North Star Black Cooperative Fellowship 2021

Danielle Mkali & Nkuli Shongwe
Community Wealth Building
Nexus Community Partners
Nexus Community Partners

Founded in 2014

Our Mission is to build more powerful and engaged communities of color

Our Organizational Strategy Nexus supports strong, equitable and just communities in which all residents are engaged, are recognized as leaders and have pathways to opportunities.

Authorship
Leadership
Ownership
What is the North Star?

- A five month fellowship focused on Black American Cooperative Economics. *Typically six months.
- The North Star is centered on the history of Black cooperative economic thought and practice.
- 2021 has a special focus on Housing Coops, Land Trusts & Community Ownership of land
- Teaches Black Cooperative Economic local & national history
- Analyzes and rethinks capitalism,
- Uses Black Feminist & Intersectionality to frame the work
- And supports and networks new Black coop enterprises and their leaders.

*Art work by Makeba Rainey*
Who has been a part of the North Star?

- 37 Cohort Members
- Black and African descent folks
- Majority women identified, a few male and gender non-binary
- A few LGBTQIA identified

Types of cooperatives:
- Worker Owned
- Housing
- Artist
- Investment
- Credit Union
Incredible facilitators & guest speakers

- The North Star is hands on, uses popular education, culturally significant and practices the art of making a sacred space.
North Star Alumni Support

- Access to resources for launching and support for cooperatives.
- Support to connect with technical assistance or cooperative developers.
- Ongoing learning opportunities.
- Support to attend coop conferences and studies.
- Nexus raises dollars to fund all of this support, support is dependent on resources available.
North Star Fellowship 2021

Housing Coop, Land Trust and Community Owned Land
Fellowship expectations

• Fellows are expected to attend all North Star events and Saturday sessions, complete assigned readings and cooperate with fellows on their respective co-op final presentations and initiatives. Fellows should anticipate that this is an 85-100 hour commitment of their time.

• Fellows are provided a small stipend to support their participation in the fellowship. The amount of $500.00 is disbursed in two payments at the beginning and end of the fellowship.
North Star Housing & Land Edition

- Housing Cooperatives
- Land Trusts
- Investment Cooperatives
North Star 2021 Sessions

Orientation & Welcome Dinner
January 11, 5:00-8:00 pm

Session 1: Saturday, January 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 2: Saturday, January 23, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 3: Saturday, February 6, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 4: Saturday, February 20, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 5: Saturday, March 6, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 6: Saturday, April 3, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 7: Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 8: Saturday, May 1, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Session 9: Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Graduation: Wednesday, May 26, 5 pm-8 pm
Application process

What we’re looking for:

• Be committed to Black Economic Cooperation
• Be a member of a Black led cooperative or have an idea of one they would like to start. North Star Housing & Land is welcome to folks of all racial backgrounds that are a part of a Black led effort. Black led to us means, Black folks are decision makers, and leaders in the effort.
• Groups of 2 or more committed to their cooperative idea/ initiative or already established cooperative
• Commit to attending all of the North Star sessions and completing the fellowship.
• Deadline to Apply

**EXTENDED!** The deadline to apply for the 2021 North Star Cohort is November 27th, 2021.
Questions & Answer

Photograph of Ella Baker
Thank you for joining us today!

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