

Papitto Opportunity Connection

March 2022



March is [Women's History Month](#), a time to recognize the achievements and contributions made by incredible women.

We are highlighting some of the women of color from the past and today that have made an impact and broke barriers for communities of color right here in Rhode Island, and those who are continuing to do so.



1868 – 1933

Matilda Sissieretta Joynes Jones grew up in Providence and was the first Black woman to headline a concert on the main stage at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

She also performed at the White House and Madison Square Garden. Nicknamed “Black Patti,” she was often compared to Italian opera singer Adelina Patti.

Photo Credit: [Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

1896 – 1987

Princess Red Wing was a Narragansett

and Wampanoag who wore many hats as an activist, historian, folklorist, and museum curator.

She represented her Narragansett tribe in a presentation to the United Nations, founded the Narragansett Dawn newspaper and established and curated the Tomaquag Museum, Rhode Island's only museum dedicated to Indigenous culture and history.

Photo Credit: [Tomaquag Museum](#)



1953 – 1992

Juanita Sánchez was a driving force in Rhode Island's Latino community during the 1970s and 80s.

A healthcare outreach worker in Providence, she made sure new Hispanic immigrants received the health care they required and that Latino children were attending school and receiving a good education. An educational complex on Thurbers Avenue in Providence is named for her.

Photo Credit: [Nuestras Raíces Latino History Archives](#)

B: 1969 -

Hon. Linda Rekas Sloan is the first Asian-American woman nominated to serve on the Rhode Island Superior Court.

Rhode Island Superior Court Associate Justice
Rekas Sloan took the bench in 2021 after more than 30 years of legal experience, concentrating on insolvency, corporate and business law, commercial transactions, commercial litigation, and real estate.

A graduate of Providence College and Boston University School of Law, Judge Rekas Sloan has also been president of the Rhode Island Bar Association and chaired the association's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

Photo Used with Permission:
Hon. Linda Rekas Sloan





Here to Listen. Here to Help.

POC is continuing to work together with the state's most vulnerable communities to empower individuals and create success stories by investing in education, job skills training and entrepreneurial ventures based on community-identified needs.

To date, POC has invested in more than 75 Rhode Island non-profit organizations and has committed nearly \$60 million to them over the next several years.

Mark your calendar. POC accepts proposals from non-profit organizations twice yearly, and the next period for accepting funding requests is [June 1-15, 2022](#).

Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

Million Dollar Idea

POC launched the inaugural [Transform Rhode Island Scholarship](#) and asked Rhode Island high school students of color one simple question: What would you do if you were given \$1 Million to make RI's communities of color better and stronger?

Students were encouraged to think out of the box and share their creative and unique ideas that create positive change in their communities. The winning idea will be funded by \$1 million and the student with the winning idea will receive \$25,000 AND be involved with

making the idea become a reality.

Dozens of Rhode Island's high school students of color embraced this exciting opportunity for a chance to make real change in their communities. Students from across the state - from Westerly to Woonsocket - submitted essays, videos and multimedia presentations sharing their unique ideas that addressed a wide-range of topics including mental health, food insecurity, affordable housing, pathways to higher education and more. Each out-of-the box idea was different, but all had the same mission: to make Rhode Island's communities of color a better place to work and live.

So, just who has the \$1 million idea? We'll reveal the winner and celebrate all those who submitted their unique ideas at a special event on Thursday, May 26.

Stay tuned for details...

ONE MILLION IDEAS

ONE MILLION VOICES

ONE MILLION DOLLARS



There are many ways forward but united is our favorite.

401 GIVES
APRIL 1, 2022

**Papitto
Opportunity
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Your Chance to Make a Difference in the 401.

Mark your calendar. [401Gives](#), Rhode Island's statewide day of giving is April 1, 2022, -less than a month away. Powered by [United Way of Rhode Island](#) and POC is the presenting sponsor of a 24-hour fundraising campaign designed to bring people together to make a difference for local nonprofits that deliver vital services to our communities throughout the state.

We are really pleased that so many POC supported organizations have registered to

participate in this annual day of giving. 401Gives unites and offers everyone a safe, comfortable, and familiar virtual fundraising experience all while giving nonprofits unrestricted funds that strengthen Rhode Island.

