Who is Café X: By Any Beans Necessary?
Café X: By Any Beans Necessary is a family-owned, Black woman-owned cooperative coffee shop built to support generational wealth building in the Black community and other marginalized communities. We do this by developing cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations and individuals; sustaining creative and artistic projects; and developing the next generation of leaders to generate a social, cultural, and economic movement that changes the quality of life in our communities.

In the human rights revolution, if something isn’t done, and in a hurry, to bring the colored peoples of the world out of their long years of poverty, their long years of hurt and neglect, the whole world is doomed.

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Why Fund Black Women?
Black women stand at the intersections of race, class, and gender discrimination that impacts their health and well-being physically, socially, and economically. Though, Black women in the United States experienced substantial improvements in health over a few decades, health disparities persist. Black women continue to experience excess mortality relative to other U.S. women, including shorter life expectancies and higher rates of maternal mortality. Moreover, Black women are disproportionately burdened by chronic conditions, such as anemia, cardiovascular disease, and obesity. These health indicators do not occur in a vacuum but are the result of environmental stressors and systemic racism experienced over the course of a lifetime that impact socioeconomic well-being. The reversal of these dismal health outcomes must rely on inclusive socioeconomic strategies that empower the end-user as well as the surrounding community to be architects and providers of long-term solutions.

More Key Facts:
• Black children are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system nationally and locally—while they are five percent of the general population, Black children are 18 percent of the child welfare population in San Diego County
• Forty nine percent of Black households experience food insecurity in San Diego County—that is the highest of any racial/ethnic demographic
• The infant mortality rate among Black mothers in San Diego County is almost five times that of white mothers
• Among the racial and ethnic groups, Black, non-Hispanic children ages 0–17 had the highest poverty rates in metropolitan and micropolitan areas in 2018
What is the Black Women’s Resilience Project?

Café X is excited to partner with San Diego for Every Child and Jewish Family Service to develop the Black Women’s Resilience Project (BWRP) and launch one of the first guaranteed income pilots in our region as an economic and justice tool to help address the racial and gender inequalities that impact the lives of Black women. Guaranteed income is an unconditional monthly cash payment given directly to individuals with no strings attached and no work requirements. Meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net, guaranteed income can be a critical tool for improving racial and gender equity.

The goal of the BWRP is to study how guaranteed income paired with culturally relevant social service networks impact socioeconomic mobility for Black women and their families. As a result, we aim to advance culturally relevant strategies that shift human services delivery models and demonstrate new ways to address poverty. Through this program, we highlight the racial and ethnic experience of poverty as a social construct, rather than a character deficit, and will work with the community in real-time to develop solutions that eliminate it. By providing a base of income and a supportive network of community-based resources, we will create an environment for individual self-determination and communal participation, and study those impacts on participant’s socioeconomic health.

To develop this project design, Café X hosted several focus groups with Black women residing in affordable housing and assembled an advisory board wholly comprised of Black women. These conversations highlighted the need for a more nuanced view of social service delivery and safety net programs available to the Black community in San Diego County. During these conversations we discovered evidence that cash alone may not provide long-term solutions to pervasive health problems in the Black community. We developed a hypothesis that social supports that nurture self-determination and self-actualization may play a role in ameliorating racially disparate health outcomes. In other words, cash without long-term, culturally specific, supportive resources may not be king.

How Does It Work?

We will provide income of $1,000, over three years, to 25-50 Black women earning 30-50% of AMI in San Diego County paired with a cultivated network of services that is informed by impacted individuals’ lived experience and revised iteratively through consultation with those closest to the problem. We will deploy a participatory action research model to assess and develop a continuum of resources to support the ongoing needs of the individual and the family. Participants will receive core services and coaching focused on Black culture and self-actualization, economic mobility, mental health, civic engagement and belonging. As a result, we will build a culturally competent ecosystem within the community that builds power and equips Black families to challenge institutional norms.

A Blueprint for Reciprocity will be developed between Café X: By Any Beans Necessary, San Diego for Every Child and Jewish Family Service to document and inform strategy for engaging ethnically diverse communities contending with historical trauma while partnering to catalyze systems change.

How Much Does it Cost?

The total cost of this pilot for three years is $2,809,800 for targeted work and could increase to $3,844,800 if an additional 25 women are added to the pilot in the second year (50 women total). This includes capacity support to fund staff positions (3), guaranteed income, and evaluation as major expenses; consulting, sub-grants and workshops hosted by businesses and organizations for the women are additional. An allocation of $230,000-$250,000 would help kickstart the capacity-building work by hiring staff to solidify infrastructure. We would like the income payments to begin in Spring 2022, and end in Spring 2025. Jewish Family Service will serve as the program's fiscal agent and provide fundraising support.