Mission and Vision

The BlackFacts Educational Foundation is the non-profit arm of BlackFacts.com, LLC.

The Foundation's **Mission** is to create platforms using advanced, innovative but practical technologies that inspire, educate and empower people from historically disadvantaged cultures and communities.

Our **Vision** is of children in communities like those of the Founders childhoods who imagine growing up to be a leader in technology to be as possible as becoming a doctor, lawyer or political leader.
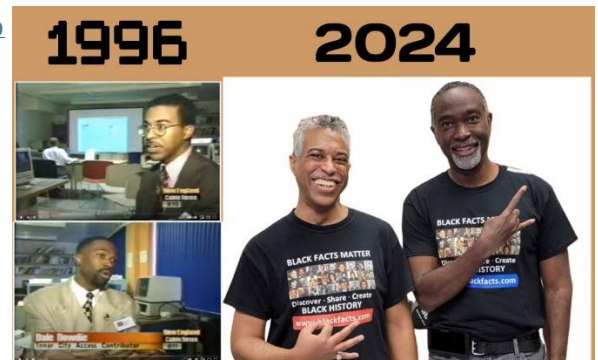
About BlackFacts.com

Launched in 1997 as the internet's first Black history search engine, today BlackFacts.com is the world's largest online source of Black history and Black news content, as well as the only place you can watch an original Black History video for every day of the year, our Black Fact Of The Day™ video we feature on the BlackFacts home page.

BlackFacts was created by and has been maintained consistently for the past twenty-eight years by Co-Founders Ken Granderson and Dale Dowdie - world-class technologists who have delivered best of breed technology solutions to a range of stakeholders from neighborhood minority businesses to Fortune 20 corporations and a Caribbean government. Ken and Dale are unique in the tech industry as two Unapologetically Black Technologists who have specialized in creating and delivering technology solutions on par with or (usually) ahead of the mainstream, to underserved communities and communities of color.

Visionary and Unique Technology Projects from the BlackFacts Team include (click links for details):

- 1992 - First Unapologetically Black software development shop
- 1995 - World's first multimedia CD-ROM on Black History
- 1996 - Internet's first Black neighborhood online
- 1997 - Internet's First Black History Search Engine
- 1998 - Put the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation online
- 1998 - Internet's first Black Pages online
- 1999 - Boston's Empowerment Zone online
- 2002 - Roxbury.com, featuring self-serv Events and Businesses
- 2013 - Official website of the Government of Saint Lucia
- 2017 - Internet's first AI-powered Black History site
- 2023 / 2024 - Black History on New York City's LinkNYC Kiosks
- 2024 - Black History taught from any internet-connected device

BlackFacts.com is FREE to the global online public. Our revenue comes from our ed-tech offering Diversity Schoolhouse, which is helping over 1,000 teachers in 14 states teach Black history and ethnic studies from their smart boards or even their smartphones, using our 1,500-plus-strong original video series augmented by AI with teaching aids like talking points, quizzes, classroom activities, and more.

While we grow the reach of Diversity Schoolhouse across all 50 states, we are launching the Foundation to garner support for our other projects which are important, but do not have a revenue basis.

Foundation Projects

We have a variety of projects leveraging modern advanced technologies like Generative AI, speech recognition and conversational interfaces under development, and being self-funded, with no external investors or R&D budget, we are developing them as Foundation Projects and seeking funding to give them away to the public.

Immediate / Short-Term Projects (3-6 Months to MVP)

- **BlackFacts Say Their Names**: Website widgets based on our current Diversity Widget technology that display an interactive multimedia memorial on any website to victims of racial violence and police brutality dating back to the 1940s. Visitors can learn the stories of the victims and record themselves saying their names for others to play back. The widgets can be used as fund-raisers for social justice and legal defense organizations.
- **StoryKeeper:** Builds an interconnected tapestry of shared human experience across miles, generations and communities simply by having Nana tell her life story to her phone. An extension of Timbuktu™, BlackFacts' AI-powered engine that aggregates, classifies and syndicates content on the BlackFacts and third-party sites, StoryKeeper's initial target communities are elderly Black Americans who lived in the Jim Crow South, and Native American elders who are often the only remaining keepers of stories that date back millenniums.
- **Civic Chat**: A platform to foster civic literacy and engagement by teaching citizens how government is supposed to serve them, who to contact for which services, and the stated positions and / or voting records on civic issues of incumbent and candidate office holders at local to national levels, just by talking to their phone, in their native language.
- **BlackFacts for Families:** A culturally empowering, self-directed digital learning platform that brings Black history education directly into the homes and hands of millions of families across the Diaspora. Powered by our proprietary Timbuktu technology, it offers culturally grounded videos, personalized learning tracks, and tools for building virtual communities. BlackFacts for Families is designed to empower parents, homeschoolers, grassroots educators, and faith leaders to teach authentic Black history on their terms - outside the control of corporations and governments, and freely accessible via the public internet.
- **HBCU Video Showcase:** The BlackFacts HBCU Video Showcase will be the only place to learn about the histories and notable alums of all 107 of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Modeled after our Divine Nine Showcase video series, each school will have its own video, displayed above historical and current articles about the institution, its students or alumni. The Showcase is Phase 1 of a 4 Phase long-term plan that will culminate with HBCU Widgets hosted on any website that will not only share HBCU news but will sell event tickets and accept donations for Virtual Endowment programs.

Medium-Term Projects (6-12 Months to MVP)

- **Voting While Black**: A civic engagement platform focused on empowering Black voters and grassroots civic engagement campaigns with AI-powered gamification and campaign improvement strategies and the conversational user experience being built for other BlackFacts ecosystem applications. Voting While Black will make voter record lookup easy for citizens, while making it simple for community organizers to set up, manage, measure the effectiveness and promote activities like voter registration drives, door knocking campaigns and candidate fundraisers, all from a mobile app.
- **Organized Youth:** A youth program management platform that includes tools for goal setting, progress tracking, collaborative learning and KPI reporting to support youth programs in their missions and document their efficacy via hard data.
- **Nations of Africa Series:** Modeled after the BlackFacts HBCU Showcase and Divine Nine series, this project will celebrate the histories, cultures, and achievements of all 54 African nations. Each nation will have its own video, complemented by historical articles, notable figures, and current developments. As a unique resource for educators, this series will require significant time and funding to produce high-quality content, including video scripts, production, and accompanying teaching materials.

Long-Term Projects (12+ Months to MVP)

- **Ujamaa Community Platform:** Inspired by the Swahili concept of cooperative economics, this fintech mobile application promotes local business loyalty and financial literacy. It incorporates blockchain-secured loyalty programs, AI-driven gamification, and community-based financial incentives, fostering economic empowerment at the grassroots level.
- **Ubuntu Tech Academy:** A technology education initiative that trains world-class software developers rooted in the Ubuntu philosophy of mutual support. This program will provide free expert-level software development instruction in exchange for a commitment to "pay it forward" by contributing to community projects or mentoring future students. Courses will include frontend, backend, API and micro-services architecture and development, database management, and DevOps using BlackFacts codebases.
- **E-Government:** Based on the multi-tenant custom content management system we architected, built, and continue to maintain for the Government of Saint Lucia since 2014 at https://govt.lc, this platform empowers government ministries to publish official information, forms, and opportunities for their citizens. As a Foundation Project, we aim to expand and modernize its capabilities, leveraging advancements in technology to improve usability, accessibility, and functionality. The enhanced system will be made available to other small governments at free or nominal cost, fostering transparency and accessibility in public administration globally.

A Tech Organization Like No Other

The BlackFacts Educational Foundation is a technology organization like no other. For the past three decades, we have observed technology initiatives focused on communities of color that start and remain at entry levels, with no evidence of a single industry leader emerging from those efforts.

At the BlackFacts Educational Foundation, we take a profoundly different approach. Our mission is unabashedly focused on inspiring the first Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, or Mark Zuckerberg to emerge from an underserved community - someone known globally for technology they created, while (unlike the founder of Calendly, who few even know is Black) fully embracing and celebrating their culture, and inspiring those who will identify with them to dream bigger and better than ever before.

Some may consider this vision elitist, but we make no excuses. We firmly believe that our brothers, sisters and neighbors are just as skilled, just as intelligent, and just as creative as the individuals who have become barons of industry. Without examples of success to look up to and be inspired by, individuals from communities like ours will continue to perceive themselves as unable to lead in the most impactful industry on the planet. We are here to change that narrative by developing cohorts of future tech leaders to whom leadership, excellence and community impact are non-negotiable, and we do this boldly, unapologetically, and with the vision, determination and hard skills to make it a reality.

Thank you.

Ken Granderson
Co-Founder/CTO

Blackfacts Brooklyn Office
Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn USA
Web: www.blackfacts.com
Email: ken@blackfacts.com
Phone: (857) 222-2318
Schedule: https://calendly.com/kengranderson