

Black Arts, Design & Global Engagement

Executive Summary

The **Black Arts, Design & Global Engagement (BADGE)** initiative is a dynamic research and resource hub dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary creative practice, scholarship, and engagement across the African Diaspora. Grounded in the understanding that the arts are the heartbeat of Black society, BADGE mobilizes the transformative power of arts and design to illuminate, confront, and reimagine the socio-political issues shaping Black communities globally.

Through fellowships, collaborative research, public programming, and diasporic exchange, BADGE brings together artists, designers, scholars, and cultural workers whose work addresses environmental justice, reproductive rights, food insecurity, poverty, and systemic inequities. By fostering meaningful partnerships and strengthening networks of creativity, BADGE positions Black arts and design at the forefront of shaping more equitable and imaginative futures.

Housed at the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at **Howard University**, a historic leader in Black creative and intellectual excellence, BADGE envisions itself as an international hub that radiates across the diaspora—supporting collaboration, shared leadership, and global connectivity. Its long-term vision is a flourishing ecosystem in which Black creative practices are recognized as essential tools for social transformation, collective healing, and community empowerment. This vision includes ethically harnessing technology to support global access and collaboration, celebrating Black creative excellence across regions, and building a vibrant root system that connects diasporic artists and scholars to one another.

BADGE's mission and vision are underpinned by a set of core values that guide its work: **artistic excellence, diasporic connectivity, social and environmental justice, healing and restoration, collaboration and shared leadership, ethical use of technology, education and access, and accountability to community.** These values ensure that BADGE's programs, partnerships, and research remain grounded in rigor, responsibility, and reciprocity.

By catalyzing artistic production, generating new knowledge, expanding discourse, and strengthening global networks, BADGE will serve as a transformative space where Black creativity not only thrives but leads. Through this work, BADGE aims to shape public conversation, inspire structural change, and cultivate a more connected, just, and liberated global future for Black communities everywhere.