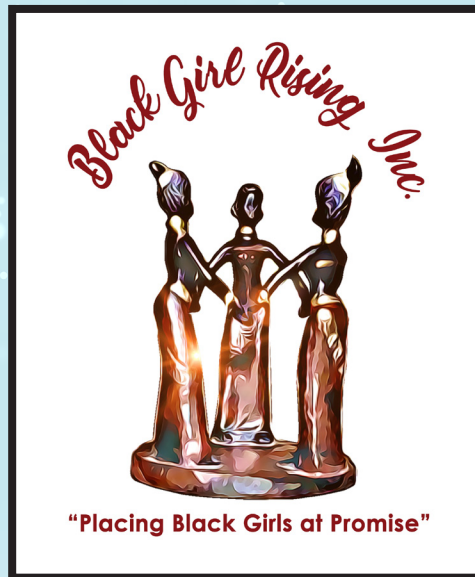


Collaborative Effort Award

Award criteria:

Nominees, which may be any combination of individuals, communities, businesses, or other organizations, must collectively have made significant contributions toward building a sense of unity among Ohio citizens. Nominees must have used Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of nonviolent social change to successfully bring people from diverse backgrounds together to build a better community and advance equity.



Black Girl Rising
Columbus



Junior League
of Columbus

Black Girl Rising Inc. and the Junior League of Columbus, both Columbus non-profit organizations, have joined together to lift up African American girls in the Columbus area.

Black Girl Rising was founded in 2010 as Rise Sister Rise to help ensure African American girls live lives of authenticity, equality, and resiliency.

The Junior League of Columbus, founded in 1923, is part of the Associations of Junior Leagues International whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Throughout its 100-year-history, the Junior League of Columbus has been making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our community.

Recognizing members should have a better understanding of the audiences they serve, the Junior League of Columbus formed a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Council a couple of years ago. The mission of the council is to create a welcomed representation of diverse feelings of acceptance across all partnerships with the Junior League of Columbus.

During the 2021-2022 League year, the DEIB Council, in its first year, hosted two book club meetings, created a resources library on its membership website, developed a DEIB calendar promoting DEIB topics throughout the year, and started a DEIB Speaker Series.

The speaker series began in May 2022 featuring Black Girl Rising founder Fran Frazier as the speaker. This led to an ongoing partnership. The organizations joined together to host seven "Love Letters to Black Girls" events in the fall of 2022 throughout Columbus.

During each event, local women leaders read from the book Love Letters to Black Girls. Attendees received a free copy of the book as well as another related book. In total, more than 150 girls participated.

These events fostered a sense of community building that the organizations plan to build upon.