

# we REIGN Inc.

#wereignDifferent

## Mission

**Our mission is to create safe spaces where Black girls are visible. Spaces where their strengths, needs, voices, and stories are centered as they define themselves for themselves, practice living unapologetically, and develop the skills needed to become advocates and change agents in their own lives and communities.**



## New Year! New Goals!

Three years down and many more to go! As we move into our fourth year of service, we are excited to share our accomplishments – We have provided programming to more than 300 girls and 120 community members. We have covered college and career planning, community violence, teen dating, sexual health, mental health and advocacy.

Our board works hard to ensure programs are girl centered and supporters and donors make our work possible. We hope you will continue to support the work we do with and on behalf of Black girls in the city of Philadelphia.

### Save the Date!

#### Love Your Self

##### Winter 2020

A fun day for middle school girls to practice self-care and love themselves.

#### Community Violence

##### Spring 2020

Three-session workshop using Systems Thinking to analyze violence.

#### Love Your Body

##### Fall 2020

Day long workshop focused on sexual health, body positivity, and wellness.

## #weREIGNDifferent

At our Spring 2019 Convening, we asked Black girls and young women about the issues that impact their lives. Their voices informed our strategic plan.

### Community Violence

Black girls are one of the most vulnerable and underserved groups; they experience higher levels of interpersonal violence than their peers. In 2018, 14,930 violent crimes were reported in Philadelphia, including 316 murders, 1,182 rapes, 7,406 assaults, and 6,026 robberies, yet the majority of interpersonal crimes such as sexual assault and domestic violence are unreported. Few programs meet the unique needs of Black girls, particularly since academic-focused programs do not address the impact of community violence, such as trauma, to the detriment of education and careers. We were recently awarded a grant from the Valentine Foundation to begin to redefine community violence from the perspective of Black girls. This grant will help us build on our 2018 work with Dr. Radkia Bhaskar of Jefferson University, *Community Violence and Systems Thinking*.

### Mental Health

The Black Community suffers from an increased rate of mental health concerns, including anxiety and depression due to lack of access to culturally responsive mental health care – Trauma and toxic stress are not limited to Black girls. Still, they are often related to experiences that occur disproportionately in the lives of Black girls and women. Our programs address these experiences and focus on healthy relationship development, communication skills, exploring feelings, and learning about stress management.

### Sexual Health Education

Black girls and women often receive more restrictive, lower quality, and racially-biased information about sexual and reproductive health. We are currently developing “No Late Text” a program that will offer comprehensive information about sexual health in a safe and engaging environment. Topics include understanding reproductive health, contraceptive awareness, STD prevention, and consent. We want to expand programming in this area and provide workshops in schools and community settings – going to girls where they are. We want girls to be knowledgeable, self advocates who are prepared to make informed decisions when the time comes, aware of careers related to reproductive health and understand the need for Black women in those spaces.





## New Year! New Goals! #weREIGNDifferent

Happy New Year,

The last three years have been a whirlwind of growing, learning, and imagining possibilities with and for Black girls who live and attend school in the city of Philadelphia. We have provided safe, affirming spaces and planted seeds of empowerment and advocacy for 284 Black girls. We Reign centers its work around the voices and experiences of our most important stakeholders, Black girls. Our girl board has provided feedback for our programming and shaped our three-year strategic plan, “we REIGN Different,” which will guide us in supporting Black girls and the communities that serve them.

At our Spring Convening in 2019, we asked Black girls what was important to them and their well-being. They told us about their need for

comprehensive sexual health education, their desire to have a voice in addressing community violence, and the importance of understanding mental health. They talked to us about having a space to vent about teachers, significant others, and family life. They explored what it means to be Black and girl. They imagined the future, and we listened. Our strategic plan incorporates everything we heard.

I am encouraged and inspired by the potential of every girl we have the opportunity to serve, and it is an honor to work alongside the amazing women who serve on our board. We are both thankful and overjoyed by the generosity of our supporters and donors. Your contributions and commitment to Black girls are the reason “we REIGN Different.”

Unapologetically Committed,  
Dr. Tawanna Jones Morrison  
Founder & Executive Director



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Ambassador Program

Do You Know a 9<sup>th</sup> grade girl with an opinion?  
We want to here what she has to say.

### Meeting Dates

February 1, 2020 (10 am -12:00 pm)  
March 14, April 11, May 9, & June 13  
(All dates meet 11:30 am – 1:30 pm)

For more information and an application email

[wereigninc@gmail.com](mailto:wereigninc@gmail.com)

or call 267-485-1227

## Rooting, Empowering, Inspiring...

### Rooting

**“And I am all the things I have ever loved.” Toni Morrison**

We believe it is essential for Black girls to be rooted in loving themselves, and from whence, they came. Black girls embody intersectionality through race, gender, and in some cases class. The marginalization of Black girls renders them invisible in many settings, which makes it hard for them to love the skin they are in. Their experiences, too often, send the message that they are not significant. Our “we Speak” program emphasizes identity development and the opportunity for girls to define themselves for themselves by telling strength-based stories and creating community with one another.



### Empowering

**“We must always attempt to lift as we climb.” Angela Davis**

Knowing is empowering, and understanding sets the stage for advocacy, individual decision-making, and civic engagement. Through our convenings, school, and community-based workshops, we support Black girls in understanding the world around them. Group sessions that focus on Community Violence, Sexual Health, Intimate Partner Relationships, Health & Wellness, and College & Career Planning, provide the information girls need to make informed decisions. These sessions also offer the opportunity for girls to practice speaking out on issues that are important to them



### Inspiring

**“Every girl, no matter where she lives, deserves the opportunity to develop the promise inside of her.” Michelle Obama**

It takes more than words to inspire, so we create opportunities for our ambassadors to network with others, travel, attend community events, and explore college campuses. These opportunities offer the chance for girls to experience what they imagine. Taking girls outside of their community and beyond their comfort zones stretches their thinking into the future. We make space for girls to plan, organize, and take ownership of their becoming.



# We REIGN Different! New Year! New Goals!

## Financial Report 2019

The financial information presented reflects income and expenses beginning January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

Our individual donations have increased steadily since December 2016. More than 75% of our budget is used directly for community programs and scholarships for 1<sup>st</sup>-year college students.

We are so grateful that the number of donations have increased steadily since 2016. We are committed to being effective stewards of every gift we receive and to apply each gift to the support of Black girls who live and attend school in the city of Philadelphia.

Revenue	
Revenue Source	% of total revenue
Individual Donations	51%
Social Media Donations	28%
Fee for Service	10%
Merchandise	6%
Net Asset Carry over	5%

**Total Income:** \$14,764.87

**Program Expenses:**

Community Programs: \$1395.14

Ambassador Programs: \$928.75

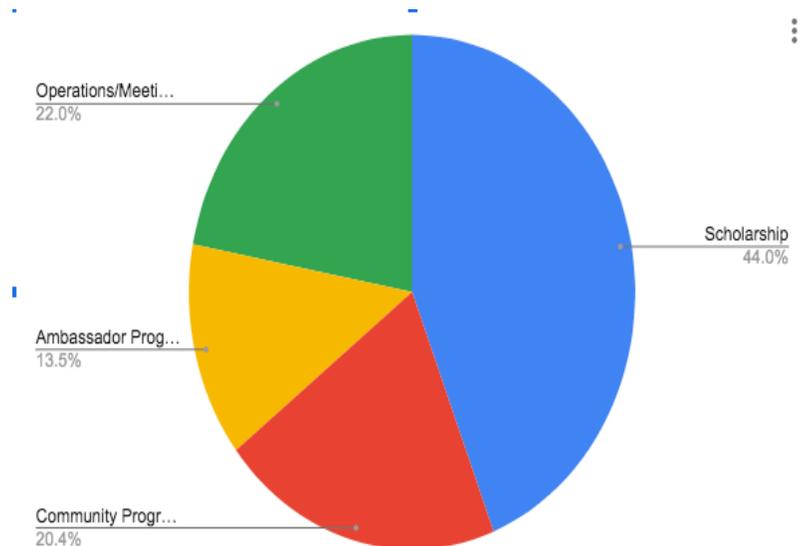
Scholarship: \$3000.00

**Total Program Services:**

Leadership Development: \$1284.94

Operations: \$225.85

*\*Reflects program expenses from Jan 1 to September 30, 2019*



# Board of Directors

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Executive Director

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we REIGN Inc.  
Philadelphia, PA 19121

