

Black Cannabis Week Tackles Who Gets Access to Jobs, Ownership and Wealth in a Growing Industry

National leaders gather in Philadelphia Sept. 25-27 to advance Black entrepreneurship, workforce development, economic equity and social justice.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, August 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A legal industry is creating businesses, careers and new wealth across America. But for Black communities that experienced some of the deepest consequences of cannabis criminalization, an important question remains: Will they have an equitable opportunity to benefit from what is being built now?

That question is at the center of [Black Cannabis Week](#) 2026, a national initiative bringing entrepreneurs, policymakers, students, educators, advocates and community leaders together around economic mobility, workforce development, restorative justice, entrepreneurship and community healing.



The week culminates with the Cannabis Opportunities Conference, Sept. 25-27 in Philadelphia, under the theme "Rising in Joy, Rooted in Resilience, Building What's Next."

"This isn't just a cannabis conversation. It's a conversation about ownership, jobs, education and whether communities that lived through criminalization will have a meaningful place in this new economy," said Dr. Brandi Hester-Harrell, co-founder and executive producer of Black Cannabis Week. "We don't want to spend another decade talking about inequity. We want to build pathways that change it."

The three-day gathering is designed to move the conversation from inequity to opportunity. Programming includes workforce and career development, entrepreneurship support,

expungement resources, scholarships for emerging leaders, public policy discussions, research, wellness programming and an economic marketplace.

For Cherron Perry-Thomas, owner of Plant and People and co-founder of the Diasporic Alliance for Cannabis Opportunities, economic equity must include ownership.

"Communities shouldn't be limited to being consumers in an industry they helped shape," Perry-Thomas said. "People deserve a chance to become owners, build careers, grow businesses and create wealth for their families. That's what this work is about."

BLACK CANNABIS WEEK: SEPT. 25-27

Friday, Sept. 25 — Policy & Leadership

Policy Summit, 8:30 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia Center City

[High Black History Comedy Show](#) & Fundraiser, 6 p.m.

Two Locals Brewing

“

This isn't just a cannabis conversation. It's about ownership, jobs, education and whether our communities have a meaningful place in this new economy.”

Dr. Brandi Hester-Harrell, Co-Founder, Black Cannabis Week

nonprofit fiscal sponsorship through Marijuana Justice.



Two women sit on stage at a conference, speaking into microphones. Behind them is a backdrop with 'Black Cannabis WK' logos and text.

Saturday, Sept. 26 — Business, Workforce & Opportunity

Cannabis Opportunities Conference & Expo, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Philadelphia

Sunday, Sept. 27 — Community & Healing

Free Community Day focused on wellness, relationship-building and sustaining the work beyond the conference.

Black Cannabis Week is an initiative of the Diasporic Alliance for Cannabis Opportunities (DACO), operating with

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

Dr. Brandi Hester-Harrell and Cherron Perry-Thomas are available for television, radio, podcast, print and digital interviews to discuss:

Economic equity and Black entrepreneurship

Jobs and workforce development

Business ownership and generational wealth

The lasting economic impact of cannabis criminalization

Expungement and removing barriers to opportunity

Preparing the next generation for careers in emerging industries

Why Philadelphia has become a gathering place for this national conversation



A diverse group of people attending a conference or seminar in a brightly lit room with large windows, some listening attentively, others taking notes, with a woman standing and speaking, and a few individuals in the background looking at displays or using devices.

Additional interviews are available with entrepreneurs, students, advocates, policy leaders and individuals directly impacted by cannabis criminalization.

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