



**LONG BEACH**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Excellence & Equity*

# **Black Student Achievement: Programs, Processes and Engagement Efforts**

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What is LBUSD currently doing to create the best outcomes for Black students, and what does the future hold for Black student achievement in LBUSD?

# 01

THE WHY

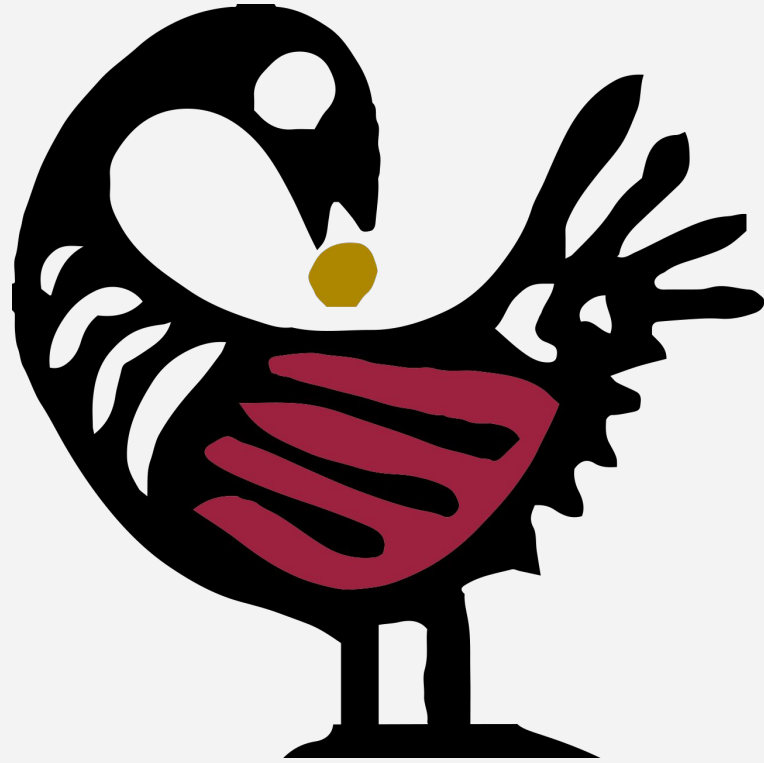


*“We must acknowledge the broader diversity in and of the African American experience and **celebrate that all Black children are born geniuses.** Black students continue to pursue educational excellence despite the many unnecessary obstacles they face due to constructions and perceptions of race, class, gender, and sexual orientations in America.”*

**David J. Johns**



**SANKOFA**



## OBSTACLES TO EXCELLENCE:

- 1) **Achievement/Opportunity Gap** - African American children, on average, score lower on tests and are given lower grades than Asian, White, and Latino students.
- 2) **Drop-outs** - In adolescence, academic and personal challenges cause Black students to consider dropping out of school.
- 3) **Discipline** - Black students are more likely to be suspended or expelled than their white counterparts.



## OBSTACLES TO EXCELLENCE:

- 4) **Expectations** - Historically, educational systems have created environments where lowered expectations have been placed on Black students
- 5) **Staffing** - Teacher/Staff skills, cultural awareness and performance shows major vulnerabilities in how they interact with Black students.



# BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ROADMAP





# BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ROADMAP

## PLAN

Intentional call-out of our internal dilemma;  
Development of BSA Advisory Committee; Allocation of \$750,000 charge to develop Black Student Achievement Initiative

## DO

The creation of programs and experiences that enrich the experience of Black students (e.g. Sankofa Summer, Math Collaborative, HBCU support)

## STUDY

Intentional analyzing and use of data to identify areas of need and a set of plans and actions that will be taken to address these needs.

## ACT

Creation of a plan that addresses needs, creates measurable goals (incl. accountability), and allows LBUSD to monitor / adjust as needs change and as the community offers feedback.



**02**

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

# BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE

In the 2021-22 Learning Acceleration and Support Plan, LBUSD announced plans to allocate funds (\$750,000) to develop and engage a Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee to recommend additional supports for Black students.



**Black Student  
Achievement  
Initiative** LBUSD

# Black Student Achievement Initiative Advisory Committee

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

### **Dr. Pam Lovett, Lead**

Shervaughnna Byrd, Parent

Dr. Monica Cole-Jackson, Parent

Dominique Dillard, Teacher/Parent

Rasheka Henry, TOSA/Parent

Marissa Reese, Teacher/Parent

Dr. Kim Tabari, Parent

Michael Crowder-Jones,

Administrator/Parent

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

### **Amy Love, Lead**

### **Chandler Taylor, Lead**

Karen Carter, Teacher

Dr. Stephanie Dunn, Director

Christina Grant, Parent

Angelica Golden, Parent

Erika May, Parent

Desiree Rew, Community Mbr

Jerlene Tatum, Parent

## ENGAGEMENT & VOICE

### **Elyssa Taylor- Stewart, Lead**

Lori Andrews, TOSA/Parent

Shervaughnna Byrd, Parent

Camille Desmond, Community Mbr

Shelly Randolph, Community

Member

James Shuford, Parent

# BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The Role of the Black Student Achievement Initiative Advisory Committee is to:

- **Listen:** Engage with parents and students to hear the needs and ideas for how to best support Black students and their families.
- **Educate:** Analyze current LBUSD data sources, as well as focus group, student interview and survey data to inform recommendations.
- **Uplift:** Create a safe space for parents to connect and support each other; provide parent training and workshops to promote the success of Black students, and advocate for *excellence on purpose*.

# 2021-2022 PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



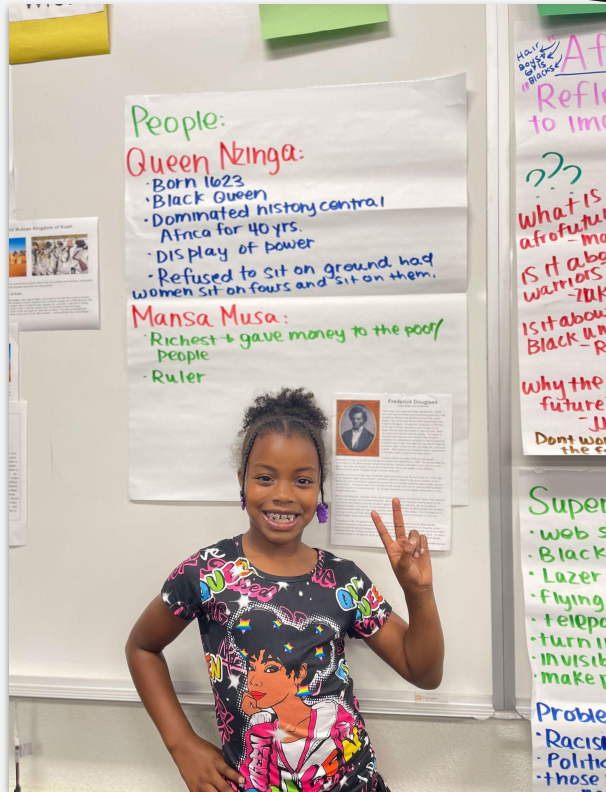
- ✓ HBCU Discussion Panel
- ✓ Black College Expo
- ✓ BSAI Symposium
- ✓ HBCU College Tour
- ✓ Sankofa Summer Academy

# SANKOFA SUMMER ACADEMY

## **Sankofa Summer Academy:** A Transformational Experience

- **Culturally relevant & sustaining instruction, social emotional learning skills, mentorship, and enrichment**
  - Research-based curriculum
  - Asset-focused teaching of Black history
  - Positive identity development
- **Students and Staff:**
  - Program open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade AA/Black students
  - Sankofa Staff
  - High School Student Mentors
- **The Program**
  - Standards-Based Academic Curriculum
  - Restorative Justice Community Building
  - Reconstruction US (Washington, DC)
  - History of African Drumming workshop
  - Art lessons with City Hearts of Los Angeles

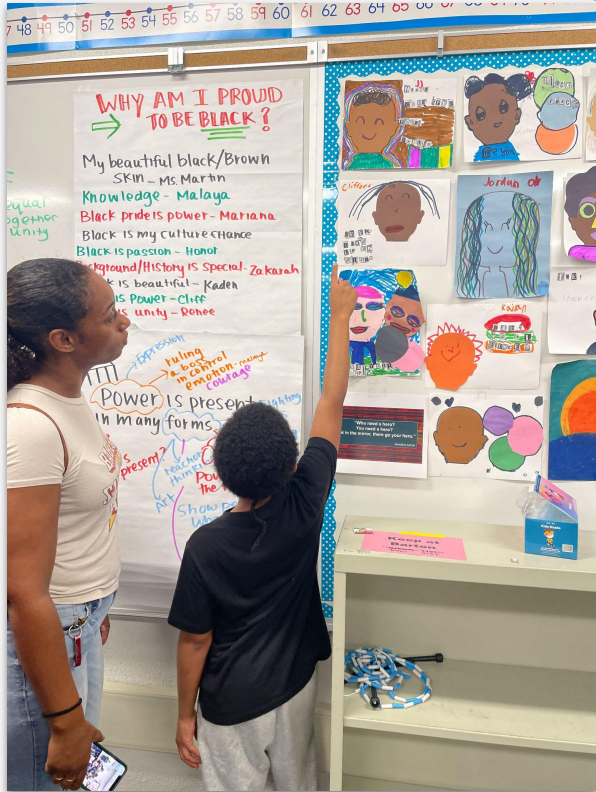
## SANKOFA SUMMER PARENT TESTIMONIALS



*“The Sankofa program has instilled a stronger sense of support from the school district for having such a Black-centered program. It also helped reinforce the history and culture I teach at home. It was a positive experience overall.”*



## SANKOFA SUMMER PARENT TESTIMONIALS



*“It helped my daughter to learn about our Black history in a classroom with other students who looked like her and take PRIDE in that community of learning.”*

## SANKOFA SUMMER PARENT TESTIMONIALS



*“I believe the impact will be a lifetime of knowledge and curiosity.”*

## SANKOFA SUMMER PARENT TESTIMONIALS



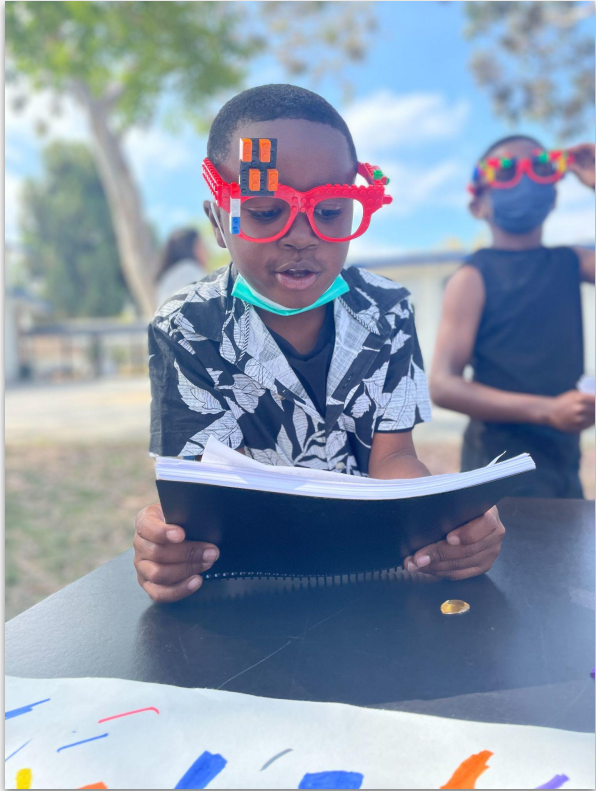
*“The attention of the staff and the camaraderie amongst the kids was very refreshing. I look forward to the next summer academy. I really wish it was year-round.”*

## SANKOFA SUMMER **STAFF** TESTIMONIALS



*“As a result of my participation, I have been inspired to research more about my history and ways in which those that have come before me have impacted the way I live today. I will use that to frame conversations with other educators to positively frame black students’ needs and potential.”*

## SANKOFA SUMMER STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



*“I loved the experience!”*

*“We learned about great Black people and our culture!”*

*“We should do Sankofa again because we learned something new every day and we had fun!”*

## SANKOFA SUMMER STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



*“Sankofa is a great place to learn about Black history, inventors, and people who made things that are useful, like the light bulb.”*

*“I learned that I came from greatness!”*

## LCAP RECOMMENDATIONS:



For the 2022-23 school year, LBUSD recognizes the recommendations from the advisory committee and is proposing that the following activities be budgeted into the LCAP to specifically support and center the needs of Black students:

- ❑ **Sankofa Summer Academy** - A summer school academic enrichment program for rising 4th/5th graders
- ❑ **Sankofa Saturdays** - An academic enrichment program centered on an assets-based study of black excellence promoting positive identity development.
- ❑ **Sankofa After School** - Students will participate in a program that is an extension of the Sankofa Saturday programming.

## LCAP RECOMMENDATIONS:



- ❑ **Sankofa Mentorship Program** - High School students will participate in a mentorship program where they will engage as mentors and mentees.
- ❑ **Sankofa Parent Workshops** - parents will be provided with culturally relevant information and resources.
- ❑ **Black Student Achievement Initiative Symposium** - Because of the success of the 2022 Symposium, LBUSD will be repeating and expanding this very promising event



# ADDITIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS



- Build partnerships within LBUSD and the surrounding community
- Create a database of all Black student-centered clubs, activities, and sponsors
- Identify a BSAI Liaison at each school site
- Develop a comprehensive Communications Plan
- Black Student Achievement Initiative Webpage
- Increase BSAI Team to include grade level TOSAs (ES, MS, HS)
- Organize a local NABSE Chapter (National Alliance of Black School Educators)

A young woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a red and white cheerleader uniform, is the central focus. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, other cheerleaders in similar uniforms are visible, some holding pom-poms. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day. A large black triangle is on the left side of the page, pointing towards the center.

**03**

**THE PRESENT AND  
FUTURE**

# BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE PILLARS OF SUPPORT

## ACADEMICS

### OUTCOMES

- Increased AP & Dual Enrollment, graduation rates, & A-G readiness

### SUPPORTS

- Culturally Relevant & Sustaining learning opportunities PK-12
- Affinity-based academic peer supports
- Tutoring support
- College / HBCU Prep
- Cultivating scholar athletes
- Rising Leaders
- Math Collaborative

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

- Restorative Justice
- Wellness centers at all middle and high schools
- Family Resource Centers
- Male/Female Leadership Academies
- ASPIRE
- Physical health support
- Mental health support
- Counseling
- Mentoring partnerships
- Student voice
- Sense of belonging

## COMMUNITY & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Community organization partnerships
- Community visioning / listening
- Community asset map
- Parent training, education and support
- Creation of internal affinity groups
- Creation of BSA steering committee
- Black Student Union alignment
- UMOJA Clubs

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Diverse and Inclusive Hiring Practices
- Student incentives and enrichments events
- BSE Conference/Symposium

## UPCOMING EVENTS CENTERED AROUND BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

(additional details TBD)

### Sankofa Parent Village

Monthly “village sessions” and informational meetings in collaboration with UCLA. Designed to foster a community of care and support for parents.

### 2023 Wellness Event

A day designed to promote health, well-being and happiness. Curated by LBUSD staff and community partners.

### Black Long Beach Education Forum

Designed to convene/catalyze members of the Long Beach community to listen, learn and gain support for the BSA Initiative.

### HBCU Tours

LBUSD is partnering with local organizations that specialize in conducting HBCU tours for high school students.

### LBUSD Community Visioning Event

Strategic planning and addressing the future of education for Black students and families in Long Beach.



**THANK  
YOU**

**QUESTIONS?**