

ANNUAL REPORT

*Diversifying discourse on China through
professional development, community building,
and advocacy*

20
22

BLACK CHINA CAUCUS ASSOCIATION



The Black China Caucus Association (“BCC”) is a Washington DC- based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, comprised of volunteers dedicated to advancing the voices of Black professionals who specialize on China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. This aim is accomplished by focusing on professional development, community building, and advocacy.

CONTENTS

About Us.....	4
History.....	6
Executive Leadership & Volunteer Staff.....	7
Letter from the Co-CEOs.....	8
Financial Summary.....	9
Partnerships & Collaboration.....	11
Our Impact.....	12
Our Reach.....	16
Looking Ahead.....	17



About Us

Beginning in March 2020, Dr. Keisha Brown and Mark Akpaninyie, Co-Chief Executive Officers, noticed that discourse on China, across all sectors and disciplines, academia, policy, art, and tech, failed to include the participation of Black China professionals. In light of these issues, Dr. Brown and Mr. Akpaninyie joined together and jointly founded BCC with the aim to enhance and advance the voices of Black professionals who focus on China.

BCC began to work towards this mandate by building a publicly available centralized hub of Black China specialists. In doing so, members of the broader public can now access a searchable global database of Black professionals whose expertise covers critical, cutting-edge, and contemporary topics necessary to understanding China.

What began as an endeavor to survey Black experiences in the China space quickly blossomed into a full-fledged organization. BCC recruited Avonda Fogan, Chief Strategy Officer, and Mycal Ford, Chief Operating Officer, to join BCC's leadership team, bringing along with them their diverse experience related to China and, more importantly, their acumen for nonprofit management and strategy. The leadership team of BCC has grown to eight total members who bring their individual China expertise and a wide variety of skills including social media management, editing, programmatic, and event planning skills.

Professional Development & Advancement

BCC Ecosystems
Language Enhancement
Mentorship Program
China 101 Program

Advocacy

Social Networking Events
Closed Door Meetings with China Experts
Writing Groups

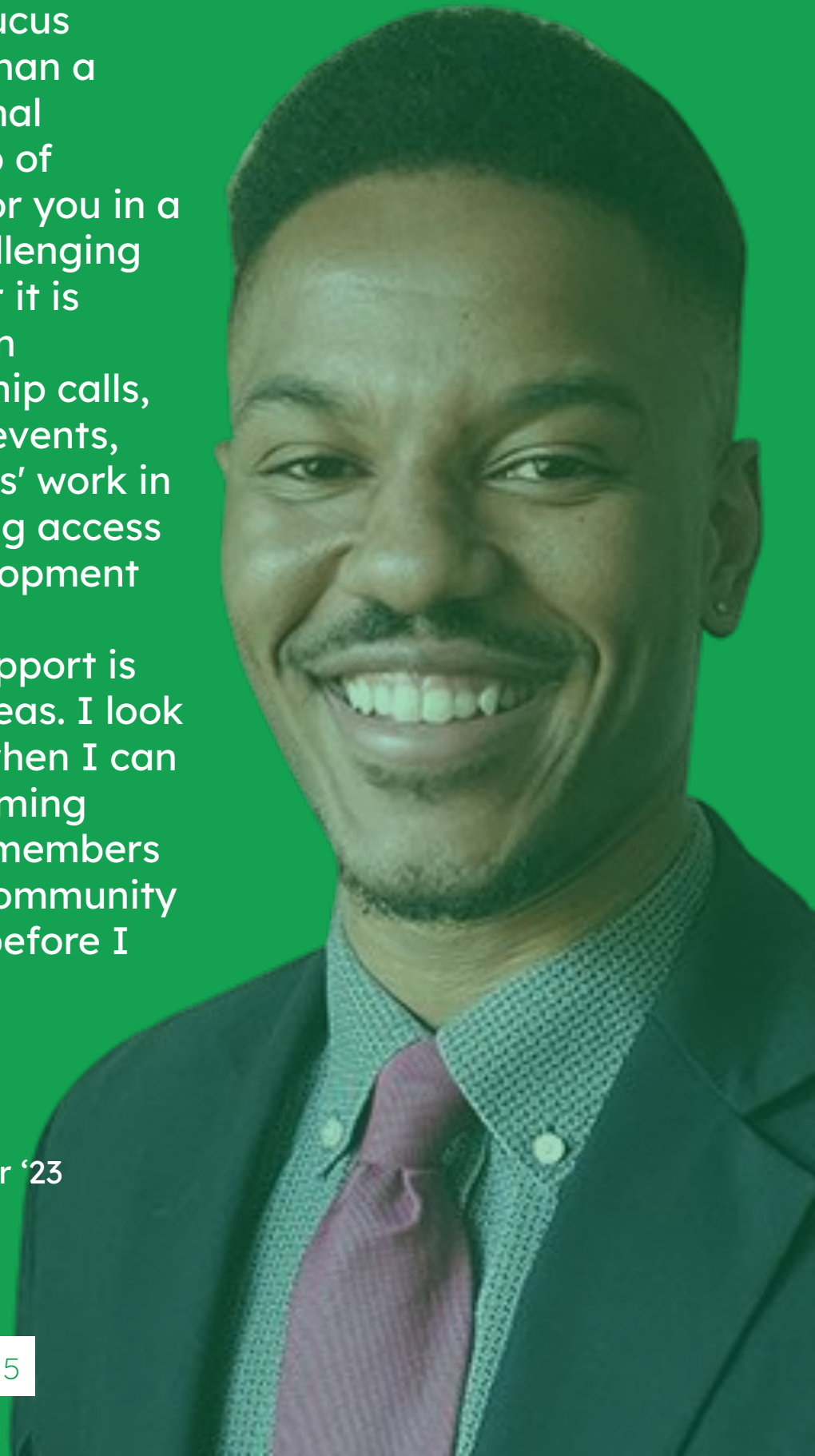
Community Building

Professional Directory (Public)
Talent Pairing with Potential Employers
BCC Awareness Campaigns

"The Black China Caucus community is more than a traditional professional network; it is a group of individuals rooting for you in a field that can be challenging to navigate. Whether it is providing guidance in one-on-one mentorship calls, organizing member events, promoting individuals' work in the field, or increasing access to professional development through sharing job opportunities, the support is felt in a variety of areas. I look forward to the day when I can do the same for incoming Black China Caucus members and give back to a community that believed in me before I knew what I could accomplish."

Amani Core

Schwarzman Scholar '23



History of the Black China Caucus

Founding of BCC

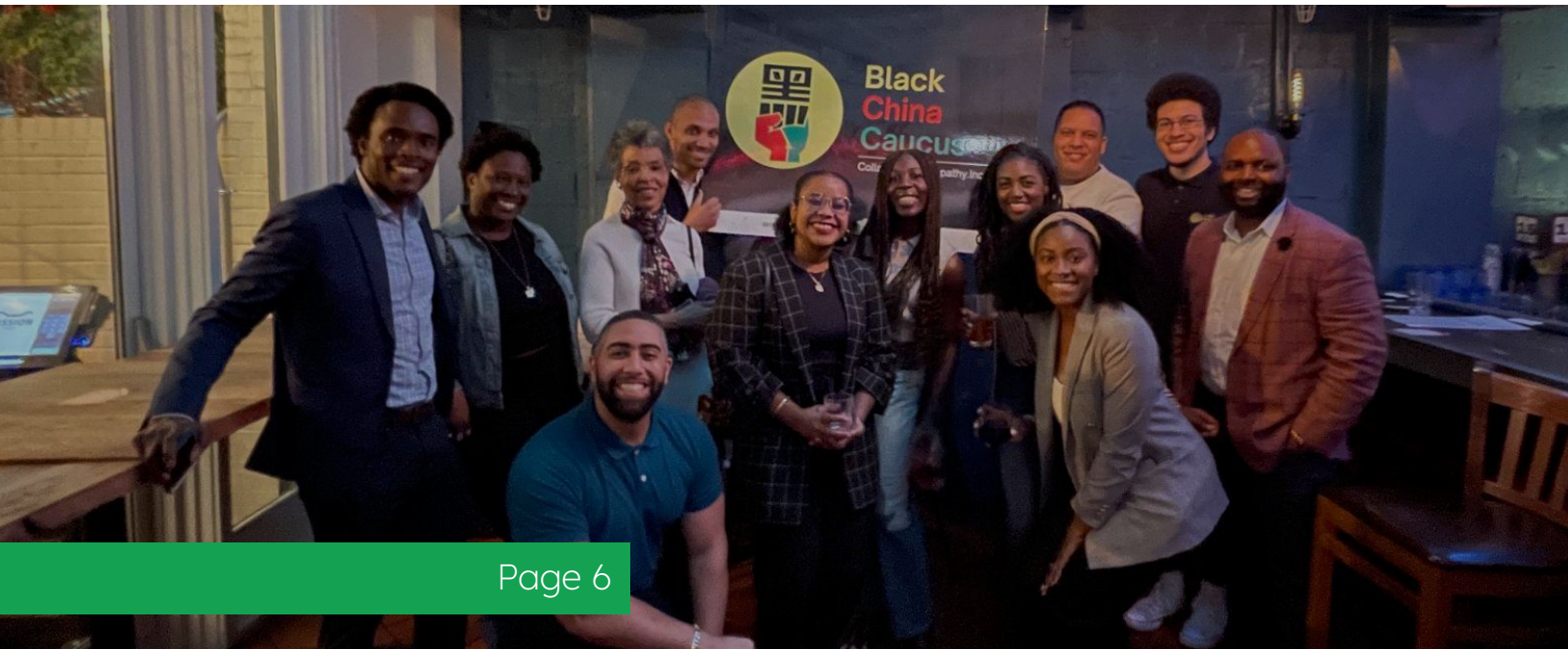
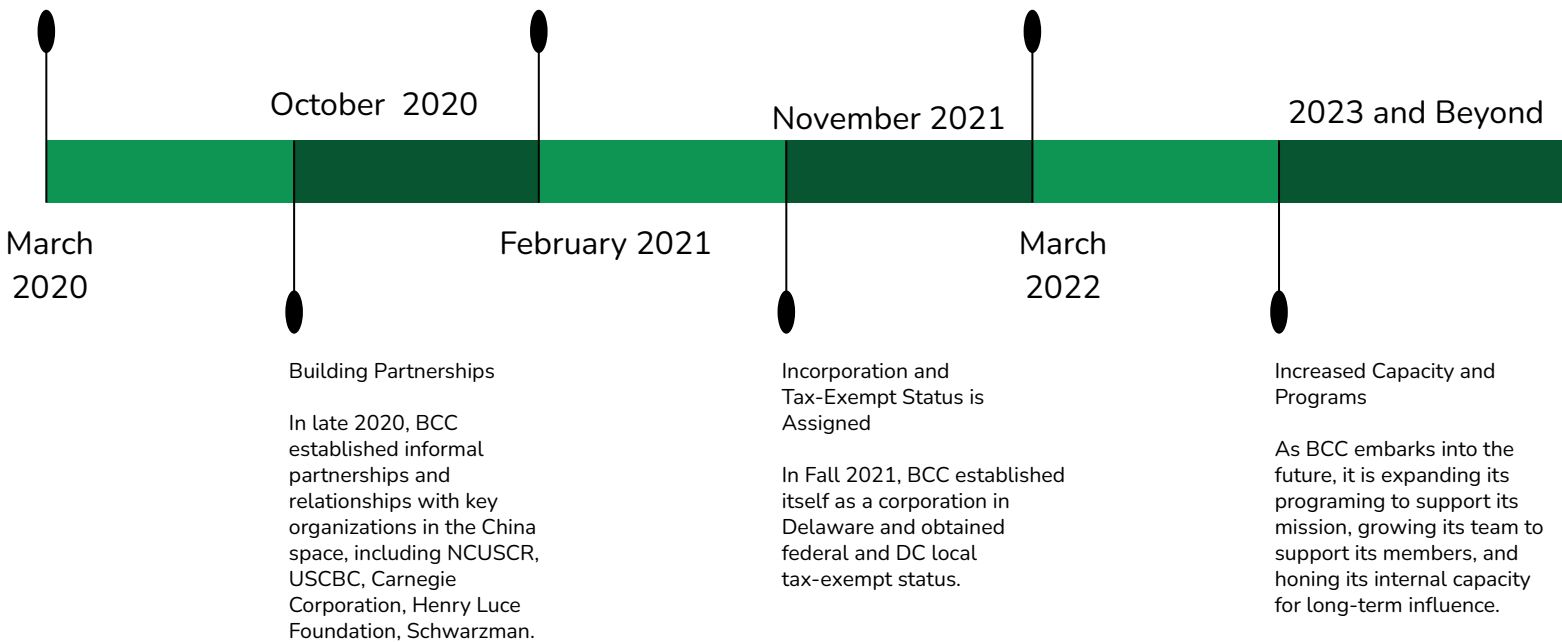
BCC was founded in March 2020, amidst the resurgence of public attention on the Black Lives Matter Movement, by like-minded Black professionals passionate about rectifying underrepresentation in the China space.

BCC Goes Viral

In Spring 2021, China held its annual Spring New Year Gala in which Black Face was performed. BCC's expertise on the topic led to immediate public attention in Reuters, WSJ, NYT.

Grants Empower BCC Programs

BCC receives its first-ever grant from the Carnegie Corporation to launch key programming, including social networking events, PD workshops, and a mentorship program.



Executive Leadership



U. Mark Akpaninyie
Co-CEO



Dr. Keisha Brown
Co-CEO



Mycal L. Ford
COO



Avonda Fogan
CSO

Volunteer Staff



Titilayo Ogundele
Communications
Director



J. Kirt Smith
Programming
Director



Tarela Moses
Program Quality
Advisor



Cole Walker
Outreach
Coordinator



Natalia
Simmons-Thomas
Events Coordinator



Marques Kitchen
Events Coordinator



Rachel Kirichu
Program Support

Letter from the Co-CEOs

Dear Supporters and Allies,

It has been a tremendous privilege to build up the BCC community and work together to enhance the presence and participation of Black professionals in the China space. While only three years have passed since we co-founded BCC, our community and our reach has grown dramatically. What started as a conversation between two friends has blossomed into a global community. We are truly inspired by the contributions, advocacy, and dedication of countless individuals that have made this effort possible.

As we embark on another year, we look towards the past and reflect on the significant milestones accomplished in pursuit of continued progress towards our common goal. The year 2022 was one of major growth and development of the organization. Through the leadership of Chief Strategy Officer Avonda Fogan, BCC officially registered as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization which enabled BCC to enter into generous partnerships with philanthropic donors to advance our mission. These partners and donors allowed us to devote dedicated resources towards building capacity and expanding support for the organization. Internally, we used the year to sharpen our focus and bolster our programming with our growing community.

BCC launched two signature programs, the mentoring program and ECOsystems Upskilling series, which fostered greater connectivity and engagement of the membership base. None of this work would have been possible without our amazing team.

We want to give a heartfelt thank you to our leadership team members, Avonda Fogan and Mycal Ford. Their passion for our mission, ingenuity, and tireless efforts have enabled BCC to engage in strategic and long-term thinking. They have been essential in strengthening BCC's organizational capabilities and we are incredibly thankful to have them as integral parts of the organizational leadership.

We are also thankful for the other members of our expanding team. We are truly grateful to Titi Ogundele, Natalia Simmons-Thomas, Kirt Smith, Marques Kitchen, Tarela Moses, Cole Walker, and others who have strengthened BCC this past year through the generosity of their time, ideas, and volunteering. The hard work and inspiration they provide have kept BCC going and we are proud of the efforts that keep BCC at the forefront of organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the China space. We look forward to working together and seeing what we can accomplish as a growing team. Finally, thanks to you and your trust in our mission, BCC continues to grow and build greater momentum.

Through it all, we have never lost sight of our mission and what we are about—our growing community. As we look ahead, we are encouraged by this momentum and we look forward to working towards our shared mission for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keisha Brown, Co-CEO, Co-Founder

Keisha A. Brown

Mark Akpaninyie, Co-CEO, Co-Founder

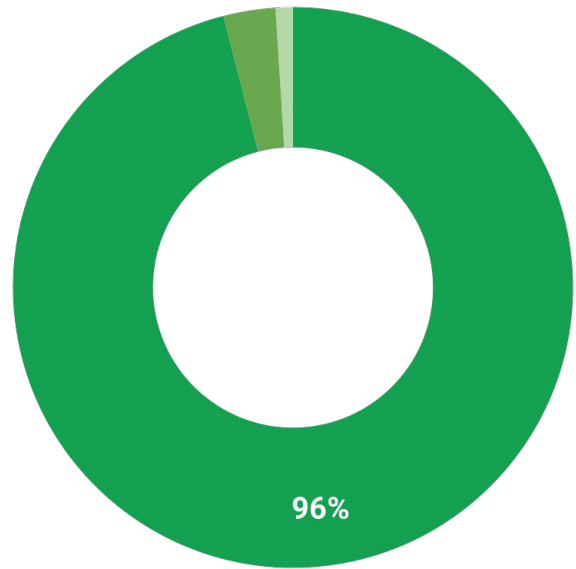
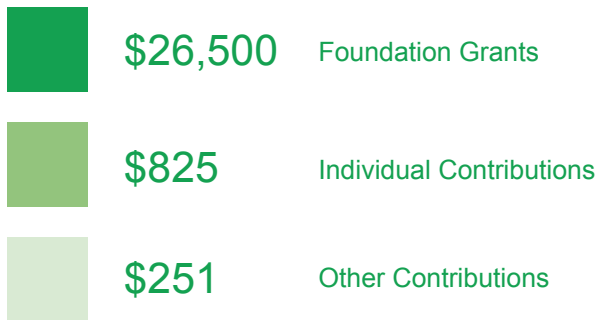


Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2022

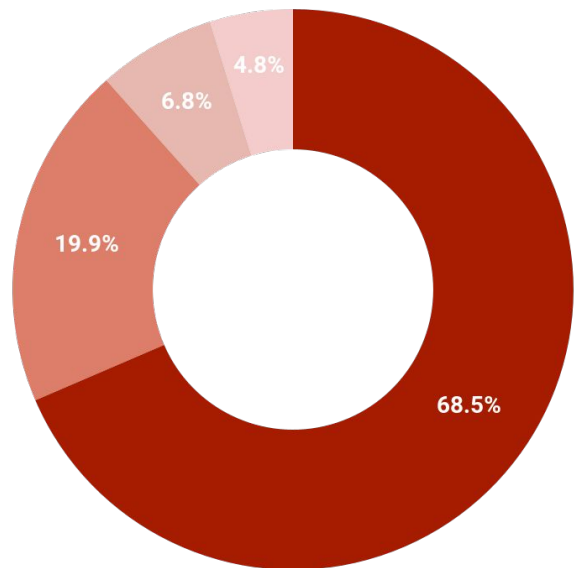
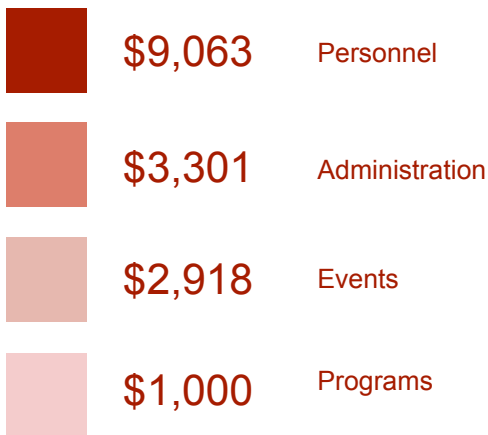
Revenue

\$27,576



Expenditures

\$16,283



Assets

\$11,293

Liabilities

\$0

"It still amazes me that in my 12+ years in this field, I never knew so many other Black people were in the China and Taiwan specialist spaces. I have met many current and future specialists that will be decision-makers one day, and I have appreciated the perspectives that have enhanced or challenged my views on China and Taiwan."

Shirley Martey Hargis

Nonresident Fellow
Atlantic Council's Global China Hub and
Digital Forensic Research Lab



Partnerships & Collaboration

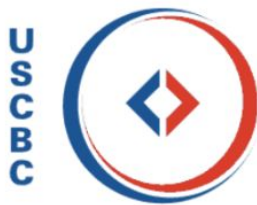
BCC is appreciative of the enduring relationships its has built since its founding. These relationships not only strengthen the ability of BCC to accomplish its mission, but greatly expands BCC’s organizational reach and creates long-lasting allies in the effort to advance Black professionals in the China space. BCC has worked with the following organizations on a variety of programming, events, and projects:



**AMERICAN
MANDARIN
SOCIETY**



Association for Asian Studies



THE US-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

美 中 贸 易 全 国 委 员 会

“Since its inception in 2020, BCC members and the organization itself have grown to be recognized as leaders and change-makers in Washington, D.C. and beyond, a trend that will continue for years to come.”

Greyson Mann, Government Affairs Manager
The US-China Business Council



Our Impact

Events

Besides building and sustaining an inclusive community of Black China specialists and creating programs to empower its membership, BCC hosted numerous internal and external, online and in-person, events in coordination with various established nonprofits, academic institutions, and organizations. Throughout 2022, BCC convened a diverse collective of members and experts who spoke on topics ranging from Africa's relationship with China to the personal experiences of being a Black China scholar to networking happy hours.

Last year, BCC also launched ECOsystems, with the acronym "ECO" in ECOsystems referring to Exposure, Confidence, and Opportunity. The professional development event series is an ongoing program that offers professional development and upskilling opportunities to Black professionals designed to enhance their existing skill sets.

Fireside Chat featuring Carolyn T. Brown

Join BCC for a virtual fireside chat featuring Dr. Carolyn T. Brown, a scholar on Chinese literature and psychology. This event is moderated by our very own Dr. Keisha A. Brown.

May 31, 2022
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Register Now on EventBrite

BCC Presents
BCC Ecosystems: An Upskilling Development Series for Black China Specialists

Introduction to Speechwriting

Featured Guest Speaker
Mallika Machra

ECOsystems: An Introduction to Speechwriting, "is a virtual speechwriting workshop led by Mallika Machra, a speechwriter for one of the premier speechwriting firms in DC, Fenway Strategies, and board member of Speech Writers of Color.

This workshop explores what makes a speech sing – and what makes one fall flat? And how do we make sure we're only writing the first kind? We will cover the basics of speechwriting, from voice and audience to research and structure, along with other crucial techniques.

July 12, 2022
6:00pm - 7:00 pm

Register now on EventBrite

AFRICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

13 SEPTEMBER 2022
7 PM ET

Panelists: Anita Plummer, PhD; Mulsani Zili, PhD; Oyinbunlajo Moses; Paul Nantulya

REGISTER HERE

The New Age of China Experts: What it means to be a China Expert in 2022

Monday
February 7, 2022
7:30 - 8:30pm ET

THE SPEAKER LINEUP

Panelists:
Lance Yau, Manager of Business Advisory Services, USCIB
Hannah Feldshuh, Manager of Business Advisory Services, USCIB
Jack Kamensky, Senior Director Business Advisory Services, USCIB
Lorena James, Schramm Scholar at Tsinghua University, USCIB

Moderator:
Greyson Mann, Masters Candidate, Ashland Institute of International Studies, USCIB

REGISTER NOW AT:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-new-age-of-china-experts-what-it-means-to-be-a-china-expert-in-2022-tickets-24925657477>



Our Impact

In 2021, BCC launched a pilot mentorship program designed to pair early and mid-career professionals within the BCC community with seasoned China policy professionals. Mentees were matched in a one-to-one pairing that lasted for a duration of one year. Due to the success of the pilot, in February 2022, BCC officially launched its professional mentorship program, which built upon the prior year's pilot program by creating additional structure and forging more meaningful connections.

Mentorship Program

The inaugural cohort was comprised of 12 Black professionals and students from four countries (the United States, Ghana, Perú, and Rwanda) who participated from locations spanning three continents—North America, Africa, and Asia. Each member was matched with a mentor who had experience in a range of fields, including think tanks, academia, government, non-profit organizations, and corporations.

*Nohelia Rivera Matias
Alumna of the Mentorship Program*



Our Impact

China 101

In 2022, BCC expanded in its mission to increase the pipeline for Black China professionals by creating a resource geared towards students and early career professionals. China 101 was created as an intentional community designed for both undergraduate and graduate students who want to enhance their exposure to opportunities in the China field. This community welcomes students with little or no previous exposure to the China field as well as those with extensive experience.

During 2022, BCC contacted approximately 100 academic institutions nationally to build a relationship with their individual Chinese Studies departments. In its first iteration, BCC was able to develop a list of 50 active college students who wished to subscribe to BCC China 101 subscription service, which will enhance their exposure to opportunities in the China field.



"BCC fosters a community I always hoped to have since I started studying Mandarin and China-related issues. I was often the only Black individual in many of my classes, which led me to believe I was one of very few aspiring Black experts on China-related issues. Now, I am not only excited to see many others through BCC, but I am also exposed to different China-related fields in which many BCC colleagues work."

Oyintarela Moses

Data Analyst and Database Manager
Global China Initiative at the Boston
University Global Development Policy
Center



Our Reach

As a growing voice for Black professionals in the China space, BCC is often called upon by media outlets to speak on important issues at the intersection of race and China studies or to provide commentary on current developments or flashpoints regarding China. BCC has captured the attention of news and media outlets, including the [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [POLITICO](#), [Newsweek](#), [South China Morning Post](#), and [Vice News](#). In addition – our members, emerging voices in their own right – have appeared in media outlets, providing timely analysis on many cross-cutting issues involving China. Highlights from 2022 include the following.



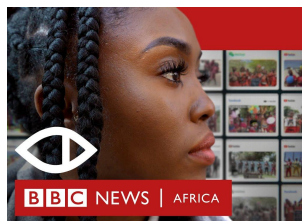
[Tarela Moses](#) and [Oyinike Equegu](#) participate in Tabadlab's Policy Roundtable on China's overseas development financing and its implications.



[Asha Clark](#), [Samantha Payne](#), [Tarela Moses](#), and [Tililayo Ogundele](#) participate in an in-depth discussion on U.S.-China relations at the Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation.



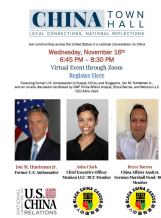
[Marilyn Waite](#) discusses where Chinese retail and institutional communities are situated with respect to considering investment impact on environmental, social and governance factors.



[Buneko Celina](#) examines the racist exploitation of African children by Chinese nationals in the BBC documentary Africa Eye: Racism for sale and discusses her work in South Africa's premier online news resource News24.



[Bruce Barros](#) is interviewed by Radio Taiwan International to discuss the Russia-Ukraine War, the Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, and the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade.



[Asha Clark](#) and [Bruce Barros](#) co-moderate the National Committee on US-China Relations' China Town Hall on behalf of the Black China Caucus Association.



[Tarela Moses](#) and [Oyinike Equegu](#) participate in Tabadlab's Policy Roundtable on China's overseas development financing and its implications.



[Amani Corea](#) describes his journey with learning Chinese during the Asia Society's 2022 Virtual National Chinese Language Conference, a convening of nearly 1,000 Chinese language teachers and education leaders from 16 different countries across the globe.



[Leslie Nguyen-Okwo](#) opines for the New York Times on the long history of organizing between Black and Asian communities in America.



[Ashley Brown](#) and [Leland Lazarus](#) develop an animated Chinese lesson with Mandarin on that Beat, where the two use AfroBeats to teach non-Chinese speakers new words and phrases in a fun and catchy way!



[Amanda Eagan](#) is selected as an Aspen Ideas fellow, where she was able to further the mission of the Black China Caucus.



[Buisani Hill](#) offer insights into how China's domestic surveillance market and cyber capability ecosystem operate, especially given the limited number of systematic studies that have analyzed its industry objectives.



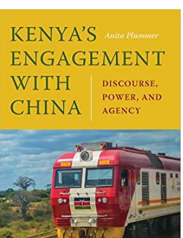
[Earl Carr](#) joins a panel to analyze the possibilities and challenges associated with China's Green Belt and Road Initiative at the China Institute, the oldest bicultural, non-profit organization in the United States to focus exclusively on China.



[Leland Lazarus](#) published an article in Foreign Policy magazine and opines on the steps the United States must take to respond to the PRC's growing presence in Latin American countries.



[Dr. Keisha Brown](#) speaks at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney, Australia about the roles Sino-African American and Sino-Black relations and conceptions of race and ethnicity play in U.S.-China relations.



[Dr. Anita Plummer](#) publishes her book about Kenya's relationship with the PRC, where she investigates the tension between official Kenyan and Chinese state narratives and individual Kenyans' reactions to China's presence to provide insight into how everyday Kenyans exercise their political agency. The competing discourses Plummer uncovers in person, in the news, and online reveal how Kenyans use China to question local power structures, demand policy change, and articulate different visions for their country's future. This critical text represents the next step in research on Sino-African relations.



[Paul Nantulya](#) opines on China establishing its second military base overseas and the implications of its growing overseas presence. In fact, PRC may not just stop at Equatorial Guinea, but may also be eyeing Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Angola and Seychelles, according to the article.



Looking Ahead

BCC is incredibly grateful for the generous support it has received from individuals and foundations since its founding.

Through generous grants and donations, BCC is able to continue its vital work of promoting, developing, advancing, and enhancing the presence and participation of Black professionals who specialize on China. The past three years have afforded BCC much success due, in large part, to the immense support of our partner organizations, supporters, and friends.

None of the vital work of amplifying the voices of Black professionals or highlighting issues of underrepresentation and exclusion in the China space could have been possible without the generous support of the philanthropic foundation Carnegie Corporation of New York. BCC is extremely grateful for the generosity and support of Carnegie Corporation of New York in equipping BCC with the resources necessary that will enable us to diversify discourse on China.

BCC is also very appreciative to our supporters Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt and Brandon Raines. Stephanie and Brandon generously provided BCC leadership with executive coaching which enabled the organization to create an inclusive, trustworthy work environment, develop and refine our organizational objectives and goals, and build organizational resilience.

The growing partnerships and collaboration BCC has had with multiple outside organizations have been a source of growth and development for the mission. Over the year, we have partnered with diverse stakeholders such as the National Association of Black Engagement with Asia, the U.S.-China Business Council, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and Schwarzman Scholars which has enabled BCC to extend its reach and target new audiences.

With this support, BCC will continue growing its signature programs, internal and external events, and collaborative programming with organizations and professionals within the industry.

Looking Ahead

As BCC looks ahead to 2023 and beyond, BCC will continue growing and improving its signature programs and events and seek collaborative opportunities with organizations and professionals within the industry. We are also excited to launch several new initiatives in the new year, including:

- Closed door dinner series where BCC members can network, learn from, and engage with senior China policy professionals and thought leaders!
- A grant contest that enables a young professional to explore any topic related to China through art!
- Additional ECOsystems sessions whereby BCC will offer professional development and upskilling opportunities to members designed to enhance their qualifications, such as media training, op-ed writing, public speaking, and more!
- Mandarin language learning and training opportunities to enable BCC members to sharpen their skills and build off previous language exposure or existing fluency!
- The second iteration of BCC signature professional mentorship program that pairs early and mid-career professionals within the BCC community with seasoned China policy professionals!
- The official launch of China 101, BCC's community designed for both undergraduate and graduate students who want to enhance their exposure to opportunities in the China field!



