The Equity Alliance announces inaugural LiberTEA Collective cohort participants

27 African Americans across Tennessee to gain civic leadership skills and strategies in eight-week crash course

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Equity Alliance today announced its inaugural LiberTEA Collective cohort. The 8-week intensive program will cultivate a statewide talent pipeline of Black civic leaders and democracy defenders. Twenty-seven African Americans from counties across Tennessee, who come from diverse backgrounds, professions and lifestyles, have taken the crucial step of taking on leadership roles that strengthen democratic processes and build civic and economic power for Black Tennesseans.

LiberTEA Collective Inaugural Liberators are:

Angel Adams, Nashville
Nonie Bennah, Nashville
Christian Cohen, Nashville
Brionna Crawford, Nashville
Kelly Dunlap, Memphis
Lauren Fitzgerald, Smyrna
Edwina Freeman, Goodletsville
Sade Fregene, Clarksville
Gayle Geeter, Madison
Cornelia Gipson, Spring Hill
Latia Gray, Springfield
Tiffany Jackson, Antioch
Zachary Jenkins, Nashville
Dalona Jones, Antioch
Samantha Jones, Nashville
Candace-Omnira LaFayette, Nashville
Kimberly Lannear, Nashville
Chelsea Moore, Hermitage
Adriana Norris, Nashville
Leshaun Oliver, Nashville
Kenya Payne, Nashville
Shikarah Pinkney, Goodletsville
Joseph Prieto, Nashville
Paul Richardson, Nashville
Christian Roberson, Nashville
Dawn Stone, Clarksville
Kita Williams, Brentwood
Recognized as rising Liberators, participants will complete a robust curriculum -- taught by expert facilitators, practitioners and community leaders -- rooted in Black liberation and freedom and using a popular education model. Sessions will explore the basics of civics and Black citizenship, serving in elected office and on boards and commissions, movement building and disruption, government advocacy and lobbying, working on political campaigns, and communal healing.

“The LiberTEA Collective is a strategic opportunity for novice and knowledgeable participants to engage in a safe space that guides their understanding of the history and systems that impact Black lives,” explained Charlane Oliver, co-founder and co-executive director of The Equity Alliance. “We refuse to wait on the sidelines as appointed and elected officials, and corporate power players make harmful decisions and deals without regard for marginalized communities across the state. We’re training Liberators to channel their energy and efforts in direct, strategic ways that will restore power and influence to the People.”

Applications for the LiberTEA Collective fall cohort will open Monday, August 2, 2021. To apply and learn more, visit theequityalliance.org/collective. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.
Top Row: Sade Fregene, Lauren Fitzgerald, Zachary Jenkins, Leshawm Oliver, Tiffany Jackson, Paul Richardson, Joseph Prieto, Christian Cohen, Samantha Jones, Adriana Norris, and Delona Jones.

Middle Row: Kimberly Lannear, Shikarah Pinkney, Christiana Roberson, Brionna Crawford, Angel Adams, Kenya Payne, Nonie Bennah, and Edwina Freeman.

Bottom Row: Tia Gray, Chelsea Moore, Candace-Omnira LaFayette, Dawn Stone, Gayle Geeter, Kelly Dunlap, Cornelia Gipson.

Not pictured: Kita Williams

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**The Equity Alliance** is a Tennessee-based 501(c)(3) organization that unapologetically builds statewide independent Black political and economic power. TEA innovatively educates, empowers, and mobilizes Black people to take action and keep our government in check. Founded by six Black women in November 2016, the organization remains on the frontlines advocating for issues that threaten and enhance the quality of life for Black Americans.

Learn more at [www.theequityalliance.org](http://www.theequityalliance.org), on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @TheEquityAlliance, and on Twitter @equityalliance1.