

Activism in Utah: *The Black Future Lab and Afro-Latinx Political Power*



What is The Black Future Lab?



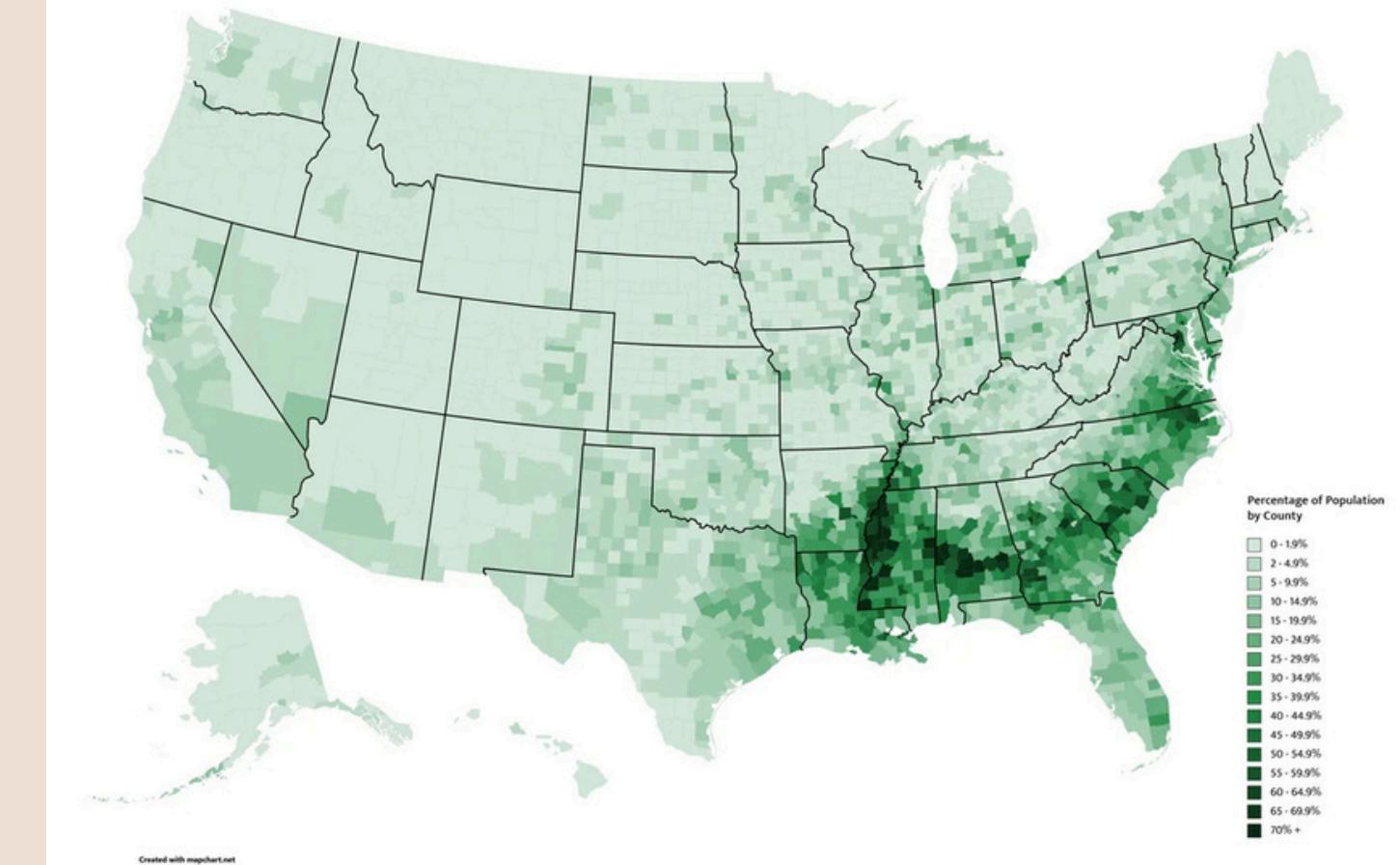
- **Founded by Alicia Garza (co-founder of Black Lives Matter)**
- **Mission: Build Black political power through civic engagement**
- **Works with Black and Afro-Latinx communities across the U.S., including Utah**
- **Focuses on voter education, leadership, and policy advocacy**

Black
Futures
Lab

The Issues They Address

- Voter suppression (U.S.) and political exclusion (Latin America)
- Anti-Black policies rooted in colonialism
- Shared struggle: communities denied representation & resources

“We’re working to undo systems that were never meant for us.” –
BFL activist



What I Learned

- Structural racism operates across borders
- Afro-Latinx communities also face systemic exclusion
- Transnational solidarity is essential
- “This work reminded me that anti-Blackness doesn’t stop at the border. Neither should our resistance.”



Their Organizing Strategies

- Grassroots organizing in Utah and nationally
- Town halls, canvassing, digital campaigns
- Focus on youth and first-time voters
- Culturally relevant messaging for Black and Afro-Latinx communities



Their Impact So Far

- Thousands registered to vote for the first time
- Empowered new local leaders
- Helped shape policy platforms
- “The best part is hearing someone say, ‘I finally felt like I mattered.’” – BFL activist



Simulated Interview Reflections

- Why this work matters:
- “It’s exhausting... but seeing real change keeps me going.”
- Barriers: Voter suppression + distrust in politics
- Shared context: Political alienation is common in Afro-Latinx communities, too



Challenges They Face

- Burnout among staff & volunteers
- Lack of funding, especially in conservative areas
- Community skepticism due to systemic betrayal
- Same challenges faced in Latin American activism



The Role of Students

- Organize voter drives, speak out on campus
- Use social media to spread awareness
- Volunteer with local justice orgs
- From the U.S. to Latin America, students are always the spark.



Final Thoughts – Why It Matters

- Black liberation is global. Afro-Latinx voices matter.
- This work isn't just local, it's part of a global resistance
- Latin American Studies shows us the why behind activism

Thank you for listening. ¡Gracias por estar aquí!