

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- 1. We believe in upholding and embodying the seven foundational principles that resonate with the rich communitarian values across the African continent (these are the same principles practiced for Kwanza).**

With a commitment to Umoja (Unity), we foster a spirit of togetherness and solidarity. Through Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), we empower individuals to define their paths and create their destinies. We stand for Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), working collaboratively to uplift one another and share the burdens of our community. Our commitment to Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) reflects our dedication to building sustainable economies that benefit all. Nia (Purpose) guides us in pursuing meaningful objectives that contribute to the greater good. We value Kuumba (Creativity), which encourages innovation and artistic expression as vital tools for community development. Lastly, Imani (Faith) inspires our trust in one another and our shared vision for a better future. We strive to practice these principles authentically, free from the influences of commercialism, to create a thriving community rooted in our values.

- 2. At the core of our beliefs lies the ancient Egyptian concept of Ma'at, which embodies essential virtues that guide our understanding of justice and ethical conduct. The virtues of Ma'at—truth, justice, balance, harmony, order, and propriety reciprocity—form the foundation of our moral framework.**

We hold the virtue of truth in high regard, believing that honesty fosters trust and strengthens our relationships. Justice is paramount; we strive to create a fair society where everyone is treated equally and respectfully. Balance signifies the importance of equilibrium in all aspects of life, reminding us to seek stability in our actions and decisions. Order and harmony are intertwined as we aspire to live in a structured environment that promotes peace and collaboration, minimizing chaos in our interactions. Reciprocity emphasizes the importance of mutual respect and

support—what we give is what we receive, creating a cycle of goodwill. Finally, propriety ensures that we conduct ourselves with dignity, adhering to social norms that promote respect for one another. By embracing these virtues, we cultivate a community grounded in ethical principles that honor the interconnectedness of all beings and promote harmonious coexistence.

3. We believe in a Black cultural approach to social change that is deeply informed by the principles of the Kawaida paradigm. This framework, developed by Maulana Karenga, emphasizes the importance of cultural identity, community building, and collective action as vital components for effective social transformation.

At the heart of our belief is that cultural heritage and shared experiences form the foundation of our identity and resilience. We prioritize understanding our history, traditions, and values to empower our communities to enact meaningful change. By celebrating and preserving our cultural legacy, we foster a sense of pride and unity that fuels our efforts for social progress.

Our approach encourages active participation and collaboration within the community. We recognize that collective action amplifies our voices and strengthens our impact. Through organizing and mobilizing, we aim to address the social, political, and economic challenges that disproportionately affect Black communities.

Additionally, we envision transformative social change rooted in justice, equality, and self-determination. By cultivating a Kawaida-inspired vision of social change anchored in our cultural values, we can create sustainable solutions that uplift our communities, promote solidarity, and advance our liberation struggle. This way, we honor our past while building a brighter future for generations.