

IDENTITY-BASED LANGUAGE GUIDE

PURPOSE

To ensure every user, institution, nonprofit, creator, or partner uses correct lineage terminology when speaking about FBAs or engaging the USBA ecosystem.

WHAT THIS TOOL DOES

- Establishes correct identity language
- Eliminates harmful or inaccurate substitutes
- Protects lineage sovereignty
- Prevents misclassification in writing, reporting, and public communication

APPROVED TERMS

Foundational Black American (FBA)

A direct descendant of an ancestor subjected to U.S. chattel slavery before 1865, born in the United States and shaped by its laws, policies, and institutions.

FBA Lineage

An inherited, verifiable bloodline that traces back to chattel slavery in the United States and continues through successive generations on American soil.

United States of Black America (USBA)

A lineage-based framework that explains who Foundational Black Americans are and guides how restoration and reparative justice are discussed, practiced, and governed.

TERMS THAT MUST NOT BE USED AS SUBSTITUTES

✗ Black

✗ African American

- ✗ BIPOC
- ✗ People of Color
- ✗ Minority
- ✗ Black and Brown
- ✗ Diaspora Community
- ✗ Race-based terminology

These categories erase lineage specificity.

STRUCTURAL LANGUAGE STANDARDS

Use:

- lineage
- structure
- exposure
- jurisdiction
- inheritance
- identity framework

Do Not Use:

- struggle-language
- trauma-storytelling
- performance-based language
- activism clichés

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- All public documents must use FBA terminology.
- All datasets must be lineage disaggregated.

- No institutional materials may collapse FBAs into racial groups.

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