

History of the Minneapolis Urban League

TWIN CITIES URBAN LEAGUE

FOUNDED
in **1926** by
a diverse inclusive group
of men and women

MISSION:
The Minneapolis Urban League links African descendants and other people of color to opportunities that result in economic success and prosperity, and effectively advocate for policies that eradicate racial disparities.

A history of confronting inequalities and redefined civil rights by focusing on economic empowerment as a key driver of social change for the African American community.

FUTURE: How does the Urban League build on what's been done to shape a more powerful direction

FUTURE: Approaching 100 Years Staking Our Claim: "Building the human and material infrastructure of the community of people of African descent in Minnesota."

KEY EVENTS:

- S.S. Belton: 1st African American Mayor
- Obama Elected
- JAMAR CLARK
- PHILANDO CASTILE
- HURRICANE KATRINA
- Increasing Deficits Tension in White Community
- HOUSING CRISIS
- 2014: NEW ERA OF TRANSFORMATION
- Board Challenges Clean Slate
- United Way Funding Declines
- 88th ANNUAL GALA
- 2015: LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
- Evolving Social Capital
- Somali Migration
- Impact of drugs, violence, destruction of family
- Shootings Fracture Community
- INCREASING DISPARITIES
- WIDENING GAPS

PURPOSE:
Interracial cooperation; assimilation integration; economic advancement

PROGRAMS:
EARLY STRUCTURE:
• No office
• No staff

MUL
KNOWN AS
A Community Hub

A TOP AFFILIATE of National Urban League

- Street Academies
- Voter Education
- Health Programs
- Neighborhood Improvement
- Jobs
- Collaboration
- Partnerships
- Advocacy Legislative Influence
- "Broker"

1990s: Reached over 25,000 people a year thru education, jobs, services and advocacy

- Research
- Public Policy
- Viewed as "Northside Organization"

Budget: 50K

Staff: 3

• GARY SUDDUTH
1992 to 1997

• LAURA SCOTT WILLIAMS [INTERIM]
1997 to 1998

• CLARENCE HIGHTOWER
1999 to 2008

Increased involvement of Young Adults; Intergenerational Impact...Coffee Shop

MISSION EXPANDS
13 PROGRAMS

- 2000: New Administration Building
- So. MPLS Building Multiplex

Staff: 130

- DAVID OGUAMANAM 2008 to 2009
- SCOTT GREY 2008 to 2015

• 2013: GATEWAY to OPPORTUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

- Providing direct service for nearly 4,000 people and Advocacy for 20,000 more.
- ST. PAUL URBAN LEAGUE STOPS PROGRAMS
- Out of Education Business

PEOPLE:
CEOs: "Go To" Leaders Voice of Community

• GLEASON GLOVER
1967 to 1991

• STEVEN BELTON
2015; 2016

1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000 2005 2010 2015 2017