

BE PRESENT®

transforming the world one voice at a time



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



BE PRESENT® CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ARCHIVE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

ATLANTA, Georgia (July 25, 2022) – Be Present®, Inc. celebrates the vision and leadership of Black women and girls, beginning with Lillie P. Allen, who partnered with diverse people to create an institution for change that serves everyone in our communities. The 30th Anniversary brings together Be Present staff, board, volunteers, and communities from across the country to celebrate the organization's long history of social justice work.

Be Present is a nationally recognized organization, beginning with activist Lillie P. Allen's groundbreaking *Black & Female: What is the Reality?*TM workshop held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983. The power of Be Present's well-connected volunteer network and leadership expertise continues to be one of the organization's greatest strengths and achievements.

Be Present lives and works by its value statement:

We are a diverse network of people willing to risk being different with one another, our families, communities, workplaces, and organizations. We are committed to a process that builds personal and community well-being on the strength of self-knowledge rather than on the distress of oppression. Because we believe that enduring progressive change begins with and is sustained by persistent personal growth, we bring to people a model for personal and organizational effectiveness which replaces silence with information, assumptions with a diversity of insights, and powerlessness with a sense of personal responsibility.

To celebrate 30 years of working and building the organization, Be Present will host two weekend events that will include a *Black & Female: What is the Reality?*TM: A Gathering & Celebration, the Premier showing of the *Social Justice Archives Virtual Exhibition*, followed by a panel discussion (featuring Lillie P. Allen and other Be Present leaders) and reception. The theme for the weekend is: ***Black Women in Leadership: Building an Inclusive Movement.***

The dates for the anniversary events are September 30 – October 1 in the New York/New Jersey area and November 8 – 12 in Atlanta. The events will also be held in person and available to live stream.

Be Present continues to be grateful for the tremendous support from individuals, communities, organizations, and funders/foundations. The Anniversary events will create opportunities to celebrate with these diverse communities.

About Be Present

Be Present is dedicated to building sustainable leadership for social justice and believes that to create peace and justice for all people, it is everyone's responsibility to critically examine the impact of race, gender, class, and power issues on the effectiveness of the social change movement. It is from this understanding that better leadership models are built, and healthier systems (starting with examining ourselves and our inter-connectedness to others) are created. For more information, visit www.bepresent.org or call 404.296.4000.

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