



About the Chairman

Acknowledged as one of the most brilliant minds of his generation, the Native Detroit Magazine's chairman is also its 2024 Man of the Decade. Keith "KB" Stallworth has achieved unequivocal personal success while creating opportunities for hundreds of Detroit businesses and thousands of Detroit residents to improve their circumstances. At the beginning of the decade, he oversaw research and analysis under contract with the City of Detroit's Office of Emergency Management that identified the source of a loss in \$1.5 billion in revenue and his team designed a recovery strategy currently being used by the City of Detroit's Law Department. His policy papers and process mapping on neighborhood stabilization provided a road map for rehabilitation and disposition of 4,000 foreclosed residential properties in Detroit Land Bank and are foundational to the agency's current operational policies. Committed to changing the historical practice of using inner city vocational schools as an outpost to house poor academic high schoolers until graduation; he led efforts to re-envision career technical education delivery in Detroit schools by convincing the U.S. Department of Education to advance School to Work pre-apprentice and apprentice programming and securing support from corporate and skilled trade partners to raise \$32 million for an improved Randolph Career Technical Education Center in Detroit. Facilitating the organization of an Annual Construction Science Expo now in its 13th year that rewards inner city students that in addition to pledging to be drug and violence free, also complete an evidence-based life skill program; he has provided over the past decade nearly 15,000 youth with exposure, job and career opportunities in engineering, design and construction; and touched more than 50,000 with "Navigation to Success" programming. Under contract with the Detroit Public Lighting Authority, he created a strategic participation plan for local residents and businesses which has resulted in the agency awarding on a competitive basis 60% of all contracts to Detroit-based businesses and having a workforce that is 80% African American. Rehabbing more than 400 Detroit residential properties, converting hundreds of renters to homeowners, providing 32,000 inner city residents with financial literacy and low-income tax credit enrollment, this "Man of the Decade" ironically committed to doing all these things and more during a breakfast for 300 Black Leaders he hosted in Detroit in 2012. By 2014 he had completed his research and launched the African American Commerce Initiative which included all these elements and more. Creating still more opportunities, he organized the Michigan Aggregate Supply System to increase minority contractor access to road, bridge and tunnel construction opportunities. He also organized a \$40 million fund to support minority business contracts and receivable financing. His InvestAfrika Program has increased peace in the Northern Cameroon through investment and education collaborations, and his program's fund has investments in a rubber plantation in Liberia as well as hotel investments and a fragrance manufacturing operation in Nigeria. In January of this year his revenue recovery program delivered \$80 million in judgements to the City of Detroit. A trusted supporter and confidant of U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Chairman Stallworth is Co-founder of the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2025, and founder of America's first African American-owned overhead and underground electric distribution system construction, maintenance and power restoration holding company; Utility Services of America which began its contracting history in 1992 with Detroit Edison and recognized as a historic provider of power restoration services generating in excess of \$900 million through its various companies. The father of four is married to Professor Nicole T. Stallworth and maintains residents in Michigan and Florida.