

# DENNIS MAURICE DUMPSON

Education & Equity Strategist | Leadership Coach | Philanthropy & Fundraising Pundit | Author

Philadelphia, PA

[LinkedIn](#) | [Personal Website](#) | [Company Website](#)

## LEADERSHIP SUMMARY

For 20 years, as a tri-sector leader, I have leveraged my expertise in public awareness, fundraising, philanthropy, equity, inclusion, and listening to support some of the most persistent issues in education reform, civil rights, and economic justice for historically marginalized communities. I have a robust legacy in philanthropy, securing more than \$40MM in new funding. My thought leadership can be seen in the **Washington Post**, **Socialist Worker**, **Medium**, and others.

**Some of my successes also include:**

- Secured a one-time seven-figure gift from a legacy donor to open K-8 schools in North Philadelphia, which supported more than 1,000 students, 96 percent identified as African American and Latin American.
- Funded development of college coaching at the School District of Philadelphia for 4,000 students by 2028.
- Developed Philadelphia International Airport's first racial equity employment strategy that increased diverse hires by 25 percent, which included a 55 percent increase in high school and college interns.
- Developed the 50th Anniversary DEI roadmap for the Common App
- Developed **Abolition, Reform, Expansion of Philanthropy**, a course examining systemic inequities.
- As senior program manager of Philadelphia Freedom Schools at Communities In Schools of Philadelphia, I secured \$880,000 to continue K-12 year-round programming through diversified funding sources.
- Developed KIPP Philadelphia School's first Philadelphia Black History Curriculum through my consultancy.
- Led a cross-functional team to secure a \$22MM investment for small business owners of color in 13 states
- Developed the Black male enrollment strategy that increased Lincoln University of PA's enrollment.
- Launched a community-forward preschool in Philadelphia as a founding board member and fundraising chair

## EDUCATION

MBA; Finance & Leadership	<b>Saint Joseph's University</b>	Philadelphia, PA	2015
<b>Capstone:</b> <i>The effects of systemic oppression on Black business leaders</i>			
<b>International Residency:</b> South America (Brazil and Chile)		<b>Advisor:</b> Brent Smith, Ph.D.	
Bachelor of Science - Philosophy	<b>Lincoln University of PA</b>	Oxford, PA	2005
<b>Thesis:</b> <i>An Ethnographic Analysis: How does homelessness change a community?</i>		<b>Advisor:</b> Dana Flint, Ph.D.	

## EXPERIENCE

Let's Get Ready **Chief External Affairs Officer** OCTOBER 2022 - PRESENT

Headquartered in New York, Let's Get Ready (LGR) is powered by students helping students and leverages text messaging and Generative AI to support students from high school through college graduation. I lead all external facing and revenue strategies and direct LGR's national partnerships, fundraising, and brand teams.

- Student enrollment increased by 8,000, and revenue increased by \$2.4MM in two years.
- Ensured a combined surplus of more than \$850,000 across two fiscal years
- In partnership across the organization, developed strategies and negotiation tools for three new signature partnerships to increase LGR's enrollment by 30,000 students by 2028.

#InvestBLK

**Founder & CEO**

DECEMBER 2019 - PRESENT

Headquartered in Philadelphia, #InvestBLK is a racial equity and strategy consultancy I founded to support CBOs and government institutions in building anti-racist communities, policies, practices, and commitments.

- **KIPP Philadelphia Schools:** Developed their Black History curriculum and stories of Black Philadelphians.
- **Lincoln University:** Developed a college access outreach and media strategy for the recruitment efforts for Black males and acted as a writer for the University President for high-level announcements and articles.
- **Philadelphia Museum of Art:** Developed DEIA & community strategy that engaged over 400 customers
- **PHILADELPHIA250:** Led a three-year racial equity audit and developed their DEIA strategic plan.

The City of Philadelphia

**Director; Community Engagement & Outreach**

2017 - 2019

Led community DEI & engagement for the Philadelphia International Airport, a division of the Department of Commerce

- Diversity Liaison for the City of Philadelphia's Division of Aviation on behalf of the Department of Commerce
- Developed the employee diversity strategy for recruiting skilled labor, interns, and temporary employees.
- Engaged with a pipeline of more than 130 organizations, schools, agencies, community groups, and individuals

KIPP Philadelphia Public Schools

**Managing Director; Development & External Impact**

2016 - 2017

Led the fundraising for KIPP Philadelphia Schools, a public charter school system that served 4,000 K-12 students.

- Developed the strategy for fundraising for KIPP's 20/20 Vision \$20MM campaign
- Increased multi-year commitments from \$650,000 to \$1.55MM in one year
- Secured \$4.2MM in gifts (\$3.3MM for annual giving; \$900K multi-year investments) and \$730K in new funding.

Opportunity Finance Network

**Interim Executive VP, Development (*Promotion*)**

2015 - 2017

Based in Philadelphia, OFN convenes the CDFI industry, supporting equitable community financing. I was promoted from VP of Development to Interim Executive Vice President, and the CEO hired me to consult after my employment.

- Led a pipeline of more than 90 partners with investments valued at more than \$13MM
- **2015 Revenue goal:** \$535K      **2015 Revenue results:** \$955K in Corporate Sponsorship
- **2016 Revenue goal:** \$700K      **2016 Revenue results:** \$987K in Corporate Sponsorship
- Led complex debt/grant award for \$2MM from the CDFI Fund through the U.S. Department of Treasury
- Led department staff, managed performance goals, and cultivated leadership development.
- Raised \$4.1MM in funding and led a team to secure a \$22MM EQ2 investment powered by Woodforest Bank.

Communities In Schools of Phila.

**Senior Development Officer (*Promotion*)**

2012 - 2014

Promoted from a Senior Program Manager to the fundraising director for this K-12 dropout prevention organization.

- Managed an \$8MM portfolio and secured \$5MM to continue the organization's Teen Parenting program.
- Cultivated a multiyear funding pipeline of \$1.2MM to continue Out-of-School Time programming.

**Senior Manager, Philadelphia Freedom Schools & Out-of-School Time Programs**

- Supported 300 students, served as Senior Operations leader, and supervised 50+ all year-round, contracted, and summer program staff.
- Secured \$900K in multi-year support through a 3-year renewable service contract for OST programming.
- Direct oversight for the reporting of \$600K in programmatic grant funding

## BOARD AFFILIATIONS

- **DiasporaDNA Story Center**                      Founding Board Member                      2024 - Present
  - DiasporaDNA Story Center is a cultural hub that activates makers and minds to explore origin stories, ephemera, and collective memories from the global majority's art, history, and lives.
- **Abortion Liberation Fund of PA**                      Board Chair, Executive Committee                      2021-2023
  - ALF-PA envisions a future for Philadelphia and surrounding counties where bodily autonomy, reproductive freedom, and abortion liberation are normalized and celebrated.
  - Led the organization through significant leadership shifts, legal battles, and political dissonance and supported a \$1MM surplus
- **EducationWorks**                      Trustee, Executive Committee                      2021-2023
  - EducationWorks provided academic support, career readiness, and enrichment programming throughout Philadelphia to more than 15,000 young people 4 - 24 years of age.
- **Boundless Freedom Project**                      Director, Executive Committee                      2022-2023
  - BFP serves more than 500 incarcerated people in 15 prisons across California by offering Buddhist teachings, meditative movement, ethics, and mindfulness.
  - With the Executive Director, I developed the organization's 3-year fundraising plan.
- **PHL Pride Collective**                      Fundraising Chair                      2021-2023
  - The PHL Pride Collective was formed in June 2021, meeting the need for a new organization to support annual pride celebrations in Philly.
  - Raised more than \$200K for a citywide festival regarded by NPR and WHYY as the most "inclusive Pride."
- **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**                      Member, Fundraising Committee                      2018 - 2020
  - GPHCC develops, promotes, and advocates for Hispanic businesses in the Greater Philadelphia Region while encouraging the advancement and economic growth of the Hispanic community.
- **Greater Philadelphia YMCA**                      Member, Fundraising Co-Chair                      2012 - 2015
  - The Greater Philadelphia YMCA's Columbia North branch is a center for family-friendly activities that connect communities, families, and neighbors to a healthier life.
  - Served as co-chair for fundraising efforts and worked collaboratively to build a \$50,000 campaign funded solely by community members.
- **Arch Street Preschool**                      Founding Board Member                      2011 - 2013
  - The Arch Street Presbyterian Church founded Arch Street Preschool, a joyful and open community centered on Christian values that celebrates gifts through diversity, discovery, and play.
  - Was part of the leadership that launched the school from an idea to an institutionalized preschool that served students across the region, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- **Response-Ability Volunteer Teachers**                      Member                      2008 - 2010
  - Response-Ability is a non-profit volunteer service program founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child that places college graduates in inner-city Catholic schools in the United States and other international sites. I led the board's marketing committee.

## TEACHING

<b>LaSalle University</b>	Instructor	2021 - Present
<i>Courses (Adult Education - The Nonprofit Center):</i> History & Introduction to Philanthropy and Fundraising; Introduction to Fundraising; Roots to Ritual: History of Philanthropy; and Abolition, Reform, and Expansion of Philanthropy		
<b>Community College of Philadelphia</b>	Visiting Lecturer & Fellow	2019 - 2021
<i>Courses:</i> FYE 101 - First-Year Experience		
<b>Community College of Philadelphia</b>	Instructor	2007 - 2011
<i>Courses (Dual Enrollment):</i> Introduction to Public Speaking		

## CERTIFICATIONS

<b>African American Policy Forum</b>	Critical Race Theory Certificate	2021 & 2022
<b>Bryn Mawr College</b>	Nonprofit Executive Leadership Certificate	2012

## PUBLISHED WORK, INTERVIEWS, EXPERT SOURCES, AND SPEAKING

### BOOKS

Dumpson, D.M.; Women, B. (2022). *Black Washed: A Collection of Essays, Poems, Dreams, and Letters Addressed to Black Folk*. Very Black Books.

Maurice, D. (2009). *What My Colored Eyes See: The Words of a Decorated Child*. Xlibris Books Corp.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Dumpson-Diggs, A.S.; Dumpson, D.M. (2025). *Radical Sensitivity: Awareness Practices for Humane Communities*. Very Black Books.

Dumpson, D.M. (2025). *Other Side of Soil: Our Journey Through Mud and Magic*. Very Black Books.

### INVITED COMMENTARIES, EXPERT SOURCE, AND OP-EDS

May, B., Zeynep, G. (2022, June 8). Take our walking tour of Philly's LGBTQ history. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. <https://www.inquirer.com/philly-tips/free-walking-tour-philadelphia-pride-lgbtq.html>.

Smith, T. (2022, January 20). What Does the DEI Industry Look Like Almost Two Years After George Floyd?. *The Plug*. <https://tpinsights.com/what-does-the-dei-industry-look-like-almost-two-years-after-george-floyd/>.

Wootson, C. (2021, December 28). The White DA, the Black ex-mayor and a harsh debate on crime. *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/12/28/krasner-nutter-philadelphia-crime/>.

Dumpson, D.M. (2021, June 19). Juneteenth: A Party, Proclamation, and Protest. *Medium*. <https://medium.com/@dennismaurice83/juneteenth-a-party-proclamation-and-a-protest-e6f27040f32>.

Dumpson, D.M. (2021, March 15). Habits, Heritage, and Histories of American Hatred: A Reminder that Asian American and Racial & Ethnic Hate are American Traditions. *Medium*. [Source](#).

Dumpson, D.M. (2020, July 4). #AllFourthsMatter: A Meditation on The Fourths. *Medium*.  
<https://medium.com/@dennismaurice83/allfourthsmatter-a-meditation-on-the-fourths-88ddb6141a11>.

Dumpson, D.M. (2020, June 26). How Is Sugar Born? A Meditation on Black Trans Life. *Medium*.  
<https://medium.com/@dennismaurice83/how-is-sugar-born-a-meditation-on-black-trans-life-fa8fcfe5cad9>.

Klimber, C. (2020, June 15). This uprising has won gains—keep fighting. *The Socialist Worker*.  
<https://socialistworker.co.uk/comment/this-uprising-has-won-gains-keep-fighting/>.

Wootson, C. (2020, June 13). New generation of activists, deeply skeptical of Democratic Party, resists calls to channel energy into the 2020 campaign. *The Washington Post*.  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-generation-of-activists-deeply-skeptical-of-democratic-party-resists-calls-to-channel-energy-into-the-2020-campaign/2020/06/13/cbacede6-ac47-11ea-9063-e69bd6520940\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-generation-of-activists-deeply-skeptical-of-democratic-party-resists-calls-to-channel-energy-into-the-2020-campaign/2020/06/13/cbacede6-ac47-11ea-9063-e69bd6520940_story.html).

Sherman, E. (2012, January 27). How McDonald's Twitter campaign fell into the fire. *CBS MoneyWatch*.  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-mcdonalds-twitter-campaign-fell-into-the-fire/>.

### **RADIO/PODCAST INTERVIEWS**

Dumpson, D.M. (2023). Interviewed by Melonee Gaines. On The Phone With Friends Podcast. Apple Podcasts. 6 February. Available at: [Source](#).

Dumpson, D.M. (2022). Interviewed by Jonathan Santos-Silva. Bored of Ed Podcast. Apple Podcasts. 10 February. Available at: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/boe-live-the-big-game-special/id1524997174?i=1000550682190>.

Dumpson, D.M. (2021). Interviewed by Sincerely Syreeta. Save Space with Sincerely Syreeta. WURD 96.1 FM. 18 June. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1wF3Y5KkrY>.

Dumpson, D.M. (2021). Interviewed by Valerie V. Gay. King Crush Thursday. YouTube. 14 January. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR7STlhAQTs>.

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

Dumpson, D.M. Moderator & Panelist. "Branding for the Culture: Mindful Creative for Diverse Audiences," Design Philadelphia and radiantHUE. Braid Mill Factory, Philadelphia, PA. October 2024.

Dumpson, D.M. Panelist. "Embracing AI in College Attainment: Hybrid-Advising Playbook for Success," The National College Attainment Network (NCAN) National Conference. Anaheim Convention Ctr., Anaheim, CA. September 2024.

Dumpson, D.M. Panelist. "Nonprofit Trends: What to expect, how to prepare" The Independent Business Alliance's (LGBT Chamber of Commerce) Nonprofit Leaders Forum. Athena Global Advisors, Philadelphia, PA. February 2024.

Dumpson, D.M. Moderator & Guest Speaker. "Black Joy Be Like: DLT BLM Social Justice and Advocacy Series," the University of San Diego. San Diego, CA. March 2022.

Dumpson, D.M. Guest Speaker. "Black Lemons: How DEI can shape our understanding of business," Temple University's Fox School of Business SPO Alumni DEI Council. Virtual. September 2021.

Dumpson, D.M. Panelist. "The Power of MLK's Legacy," The National Museum of American Jewish History. Philadelphia, PA. February 2019.