

400 FORWARD

Being the change we need to see.



A Distinct Identity

400 FORWARD was named in light of the 400th living African American woman recently becoming a licensed architect in 2017 (out of over 113,000 total licensed in the US). This new initiative aims to seek out and support the next 400 licensed women architects with an underlying focus on African American girls through exposure, mentorship, and financial assistance.

400 FORWARD's mission: to uplift girls by giving them the tools they need to address social issues created by the unjust built environments of our inner-city communities. An initiative of the Urban Arts Collective (a nonprofit organization), 400 FORWARD has been launched as a comprehensive program which introduces young girls to architecture, provides scholarships and wrap around services to college students, and pays for study material and licensing exams for African American women in architecture.

400 FORWARD Wins Knight Foundation \$50,000 Matching Grant

In a submission titled "Art & Architecture: Changing our Cities Through Our Youth," UAC Co-Founder Tiffany Brown pitched 400 FORWARD as an idea which was selected as one of the winners for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge. The programs, support, and multi-level scholarships to be provided by 400FORWARD aims to position young women to realize their talents in STEAM, and grow the presence of African American women in the profession of architecture (currently less than .3%) through the incorporation of artistic excellence. To learn more about becoming a Sponsor or Partner, visit: www.400Forward.com.



Mentorship & Outreach

We provide free art & architectural summer camps and workshops that feature local city-builders, makers, artists, musicians, and dancers, creating presentations and art installations. We provide participation in summer festivals and design summits hosted in Detroit showcasing the work of the youth. We connect girls to mentors in cities across the country.



Community Development

Through the use of technology to tell stories of discussing the use of the spaces around them, we can connect communities to companies and organizations doing work in their neighborhood. In the words of city-builder Jay Pitter: Urban Development should not be something happening *to* you. We have the power and knowledge to be directly involved.



Financial Support Services

Financial issues can be a major barrier to the success of a student reaching their full potential. 400 FORWARD has direct access to connecting students to assistance, scholarships and wrap around services, and providing study material and licensing exams for African American women in architecture. The cost of architectural licensing exams is a total of \$1,410 alone.



400 FORWARD As Guests: "The Future of Museums, Public Spaces, and Parks"

Sir David Adjaye, one of the leading architects of his generation and a global cultural ambassador, spoke at the Detroit Institute of Arts on the power of architecture to achieve positive social change. Adjaye was joined on stage by the award-winning landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh in a conversation with Jamie Bennett, Executive Director at ArtPlace America, New York. 400 FORWARD were invited guests of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.



Putt-Putt Station at Eastern Market After Dark

The girls of 400 Forward were invited to design and build a putt station for Design Core Detroit's Month of Design. Titled "Many Paths, One Goal," the exhibit showcases Imani Day and Kimberly Dowdell. Dowdell is the 295th African American woman to become licensed of the 442 who exist today. Detroit's College for Creative Studies donated \$1000 toward the cost of the putt-putt station, which included turf made entirely from recycled plastic water bottles.



Re-Imagining Justice with an Alternative to New Jail in Detroit

The Detroit Justice Center & Designing Justice + Designing Spaces hosted a workshop with teens from the Black Youth Project, 400 Forward, and Teen Hype. Students huddled around tables talking about the future of their city and discussed something that normally doesn't include the perspective of students — jails. Or, more specifically, what Detroit would look like if a restorative justice center was built instead of a new Wayne County jail.

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