

BLACK ELDERING BILL OF RIGHTS:

A COMMUNITY MANIFESTO FOR THE CARE AND BELONGING OF BLACK ELDERS



OUR ORIGIN



LEARN FROM PAST

Sankofa
(return and get it)

From April 2024 through April 2025, the Sankofa ECO Group embarked on an Appreciative Inquiry Freedom Dreaming Journey to develop a community blueprint to advocate for equitable systems, policies, and resources to support the health and

wellbeing of Black Elders. The manifestation of that journey, the Black Eldering Bill of Rights, represents the collective wisdom of 150+ Sankofa Elder Ambassadors, family caregivers, community residents, and organizational leaders who are striving to build a movement to ensure that all Black Elders can live in Beloved Communities of Care while aging with grace and dignity.



STRATEGY
DANE DANE
(three years)

THE VISION

Conceptualized by the Sankofa Elder Ambassadors of Los Angeles County, the Black Eldering Bill of Rights serves as a guiding framework to promote aging justice and equity for Black Elders and those who care for them. It is also a manifesto that calls on the broader community to galvanize, organize, and prioritize the adoption of social practices, systems changes, and policy prescriptions that center and elevate the care and belonging of Black Elders.

MOVEMENT ARCHITECTS



Convened by Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance and California Black Women's Health Project, the Sankofa Elders Project is an Equity Community Organizing (ECO) Group funded by the SCAN Foundation, California Health Care Foundation, and Metta Fund to advance health equity in aging.



Metta Fund

BLACK ELDERING BILL OF RIGHTS PRINCIPLES



1. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE TO BE RESPECTED FOR THEIR TRUTHS AND LIVED EXPERIENCES



2. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO SELF-ACTUALIZATION



3. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND AGENCY



4. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE



5. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO AGE IN PLACE IN ELDER-AFFIRMING NEIGHBORHOODS



6. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO BENEFIT FROM TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION



7. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO AGE IN BELOVED COMMUNITIES OF CARE AND CONNECTION



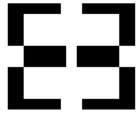
8. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE



9. BLACK ELDERS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR ANCESTRAL PATH AND END-OF-LIFE CARE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We honor and uplift the collective wisdom, lived experience, and visionary contributions of all who co-created the Black Eldering Bill of Rights. Your voices, truths, and dreams are the heartbeat of this work. With deep gratitude, we acknowledge each of you as co-authors of a future where Black Elders are celebrated, supported, and protected as vital members of beloved communities of care. Your commitment to justice, dignity, and joy for our Elders lights the path forward.

SANKOFA ELDERS PROJECT AMBASSADORS

Angela McGowan, Barbara Kennedy, Barbara Blankenship, Bertha Wellington, Byron Johns, Carolyn Burton, Cedric Holloman, Charles Marshall, Cynthia Preston-McClain, Cynthia Williams, Daphne Germaine, Deborah Washington, Dedra Mackey, Delores Aiken, Denise Davis, Denise Jefferson, Delores Williams, Donna Benton*, Donna Pugh, Doris Strickland, Evanguel Strickland, E. Marcelle Penn Mathis, Eleanor Collins, Esther Carter, Estella Dubose, Fredia Jones, Huberdean Lowe, Harvest Washington, Hertistine Washington, J'Sue Burks, Jill Reed, Jimmy Kirby, Joanne Russell, Joyce Germaine Watts, Judith Byard, Kerwin Session, Louida Shaw, Lynette Manning, Martina Lutchter, Melanie Brister, Myra Green*, Nicole Jones, Paula Hart, Peggy Barton, Peggy Scott, Reneé Smith Maddox*, Rita Robinson, Robert (Bobby) Smith, Selket Manipia, Sylvia Crockett, Tia Delaney-Stewart*, Thurman Jean Peden, Tracey Walker, Valerie Ford*, Valerie Young, Veronica Moser, Virginia Moser, and Yolanda Whittington*

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SANKOFA ELDERS PROJECT STEWARDS

CARLENE A. DAVIS, CONVENER

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SANKOFA ELDERS PROJECT THOUGHT PARTNERS

AGING WHILE BLACK
JUSTICE IN AGING

SANKOFA ELDERS PROJECT FUNDERS

THE SCAN FOUNDATION
CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION



JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR AGING JUSTICE



CALL TO ARMS
AKOBN
(war horn)

The Black Eldering Bill of Rights is a powerful call to action to honor, protect, and uplift Black Elders as they age with dignity, purpose, and grace. This manifesto outlines the rights every Black Elder deserves — from culturally-rooted care to safety and belonging.

By signing on, you're standing in solidarity with a growing movement to advance health equity and wellbeing for Black Elders. Add your name to the list of advocates today to support the Black Eldering Bill of Rights and receive updates on the movement:

www.blackeldering.com

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell for their leadership and steadfast support of the Sankofa Elders Project.



HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR ♦ 2ND DISTRICT

