



**move • ment** — *the act or process of moving;*  
*a series of organized activities working toward an objective*

When State of Black Arizona’s “Volume V: Driving Local Investment in Black Arizonans,” was released in 2021, it was an initial step in a concerted effort to change the historic and systemic circumstances behind key data showing disparities and opportunity gaps. Volume V launched with high expectations that new partnerships would act on the truth revealed in the data to help Black Arizonans achieve their full potential.

In some respects, Volume V is still launching. In a series of columns posted here during the next several months, we’ll update “Driving Local Investment in Black Arizonans” with data that puts fresh light on the three key topics that community voices said are a priority — education, economy, infrastructure — along with two emerging topics of health and civic life. In the coming months, we’ll also talk about the work of partners who are focused on reversing the negative trends disaggregated data shows.

Here’s what’s to come this year in a review and update of Volume V’s groundwork:

- On education, we will provide updates highlighting the critical work of the statewide Black Student Attainment group, who digs deeply into the education data and educational experiences of Black students. Additionally, these educators across the state are advancing the work of Achieve60AZ, an initiative with a goal that 60 percent of Arizona adults earn a post-secondary degree or credential by 2030.
- On the economy, we will dig deeper into housing and homeownership data and its impact on the economic health of Black Arizonans. We will also take a closer look at challenges preventing Black business ownership, including limited access to capital.
- On infrastructure, we will explore the systems and structures that help people navigate to opportunities, research energy justice, and re-visit the digital divide and transportation obstacles.
- On health, we will discuss equity health efforts to improve appalling data showing disproportionality in Black maternal and infant health compared to statewide averages.
- On civic life, we will discuss connections between civic engagement and individual and community health.

Fresh data and the commitment of our partners to address key issues to help shift Volume V into a higher gear in advance of a major SBAZ convening in 2024 to drive social impact and actionable change based on the data.

“Volume V: Driving Local Investment in Black Arizonans” was never a publish-and-be-done proposition. It was not researched, written, and produced to gather dust on a shelf. It is an ongoing call to action to deliver on the strength of diversity and inclusion.

Volume V is a compass that directs state- and local-level decision-makers who want to address the truth about disparities in key indicators. It’s a tool to drive sustained efforts to address systemic wrongs and injustices in the spirit of other important causes, including the world-inspiring push for civil rights.

Information is key to creating a fair and equitable future for all Arizonans. Facts — as difficult, shameful, and painful as they may be — are necessary to build strong platforms for positive change.

Our new Volume V series is a continuation of the State of Black Arizona’s long-standing commitment to telling the data-driven truth about the lived experiences of African-Americans in Arizona. It’s a way forward, which is the only direction an Arizona that truly believes in the power and strength of diversity, equity, and inclusion should desire to move.

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