



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2019

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### **Fifth annual Black women in architecture event held in Washington DC**

Washington, DC – On September 21, 2019, nearly 60 people gathered for the fifth annual Black Women in Architecture Brunch networking event. The event was held at the historic Octagon House in downtown Washington DC.

In addition to a buffet brunch with mimosas, attendees were treated to career insight from an engaging panel including, Sara Goins – Director of Marketing, Floura Teeter Landscape Architects, JC Burton – CEO, Maven Construction, Dr. Hazel Edwards – Professor and Chair, Department of Architecture at Howard University, and Natasha Mosley – Director, Single Family Development at The Menkiti Group.

Organized by a team of volunteers, this annual event is an opportunity for black women to gather and network with each other to foster working relationships, build future partnerships and support each other. In the profession, black women make-up only 0.4% (466) of the over 110,000 licensed architects in the United States. The event serves to connect women who could easily be working in environments where they rarely see another black women.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Desiree Cooper ARE Scholarship fund. The fund currently provides scholarships for those who need financial assistance to complete the architecture licensure process. To date, the fund has awarded five scholarships to exam candidates. This year's event raised near \$2000 toward the fund.

The 2019 event was sponsored by the Architect's Foundation, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Cooper Carry, E&G Consulting, VMDO, Jerryn J. McCray, Architect, Cure Architects, Plot, and AIA Northern Virginia, The Black Urbanist, Melissa Daniel, and Treana Raines. Student tickets were sponsored by Sehine Gizaw, Carol Smith, Kia Weatherspoon, Carol Smith Twyman, Morina Peterson, and Cynthia Shonaiya.

Additionally AIA Northern Virginia, AIA Potomac Valley, Sehine Gizaw, Morina Peterson, Darrell Oliver, April Drake, Genelle Anderson, and Karen Bryant contributed directly to the scholarship fund.

For more information <https://bwa-network.com>.

**About Katherine Williams**

Katherine Williams began hosting the Black Women in Architecture brunch in 2015. This event built on a decades long history of black women in the profession initiating events to gather and network, especially in Washington DC and New York. Katherine is a licensed architect. She has served as a volunteer in multiple positions with National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).