

EQUITY AMPLIFIER

Asset Funders Network's Equity Amplifier for Economic Security (EA) is a new series highlighting organizations or nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color. EA's intent is to:

- **Amplify** the voices of organizations led by people of color.
- **Reduce** systemic biases and barriers within philanthropy.
- **Encourage** AFN membership to broaden and deepen their commitment to supporting economic security and asset building strategies that target diverse communities.

EQUITY AMPLIFIER IS
GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.,
METLIFE FOUNDATION, AND
TRUIST FOUNDATION.

Dancing Grounds



Where are you headquartered?

New Orleans, LA

What is your organization's mission or vision?

Dancing Grounds (DG) develops young leaders, promotes health & wellness, and advocates for social change through inclusive and accessible dance programs reaching New Orleans residents of all ages.

Which area(s) of service BEST describes your organization?

Dancing Grounds (DG) develops young leaders, promotes health & wellness, and advocates for social change through inclusive and accessible dance programs reaching New Orleans residents of all ages.



Does your organization identify as a BIPOC led? What does that look like within your organization?

DG's executive director is a Black woman sharing leadership with a majority-led Board of Directors, many of whom identify as Black or Latinx.

Provide an example of a program or initiative that your organization is spearheading that works to advance economic opportunity and prosperity for BIPOC communities?

DG is expanding its seed work with a few New Orleans culture bearers to a larger number of artists and teens, specifically through providing financial literacy and coaching to improve the financial savviness of artists in our community.

How does your work impact communities and populations that are historically marginalized, underserved and/or under-resourced?

DG's artists are mostly Black women gig workers/dancers. DG's teens are enrolled in New Orleans public schools, 90% Black, and 75% girls - both mostly from historically disenfranchised neighborhoods.

What are some specific barriers or biases from within philanthropic organizations that you believe are hindering BIPOC led or BIPOC serving organizations in accessing adequate funding or support?

The biggest barrier is the lack of connections in prosperous social networks. Also, persistent racism and internal biases (preferring white-led organization) play a huge role in keeping BIPOC-led/serving organizations from being equitably funded.

Name one thing funders need to be cognizant of when connecting or partnering with BIPOC led or organizations and communities?

We encourage funders to accurately educate themselves about BIPOC-led/serving organizations and communities WITHOUT the burden of the education resting on the shoulders of BIPOC people.



Dancinggrounds



@dancinggrounds

HOW FUNDERS CAN GET INVOLVED

As a benefit of AFN membership, funders may nominate local nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color to highlight as part of the EA series, allowing your organization to showcase innovative models and best practices to help build a more secure future for diverse communities. [Click here](#) for more information or to nominate an organization or nonprofit led by people of color for the AFN EA.

Funders who wish to learn more about Dancing Grounds, contact candi@dancinggrounds.org and visit <https://www.dancinggrounds.org/>