

## Minnesota Regenerative Publishing Project

Economic disparities for Black families in Minnesota have multiple causes: education requires critical change.

**We need authentic classroom materials developed by Black Minnesota writers to engage our young people in challenging ways and connect them to the rich legacy of Black Minnesotans.**

### Who Are We?

In a collaborative effort to address the *absented* narratives of Black Minnesotans, Arcata Press | Saint Paul Almanac, Minnesota Humanities Center, and Papyrus Publishing were awarded a Heritage Partnership grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.

### In Black Ink

The grant resulted in the creation of **In Black Ink**, whose purpose is to foster a regenerative publishing network, process, and platform for Minnesota writers of African descent. This statewide project engages an intergenerational body of folks from the Twin Cities Metro Area, Duluth and Rochester.

**Mission: In Black Ink** celebrates and documents the literary history of Minnesota writers of African descent through publication, professional development and public presentations.

### What Are We Asking For?

**In Black Ink** requests funding for a one-year pilot—\$300,000 to establish the organization, publish our first two books, and develop curriculum for those books.

### Why Is This Necessary?

“While there are impressive statistics regarding life in Minnesota, there are also troubling ones, as there appears to be a stark racial disparity regarding income and quality of life between Whites and African Americans in the Twin Cities.”  
—MN Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

### Educational Impact

**In Black Ink** will profoundly impact Minnesota’s schools by working with the Minnesota Humanities Center to provide authentic classroom materials to engage young people in meaningful ways and train educators statewide to use **In Black Ink** publications in their classrooms. When rigorous and relevant classroom content reflects the experiences of students and their families, student engagement soars.

- 80 percent of teachers changed their practice as a result of professional development offered by MHC
- 90 percent of teachers experienced a positive change in their classroom climate after MHC training

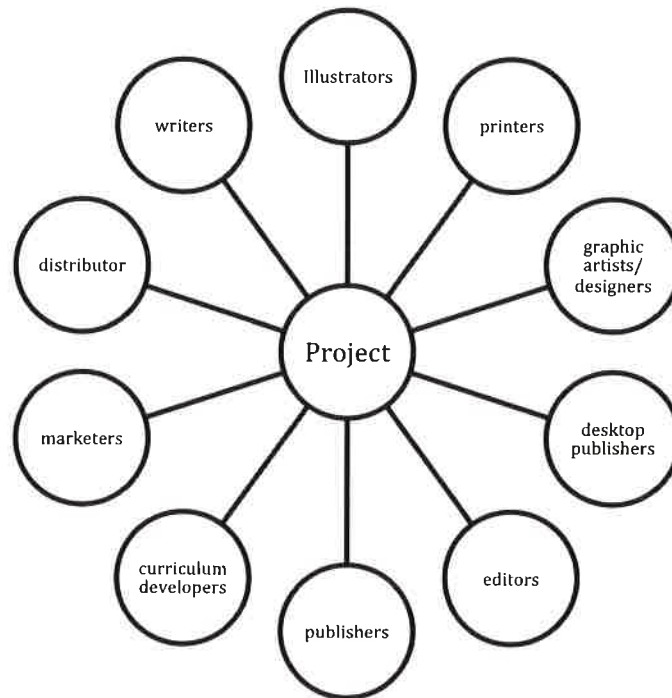
### Economic Impact

**In Black Ink** will offer vocational training and professional development through workshops and apprenticeships in writing, editing, illustration, publishing, distribution, etc. Such knowledge will stimulate an entrepreneurial spirit in growing local Black Minnesotan businesses.



Minnesota  
Humanities  
Center

The **In Black Ink** Economic Development Model below represents the potential professionals needed to work on the on-going projects in the publishing, literary and educational industries. A project requires editors, publishers, marketers, etc. The economic impact of using professionals and businesses/organizations primarily from Minnesotans of African descent is a powerful way to develop our community. The spirit and intent of this model includes the development of these professionals within the community, especially among our youth and young adults.



### **In Black Ink Consultants**

- W.C. Jordan, Jr., *NAACP President, Rochester, MN*
- Hana Dinku, *Macalester College Residence Hall Director*
- Mahmoud El-Kati, *Macalester College Professor Emeritus*
- Henry Banks, *People of Color with Henry Banks, KUWS Producer and Host, Duluth, MN*
- Vusi Zulu, *Black Storytellers Alliance Executive Director*
- Anura Si-Asar, *Papyrus Publishing Inc. Publisher*
- Rekhet Si-Asar, *Papyrus Publishing Inc. Publisher*
- Metric Giles, *Arcata Press | Saint Paul Almanac Board Chair*
- Pamela Fletcher, *St. Catherine University Director of Writing and Associate Professor of English*
- Tish Jones, *TruArtSpeaks Executive and Artistic Director*
- Davu Seru, *Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota African American Studies and Literature*
- Chaun Webster, *Ancestry Books Proprietor*
- Lamar Collins, Ismail Khadar, John Zimanski, Jimmy Pal, and Sid Carlson White, *youth representatives*

### **Partners**

- Arcata Press | Saint Paul Almanac
- Papyrus Publishing Inc.
- Minnesota Humanities Center

### **Current Funders**

- McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota Historical Society

### **Interested Future Funders**

- McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Saint Paul Foundation
- Mardag Foundation
- F. R. Bigelow Foundation