



DATA FOR **BLACK LIVES**

Conference 2019

Who We Are

Data for Black Lives is a network of over 4,000 activists, organizers, scientists, and researchers who are using data and technology to create concrete and measurable change in the lives of Black people. In November, 2017 we hosted our inaugural conference at the MIT Media Lab, convening over 400 people from all over

the country to examine the role that data and technology have historically played in Black communities and to chart out a bold blueprint for the future.



Yeshimabeit Milner
Founder & Executive Director



Lucas Mason-Brown
Chief Technology Officer



Max Clermont
Head of Policy and Strategy

Highlights from Last Year

- Expanded our network of scientists and activists
- Hosted regional gatherings in New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C.
- Provided support and resources to local efforts to end the use of discriminatory risk-scoring (Ramsey County, MN), to collect data on education outcomes for Black and brown students (Cambridge, MA), and to fight back against racist public school enrollment algorithms (New York, NY)
- Co-hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill for members of congress and staff on the risks associated with algorithmic decision-making
- Published an Open Letter to Facebook on behalf of the Data for Black Lives movement. Our demands were later endorsed by Senator Cory Booker.

2017 Conference Snapshot



Over 400 participants

- **70%** participants of color
- **50%** Black
- **75** students
- **150** participants provided discounted rates and/or travel support
- **150** activists and organizers working on issues ranging from housing to public health to education justice.
- **100** data scientists and software engineers

Over 40 presenters, with:

- **80%** panelists of color
- **70%** Black
- **60%** women



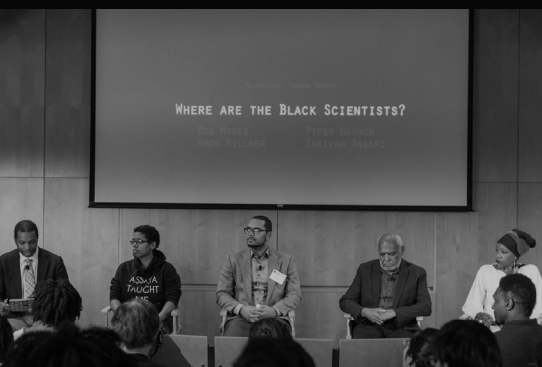
Testimonials

“I work with data everyday and I am committed to minimizing the racial wealth gap. The conference was one of the first opportunities I’ve seen to critically engage with both my passions at the same time.”

“D4BL is a leading a conversation around data, power, equity and systemic change that isn’t being had elsewhere.

Thank you for facilitating a free exchange of information and ideas coupled with calls to action, relationship building and breaking down of silos.”

“Some of us are black “woke” activists and at the same time scientists and engineers. Some of us are community organizers using data to fight for our people. Some of us are data scientists, designing the algorithms with all of our histories and ideologies cemented in the lines of our code. Each person approached this space, where data and black lives meet, with a sense of familial longing and a hint of hope.”



Data for Black Lives II (January 11-13, 2019)



- Topics including: the 2020 Census, algorithms for local organizing, Universal Basic Income, gun violence, mathematics education, and the role of “movement scientists.”
- A variety of social events including: a mixer, an afterparty, and a concert at Berklee College of Music.
- A career fair featuring technology companies and graduate programs open to all conference participants.
- Action-oriented workshops on systems thinking, organizing 101, and data visualization.
- “Ask a Data Scientist” booth staffed by professional data scientists
- Morning Yoga and meditation
- More opportunities for youth involvement



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Contact Info:

<http://www.d4bl.org/>