



*Leaning into our [Commitment to Racial Equity](#) and [Strategic Framework](#), Funders Together shares statements, articles, and other resources that highlight the voices of Black, Indigenous, and other leaders of color in the fields of philanthropy, homelessness, and intersecting systems. While it's important for white leaders to speak up, we can further our commitments to racial justice by listening to, learning from, and incorporating the recommendations of BIPOC leadership into not only our grantmaking but also into the structures of our organizations.*



As Black History (and Futures) Month comes to a close, it is important for us to continue not only to reflect on the past, but also look forward to how we root our efforts for justice in the foundation of being explicitly Pro-Black. The intentional study and practice of dismantling white supremacy is just part of this work. And being Pro-Black also requires celebration and holding space for Black joy in our pursuit of justice and liberation.

Celebrating Black joy, love, and happiness is a form of resistance that we can honor through art - like music - from Black creatives and artists. As a Black, queer artist, activist, and academic, [Jonathan Lykes](#) leans into a calling for justice and liberation through the cultivation and creation of music that embodies Black joy. Through our partnership with Liberation House, Funders Together staff and members have had the privilege of experiencing this celebration of joy through Jonathan's intentional infusion of it into our racial justice coaching and learning opportunities.

Jonathan curated the [Black Youth Project 100's](#) first [Black Joy Experience album](#), which helped to harness "holistic energy through the Black radical tradition." In 2022, Jonathan released the [Black Joy Experience Volume 2: Comrade](#) that encompasses the intersectional experiences 100 leaders representing eight different movement organizations. Notably, this album also features [Ella Baker Shaker](#), which honors civil rights movement leader and activist Ella Baker and her legacy that lives on in the Black community.

Justice and liberation call to us through joy and love, which can manifest through art and celebration of song. Here, pain is met with meditation on hope and the possibility of what can be. As [Jonathan recently said](#): "To be joyful is strategic and necessary. It literally is how we will survive this world in generations to come."

**[Listen to The Black Joy Experience Vol. 2: Comrade.](#)**

*(Image courtesy of Jonathan Lykes)*

Funders Together to End Homelessness

This email was sent to [lauren@funderstogether.org](mailto:lauren@funderstogether.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.