



LA PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES CO-DIRECTORS

Senior Director Kaci Patterson joins Parker Blackman to lead public-private collaborative as it deepens and expands support of LA's lowest-income children

January 29, 2024 (Los Angeles) – To accelerate its mission to ensure all families with young children in Los Angeles thrive, the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment today announced that Senior Director Kaci Patterson is joining longtime Executive Director Parker Blackman as Co-Executive Director.

“The Partnership has grown dramatically in recent years, during which we have recommitted ourselves to a North Star of thriving families that is reflected in our strategic giving; convenings and partnerships; and the impact of a growing number of initiatives our team leads and collaborates on,” said Executive Committee Chair Jacqueline Chun of the Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation. “Doubling down on Parker and Kaci’s deep and complementary strengths will enable the Partnership to continue to expand our work in advancing the lifelong health and well-being of our county’s lowest income children from birth to age five.”

Patterson is the Founder and Chief Architect of Social Good Solutions (SGS), a Black woman-owned and majority-operated consulting firm she established in 2014 after nearly 18 years in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. She has served as Senior Director to the LA Partnership since 2015, managing three pooled funds, including its signature Baby Futures Fund and two special project funds: Census 2020 and the AAIMM Village Fund, a key part of the public-private-community partnership with the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative that Patterson has led since 2019. Under her leadership, the LA Partnership began hosting the AAIMM Prevention Initiative Village Fund in 2020. In three years, its community grantmaking portfolio has grown from one to three cohorts and the relationship with the LA County Department of Public Health has grown so the county’s contribution to the Fund increased more than 175%. AAIMM now stands as the largest initiative currently managed by the LA Partnership, with total fundraising growing from \$305,000 to over \$5M.

Blackman has spent more than 30 years working in philanthropy and non-profit cause-related work. His expertise spans a broad range of issues from early childhood development and education reform to environmental protection and social justice. Working with California-based family foundations to some of the nation’s largest foundations such as the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, he has helped shape philanthropic strategic plans and giving priorities and managed large-scale funder collaboratives. Blackman has served as the Executive Director of the LA Partnership since 2013 and he supported the organization’s establishment in 2003.

“Kaci’s leadership, not only with the LA Partnership but also with the philanthropic and nonprofit communities in Los Angeles, across California and throughout the country, has helped set new standards for equity-based practices that increase the impact of our work,” Blackman said. “She brings an unmatched depth of knowledge and care to her work and her dedication to social justice reflects her vision of a just, equitable future. I could not be more excited about continuing to work with her in this new, expanded way and about the role we and the whole Partnership team can have to catalyze philanthropy’s commitment to supporting families with young children.”

“One of the things I’m most proud of is that the LA Partnership’s mission-driven approach to convening innovative collaborations and nurturing promising, community-led projects has had direct, transformative impacts on families,” Patterson said. “When we center the voices and lived experiences of those most impacted by systemic harm, we are better positioned to uproot inequitable practices that keep families with young children from thriving. Philanthropy has a critical role to play to ensure our society lives up to its highest ideals, and I expect the LA Partnership will continue to be a pioneering force as the sector transforms and enhances the good it can and must do.”

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ABOUT THE LA PARTNERSHIP FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT: Founded in 2003 as the only public-private funder collaborative focused on the lowest-income children from birth to five years old in LA County, the LA Partnership consists of more than 25 foundations, First 5 LA and county agencies and school districts that serve the youngest children. The LA Partnership identifies system and policy issues impacting children’s well-being and designs and promotes solutions, funding and policies that nurture the lifelong health, education and economic stability of LA County’s youngest children and their families.

The Partnership employs three strategies in pursuit of its North Star that all families in Los Angeles County thrive: educate, lead and invest. It has leveraged more than \$13 million during the past decade in support of community-based nonprofits, innovative public policy strategies, promising collaborations and communications initiatives. The Partnership has helped fund collaborations to improve black infant and maternal birth outcomes, strengthen LA County’s home visiting system, reporting positions at LAist and the Los Angeles Times and projects to explore the effectiveness of guaranteed basic income programs and how to strengthen families’ economic security.