, Weekend Warriors, stroke survivors, infants, toddlers, and individuals from all walks of life. Now, she's bringing that same gold-medal-worthy care to everyone's corner, because access to top-notch healthcare isn't a privilege, it's a civil right.



**Clement Owusu-Donkor**  
Founder & CEO, Aquanto

Clement's extensive background in IT and telecommunications engineering has seen him work for decades in the telecommunications, payment processing, public utility and IT industries, providing leadership and support for critical backend infrastructure for several private and fortune 100 companies. Having been associated with logistics from infancy, Clement is currently the founder and Chief Servant at Aquanto, an ecommerce, shipping and third party logistics company where he partners with a dynamic team of 100 and counting across 9 countries and with strategic partnerships across the globe. He and the team at Aquantuo are on a mission to transform lives globally through efficient trade and logistics.



**Shingi Samudzi**  
Founder & CEO, Asoba

I am a first generation American by way of Zimbabwe, obsessed with infrastructure. I have been in numerous strategy and data science roles within the energy, healthcare and tech industries, from companies like Kaiser Permanent to Google. As CEO and Co-Founder of Asoba, we are leveraging virtual power plant software to aggregate excess clean energy at the utility scale and provide on-demand electricity to retail buyers. Our commitment to clean energy is the passion behind our building Africa's largest private clean energy marketplace.

## 2023 Builders of Africa's Future Pitch Day

September 12, from 8 AM - 9:30 AM PDT

**BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE 2023  
PITCH SESSION AND CELEBRATION**

**Adoola Ayeola**  
CEO & Co-Founder,  
Famas Africa  
(Nigeria)

**Godwin Benson**  
CEO & Founder,  
Tutenia  
(Nigeria)

**Olufunke Boreffice**  
CEO & Founder,  
Chanya Datti Ltd.  
(Nigeria)

**Henry Ngale Forebia**  
Founder, AIT Group  
(Cameroon)

**Sister Josephine Nabulya**  
Treasurer & Marketeer,  
Ssunga Coffee Social  
Enterprise (Uganda)

**Grace Nalibazila**  
Architect & Founder,  
PedalTap (Uganda)

**Virtue Oboro**  
CEO & Founder,  
Tiny Hearts  
Technology (Nigeria)

**Sserubiri Joseph Uhuru**  
Co-Founder & CEO,  
eMatsha Pay  
(Uganda)

**Patrice Wachira**  
CEO, Patvention  
Limited (Kenya)

**Mathias Charles Yabe**  
CEO & Co-Founder,  
Akoresh (Ghana)

**FUNDERS**

**UNITED STATES  
AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION**

**ACADEMIC PARTNER**

**African  
Management  
Institute**

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 8:00AM PDT  
Register @ [bit.ly/bafpitch23](https://bit.ly/bafpitch23)

Tuesday, September 12, from 8 AM - 9:30 AM PDT African Diaspora Network hosts the 2023 Builders of Africa's Future pitch day, a virtual celebration spotlighting changemakers on the continent.

This year's cohort is composed of [10 changemakers](#) leading 100% fully-African led and owned organizations spanning five countries from: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda. More information on the cohort and program can be found in our press release [here](#).

We invite you to meet the entrepreneurs and learn about their enterprises at pitch day.

Register Here

## United Nations 78th General Assembly (UNGA78) Side Event

Beyond Remittances: African Diaspora Investment  
September 20, 2023 4 PM EST

**Beyond Remittances: African Diaspora Investment  
UN 78th General Assembly Side Event  
Sep 20, 2023 @ 4 PM EST**





The time for Africans from the diaspora to go beyond remittances and to engage in collective, high-impact, and sustainable investment practices is now. This, of course, requires diligence to ensure that a legitimate investment platform is used and investments are ethical, contributing to the long-term development and prosperity of Africa.

Learn more at the UNGA side event, "Beyond Remittances: African Diaspora Investment" on September 20, 2023 at 4pm EST. If you are interested in attending, email [info@africandiasporanetwork.org](mailto:info@africandiasporanetwork.org). Space is limited.

## Transforming the African Narrative through Philanthropy Session Recap

Transforming the African Narrative through Philanthropy

August 23, 2023 at 4PM WAT. Register at [bit.ly/bpmwebinar23](https://bit.ly/bpmwebinar23)



**Almaz Negash**  
Founder and Executive Director,  
African Diaspora Network  
(Moderator)



**Thelma Ekiyor**  
Chairperson Afrigrants  
co-Founder, SME.ING  
(Moderator)



**Adaora Ikenze**  
Director of Public Policy for  
Anglophone West Africa,  
Meta Platforms Inc.



**Camaren Peter (PhD)**  
Associate Professor,  
Allan Gray Centre for  
Values-Based Leadership  
Graduate School of Business



**Kady Sylla**  
Senior Advisor - Africa,  
King Baudouin Foundation  
United States (KBFIUS)

Presented By



Thank you to everyone who attended the August 23, 2023 Black Philanthropy Month (BPM) event on “Transforming the African Narrative through Philanthropy” organized by African Diaspora Network and Afrigrants Foundation.

Some key lessons we learned are:

**It will take all of us to make it happen:** It is all of our responsibility to ensure that investment in Africa for Africa is well-executed and for the common good of society.

**Philanthropy is a small space, but it can catalyze things:** Philanthropy in general, and even more so African Philanthropy, is an incredibly small space. However, philanthropy gets the ball rolling and starts the tough conversation for what society is most in need of.

**We are all philanthropists:** Anyone and everyone can be a philanthropist. Most likely you have always been, giving back to the community in some way.

Watch a recording [here](#) and read the summary report [here](#).

Watch the Recording

Read the Summary

## Community News

Congratulations to Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) alumnus Shasha Jumbe, Co-founder & CEO of Level 42 AI! [Level 42 AI™](#), a digital health company pioneering collection and interpretation of acoustic signatures using generative artificial

intelligence (AI) for better respiratory health and earlier detection of lung diseases, including cancers, was presented the [CAI Global Health Innovation award](#).

In addition, Level 42 AI recently announced a partnership with Dayton Audio, a division of Parts Express International, Inc., a well-established source for audio and electronic parts and components. As part of this partnership, Dayton Audio is infusing engineering, consulting, design and audio expertise into Level 42 AI point-of-need sensors and devices. Learn more [here](#).

Read More

Join the **DOTS**  
Calling **ALL** diaspora organisations!  
 **Take the survey!**



Diaspora leaders, have your voice heard in the development of a training toolkit specifically for diaspora organizations. In partnership with UNDP, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and DMA Global, IOM is planning to develop a diaspora training toolkit that will help diaspora organizations build their capacities across a variety of competencies. As a first step, they are surveying diaspora organizations to understand their needs and the major obstacles keeping them from achieving your goals.

Take the Survey



# THE AFRICA NO FILTER GREAT DEBATE



**What does it take to get Africa better represented?**

ANF is in New York during UNGA and we're bringing together journalists, storytellers, donors, media & pop culture platforms to unpack what this question means in the US.

**21 September, 2023** 

**1:30 for 2 PM Prompt** 

**RSVP: [info@africanofilter.org](mailto:info@africanofilter.org)** 

**BY INVITATION ONLY** 



#BetterRepresentation #ShiftingNarratives #AlternativeAfrica

Many people still think of Africa as a continent defined by disease, poverty, corruption, poor leadership and conflict. These are not just harmful and outdated; they downplay the continent's progress, innovation and creativity. How do we shift the prevailing narratives about Africa?

This is the question Africa No Filter will be asking 30 key voices identified to attend "The Africa No Filter Great Debate" on September 21 at 1:30pm EST in New York.

For more information and if you are interested in attending this event, email [info@africanofilter.org](mailto:info@africanofilter.org)





EXIM’s 2023 Annual Conference, “Create Locally, Export Globally”, will bring together luminaries in business and government in Washington, DC to discuss the latest global trends in trade and finance. Hear from industry experts, network, join the government to business exhibition area. The networking will be unparalleled, and it will be a two-day event you will not want to miss.

Register

## 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](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at [brett@afRICANDiasporaNetwork.org](mailto: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](#).

Engagement Opportunities

## A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



## Media Coverage

See full list [here](#).





