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Join The Women Invested to Save Earth Fund™

Reunity™ Leadership Forum

featuring

**Pioneering CEO, Shellye Archambeau,
Author of *Unapologetically Ambitious***

and debuting

The WISE Innovator 2020 Awardees

On September 29, 2020 The Women Invested to Save Earth (WISE) Fund will debut its first cohort of WISE Innovators in a Reunity leadership and coaching forum headlined by pioneering CEO, Shellye Archambeau, author of [*Unapologetically Ambitious*](#). The WISE Fund, also the backbone organization of Black Philanthropy Month, promotes funding equity for underrepresented social and environmental entrepreneurs, especially Black and Indigenous women with scalable technology and other strategies to address environmental decline and racism in low-income communities. WISE Innovators 2020 include South Africa's [Energy Efficiency](#); USA's and Nigeria's [Uncharted Power](#); Kenya's [Majik Water](#); The Women in Fire Initiative (WiFi), a program of [The Pollination Foundation](#); and the Yurok Nation's [Cultural Fire Management Council](#) from the USA. The Reunity program will include a master coaching session with Archambeau, introduction of the 2020 WISE Innovators and audience discussion.

Dr. Jackie Bouvier Copeland, founder of both The WISE Fund and Black Philanthropy Month, notes that "The WISE Innovators are one of my dreams come true. From the coronavirus, ferocious wildfires of California and Australia to locust plagues in East Africa, the US's toxic water and rotating power outages, our natural world has been crying out for help. When nature is hurting, people get sick; our economies suffer. There are many women and people of color entrepreneurs, who can help us save the planet and are suffering the worst impacts of environmental decline. But with just 1% or less of venture funding and unequal philanthropy too, they don't get a fair opportunity to contribute to the solution. Black and Indigenous founders, especially women-led organizations, are the world's most underfunded demographic. The WISE Fund knows how to find and fund diverse, successful impact innovators. We are proud to advance their work and highlight them at our Reunity leadership forums."

As the business world adjusts to the global pandemic and recession, it has become even more difficult for Black and Indigenous founders to get funding. In the US alone, some estimate that more than 40% of Black small and medium sized businesses have closed. The WISE Fund hopes that its funding helps support innovation during the Covid crisis, and establish a new, more inclusive funding model for impact entrepreneurs.

Says Archambeau, “Successful entrepreneurs need vision. But especially in times of crisis, they need to move beyond it with good planning, mentoring, coaching and funding. I am proud of The WISE Fund’s efforts and honored to share what I have learned with its exciting network of innovators at the Reunity leadership forum.”

For its first year of operations, The WISE Fund is making grants totaling \$500,000 to support Black Philanthropy Month, other funding equity initiatives, and its Innovators in Africa, Australia and the USA, while debuting a Brazilian program beginning 2021. Each WISE Fund 2020 Innovator receives a \$25,000 grant for their company to refine an initiative or product that could serve as a sustainable solution, while advancing women’s economic security and community wellness.

For Dr. Copeland, “The WISE Fund’s Innovators program is a continuation of the Black Philanthropy Month Movement’s effort to expand funding for community rebuilding, racial equity and environmental impact in the Covid Era.” The Reunity leadership forums allow everyone who cares about racial justice, innovation and saving our environment to strengthen their leadership to advance equity and planetary wellness. Register at bit.ly/Reunity0929 and give at tinyurl.com/WISEgive.

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About The Women Invested to Save Earth (WISE) Fund

Founded during Women’s History Month 2020 to promote funding equity for underrepresented founders and strengthen women’s organizations addressing environmental decline, The Women Invested to Save Earth (WISE) Fund, is also proud to be the backbone organization for Black Philanthropy Month. The WISE Fund blends philanthropy and social investment to support some of the world’s most promising but underfunded impact organizations working in environmentally distressed, low-income communities of Africa, Australia, Brazil and the USA. WISE Innovators are Black and Indigenous women-led or benefitting cleantech organizations with scalable innovations that empower women’s economic security and community wellness. Learn more about The WISE Fund and its Innovators at www.thewisefund.org.

About Black Philanthropy Month

Supported by The WISE Fund, Black Philanthropy Month (BPM), observed every August, is a global celebration and concerted campaign to elevate African-descent giving. Created by Dr. Jackie Bouvier Copeland, BPM launched in 2011 to commemorate the United Nations Year and Decade of People of African Descent. Since it was established, BPM has reached roughly 17 million people and become a year-round, diasporic movement that illuminates the ingenuity and transformative impact of generosity and funding in Black communities. Learn more at <http://www.blackphilanthropymonth.com> and visit our platform at bit.ly/FundBlackSummit to playback other BPM 2020 programs.

About Reunity Leadership Forum Keynotes and The WISE Innovators

Shellye Archambeau, former MetricStream CEO, experienced board director, executive coach, and author of the critically acclaimed [Unapologetically Ambitious](#), is one of the first African-American women to become a technology company CEO and has won multiple leadership awards. A recognized impact leader, innovator, author, technology designer, Dr. Jackie Bouvier Copeland is founder of The WISE Fund and Black Philanthropy Month, as well as other movements and platforms to promote social and environmental justice. The 2020 WISE Fund Innovators and their representatives include [Energy Efficiency](#), Nkanyiso Madlala CEO/Founder; [Majik Water](#), Beth Koigi, CEO/Co-Founder; [Uncharted Power](#), Jessica O. Matthews, CEO/Founder; The Women In Fire Initiative (WiFi) of [The Pollination Foundation](#), Ariadne Gorrington, Foundation Executive Director and Lenka Vanderboom, Indigenous Learning & Network Facilitator; and [The Cultural Fire Management Council](#), Margo Robbins Executive Director. For more about Reunity Leadership Forum Keynotes and The WISE Fund 2020 Innovators visit [here](#).