

BCLC Report 2020

Endorsements

This careful and compelling study of the Black Child Legacy Campaign is vitally important because it features a civic coalition that became committed to a clear antiracist program framed by a positive legacy framework and made important gains in reducing health inequities. All three features of this change process merit serious analysis because they are not typical. Elite-heavy coalitions typically do not forcefully confront racial inequities; they seldom become responsive to reframing by Black community leaders, who have achieved a measure of real power in them; and too many initiatives remain weak and ineffective, particularly in actually reducing inequities. This absorbing study creatively and persuasively employs a variety of methods, from quantitative evaluation data to portraiture of campaign leaders, to lift up the critical lessons of the campaign and illuminate a path forward for systemic change for communities in other cities riven by deep-seated anti-Black racism. It demands to be carefully read and its lessons applied widely.

Mark R. Warren, Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston and Fellow of the American Educational Research Association
@mark_r_warren

Author of:

Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement, Boston: Beacon Press, 2018.

A Match on Dry Grass: Community Organizing as a Catalyst for School Reform, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Fire in the Heart: How White Activists Embrace Racial Justice, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize American Democracy, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001.



Drs. Maisha Winn, Torry Winn, and Vajra Watson have crafted a powerfully elaborated, timely and policy-relevant 2-year study of the Black Child Legacy Campaign in Sacramento, California. Amid a global pandemic exacerbating long-standing racial inequities, the evaluation of the Black Child Legacy Campaign highlights how community-driven solutions, grassroots leadership, and targeted resources dramatically improved the health and life chances of Black children in seven impacted neighborhoods. While the quantitative impacts are impressive, the historical context and detailed lessons gleaned from each key strategy provide concrete guidance in tandem with portraits of change agents that humanize the work and illuminate the beauty and poetry of their commitments to Black lives and liberation.

Dr. Ann M. Ishimaru

Associate Professor, Educational Policy, Organizations & Leadership
University of Washington College of Education

Author, *Just Schools: Building Equitable Collaborations with Families & Communities* (Teachers College Press, 2019)

@prof_ishimaru (Twitter)





I am incredibly proud of the Sacramento State and UC Davis faculty who published this critical research on creating a sustainable system of support and care in order to decrease the tragic mortality rates for Black children in the Sacramento Region. By applying a transformative justice framework, these scholars were able to document a culturally relevant, community-driven movement that is asset-based and holistically supports the well-being and overall health of Black families and communities. This work is vital to changing the systems that deny Black families access to education, equality, and opportunity. It is of the utmost importance that Sacramento State, as an Anchor University, remains committed to racial justice efforts to support and protect Black children.”

- Robert S. Nelsen, President, California State University-Sacramento

This detailed, insightful report examines and affirms the effectiveness of the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s five strategies in helping to create a sustainable structure of local and statewide advocacy, initiatives for systemic change, and coordinated systems of support for Black children and their families throughout Sacramento. Within its pages, the voices and stories of these children and their families emerge with a raw and deeply moving honesty, vulnerability and courage. Their experiences serve as a powerful inspiration for all of us to commit boldly to continuing the BCLC’s transformative work of building and sustaining a legacy of health, pride and love in Black families and communities.

– Gary S. May, Chancellor, University of California at Davis

