

The Role of Diaspora Engagement



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thirteen years ago, I had no idea that the notion of diaspora engagement would be as significant as it is today. The interest has far surpassed what many of us could have anticipated in involving political leaders, government, business, youth, and the African diaspora, wherever they may be.

African Diaspora Network began in 2010 with a family fund investment and the belief that people can come together with the common goal of uplifting the African continent and communities across the globe. The affirmation of this idea and vision comes after years of commitment to this meaningful work. It is a great honor to be appointed among the inaugural members of the [President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States](#).



At the core of it, this appointment goes beyond myself. I give thanks to the dedication of those who made it all happen: funders, board members, executive advisory council members, program advisory committee members, our team, ecosystem partners, volunteers, and everyone who has believed in the work ADN is doing by engaging with us in one way or another.

This work was never a means to an end, but a means in itself, of bringing people of diverse backgrounds together, whether they are Africans, diasporans, or friends of Africa. At ADN, we have proven that we can provide a platform for knowledge exchange, activate the African diaspora, and make a difference in the lives of entrepreneurs on the continent and in the United States. As a testament to ADN's ability to bring diverse groups together, I was recently highlighted in [De.Coded, a Human Atlas of Silicon Valley](#), a collection of the diversity of Silicon Valley.





We are at an exciting stage of growth and we look forward to working with you to further expand our work and impact. I am personally delighted to announce the hiring of **Omolayo Nkem Oyudo as Director of Programs and Operations**, and the promotion of **Megan Hunsberger to Associate Director of Programs and Operations**. We invite you to also learn more about our [four job openings](#) and please share these opportunities with your networks..

Thirteen years ago, I would not have known all this would have been possible. I am grateful to everyone who believes in us and look forward to having you be a part of our journey in transforming the future of the African continent and the role of diaspora engagement.

Warm regards,

Almaz Negash
Founder and Executive Director,
African Diaspora Network

The ADN Team Is Growing

We are excited to welcome **Omolayo Nkem Oyudo** to the ADN team as the Director of Programs and Operations. Omolayo brings with her years of experience engaging, mobilizing and working with and for the African diaspora across Europe, Africa and the United States. Prior to joining ADN, Omolayo was a research manager and gender specialist and continues to advocate for the needs and interests of Africans everywhere. A multilingual communication strategist, Omolayo is passionate about collaborative efforts that help make the world a better, more just place for all of us to thrive.



Shape the future of African diaspora engagement

As part of her role, Omolayo is working to grow the ADN team in order to achieve the next stage of growth envisioned for ADN, the African diaspora and the African continent. To support this important work ahead, the African Diaspora Network is hiring 4 new positions! Be a part of a dynamic team that engages Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa to actualize their full potential, activate their entrepreneurial spirit, and strategically mobilize financial and intellectual resources to ensure a brighter future for the African continent.



Apply Today

ABLE Pitch Day



The highly anticipated event in the entrepreneurial community, Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Pitch Day, took place on Thursday October 26, 2023, at the Santa Clara University, Forbes Family Center, Lucas Hall. The event brought together a diverse audience of entrepreneurs, business leaders, investors, mentors and innovators who were eager to witness the culmination of 6 weeks of hard work and dedication for the 11 innovative ABLE founders and program graduates.

One of the highlights of the event was the heartwarming announcement of Joyce Chung's, President of the Makahakama Foundation, gift of \$10,000 to each of the 11 entrepreneurs, further fueling their dreams and ventures. This substantial investment was a testament to the faith and support that the ABLE community and its partners extend to these emerging entrepreneurs.

A special thank you to ABLE funders, BILL, Makahakama Foundation, KLA Foundation, CA Black Freedom Fund, County of Santa Clara, Black Rock and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Stay connected to the ABLE program and subscribe to our newsletter here:

<https://bit.ly/registerablebuzz>.

Subscribe to the Buzz

ABLE Success Stories

Christopher Bennett
Founder/ Attorney, T-I-L(R)
Technology-Innovation-Law



Shingi Samudzi
Founder & CEO, Asoba



Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship
ABLE 2023



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We are excited to share that Christopher Bennett, a recent ABLE Cohort 3 graduate, has been recognized as one of the 10 esteemed awardees of the 2nd round of grants from Washington D.C. Mayor's [Inclusive Innovation Equity Impact Fund](#). This prestigious acknowledgment comes as a testament to his unwavering commitment, exceptional innovation, and dedication to driving meaningful impact in the tech and innovation sector.

Another recent graduate of ABLE Cohort 3, Shingi Samudzi, CEO and Founder of Asoba, a pioneering renewable energy company, has left a significant mark on the global stage. Shingi had the incredible opportunity to showcase Asoba's innovative solutions in the regional [EDF \(French utility company\) Pulse Climate Tech Competition](#) in South Africa. Shingi took home the second-place prize, a testament to his dedication and the transformative potential of Asoba's mission.

Both Christopher and Shingi vision and dedication align perfectly with the mission of the ABLE program, and we are immensely proud of their well-deserved recognition.

[Learn More about ABLE](#)

Almaz Negash Highlighted in De.Coded



Congratulations to Almaz

Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director of African Diaspora Network, was selected along with 101 community members to be highlighted in, "De.Coded – A Human Atlas of Silicon Valley"



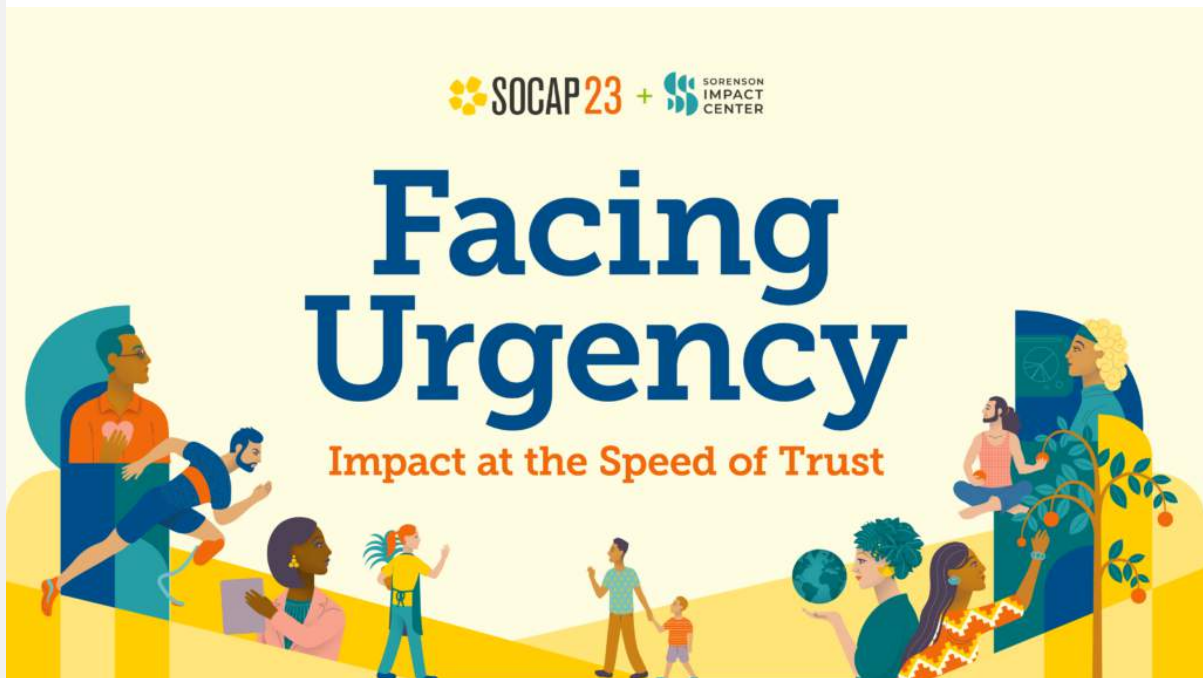
Almaz Negash was selected along with 101 community members who reflect the cultural diversity of Silicon Valley to be highlighted by Human Atlas in, "De.Coded – A Human Atlas of Silicon Valley." Human Atlas is a social-impact art platform, mapping communities through oral history, portraits, and ancestral DNA. "De.Coded – A Human Atlas of Silicon Valley" is the fourth interactive limited edition book from the series which

has already covered Brazil, Germany & Detroit. Almaz and the others highlighted in the book inspire the next generation of change. Read the press release to learn more at

<https://bit.ly/decodedpress23> and hear a quote from Almaz at <https://www.ahumanatlas.com/artworks/de-coded/almaz-negash/>.

Learn More

SOCAP23



SOCAP Global is a thought leadership platform for accelerating a more just and sustainable economy. The platform conveys a global ecosystem and marketplace – social entrepreneurs, investors, foundation and nonprofit leaders, government and policy leaders, creators, corporations, academics, and beyond – through live and digital experiences that educate, spur conversation, and inspire investment in positive impact.

ADN's vision is to ensure Africans are represented at the table at important conversations like those that happen at SOCAP. Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director of African Diaspora Network accepted an invitation from SOCAP to be a part of the curation council and recommend speakers that represent Africa.

Monday October 23, during SOCAP, Almaz spoke at the session, "State of Africa: The Track's Opening Panel" at the Contemporary Jewish Museum. The session discussed the most current and urgent challenges that guided the council in curating the Africa track for SOCAP23.

Learn More

Register for ADIS24



ADIS24

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

ACTIVATE WITH AFRICA: CLIMATE CHANGE, CONNECTIONS, AND ACTION

March 20-22, 2024 | Hayes Mansion, San Jose, California, USA - Silicon Valley

Join us March 20-22, 2024 for the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24) at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose, CA, USA. Our signature Silicon Valley conference celebrates the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, African Diasporans, and friends of Africa. This year, we present the critical theme of “Activate with Africa: Climate Change, Connections, and Action.” For three days, leaders and entrepreneurs from across the globe will gather to envision opportunities, generate collective solutions, and explore strategies that effectively mobilize resources to address the challenges of climate change and take action.

[Register Here](#)

Community News

White House Internship



The Office of Management & Budget, which oversees the implementation of the President’s vision across the Executive Branch, is offering a paid internship to a current student enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate college, community college, or university.

[Learn More](#)

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 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](#).

[Engagement Opportunities](#)

A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).



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