

Black Professionals in International Affairs 2025 BPIA Board Elections: STATEMENTS OF INTENT

Candidates' names are hyperlinked with their LinkedIn profiles

VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PRESIDENT (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Alexandria J. Maloney	Alexandria J. Maloney has served as the BPIA President since 2021. Starting as an intern 11 years ago, Alexandria's mission has been to build BPIA into a premier organization with a warm, welcoming, and respected reputation. Under her leadership, BPIA, and its members, have grown in profile to be known as an organization of high impact, influence, and excellence. President Maloney has been able to skyrocket BPIA's strategic direction to engage in and host global-level convenings, expand the community footprint and reach, secure high-profile donors and partners, and hit an annual fundraising goal of over \$50,000. She has led the development of the following initiatives: expansion of BPIA's Advisory Councils, high-level briefings, tactical operational structure, opportunity board, resume bank, Colin Powell Leadership Institute, Madam Ambassador Program, Taskforces, Tribes, First Fridays, and more. Her vision for the future of BPIA includes accessible service opportunities for members and continuing on the track record of excellence in the fulfillment of BPIA's fundamental purpose: preparing, inspiring, exposing,	Alexandria J. Maloney has served as the President of Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA) since 2021. She is currently a Director at the Kettering Foundation, a visiting lecturer at Cornell University, and a senior fellow with Atlantic Council's Africa Center. By 31, Alexandria was named one of the "Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent" and a "Forbes 50 Champion" for Black and Brown communities for her leadership in building ecosystems to educate, prepare, and empower underrepresented professionals. Her past public service experience includes the U.S. Department of Defense, the White House Initiative for HBCUs, and more. Alexandria is a member of the Truman National Security Project, FP4A, European Leadership Network, CFR Young Professional Briefing Series, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. She holds a B.A. in International Affairs from John Cabot University (Rome, Italy), M.A. from Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD), and MPA from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY). Her expertise and interest span a host of foreign affairs, defense, diplomacy, diversity and inclusion, arts and culture, youth, women, and public engagement matters.

	amplifying, and positioning Black leaders at all professional levels for the senior ranks in foreign affairs.	
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VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Myles Ibanez	In my six months as Acting VP of Education & Exchange (E&E), I've built strategic collaborations with key stakeholders, increasing E&E's outreach by 31% both domestically and internationally. I've equipped our interns with resume-building skills and expanded our target audience network. I've also been invited by leading organizations such as the Council on Foreign Relations, American University, and APSIA to share our progress in advancing DEI within the international relations community, while successfully recruiting new members to BPIA. E&E's target audience includes collegiate to mid-level professionals, and my focus is on providing tangible, career-advancing skills. My vision for E&E is twofold: (1) Increase access and connections to institutions and individuals of influence, and (2) Execute high-impact, signature BPIA programs for greater visibility, community building, and strong ROI—reflected in my approach of “low lift, high impact.” As Acting VP, I prioritize quality programs that deliver significant returns for our audience and raise the organization's profile.	Myles is a Geopolitical Risk Analyst and Advisor with over eleven years of experience, specializing in grand strategy, risk and cooperative threat reduction analysis in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Myles serves as the acting Vice President for the Education and Exchange Committee, where he leads and mentors rising international affairs professionals and develop network and job opportunities. Myles is a Colin Powell Fellow, Foreign Policy For America NextGen Fellow, and a Council on Foreign Relations-YPB. Myles is also an active member of ForbesBLK, and the United Nations Association. Myles holds a B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Law from Emory University and pursuing a Master's in International Security at Georgetown University.

	Currently, I'm driving three collaborations that will yield a high ROI, and I'm committed to delivering workshops, panels, and networking opportunities for our target audience throughout my tenure.	
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VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Clifford Young	I should be elected as Vice President of Business and Economic Development for BPIA because of my passion for international affairs, which is deeply rooted in my background as a child of Caribbean immigrants. Growing up, our household conversations frequently centered around international relations, economics, and global business trends—elements that have fostered my interest in the complex interplay of business and economic development on a global scale. My first goal is to organize an in-person event in NYC, collaborating with international institutions headquartered here. I would leverage my network to connect with these organizations, as well as engage with university centers focused on international affairs to co-host events on timely global topics that intersect business and economic development. My second goal is to expand BPIA's membership base by collaborating with the organization's membership team to reach international relations-focused students on	Clifford Young is a first-generation American from Brooklyn, NY with Caribbean heritage. He earned a bachelor's degree in International Studies from American University in 2021. Clifford currently works as a compliance analyst in investment banking, focusing on preventing insider trading. Before his tenure in the compliance industry, he garnered diverse experiences in government, consulting, higher education, and in the legal sector. Clifford is also engaged in community service as a member of Kiwanis International, explores his business interests through his membership in the National Black MBA Association, and serves as a high school mentor with iMentor NYC.

	college campuses and members of similar organizations. This outreach will help to cultivate a broader community aligned with BPIA's mission. Thirdly, I aim to secure new partnerships for our committee, which would allow us to further our initiatives and deepen engagement in international affairs. My experience in hosting monthly committee calls and planning events, such as the 8th Annual Forum Business and Economic Outlook for Africa—a panel discussion with industry experts—demonstrates my commitment and ability to organize impactful programming. These experiences reflect my dedication to BPIA's mission and my capacity to contribute effectively to this role.	
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VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Wayne Browne	Engaging young people, I wish I had these opportunities in my youth as my journey and understanding of the world would have been much easier. Dedicating my time in life to being a positive role model for others unlike what I had And finally supporting those who need a little push or words of encouragement when life just overbearing. These three tangible goals of engaging, dedicating, and supporting are just the basis to becoming a positive influence for any within my reach or just in need.	As passionate multitalented U.S. Army Veteran leader, Senior Executive Advisor, Operational and Organizational Manager, National Security Advisor, and Doctoral Candidate with exceptional experience in organizational leadership, intelligence collection, Intelligence management, target management, law enforcement, security management, and intergovernmental compliance and networking. I enjoy solving complex and innovative problems by building and maintaining networks and relationships, and establishing organizational efficiencies through objective operational oversight. As a first-generation American, I seized

		the opportunity to serve my country and community. Now in retirement, I am still expanding my skills and talents to be my best self and Servant Leader
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VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Justin K. Rogers	I should be elected for VP of Operations because of my proven track record for supporting the President in duties related to the overall management and growth of BPIA. As VP of Operations, I hope to support the organization at yet another high-stakes inflection point for change. Three goals I have are to improve financial transparency to ensure accuracy of accounts, create an internal and external board for managing all administrative and clerical responsibilities, and establish a presence on the African continent. Thus far, I have supported BPIA as Director of Fundraising and Grants by leading the application process on 3 grants totaling \$75,000, supporting the governance committee in recruiting a new board, and managing sponsorship outreach and engagement during our inaugural National BPIA Week.	Justin K. Rogers is a dedicated leader in international development with a passion for increasing Black representation in global affairs. Currently a Project Associate at RTI International, he supports critical USAID-funded initiatives in Senegal and Cambodia. As Director of Grants at BPIA, Justin has transformed fundraising efforts, implemented monitoring and evaluation strategies, and built sustainable partnerships. With experience spanning program management at CIEE, legislative support in Congress, and fundraising for NGOs like Tsofen, Justin brings a strategic, community-focused perspective to his work. His commitment to equity and innovation drives his impactful contributions.

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Adaobi Ezeadum (Ada)	With a robust background as a nonprofit leader and a Talent Management expert, I am eager	Adaobi is a foreign-trained Attorney with international experience in nonprofit management, talent development,

	to contribute to BPIA's mission. Why I Should Be Elected My unique blend of strategic planning, talent management expertise, and passion for community engagement positions me as an ideal candidate for the VP of Membership role. I have a proven track record of leading initiatives that not only recruit but also retain talent (staff/volunteers), ensuring a vibrant and engaged membership base. I am committed to using my skills to further BPIA's mission and to create an environment where Black professionals can thrive in the field of international affairs/development. Tangible Goals 1. Enhance Membership Engagement and Retention: I aim to develop a comprehensive membership engagement strategy that fosters deeper connections among members. This will include the introduction of mentorship programs that pair seasoned professionals with newer members (if we have this already, I will build on what is already existing), as well as regular networking events tailored to the unique needs of Black professionals in international affairs (I know we have our Friday mixer networking events). My extensive experience in recruitment and retention strategies has equipped me with the skills to analyze member	litigation, advocacy, and community project management/implementation. She has extensive years of experience working in the gender space in developing countries. Her passion for Women's Empowerment led to floating a non-profit about 8 years ago in Nigeria with presence in 5 states focusing on women and the girl child (www.empoweredapiensmulier.org) where she leads over 200 women. She has 2 law degrees (LLB and LLM) and she practiced law in Nigeria having been admitted to the Nigerian bar over 12 years ago. She has an MBA in Organizational Development and Leadership. As a nonprofit leader, she focuses on the core functions of the organization to enable it to achieve its long-term vision. She's equally responsible for planning, organization, and direction of the organization's operations and programs. She works with the Business Development team on grants which attract donors/funders, for example LEAP Africa (implementing a Ford and MacArthur Foundation grant). She is very committed to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (a certified diversity talent expert) and currently serves as a DEI Advisor in her workplace. She has published 3 self-help books. And loves to read and watch documentaries on Netflix. www.adaobiezeadam.com
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	feedback and tailor our offerings accordingly. 2. Expand Professional Development Opportunities: I propose the creation of a series of workshops and seminars focused on skill-building in areas such as negotiation, leadership, and public speaking. By collaborating with industry experts and leveraging my background in designing experiential programs, I can ensure that these opportunities are relevant and impactful. My history of managing internship and experiential learning programs has given me an appreciation for the importance of practical skills in professional growth. 3. Strengthen BPIA's Community Outreach: I believe that increasing BPIA's visibility in the wider community can attract new members and partnerships. I will work to establish relationships with universities and colleges, particularly those with significant Black student populations, to create pathways for involvement in BPIA. My experience in nonprofit leadership has involved outreach and partnership initiatives, and I am confident in my ability to build these crucial connections. Support for BPIA I have been actively involved with BPIA by participating in events, sharing resources, and advocating for the organization within my professional network. I	
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	have also leveraged my network to promote BPIA's mission and encourage others to engage with the organization, fostering a sense of community and belonging.	
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VP OF STRATEGY & IMPACT (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Michelle Washington		Michelle C. Washington is a social scientist and technologist who believes in the value of public service. Her passion is collaborating at the intersection of technology, policy, international affairs, digital equity, and national security. She is the Deputy Chief of Information Technology in Office of the Secretary of Defense, Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO). Her work focuses on establishing new systems and tools for mission support leveraging data and analytics. Prior to this assignment Michelle was a Management Analyst with the Washington Headquarters Services leading technology modernization within the Financial Management Directorate. Michelle offers over a decade of expertise in foreign policy, international security, federal information systems and capabilities, capital investments and government finance. Michelle is a 2024 Truman National Security Scholar serving on the Defense Council and a 2024 National Security Fellow with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD). She is a Colin Powell Leadership Institute Scholar, a member of the Military Cyber Professionals Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Michelle holds a Master of Public

		Administration, with an International Management focus from George Mason University and a professional certificate in Humanitarian Assistance, Crisis and Conflict from Harvard University.
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TREASURER (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Lassine Cherif		Lassine Cherif came to BPIA in 2010 as student member and volunteer. He subsequently joined the BPIA staff as Membership Coordinator and IT manager. Appointed to the board in 2018 and elected 2019; he serves as the chair of the membership committee overseeing the organization membership activities. Elected as assistant treasurer in 2022, Cherif's led the modernization of BPIA's financial systems. He has been serving as treasurer since July 2022. Cherif is a highly accomplished and innovative IT leader with 10+ years of experience in IT and cybersecurity, including end-to-end definition and implementation of cybersecurity/ information security governance and compliance programs while building and leading cross functional cybersecurity and compliance teams.

ASSISTANT TREASURER (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Kyle Balfour	I believe I should be elected to this role given my experience and involvement in BPIA. As executive program manager, I oversaw the expenses for BPIA week and worked closely with the treasurer and president to manage and track BPIA finances. As we approach Q1, I	Kyle Balfour is a senior at the George Washington University (GWU) pursuing a double major in political science and international affairs with a focus on environmental policy. He is passionate about the intersection of environment, energy, and climate issues within the international affairs realm. He was able to channel this passion as an intern with

	have been working closely with the Director of Fundraising and Grants to develop additional ways to further the mission and reach of BPIA. Goal 1: Launch the BPIA Collegiate Advisory Council in January. The purpose of this council is to increase BPIA engagement with collegiate chapters, known as Young Black Professionals in International Affairs (YBPIA). As president of GWU YBPIA, I have been working to bridge the gap between my chapter at George Washington University and BPIA. Also, I have been working with YBPIA Founder, Hannah Jackson (and BPIA member), to expand the presence of YBPIA chapters around the United States. Through these endeavors, there will be an increase in the participation of African diasporic college students in international affairs and also streamline membership from the YBPIA chapters into BPIA. Hannah and I would co-chair this council, and the council will comprise 10 delegates that represent the YBPIA chapters at their university/college. Goal 2: Improve the BPIA website/customer relation management software system (CRM). The current BPIA website/CRM (Wild Apricot) has been working well for the past several years. However, as BPIA enters a new phase, I believe we need a refresh. This change will include a user-friendly platform, efficient tracking of BPIA data, and an overall fresh design that will	the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce and further this work as a current intern with the Natural Resources Defense Council. His previous experiences are rooted in public service including working with his local commissioner's office in Florida to serving on Capitol Hill. He also studied abroad in Florence, Italy, and was recently accepted to a study abroad program in Senegal. Kyle is committed to the mission of BPIA and serves as the president of the Young Black Professionals in International Affairs (YBPIA) chapter at GWU. Within BPIA he has served as a Professional Development Mentoring Intern, Executive Intern, and the Executive Program Manager. His achievements and efforts led to him being named a BPIA Power 50 Honoree.
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	align with BPIA branding. I have experience working with several CRMs and related software programming. Furthermore, my dad is a technology architect who has a background in membership CRMs and can help with services. Goal 3: Increase BPIA engagement on the international level. The International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs has a global mission. Although most of our operations take place in the Washington, D.C. area, we have to expand our work beyond U.S. borders. This is a long-term goal that will take some heavy lifting but will be vital to the longevity of BPIA. Members outside the United States are arguably at a disadvantage as the primary way for them to engage with the organization is virtual. This is undoubtedly a great way to interact with our members overseas; however, to continue to foster inclusivity and equity with BPIA programming, we need to establish touchpoints in other countries. What BPIA has been able to accomplish in 2024 may not have been possible 4 years ago. We need to continue on our upward trajectory as BPIA evolves into a truly international organization.	
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SECRETARY (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Oona Nelson	For the past year, I have humbly served as the secretary for the BPIA Board of Directors. In this	Oona Nelson is a public affairs officer for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). As a communications

	role, I focused on administratively supporting the BPIA in very tangible ways. As the secretary, I was responsible for records and information management, time-keeping of monthly board meetings, the board parliamentary procedure practices and more. Furthermore, I have managed the life cycle of over 20 motions for the BPIA Board, a key procedure to ensure fair and responsible decision making among board members. Besides my formal board responsibilities, I have significantly contributed to BPIA in a plethora of ways. I was an active mentor in the BPIA Madam Ambassador Program where I have supported the program's goal to uplift and educate young girls in international careers. I have also served as a team lead in BPIA's first ever National BPIA Week. This pilot program raised over \$50,000 for the organization. Before BPIA formalized its events team, I was also pivotal in the support of many BPIA events from book launches to presentations to high profile events to first Fridays and more. As a board member for 2025, I have three goals that I would want to focus on. To order new BPIA marketing materials for recurring events, revitalize the BPIA store, and to support the communications team in re-launching the BPIA podcast.	professional, she has planned and executed NGA's public presence for several national conferences, briefed senior government officials on communications plans, created talking points for high profile events and represented NGA publicly at national conferences and public forums. Oona has experience in conference planning, community relations, media, social media, and internal communications. In 2021, Oona graduated from Howard University with a Bachelors of Business Administration in International Business. She also holds a Certificate in Professional Writing from University of Pennsylvania.
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MEMBERS AT LARGE – GENERAL (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Iminah Laura Ahmad	As a global change-maker, educational leader & cultural ambassador I be elected as an At-large Board Member for BPIA	An international leader, artist and cultural ambassador, I have supported projects with The African Union, the Office of the Presidency for the

	due to my sustained track record of positive impact on local, statewide, national and international policies, programs and movements. As a board member I will: work to increase the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs. Since 2009 I have worked mobilizing the African American community to deepen awareness of and engagement with international organizations such as the African Union, MIPAD and BPIA. I I will support the mass awareness of the African American community on the works, impacts and initiatives of BPIA. Since being appointed to the Diplomatic Advisory Council, I have introduced the work of BPIA to Black leaders in organizations such as the San Francisco 49ers & Golden State Warriors to encourage their engagement and support. I will forge deeper connections with Black professionals in Africa and the Caribbean to inform our international objectives. As a member of the African American, Jamaican and African communities, I have continued to forge connections and support amongst these communities.	Republic of Ghana, the United States Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Prevention, Oakland Unified School District, San Francisco Unified School District, East Oakland Youth Development Center & Alliance for Girls. I have lectured at Harvard University, Spelman College and many other institutions. As the co-founder & Director of African American Female Excellence (AAFE) , part of the Oakland Unified School District, I currently lead the first ever school-district-wide initiative for Black girls in the nation. I was named 2024 'Advocate of the Year' by 100 Black Women Inc, Oakland Bay Area Chapter, am a member of the BPIA Diplomatic Advisory Council, and EMERGE California Class of 2024. Globally, in recognition of my global work as a Cultural Ambassador in support of the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent, I was recognized as one of the Global Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent, 2023. In 2022 I was honored by the Golden State Warriors with the "Impact Warrior" Community Leadership Award. In 2023 I was honored by the San Francisco 49ers and became the 1st Black woman to become a Legacy Beneficiary Partner of an NFL team. She received the Royal Title of a Chief in Nigeria, crowned as the "Yeyemeto Awo of Oworonshoki Kingdom in Lagos, Nigeria in 2021. I was recognized as a Queen in Ghana, entitled Abena Asantewaa by the Asin Manso Royal Council, Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2021.
Morgan Mickle	I'm running for a 2025 Board Member At-Large position. As current Board Assistant Secretary, I have supported BPIA's Secretary, President, and	Morgan Mickle has served on BPIA's Board of Directors since May 2024 and is Co-Chair for the Madam Ambassador Program. With 15 years of experience, Morgan currently works at Banyan

	Board broadly over the last six months setting agendas, co-running monthly Board meetings, drafting and coordinating motions for voting, keeping records, and managing the BPIA Outreach mailbox. I also directly supported BPIA's Vice President of Professional Development as the 2024 Co-Chair for the Madam Ambassador Program (MAP), which provides learning opportunities for girls 13-21; I will continue this role in 2025. A personal MAP highlight includes directing the NATO Day event that featured high-level speakers from the White House, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, and NATO. I also organized a Colin Powell Leadership Institute Salon Dinner discussion and have facilitated several conversations with potential partners on diaspora topics. As an active Board member, I have deepened my understanding of the organization, contributed to and voted on critical issues that govern BPIA operations, and advised other Board members on activities. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this dynamic leadership team and seek to continue service in 2025. I am particularly interested in: 1) strengthening BPIA's international development community, including supporting the International Development & Relief Working Group/Tribe and exploring side events around professional conferences such as with Society for International Development (SID-US); 2) elevating the MAP experience for delegates, mentors, and volunteers; and 3) exploring	Global, an international development firm, where she leads gender and inclusion programming for clients such as USAID. Her career has spanned 19 countries. Morgan is passionate about advancing professional growth and learning opportunities, particularly for youth, women, and persons of color. She holds a MA from The George Washington University and a BA from The College of William and Mary. She's from Atlanta, GA and is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.
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	strategic and innovative partnerships that enhance member opportunities. I will leverage similar engagements—as a mentor for The George Washington University’s Young Black Professionals in International Affairs, an Advisory Board member for Teens of Color Abroad, and Co-Chair for SID-US’ Inclusive Development Workgroup—for maximum results. I am committed and ready to support BPIA’s growing network of changemakers who champion exposure, representation, leadership, decision-making, and diverse voices at every level.	
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MEMBERS AT LARGE – PARTNERSHIPS (1 YEAR)		
CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Angela Tate	Over a decade ago, I majored in international affairs because I was excited about changing the world. Unfortunately, the people who were to help me achieve my dream didn’t look like me—and didn’t really want me around. BPIA is a vital resource to make sure that never happens for anyone. Furthermore, the world is skewing younger—particularly in the global majority—and building greater capacity to speak to them and excite their desire to do good in the world is one of my greatest goals as I reflect on my experiences with mentoring young people. Lastly, the power of arts and culture in the international arena is the key factor in why Black people were able to achieve success in global affairs when other tactics	Angela Tate’s career focuses on telling inclusive and expansive stories of America’s past, particularly through the lens of international affairs and global issues. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for over a decade, working in various leadership roles that include managing interns, public speaking, teaching, and other activities. As an historian of Black people in foreign affairs, she brings a scholarly lens of the work of BPIA and engages with bringing together scholars and officials to explore the issues facing our society.

	were met with a chilly reception. I believe in nurturing BPIA's vision in this area and hope to serve as a leading voice in why this organization is the place to turn to for expertise.	
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MEMBERS AT LARGE – COMMUNICATIONS (1 YEAR)

CANDIDATE	STATEMENT OF INTENT	BIO
Ethel Mwedziwendira	With 2 years on the Board of Directors and 4 years as a BPIA member, along with my background in communications, I believe I'm well-positioned for this role. My time with BPIA has given me the chance to lay important groundwork in media relations, social media, and member engagement, and I'm excited to continue building on what I've started if re-elected. The 3 goals I'd like to focus on are as follows: 1.) Lead a Media Exposure Day for members at a newsroom or newspaper in Q1 or Q2. The goal is to give members a behind-the-scenes look at how newsrooms operate and help them better understand the current media landscape. 2.) Develop a Media Training Program that helps members build skills in public speaking, press interviews, and digital storytelling—giving them the tools to better represent themselves and BPIA in the media. 3.) Bring back the Off-the-Record series and open it up to all BPIA members. This would create more opportunities	Ethel Mwedziwendira is a dynamic and innovative communications professional with 10+ years of experience and a strong history of crafting compelling narratives. Her expertise spans multiple sectors of communications, including litigation, sports and entertainment, tech, and finance, among others. Inspired by storytelling icons like Christiane Amanpour and Marie Colvin from a young age, Ethel has always been drawn to professions where she could artfully convey the stories of others. She began her career in litigation communications, handling some of the most prominent criminal legal cases such as Richard Glossip, Rodney Reed, Pervis Payne, and Melissa Lucio. Ethel has secured media coverage in Tier-1 outlets for various clients, ranging from NFL athletes to top-level executives. Additionally, she has devised several thought leadership campaigns. A proud alumna of The University of Mississippi, Ethel serves on the boards of the Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA) and Hunger Free America. She is a recognized fellow of the Vital Voices Visionaries Program in partnership with Estée Lauder's Emerging Leaders Fund and the BPIA Colin Powell Leadership Institute. She has received several prestigious awards in journalism and

	for members to engage with thought leaders and dive deeper into international affairs discussions. So far, I've helped strengthen BPIA's media presence by forging partnerships with Diplomatic Watch and The Africa Report, securing nearly 15 media placements in outlets like The Washington Informer, Politico, Diplomatic Watch, and The Grio, and supporting our president with media prep. I've also increased our social media accounts following by 46% and played a key role in social media campaigns like Power 50, 35th Anniversary, and Giving Tuesday. I'm passionate about continuing this work and taking BPIA's communications efforts to the next level.	editorial design, including accolades from the Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press Media Editors (APME), Southeast Journalism Conference, among others. Additionally, she was honored on BPIA's inaugural Power 50 List, which recognizes fifty influential individuals in business, policy, civil society, and the arts who are driving change and fostering innovation in their communities.
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