

Papitto Opportunity Connection

May 2022

The Papitto Opportunity Connection recently joined Senator Jack Reed, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, Rhode Island College President Dr. Frank D. Sánchez and dignitaries from the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS) at a historic announcement at Rhode Island College, now the permanent home of RIBHS's treasured collections.



POC is proud to support the great work of RIBHS and recently partnered with the non-profit organization to help expand its important African American history and heritage programming and curriculum.



A Window into African American History

In July 2021 legislation was passed in Rhode Island that will require African American history and heritage to be included in all elementary and secondary schools throughout the state beginning in the 2022--23 academic year.

RIBHS strives to make sure educators who will be teaching African American history and heritage for the first time will have access to a step back in time right at their fingertips. RIBHS has created a web learning portal offering a detailed window into African American history and heritage in Rhode Island.

The initial plan was to provide access to the portal to educators and students (K-12) in Rhode Island. However, with POC's support, the informational portal will be open to all Rhode Islanders. All those interested in delving into Black history and heritage in Rhode Island can research a variety of topics on African history and heritage history, people, places and events through the web portal.



Celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is a time to recognize the historical and cultural contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans have made to the United States.

Here in Rhode Island, the [Center for Southeast Asians \(CSEA\)](#) works to promote the prosperity, heritage, and leadership of Southeast Asians in Rhode Island and uplift its

community of more than 5,300 families.

CSE offers a variety of critical programs and services, which include housing assistance, food distribution, COVID vaccines free tax preparation services, SNAP application assistance and enrollment, health insurance navigation, literacy, workforce development programs and much, much more.

Support from the Papitto Opportunity Connection has allowed CSEA to continue to expand its current initiatives focused on improving health and well-being outcomes for Rhode Island's Southeast Asian community.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



INSTITUTE FOR
nonprofit
practice

Black Leadership Institute

For Black leaders in senior roles across nonprofit, philanthropic, public, and private sectors

A close-up portrait of a Black woman with curly hair, wearing a dark jacket over a blue top, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression.

Black Leadership Institute Accepting Fellowship Applications

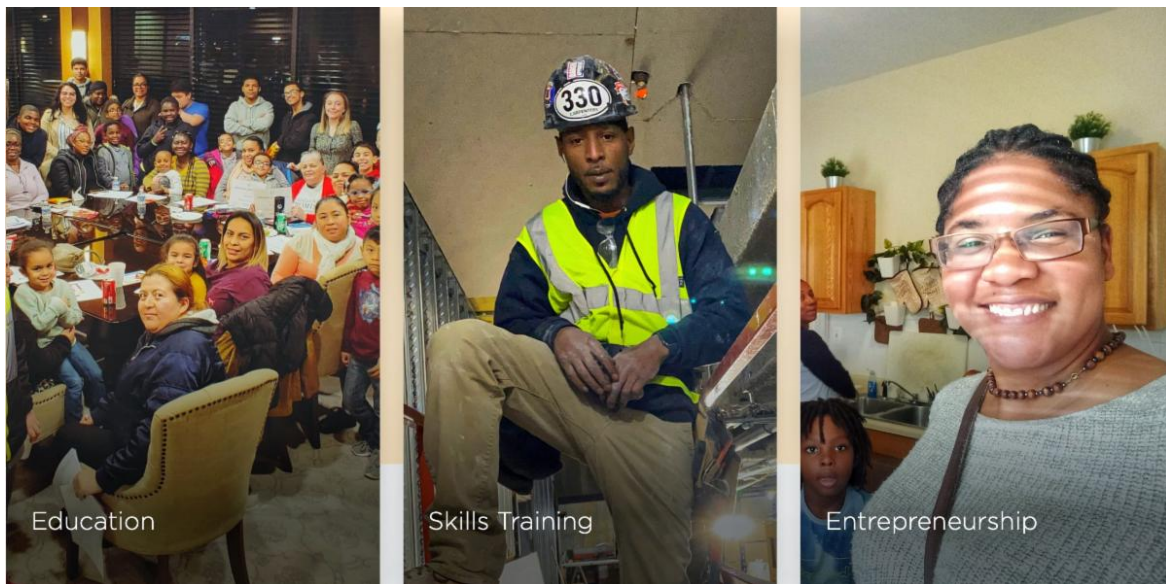
The [Black Leadership Institute \(BLI\)](#) was recently established by the Institute for Non-Profit Practice to connect, inspire, and uplift senior-level Black leaders doing important work across the country and across sectors. Through transformative programming, BLI supports Black leaders with the resources, network, content, and community to build upon their social, financial, knowledge, and cultural capital as they step into positions of greater power and influence.

The program is supported by the Papitto Opportunity Connection in partnership with the Kraft Family Philanthropies, New England Patriots, Barr Foundation, Angell Foundation and Fish Family Foundation. BLI aims to bring together Black leaders in senior roles across the nonprofit, philanthropic, public, and private sectors who are leading in fields or on issues with significant outcome disparities for Black people for an 18-month fellowship program.

In its initial year, the national BLI fellowship cohort will serve 20 senior-level Black leaders from four cities across the country, including Providence. The program is designed to connect Fellows both nationally and locally, allowing them to develop strong local and national bonds of shared commitment, support, and purpose.

BLI will accept 20 leaders into its inaugural fellowship program, which will begin in January 2023 in its Founding Communities across the country: Providence, Boston, Los Angeles and Dallas. The early application deadline is July 30, 2022.

Click [here](#) to apply.



Mark Your Calendar!

The Papitto Opportunity Connection accepts programmatic grant proposals for consideration twice each year from recognized non-profit 501(c) (3) organizations focusing on creating success stories for Rhode Island's Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in the areas of education, job skills training and entrepreneurship.

To streamline the process, POC has developed a downloadable application and checklist of required documentation to support each request.

The next round of proposals will be accepted between June 1-15, 2022.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to submit your proposal.

