



BLACK LAND MATTERS

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT COOPERATIVE

 BlackLandMatters.com

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 BlackLandMatter

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~ MEMBERS OVERVIEW ~

Most of the time, investment in real estate and concern for local community are seen as antithetical, or at least competing concerns. Take two experiences of the same news headline:

“Brooklyn, New York is the most expensive real estate market in the United States.”

If you hear this, and you own real estate in an urban city like Brooklyn, or your pension is invested in urban real estate, you smile as you've made a wise investment. But if you hear this headline, and you rent in Brooklyn, or your friends and family rent, you see displacement and loss of community in your future. This is but one example of what's happening in urban cities around the country.

But what if investment in real estate and concern for local community went together? With a real estate investment cooperative for permanently affordable space, we are doing just this. We combine people power with money power.

As a member of Black Land Matters Real Estate Investment Cooperative (BLM-REIC), you will receive details of domestic and international projects and listings. “Wherever Blackfolk are, Black Land Matters!”

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BLM-REICs purpose is to pool our money and our collective political power to create a fund that we manage together. For those of you who get confused when the word “investment” or “finance” is spoken, here’s some basic math to show what happens when we pool our money:

- ▶ If 1000 people give \$100 to the fund, we have \$100,000 to work with. But if 10,000 give \$100 to the fund, that’s a million dollars.

With a million dollars, we can purchase raw land and building resources to build on the land. Another possibility is we can renovate a city owned building that a particular city — for example the City of New York — transfers to us for \$1. Why would the city do this? First, from a market perspective, vacant city property is bad for landlords who own property either side of it, and it’s a liability for the city, and second, from a democratic perspective, city property should serve communities, right?

We are using the power of the networked information era to bring economic and social justice to our built environment. We can decide to inject capital into projects that (1) buy land/property from private owners to stabilize existing businesses and community spaces and (2) turn vacant municipal properties into sustainable community resources.

Members give \$50 annually investments for a voting share, and any additional investment does not give that member additional votes. We will decide together as a cooperative how to spend the money we pool. Each project we invest in will have both social value and be financially feasible. An expert team investigates each potential project and presents it to the membership for potential support after it has been vetted. Once the membership selects a project to support, acquisition and renovation funding is provided to the local managers of that project. BLM-REIC can ensure that members’ investments are safe — and safely, slowly

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growing — as it guides groups acquiring and renovating land to ownership structures that will maximize the social value of the spaces we develop and preserve together. By using legal mechanisms for perpetual affordability, we will make sure that ownership structures reflect the needs of present and future communities and honor the collective power and capital used to make them possible.

SO WHY WOULD YOU JOIN THIS COOPERATIVE?

Because winning as an individual is quite difficult. Everyone seems to be trying to solve this problem of affordability on an individual level. Historically, we've learned that past successes relied on people working together, on aggregation and scale, not on the individual.

OUR REASONS FOR CREATING BLM-REIC:

- ▶ We believe African Diasporic heritage-based communities must come together to pool resources and share our experiences as we reclaim our sacred connection with the Earth.
- ▶ We want returns on our investments to be made locally
- ▶ We want to shape the communities together
- ▶ We want to see development without displacement
- ▶ We want to support space for art and culture
- ▶ We want to preserve a business or community space in our neighborhoods

Whether you are acting out of need or a desire to create a social good, we have learned from groups across the country and internationally that REICs help preserve affordable spaces.

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7 PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATIVES

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

BECOME A MEMBER NOW!

To become a member of the Black Land Matters Real Estate Investment Cooperative for an annual membership fee of \$50, complete our full membership application [here](#).

Members Get:

- Exclusive listings to investments including land and stock
- 10% off Duende Natural/Black Land Matters trips and tours
- 10% off Duende Natural/Black Land Matters merchandise

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Members Must:

- Attend a minimum of four (4) in-person or cyber meetups
- Following the assessment of member interest in land projects, begin personal savings of in preparation of projects members may want to invest in. This process will have members ready to move once we choose as a group projects we will move on.

BLM-REIC serves as a space to learn, think deeply, radically, and personally about the best ways to keep our communities on the land and keep it alive and green for ensuing generations.

We look forward to your participation!

Cooperatively,

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Black Land Matters Real Estate Investment Cooperative

Wherever Blackfolk are, Black Land Matters!

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BLACK... LAND... MATTERS... IS A REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT COOPERATIVE.
Founded by a group of families from Brooklyn, NY, we've created a sustainable domestic and international land projects for the Diasporic community. We believe African Diasporic heritage-based communities must come together to pool resources and share our experiences as we reclaim our sacred connection with the Earth. Become a member of Black Land Matters-REIC today @ BlackLandMatters.com



OUR 10 ACRE INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY AND ECO-LODGE PROJECT ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST OF COSTA RICA.

MEMBER COOPERATIVE LAND INVESTMENT PROJECTS
#BLACKLANDMATTERS



LAND INVESTMENT / COOPERATIVE

In the spirit of Cooperative Economics and group sharing, we aim to both share the treasures of Nature, immersing you with the magical spark that makes up the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica as well as learning the value of buying international and domestic land cooperatively.

Whether you are joining us on one of our tours, becoming a member of our intentional community, or looking to invest in land with us for vacation rental or retirement, we know with Duende Natural & Black Land Matters, you'll come away with an experience where you're able to be in the moment while projecting your future and a feeling of deep connection to the beauty and simplicity of Nature while building community.

Contact us today! We'd love to share this opportunity with you!

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