

Papitto Opportunity Connection

April 2023

Let's Celebrate Diversity!

April is 'Celebrate Diversity Month' where we are encouraged to foster a greater appreciation of the different cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences we share as a society. The Papitto Opportunity Connection is proud to support Rhode Island organizations that proactively seek to develop inclusive environments where interactions are positive, reduce bias and create real change. As we celebrate diversity month, here are some resources for POC organizations looking to continue in their commitment of embracing diversity and advocating for equity.



The Rhode Island Black Business Association (RIBBA) is dedicated to advancing the business opportunities and vitality of Black-owned and minority businesses across the state. For an opportunity to network with community leaders and learn more about RIBBA's important work, join RIBBA at its annual meeting, May 2 at Roger Williams Park Casino.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

 **TUESDAY, MAY 2**
5:30PM - 7:30PM

 **ROGER WILLIAMS CASINO**
1000 ELMWOOD AVENUE, PROVIDENCE, RI

(401) 383-1179
WWW.RI-BBA.ORG

The Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA) strives to maintain the culture of its community by promoting and empowering its members through outreach, job training and small business support. CSEA also specializes in programs and services that help the Southeast Asian community with everyday needs and basic living assistance.



Long considered an Indigenous cultural destination, the Tomaquag Museum's mission is to educate the public and promote thoughtful dialogue regarding Indigenous history and connect to Native issues of today. Virtual guides offer programming aimed at building cultural competency and empowering the next generation of activists and advocates. Currently located in Exeter, the museum plans to open a new campus in 2024 near the University of Rhode Island.

Below: Loren Spears, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum, stands in front of the granite monolith in front of the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons. Photo by Nora Lewis



Through a robust association involving more than 800 members and partners, the [RI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) represents, promotes, and empowers the growing Latino business community in Rhode Island. On April 27, they'll host their annual 'Latina Women in Business Expo' to celebrate the achievements of Latina women entrepreneurs, who play a fundamental role in the development of our state economy. [Register here](#) to participate.



Funding Matters

In non-profit work, adopting well-established best practices is likely to yield the most favorable outcomes. The strategy holds true when it comes to pursuing multiple funding streams. Diversifying your revenue portfolio can lead to healthier financial capacity and remains critical to an organization's sustainability. CEO and Founder of The Capellan Group, [Victor Capellan](#), says there are practical solutions to help expand capital sources.

Papitto Opportunity Connection is partnering with Capellan to host a highly interactive gathering, designed exclusively for POC grantees to acquire a deeper understanding of funding sources. Capellan says the seminar will help grantees develop new skills to help increase their chances of securing corporate support.

“If you want an inside look, hearing directly from the professionals making the corporate contribution decisions and from those who have successfully secured corporate funding, this workshop is for you,” said Capellan. “Grantees will leave with a deeper understanding of what corporate funders are looking for when they make their grant decisions, how they might develop relationships with funders, and how to build sustainable partnerships with corporate funders.”



FLY Initiative Continues To Soar

April is Financial Literacy Month, a perfect time to focus on establishing and maintaining

healthy financial habits. But what if you don't know how? What if you were never provided with the education, knowledge and necessary skills to manage your own finances?

On average only 5% of Rhode Island high school students currently receive financial literacy education. Of these students, approximately 90% are white.

Understanding the challenges youth in communities of color face, Marcy Reyes created The Financial Literacy Youth (FLY) Initiative, a non-profit organization that provides culturally responsive financial literacy programming to underserved and underrepresented students.



Reyes believes students should have access to financial literacy resources regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-economic background.

“By providing students with the knowledge and skills to manage financial resources effectively and make healthy decisions, we are giving them the opportunity of a lifetime of financial well-being to end generational poverty,” said Reyes,

Supported by the Papitto Opportunity Connection, the FLY initiative is the **first** and **only** program of its kind in Rhode Island to deliver semester-long robust financial literacy programming to high schools in underserved communities across the state. Since FLY was established in 2018, the organization has soared, serving its unique programming and curriculum to more than **2,300** BIPOC individuals across Rhode Island.

Abigail is among those who participated in the FLY program and has used the tools and knowledge she obtained to gain financial freedom.

That wasn't always the case. A young Latina, Abigail was over \$18,000 in debt. She had no guidance, support or resources to help her climb out of the mountain of debt she had accumulated. Then she met Marcy Reyes and was introduced to the FLY program.

“The FLY program has given me the financial freedom I've dreamt of,” said Abigail.

Abigail participated in FLY's unique programming, attended weekly classroom instruction, workshops, seminars and received one-on-one coaching. She would go on to apply the FLY methods and financial literacy skill set she acquired into her own personal finances and has since a great deal of success managing and controlling her finances.

“FLY gave me all the tools I needed to now be debt free. I learned (about) different types

of ROTH IRA accounts, how to pay down my credit cards to 30% or less, have an emergency fund, and most importantly, how to budget. These are some of the few important things that the program has taught me,” said Abigail.

“I am beyond grateful that I came across this opportunity and I hope that more youth are able to have this experience and knowledge I was able to have.”

2022 TRIS Finalists To Participate In TEDxProvidence

In the spirit of collaborating ideas worth sharing, [Mariam Kaba](#), Papitto Opportunity Connection’s first-ever winner of the [Transform Rhode Island Scholarship](#) will be among those participating at the 2023 [TEDXProvidence](#) conference. The event will feature thought leaders engaging in deep, insightful discussions.

Miriam, the 2022 TRIS winner, who is now a junior at [Woonsocket High School](#), is currently working with [Leadership Rhode Island](#) to implement her winning, transformative idea to bring about real change for people of color by develop a comprehensive program that offers career exploration, financial literacy, and job skills support as well as mental health resources for young people of color and seeks to restore communities.

“TEDxProvidence offers a unique opportunity to not only share my progress and future plans to restore my community, but it will also allow me to collaborate with other thought leaders to create real change in communities,” said Mariam, the daughter of West African immigrants. “I’m honored and excited to participate.”

Below: Mariam Kaba



Kaba will be joined 2022 TRIS finalists Daisha Jackson (below left) and Jalisa Ramos (below middle), both seniors at The Met School, and Wheeler junior Isabelle Mitchell (below right).

Sponsored by Papitto Opportunity Connection and held on Sunday, May 21 at the Veterans Auditorium in Providence, the program will be moderated by Arnell Milhouse, Chief Executive Officer, CareerDevs Computer Science Institute and POC advisory board member.



Record-Setting Weekend In The 401

It was a record-setting year for 401Gives, Rhode Island's largest statewide day of giving held annually on April 1 (401).

Powered by United Way of Rhode Island and presenting sponsor Papitto Opportunity Connection, 401Gives not only raises critical funds, it is also designed to bring the community together and celebrate the incredible impact the Ocean State's nonprofit organizations make each day.



powered by **United Way of Rhode Island**

Since April 1, 2023, fell on a Saturday, this year's 401Gives was expanded into a weekend long event. The money raised throughout the weekend was not an April's Fool's joke!

401Gives shattered records this year and raised \$3.48 million —a 11% increase over the previous year. In fact, 401Gives smashed every single record in every category this year, including the number of donors (17%), donations (19%) and organizations receiving donations (8%). Nearly 550 of Rhode Island non-profits that provide vital services across the state received donations throughout the weekend.

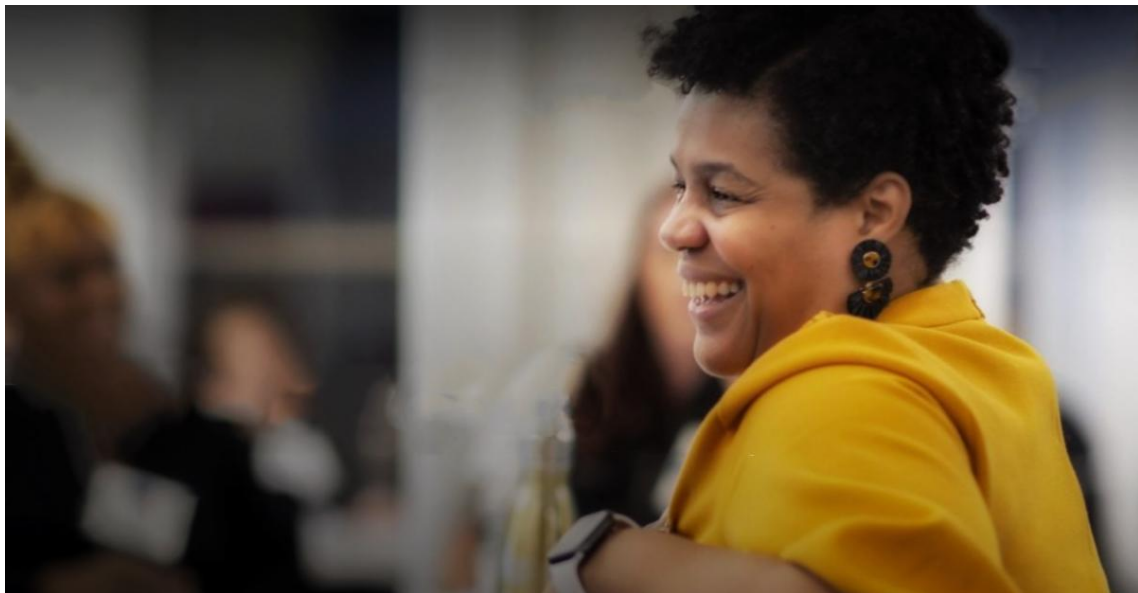
From non-profits focusing on education, job skills training and entrepreneurship ventures to community organizations helping to combat food insecurity, improve the environment and educate our children, hundreds of local non-profits will continue their important work thanks to the support from more than 15,000 donors during 401Gives!

Apply Now For INP's Nationally Recognized Core Certificate Program

INP Are you seeking to accelerate your impact on the communities you serve? Apply to the [Institute for Nonprofit Practice's](#) (INP) nationally-recognized [Core Certificate Program](#)—designed for nonprofit and social impact managers, directors and executives — to deepen your skills, resources, networks, and confidence for building a more equitable future.

General applications for the Core Certificate Program, are being accepted on a rolling basis until the next cohort, beginning in Fall of 2023, or until it is at capacity.

We recommend you submit your application as soon as possible!



INP will also be opening applications in May for its next [Black Leadership Institute](#) cohort! Stay tuned and learn more about this transformative programming for Black leaders in senior roles across nonprofit, philanthropic, public, and private sectors [here](#).

Thanks to the generosity of its Board of Directors and funding partners, INP can waive tuition this year for all accepted applicants. Be sure to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity and spread the word among your colleagues before the upcoming application deadline!

Questions? Contact the INP Recruitment team at recruitment@nonprofitpractice.org