

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: August 24-25, 2019

Contact: Kawana Lloyd, 240-472-2860, kawana@megaphonestrategies.com; Cabot Petoia, 828-899-9239, cabot@megaphonestrategies.com

****SAVE THE DATE, AUGUST 24-25: 500+ Expected in Baltimore for First-Ever Expo to Reignite a New Civil Rights Movement for Black Workers****

Maryland Senator Cory McCray, Carmen Berkley, Bill Fletcher, Steven Pitts, UFCW Robin Williams join line-up of speakers, workshops, Apprenticeship Opportunities to Inform, Engage, and Empower Black Workers

BALTIMORE -- On **August 24 and 25**, the [National Black Workers Center Project](#) (NBWCP) will host the first-ever [Working While Black Expo](#), a national convening focused on addressing the workplace challenges unique to Black workers. The purpose of the expo is to train, educate, and share innovative approaches to mobilization and organizing. ([view the full agenda here](#)).

In the midst of a racist, political atmosphere perpetuated by Donald Trump, as well as attacks on people of color nationwide, the NBWCP is stepping up efforts to challenge the reality of working while Black, underemployment, discrimination, and workplace racism that continues to burden Black workers. The NBWCP is also aiming to reignite the muted conversations about race, civil rights and labor activism not seen or heard since the 60s.

The expo will feature hundreds of veteran political and labor activists, artists, environmental warriors, and provide an experience that transfers skills, promotes a love of learning and Black culture, and fosters community engagement and collaboration. **Key clinics and panels will include: Know Your Rights** clinic and legal aid consultations; **Apprenticeship Fair**; **“Community Corner”** of social and economic nonprofits from across the Baltimore area, **Black Voices, Black Votes**, focused on holding politicians accountable, a **Black Film Festival**, and the inaugural [Black Collar Awards](#), to recognize an individual who works to end the Black jobs crisis and inspires and works to achieve social and worker justice for African Americans.

“The divisive words of the Trump administration have brought national attention and conversation to the need for the righteous fight we publicly should wage on behalf of, and with constituents to change the reality of Black workers from burden to opportunity and community,” **said NBWCP Executive Director Tanya Wallace Govern**. “The NBWCP fully intends to invigorate a new era of a civil rights and social justice movement that acknowledges Black people as equals. The Working While Black Expo will inform, engage, and empower Black workers to mobilize and fight for change around workforce, political, and social justice issues.”

****EVENT DETAILS****

WHAT: First-ever [Working While Black Expo](#), a national convening focused on addressing the workplace challenges unique to Black workers with hundreds of political and cultural Black thought leaders from Baltimore City and nationwide ([view the full agenda here](#)).

WHEN: Saturday, August 24, and Sunday, August 25

WHERE: Physical Education Complex at Coppin State University; 2500 W North Ave Baltimore, Maryland 21216

WHO: [National Black Worker Center Project](#) leaders and organizers from nine Black Worker Center affiliates in Baltimore; Raleigh; Los Angeles; Bay Area; Chicago; Greenville, MS; New Orleans; Rocky Mount, NC; and Washington, DC.

FEATURE SPEAKERS INCLUDE: Maryland [Senator Cory McCray](#); award-winning photographer, writer and Baltimore City native [Giancarlo Valentine](#); Director of Civil Rights for UFCW [Robin Williams](#); step troupe Lethal Ladies of Baltimore; Oscar Nominated and Student Academy Award Winning Filmmaker of "My Nephew Emmett," [Kevin Wilson, Jr.](#); Senior Political Director for Color of Change, [Kwesi Chappin](#); racial justice, labor and international activist, and author of "They're Bankrupting Us!" [Bill Fletcher](#); UC Berkeley labor policy expert [Steven Pitts](#); and many more ([view the full list of speakers here](#)).

Tracks & Sessions include: *Black Table Talks: insightful guests, no-holds-barred topics; Health and Wellness; Black Culture Connections; Working While Black; Black Knowledge Exchange*

ADDITIONAL FEATURES & VISUALS:

- [Apprenticeship Fair](#)
- [Working While Black Stories](#)
- [Black Wall St.](#)
- [Black Knowledge Exchange](#)
- [Black Table Talks](#)
- [Black Culture Connections](#)
- [Black Health Matters](#)
- [Black Voices, Black Votes](#)

*** For advance interviews, please contact kawana@megaphonestrategies.com or cabot@megaphonestrategies.com ***

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The National Black Worker Center Project (NBWCP) launched in 2011 to address the job crisis for Black workers. Its mission is 1) to support and incubate Black worker centers that empower Black workers to advance their rights and improve the quality of jobs in key employment centers; 2) to prevent racial discrimination in hiring and other employment practices and policies; and 3) to provide education about the impacts of low-wage work and unemployment on Black communities. See the [full list of NBWCP affiliates](#) in Baltimore; Los Angeles; Bay Area; Chicago; Greenville, MS; New Orleans; Rocky Mount, NC; and Washington, DC.