

THE
Marsha P.
Johnson
INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



CEO LETTER

Beloved Community,

In the enduring spirit of BLACK radical tradition and liberation, I extend profound gratitude to each of you as we reflect on another transformative year at The Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI).

Our mission, grounded in recognizing the greatness inherent within BLACK people, propels us forward. From innovation to resilience, beauty, talent, and grace, we embody greatness in every facet of life. Recent historic feats, such as LeBron James' NBA all-time leading scorer record and Beyoncé STILL being the most-winning Grammy artist, remind us of our enduring brilliance and resilience.

Yet, even as we celebrate these achievements, we cannot ignore the coordinated attacks on our rights and dignity. From assaults on reproductive rights and religious freedom to attempts to erase BLACK history and science, these are not isolated incidents but deliberate acts of political warfare. It is political violence aimed at whittling away our power and erasing our existence.

Now, more than ever is the time for us to unite across differences and stand in solidarity for trans people, not only within this country but across the globe. America's actions hold implications for others, and the world is watching. We must urgently unite and stand in the gap against the forces of oppression.

As we head toward our 5th anniversary, we look back on our considerable progress building an extensive following in the BLACK trans community, changing the media narrative, expanding partnerships, distributing financial resources in times of crisis, leveraging funding opportunities, raising awareness and contributing thought leadership around public policy impacting BLACK trans people.

This year, with the unwavering support of our donors, MPJI expanded its program offerings, ensuring equity and access for all trans people. Our impact reverberated in international and national media stories, highlighting our work and partnerships.

The Coalition to End Violence Against Black Trans Women continues to stand as a beacon of solidarity, rooted in abolitionist values. Through initiatives like the Starship Artist Fellowship and the "We Got Us" Community Care Program, we provide vital support and opportunities for BLACK trans individuals.



Events like the World's Largest Drag Brunch and the MPJI Revival of Love Experience celebrate our community's vibrancy and resilience while collaborations with organizations like the National Women's Soccer League highlight the intersectionality of our struggle.

Our dedicated focus on LinkedIn has amplified our message, spreading the news of MPJI's work in prioritizing employee needs and challenging corporate structures. We recognize that true liberation requires dismantling oppressive systems at every level, including within corporate spaces.

The Make Good Famous Summit provided a platform to showcase MPJI's impactful work alongside luminaries like Lizzo. Her generous donation furthered our mission of advocating for BLACK trans people, demonstrating the power of collective action.

The Emmy nomination for my interview with "Black America TV" emphasizes the importance of amplifying BLACK voices and narratives. It is a testament to the resilience and creativity of our community in the face of adversity.

MPJI is at a pivotal moment in its brief history as it embarks on creating the vision for moving onward and forging significant change in the coming three fiscal years on behalf of our community.

As we look ahead, let us recommit ourselves to the relentless pursuit of liberation, guided by the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson and all those who have paved the way for our freedom. Our journey is far from over, but with courage, determination, and collective action, we will continue to build a future where BLACK transgender people live prosperous, safe, and liberated lives.



- Elle

ELLE MOXLEY

Founder and Project Lead



THE
Mansha P. Johnson
INSTITUTE
Revival of Love | Legacy Award 2023

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2023

THE
Marsha P.
Johnson
INSTITUTE



OUR MISSION

**THE MARSHA P. JOHNSON INSTITUTE (MPJI)
PROTECTS AND DEFENDS THE HUMAN RIGHTS
OF BLACK TRANSGENDER PEOPLE THROUGH
ADVOCACY, COALITION, AND CAPACITY
BUILDING.**

OUR VISION

**WE ENVISION A SOCIETY WHERE
BLACK TRANSGENDER PEOPLE LIVE
PROSPEROUS, ABUNDANT, SAFE
AND SELF-ACTUALIZED LIVES.**

FUNDERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Borealis Philanthropy
- Fund for a Safer Future
- Groundswell
- Langeloth Foundation
- Michael Stars Foundation
- New York Women's Foundation
- The Phluid Foundation
- Ruth Foundation for the Arts
- Satterberg Foundation
- Solidaire
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- William and Flora Hewlett



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS ALLOW US TO EXPAND OUR PROGRAM OFFERINGS.

WE APPRECIATE YOU PUTTING ACTION TO YOUR BELIEFS. CONTRIBUTING TO MPJI ENSURES THAT EQUITY AND ACCESS IS AVAILABLE TO TRANS PEOPLE.



GOOD
FAMOUS
SUMMIT

NEWS & MEDIA

MPJI was recognized this year in international and national media stories highlighting the organization's work, key partnerships, and, most importantly, impact on our community.

1,759

MEDIA
MENTIONS

1.2K

ONLINE
COVERAGE

22.9M

COVERAGE
VIEWS

818

MEDIA
OUTLETS



**151.8
THOUSAND
ENGAGEMENTS**



GUCCI CHANGEMAKERS

ELLE MOXLEY

The Marsha P. Johnson Institute and Elle Moxley were selected as a recipient of the prestigious GUCCI NORTH AMERICA CHANGEMAKERS IMPACT FUND as one of the twelve leading nonprofit organizations nationwide.

132,928 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



96,600
Followers



18,672
Followers



16,600
Followers



1,056
Followers

**as of December 31, 2022*

More than 130,000 social followers, including Zaya Wade, Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg, Brandi Carlile, Dominique Jackson, Sonia Renee Taylor, Ibram X. Kendi, Ijeoma Oluo, Rachel Cargle, Ts Madison, Miss Major, and Imara Jones.

This year, we had the intention to focus on LinkedIn to spread the news of the work MPJI does in building a company that puts the needs of employees first.





CAMPAIGNS

COALITION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK TRANS WOMEN

With the Coalition to End Violence Against BLACK Trans Women, funds were utilized to support the work of our member organizations. Each organization received \$12,000 for their work with the Coalition for the year. This financial support helped continue each organization's advocacy efforts, community organizing, and initiatives aimed at addressing violence against BLACK trans women. By mobilizing resources and collaborating with community organizations, the Coalition worked to amplify the voices of BLACK trans women and advocate for policy changes to enhance their safety and well-being. Through strategic data collection means and a successful petition with over 1,700 signatures, the Coalition gathered invaluable data on safety and access needs, informing targeted interventions and policy recommendation needs. This program exemplified our commitment to organizing within our community, advocating for our people, and creating intentional healing spaces to combat systemic injustices and defend the rights of BLACK transgender people.

STARSHIP ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Through the Starship Artist Fellowship, we allocated funds to provide nearly \$10,000 stipends per fellow for our five fellows, plus an additional \$2,000 for resources and mentorship to BLACK transgender artists, empowering them in their creative pursuits. By offering financial support and educational opportunities through Masterclass workshops, the program directly addressed the economic barriers faced by many BLACK trans people pursuing artistic careers. Additionally, the fellowship facilitated a supportive community environment where fellows could connect with peers and mentors, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment. This initiative not only provided tangible support to BLACK trans artists but also aligned with our mission by promoting transformative leadership and collective power within our community. After the fellowship, we hosted a Virtual Showcase/Artist Panel, held on August 24, 2023, and attended by over 50 enthusiastic viewers.

END ANTI-TRANSGENDER LEGISLATIVE VIOLENCE

More than 500 anti-transgender bills were introduced across 49 states, with nearly 70 percent actively progressing through legislatures. These bills represent a dangerous attack on the rights and dignity of transgender people, particularly BLACK transgender individuals already facing disproportionate levels of discrimination, violence, and marginalization. We started a petition to stand up to the hateful rhetoric and harmful policies that seek to erase us and deny us our basic human rights. We must speak out against these anti-trans bills and work to oppose them at every turn. We called on lawmakers at every level of government to reject these harmful and discriminatory measures and to instead support policies that promote equity, collaboration, reparations, and justice for the people these policies have always minimized.

“WE GOT US” COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

As part of MPJI’s “We Got Us” Community Care Program, in 2023, we donated to the DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center and Dallas Hope Charities—two organizations that are leading work for our community and helping sustain our collective movement.

The DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center is a Chicago community institution and the first nonprofit museum dedicated to studying and conservating African-American history, culture, and art, with over 15,000 pieces in its collection.

Dallas Hope Charity’s mission is to provide food, shelter, and services that instill dignity, stability, and hope for all through the Dallas Hope Center—the city’s LGBTQIA+-focused homeless youth transitional living center and extension program—and through the Collective Hope Coalition an initiative aimed at eliminating suicide among LGBTQIA+ community in the Dallas area.



EVENTS

PRIDE: REVIVAL OF LOVE

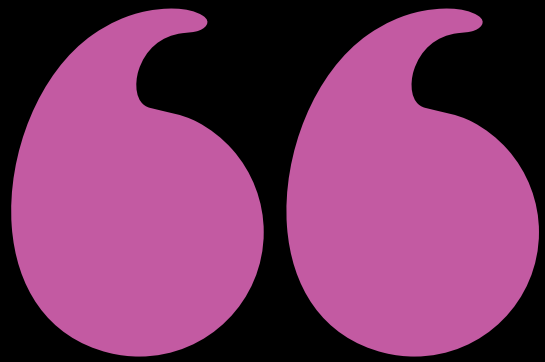
Through the Revival of Love event, funds were designated to celebrate the BLACK transgender community, uplift its pioneers, and promote interconnectedness among BLACK leaders nationwide. The event served as a platform to highlight the ongoing fight for equality and justice while celebrating BLACK trans joy. By bringing together community members, allies, and advocates, the Revival of Love fostered a sense of unity and solidarity, creating a space where BLACK trans people felt loved, respected, and empowered. Additionally, the event contributed to our mission by promoting collective power and transformative leadership, inspiring attendees to continue advocating for the rights and well-being of the BLACK transgender community.

WORLD'S LARGEST DRAG BRUNCH

Along with H&M, we set a new record for the World's Largest Drag Brunch with a 412-person drag brunch in Brooklyn, New York. The drag brunch featured almost two hours of performances from Aquaria and five show-stopping drag queens: The Dragon Sisters, Vena Cava, Victoria Holiday, Serena Tea, Mo'Riah, and Janelle No.5. We were honored to create a safe space to celebrate Pride and drag entertainment. The event provided a memorable and uplifting experience that was felt by every guest and celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community in a never-been-done-before way.







**THERE IS GREAT
POWER IN TRANS AND
QUEER PEOPLE BEING
ABLE TO SEE
THEMSELVES AND
BEING ABLE TO SEE
EACH OTHER.**

ELLE MOXLEY

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**



MOMENTS

MAKE GOOD FAMOUS SUMMIT & LIZZO

In May, we had the incredible honor of being represented by Elle Moxley at the Make Good Famous Summit hosted by The Elevate Prize Foundation. The event brought together over 100 of the world's most groundbreaking social entrepreneurs, innovators, and change-makers, all focused on leveraging media, content, and creativity to drive positive change.

Little did we know that the amazing Lizzo was recognized with the prestigious Elevate Prize Catalyst Award during the same summit! Inspired by the work of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, Lizzo made a generous donation to our cause through her Juneteenth Giveback Initiative. We are so grateful for her support, which has helped us further our mission of advocating for Black trans people.

EMMY NOMINATION

Elle Moxley's interview with Black America TV was nominated for a New York Emmy Award. Nominated for "Best Interview/Discussion," the interview centered around the powerful Hulu series 'The Hair Tales' and also featured Michaela Angela Davis, creator of the docuseries. Originally aired in November 2022, Elle and Michaela joined host Carol Jenkins to discuss their own hair journeys and why the stories of the women featured are important to understanding the resilience in Black women today.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

We collaborated with the NWSL as part of their commemoration of Juneteenth. The partnership, which is part of the NWSL's ongoing efforts to expand its Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion programs and initiatives, focused on promoting equality and social justice within the sports community and society at large. Aligning with such a formidable league, and standing alongside powerful women, was a profound honor.

MPJI STAFF

**ELLE
MOXLEY**

Founder & Project Lead
(She/Her)



Our small staff operates remotely from 6 different states and US territories, with a nationwide presence. Our team spans decades of experience in the social justice, organizing, visual and performing arts, human services, and nonprofit sectors.

Additionally, MPJI is expanding our Institute staff and implementing newly created positions as we continue to build our organization with intentionality and in the spirit of collaborative solidarity.

**STACY
BROWN**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
(She/Her)



**NALA
TOUSSIAN**

Director of Programming
(She/Her)



**ASTIN
BLOUNT**

Executive Administrative Assistant
(She/Her)



**YANETT
RAMIREZ**

Operations Assistant
(She/Her)



**TAZER
WASHINGTON**

National Strategic Program Coordinator
(They/Them)



A woman with a flower crown is hugging a person with braids from behind. They are at an outdoor event, possibly a festival or fair, with other people and trees in the background. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**WE'VE PROVEN WHAT'S
POSSIBLE IF THE
INVESTMENT IS MADE
INTO BLACK TRANS
ORGANIZATIONS.**

JOIN US IN 2024

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STEAKHOUSE

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