

The Elevation Awards is a 10-month program that provides planning and scaling grants coupled with personalized support to local BIPOC social entrepreneurs. Since 2016, the program has invested a total of \$775,000 in 73 local BIPOC social entrepreneurs.

**Here are the 10 members of Cohort 8: (April - December 2025)**



**Joyson BaLisamore**

***Jay's Watermelonade***

Combats heart disease in refreshing ways, by promoting hydrating alternatives to sugary drinks and creating seasonal job opportunities to Baltimore City youth.

Website: [jayswatermelonade.com](http://jayswatermelonade.com)



**Krystal C. Mack**

***IAO Design***

Aims to address food apartheid in Baltimore through community projects that highlight food and nature's role in collective healing, empowerment, and decolonization.

Website: [KrystalCMack.com](http://KrystalCMack.com)



**Nicole Bryant**

***We Responders, Inc.***

Equips communities in Baltimore with life-saving skills in CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Narcan administration, while building confidence to respond in a crisis.

Instagram: [@\\_we.responders.inc](https://www.instagram.com/_we.responders.inc)



**Jamaya Moore**

***Beyond Inked***

Commits to helping makeup artists in Baltimore build confident, successful, and sustainable beauty careers through hands-on courses and business mentorship.

Website: [elitespmu.com](http://elitespmu.com)



**Des Coleman**

***The Noor Foundation***

Empowers formerly incarcerated individuals by providing career development, mentorship, and resources to help them successfully reenter the workforce.

Website: [thenoorfoundation.us](http://thenoorfoundation.us)



**Keisha Reed**

***Explore Maryland Cannabis***

Advocates for equity and education in the local cannabis industry, through a platform dedicated to supporting emerging businesses and professionals in the industry.

Website: [exploremarylandcannabis.com](http://exploremarylandcannabis.com)



**Saché Jones**

***The Bawdamore Preservation Society***

Documents the oral histories of legacy residents in Baltimore, adding context of the human experiences that are often lost from official historical city records.

[Facebook Profile Link](#)



**Matthew Reeds**

***The Reeds Fund***

Addresses educational and employment inequities faced by young adults with autism, by offering personalized entrepreneurship support and education scholarships.

Website: [reedsfund.org](http://reedsfund.org)



**Eean Logan**

***I Got Drive Foundation***

Empowers Baltimoreans by offering driving lessons in communities that face a high level of recidivism, poverty, lack of access to cars, & longer commutes to high paying jobs.

Instagram: [@igotdrivefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/igotdrivefoundation)



**Monica Guerrero Vazquez**

***The TAMOJA Foundation***

Aims to reduce gender-based and intimate partner violence through community-centered awareness and education, in collaboration with Latinx youth & the broader community.

Website: [tamoja.org](http://tamoja.org)