



The GBCC Black Business Collective Bulletin

Welcome to your eighth edition!

In this bi-monthly bulletin, you will find opportunities, events and content all aimed at, and curated for, the black business community.

Our partners



In our recent news



Lord-Lieutenant urges focus on Birmingham's 'magnificence'



University partnership to open new learning and training opportunities



Misfits Music Institute hosts inspiring evening with Black musicians at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



Vision for All CIC wins award for excellence in charity and community work



Healthcare co-founders triumph at 'Grammys of Entrepreneurship'

Marketing planning fundamentals

Build a clear, confident marketing strategy

Wednesday 28th January 2026

4.00pm – 7.00pm

Millennium Point

FREE to attend



Get **clarity** and **confidence** in your marketing with this practical, hands-on workshop designed for **small business owners**.

Whether you're starting from scratch or refining an existing plan, this session will help you strengthen your approach and make your marketing work smarter.

By the end of the workshop, you will be able to:

- Understand the key stages of effective marketing planning
- Set clear and achievable marketing goals
- Use simple frameworks to structure your marketing plan
- Explore practical ways in which AI tools can support your marketing

The session will be delivered by **Chantel Thompson**, Marketing and Engagement Manager at the **Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME)** at **Aston University** and an experienced freelance marketer.

Chantel is also a member of the Black Business Collective committee.

[Find out more](#)

Foundervine Community

Apply for a free funding programme



Each year, hundreds of early-stage companies join **accelerators, start-up events,** and **investment-readiness** programmes, offering hands-on **mentorship** and lifelong access to the **Foundervine Community**.

[Find out more](#)

FundHerShip

Rewriting the funding narrative



88% of black founders start businesses from their own pockets compared to **25%** of white founders.

The **FundHerShip** grant helps to address this difference. It provides a funding system and aims to break down barriers and create new paths to success.

FundHerShip isn't charity. It's an investment in the innovation, resilience, and ingenuity of women whom society has excluded for too long.

Grants of up to **£10,000** are available.

[Find out more](#)

Black Tech Achievement Awards 2026



The **Black Tech Achievement Awards 2026** are open for nominations, but will be closing soon on **26th January**.

If making **impact**, gaining **visibility**, or being **recognised** for your work is part of your focus for 2026, now is the time to act.

Self-nominations are absolutely welcome, and many past finalists and winners took that first step themselves.

[Find out more](#)

Aston Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship



Aston Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship delivers inclusive, research-driven support for founders at every stage.

Our range of intensive **support programmes** will help you to meet your strategic aims to build a more **resilient, sustainable, and successful** business.

You'll join our powerful network of **entrepreneurs** and **researchers** and receive **specialist training** tailored to leaders and rooted in Aston's world-leading academic research.

We also host regular **networking events** and **workshops**.

[Find out more](#)