

Meet Michelle Burroughs, Who is Helping Her Community Save Themselves

by Breanna Reeves & Aryana Noroozi



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Prince James Story | Staff

It did not matter that it was raining during the grand opening of the Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit (B-BOP) Center. The community showed up in large numbers to express their support.

The B-BOP Center is a 10,000-square-foot building in San Bernardino to help end racial and gender inequality in entrepreneurship in the Inland Empire.

The center has 14 rooms, a cafeteria, shared

“

We wanted to make sure that Black and brown women have access to the tools and the resources they need to create, build, grow, and scale successful businesses.

- Vanessa Perez

Executive Director, Time for Change Foundation

”

workspaces, a child care center, a quick-pitch room, and a legal guidance room.

According to the State of Women in The Inland Empire Report, Black women make 60 cents for every dollar a White male earns. The gap is more significant for Hispanic women; they make 42 cents for every dollar a White male earns.

“Within our programs and services, we’ve always had an entrepreneurship component to the work that we do, especially for women of color and those who have experienced discrimination due to being a woman of color or even having felony convictions,” said Vanessa

B-Bop Center: Women Helping Women in the Inland Empire



On Wednesday, March 15th, The Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit(B-BOP) Center opened its doors for the first time to an enthusiastic crowd. (Photo courtesy: Time For Change Foundation).

Perez, Executive Director of Time For Change Foundation.

Perez said the vision for this project came to her in 2020, at the height of the pandemic.

Businesses were shut down, and mothers, especially single mothers, struggled to make ends meet and had to find ways to provide for their children.

“We wanted to make sure that Black and brown women have access to the tools and the resources they need to create, build, grow, and

scale successful businesses,” Perez said.

B-Bop Center Services

The center will provide women access to technology, working spaces, resources, legal support, and capital and investment.

They also have the B-BOP Academy, which will have three phases: build, grow, and scale.

When you sign up for the academy, they will

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State of Women in the Inland Empire



the **WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
of CALIFORNIA**

UC **RIVERSIDE** Women's Resource
Center

RACE EARNINGS GAPS: WHITE MEN VS WOMEN



Source: 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year PUMS

Black women make 60 cents for every dollar a White male earns, Hispanic women make only 42 cents for every dollar a White male earns, and Native American women (not featured in this chart) have the largest earnings gap, making only 36 cents for every dollar earned by White men. (Credit: State of Women In The Inland Empire Report).



Founder of The Time For Change Foundation, Kim Carter, expressed joy while welcoming everyone into the B-BOP Center for the first time on March 15th. (Photo courtesy: Time For Change Foundation).

evaluate your business plan, and you will be placed in one of the three phases where you can grow and learn at your own pace.

From 2017-2019, the number of minority-owned businesses increased in the Inland Empire, but those numbers have dwindled as a result of the pandemic.

"My motivation with building this center was that I wanted to see Black and brown women have an opportunity to build generational



Vanessa Perez, Executive Director of Time For Change Foundation, expressed that this center is the first of its kind in this country. An "economic hub" that serves Black and brown women and helps them reach a higher goal. (Photo courtesy: Time For Change Foundation).

wealth," said Carter. "I was tired of seeing Black and brown women at the bottom of every socio-economic condition. I was tired of seeing them needing help with the rent because of COVID."

Carter pointed out the importance of appreciating the groundbreaking ceremony rather than looking too far into the future.

She also stressed the value of celebrating

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Community members from San Bernardino and surrounding cities in Southern California line up to enter the B-BOP center for the first time. (Photo courtesy: Time For Change Foundation).

what's happening now and that there is a high-tech, state of the art entrepreneur center for Black and brown women in San Bernardino.

In addition, Carter highlighted the importance of successful entrepreneurs and women coming out of the center with what they need to elevate and innovate in addition to growing, building,

and scaling investable businesses.

"I represent helping women find that freedom, freedom to do whatever they want to do in life, that they'll be the imagination of their own life, and take care of their kids. We don't need to dictate to women what to be. Let women create for themselves," proclaimed Carter.

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building was completed by the world-renowned artist group YANOE x ZOUHE.

Ryan Safati (YANOE) attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and spoke about the idea and his thinking while painting the building.

"If you walk around the building, starting from the front to the back, it slowly starts to introduce color and a little liveliness. And then on the side of the building, you can actually see a window where there's a beautiful sunset with flowers kind of trickling through, which allows you to see life within the building."

They painted two large murals of unhoused individuals on the back of the building. Safati said he wanted to "Portray homelessness in murals and actually show that there is a brighter side to what this (housing unit) could be."



#theievoice

Did RVSD Sheriff, continued from page 3

Decree, however, seems to have done little to mitigate the problems in Riverside jails.

As noted in the lawsuit against the county, despite this history and the court's previous intervention, by the time Matus entered the county facility last year, the jail was infested with "endemic, ongoing and unabated risks of injury or death to inmates". It was these risks, the lawsuit contends, that resulted in the death of Matus on August 11, 2022. Yet, this is only part of the story.

Falsification of records

What may ultimately prove equally as significant relative to the allegations against Bianco and his squad is that the department may have falsified records about injuries and/or deaths.

I find this significant because it means anything and everything the department previously claims about the status of those who

have died in custody is suspect.

Matus experienced a medical emergency that went unnoticed for a period of time and when his condition was discovered, the emergency medical attention he received was purportedly inadequate.

At the time of his death 29-year-old Matus, was not convicted of any crime as he was a pretrial detainee. In other words—innocent until proven guilty.

The complaint alleges Bianco and team provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice regarding how it classified pretrial detainees who died in custody. They accomplished this classifying "pretrial" detainees like Matus as "sentenced" inferring they were post conviction prisoners.

It is believed this misclassification was intentional so as to impose a higher degree of culpability standard to the deceased. In my opinion, it also helps shape community opinions about those who died in custody as convicted

KEEPING IT REAL

criminal when for most, this is not true. Sadly, reports indicate that county jails can be a death sentence for pretrial detainees.

The bottom line however, is that no one should die in custody whether or not they've been convicted.

The Matus claim is the first of many more to come according to the family's attorney.

In addition to the dysfunction Bianco has brought to the community due to his failed leadership, the patterns and practices audit may prove to be the tip of the iceberg. It now appears taxpayers should prepare for millions of dollars in settlement costs as the Matus family attorney has warned there are many more to come.

Of course this is just my opinion. I'm keeping it real.

S.E. Williams
Executive Editor