



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, Goodlettsville

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

Lashaun Oliver, Nashville

Kenya Payne, Nashville

Shikarah Pinkney, Goodlettsville

Joseph Prieto, Nashville

Paul Richardson, Nashville

Christiana 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, Leshawn 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, on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @TheEquityAlliance, and on Twitter @equityalliance1.