

BBE

EMPOWERING BLACK EXCELLENCE

Real resources, real support, and a community that shows up for you every single day.

[Join Our Membership](#)

7,012+

Launched

\$307k+

Funded

72,027+

Members



Honoring a Legacy

Candice Ellis

Today, we pause with heavy hearts as we remember a remarkable individual whose impact on Black Business Enterprises will never be forgotten.

Her dedication, vision, and unwavering support helped shape not just our organization, but the lives and businesses within our community.

She was more than a client - she was a partner, a believer, and a driving force behind progress. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in every milestone we achieve. Rest well. You will always be remembered.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Candice Ellis

"Her vision shaped our community, and her legacy fuels our future."

We honor a partner, a believer, and a driving force. Rest well, Candice. You will always be BBE family.

Support Candice's Family - Meal Train



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Stand with Adrianna Willis

Our dear member Adrianna is facing a tough health battle. She has poured so much love into BBE, and now it's our turn to pour it back. Every contribution makes a difference.

[Support Her Journey](#)



LeBrent Speed
Founder/ CEO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

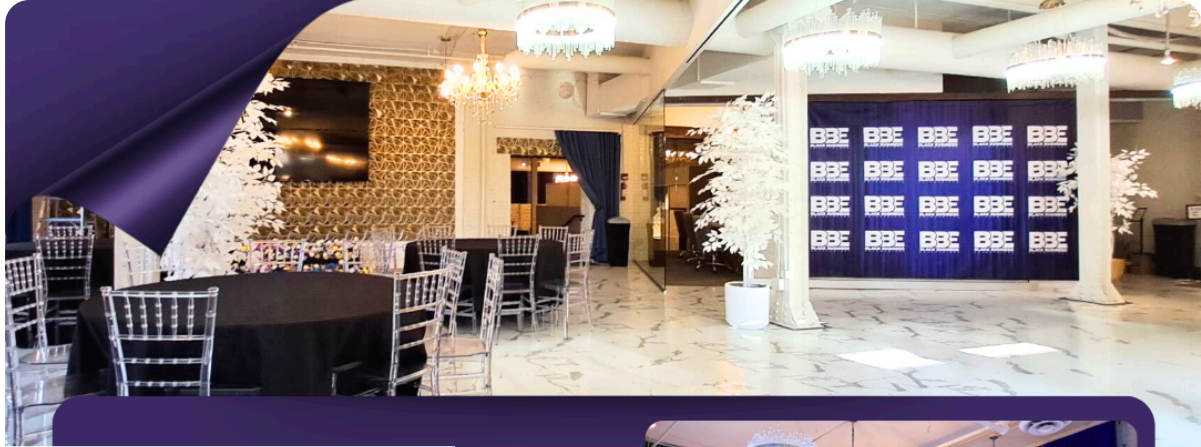
Meet LeBrent Speed

Founder of **The Better Black Business Project (B³)**. LeBrent is turning relationships into results and community into capital. His mission is to empower Black entrepreneurs through genuine collaboration.

[Connect with LeBrent](#)

VENUE RENTAL

Elevate Your Next Event at The Luxe at Harmon!



THE **LUXE** AT HARMON
BY **BBE**

BBE Venue Rental

Host unforgettable events in our stylish, flexible venue; perfect for weddings, graduations and meetings

- ✓ Custom Event Setup
- ✓ Audio-Visual Equipment
- ✓ Onsite Support Staff
- ✓ Catering Coordination




Blandy's Events

- Weddings
- Birthdays
- Baby showers
- Anniversaries
- Proposals
- Hotel setups etc.



 (6127) 074 552

 BlandysEvents.com

Blandy Kum

Event Planner
& Decorator



BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

 www.blackbusinessenterprises.org

 info@blackbusinessenterprises.org

Looking for the perfect backdrop for your special day? Whether it's a dream wedding, a milestone graduation, or a high-impact corporate meeting, **BBE Venue Rental** offers a stylish and flexible space designed to impress.

When you book with us, we provide:

- ✓ Custom Event Setup & Onsite Support Staff
- ✓ Professional Audio-Visual Equipment
- ✓ Catering Coordination with Blandy's Events

 info@blackbusinessenterprises.org ·  (612) 707-4552

Book Your Space Today

Your breakthrough could be one application away

Apply boldly, apply often. Commit to at least one grant this month — these funds are designed for founders like you.



Pitch Black Conference Grant

Hot deadline

Deadline: Apr 12, 2026

Black-owned businesses ready to pitch in May — gain exposure, funding, and mentorship.

[Apply now →](#)



Galaxy Grant (free to apply)

Deadline: Apr 30, 2026

Open to all entrepreneurs — no fees. \$5,000 + coaching package.

[Apply now →](#)



MN Promise Act — Round 2

Rolling / Open

Grants up to \$25k for local BIPOC-owned businesses.

[Apply now →](#)



HerRise MicroGrant

Open / Monthly

\$2,000 micro-grants for community-focused businesses. Priority to health, education, and local impact.

[Apply now →](#)



Freed Fellowship — \$2,500 + mentorship

Open (quarterly)

Monthly stipend + 1:1 mentorship from seasoned Black entrepreneurs.

[Apply now →](#)



EDA Business Development Fund — up to \$25,000

Cook County / Grand Marais

Support for rural businesses, tourism, retail, and creative ventures. Capital for expansion.

[Apply now →](#)



MN Trade Office Export Fund

Deadline: Jun 30, 2026

Reimbursement grants for trade shows, shipping, and market development — boost your global footprint.

[Apply now →](#)



SoGal Black Founder Startup Grant

Open (rolling)

\$10k + year-long ecosystem access. One of the most impactful grants for early-stage visionaries.

[Apply now →](#)

Grant application tip: Tailor each pitch to the mission — BBE members have a 40% higher success rate when they personalize.

[Not a member? Join BBE for grant alerts & reviews →](#)

17 UPCOMING EVENTS

April & May in the community

APR
10



Finding a Wife: A Man's Journey

beasistercollective.com

[Register](#)

APR
18



Community Healing Circle

lutunjispalate.com

[Register](#)

APR
25



Ghana's 69th Independence Gala

1128 Harmon Pl, Minneapolis

[Register](#)

APR
30



2026 MEDA Annual Meeting

McNamara Alumni Center

[Register](#)

APR
30



17th Annual Fashion Show

Once Upon a Stitch

[Register](#)

MAY
1



Mommy & Me Hattitude Tea Party
Mother's Day Celebration

Register



APRIL CELEBRANTS!

Cheers to You

A big shoutout to all the BBE members celebrating their birthdays in April! While you're busy building, don't forget to pause, make a wish, and enjoy a little cake. Cheers to another year of growth and joy!

New address? New number? Don't ghost us — update your info [right here](#).



Venue Booking Fees Starting January

Dear BBE Member, We'd like to inform you that starting January, all event space bookings will include: **\$100** non-refundable cleaning fee and a **\$30/hr** staff fee for event support. Thank you for being a valued member of the BBE community!

\$100

Cleaning
Fee

\$30/hr

Staff
Fee



**BBE
MEMBERS
ONLY**

BBE SERVICES

Resources for Your Growth

Event Venue

Free Mon-Fri for members at Harmon Pl.

Virtual Office

Professional address to keep your home private.

FUEL THE MISSION

Your gift keeps BBE alive

BBE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Every dollar helps Black entrepreneurs access business planning, credit education, and workspace.

\$25

Grant Research

\$50

Planning Session

\$100

Full Workshop

Donate Now

Black Business Enterprises Fund (BBE)

1128 Harmon Pl, Suite 200 · Minneapolis, MN 55403

Justice · Equity · Diversity · Inclusion

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