BLACK BUSINESS REVIEW

NEWSLETTER

October 30, 2026

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A NOTE FROM ALEXIS

Friday edition. We close the week with a builder's story: Janice Bryant Howroyd started ActOne Group with $1,500 and a single office — and became the first Black woman to build a billion-dollar business empire. That's our cover story. Also inside: Mara Brock Akil's bestselling novel, the $1 billion museum Mellody Hobson and George Lucas just opened in Los Angeles, and a free Verizon program that teaches small businesses how to compete for big-company contracts. One more thing: Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 3 — the final Election Week Sprint issue lands that morning. Let's get into it.

— Alexis Coates, Founder & Publisher
FOUNDER & PUBLISHER

THIS WEEK'S STORIES



THE BIG STORY

Janice Bryant Howroyd: The First Black Woman to Build a Billion-Dollar Business Empire

She started with $1,500 and a single office. Today ActOne Group is a global workforce solutions powerhouse — and Janice Bryant Howroyd stands as the first Black woman in history to build a billion-dollar business empire. From segregated North Carolina to the top of corporate America, this is how she did it.

Read the full story →



FEATURE

At 56, Mara Brock Akil Isn't Slowing Down — She Just Became a Bestselling Novelist

For 25 years, Mara Brock Akil has decided how Black women look on screen. At 56 — silver-gray hair worn like a crown — she's doing it again, this time on the page: her debut novel, *The Revelation of Dionne Daphne*, is a national bestseller.

Read more →



ARTS & CULTURE

Mellody Hobson and George Lucas Open $1 Billion Museum Celebrating the Power of Storytelling

The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art is now open in Los Angeles — a $1 billion institution bringing art, film, and popular culture together, with a mission to expand whose stories receive recognition. Mellody Hobson helped bring it to life.

Read more →



BUSINESS

Angela Anderson Spent 20 Years in HR. Now She's Trying to Get People Hired the Same Day.

Every job seeker knows the silence — you send the application, you wait, and most of the time nothing comes back. After more than 20 years in human resources, Anderson built Hire on the Spot to end the wait, connecting candidates with employers ready to make an offer the same day.

Read more →

CURRENT EVENTS

AFROTECH™ Conference 2026 — November 2–6, 2026 — Houston, TX

The world's largest Black tech conference turns 10 — 40,000+ founders, engineers and executives at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Register →

NEW ON BBR

Your Story. Our Headlines. — Publish on BBR Is Live

Business owners, founders, artists, and organizations can now upload their own story to Black Business Review. We polish it, you approve the preview, then it goes live. $99 to publish your feature — free to send a story tip.

Submit your story →



LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Darrin Anderson Put Up a $170 Million Year. Now He Has a Seat at the Chamber's Table.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia has named its 2026–27 Board of Directors — and Darrin W. Anderson Sr., President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Philadelphia, is on the roster, arriving off a year that moved more than $170 million into the region.

Read more →

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The BBR banner package: your banner in 4 consecutive newsletter issues, 30 days below articles on blackbusinessreview.net, and 1 Instagram Story to our 84.9K followers — **$1,000 flat**. Reply to this email to book your run.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Money on the Table

Grants, accelerators, and pitch competitions for Black founders. Deadlines are real — don't sleep on these.

BOMESI Accelerator 2026
Amount: up to $50,000 · Deadline: November 1, 2026
Apply →

NBCC Contractor Ready Program
Amount: procurement contracts · Deadline: Rolling
Apply →

Black Ambition Prize 2026
Amount: up to $1,000,000 · Deadline: December 15, 2026
Apply →

DEALS

Grow With BBR

Put your business in front of BBR's readers, newsletter audience, and 84.9K Instagram community.

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For Sale: Baltimore Trucking Company — $2.8M Ask, $2.96M in Revenue
A turnkey flatbed trucking operation based in Baltimore, running Northeast-corridor lanes from West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia up to Connecticut and Massachusetts, is on the market. The sale includes 13 tractor-trailers and 16 flatbed trailers — $1,345,000 in inventory, included in the asking price — a 12-person team, an office trailer and shop equipment, and a facility lease running through December 2032. Operating since 2006 with long-standing broker and customer relationships; the owner is retiring and offers six months of transition support. Cash flow is not disclosed in the listing. Listed on BizBuySell by Arturo Sarli; figures as listed by the seller.
See the listing →

RESOURCE

Verizon Wants More Small Businesses Ready to Win Big Contracts — and the First Step Is Free

Verizon is looking for more small businesses that are ready to sell to big companies — and it built a free on-ramp to get them there.

The Verizon Small Business Supplier Accelerator, run with IMPACT Ready™, is a supplier-readiness program designed to help small businesses understand how enterprise procurement actually works and prepare to compete for corporate contracts. Participants can access up to 18 months of sponsored resources through the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready portal.

Start with three free primer courses on the portal:

1. Intro to the Verizon Small Business Supplier Accelerator
2. Understanding Enterprise Procurement Environments
3. Are You Ready to Compete? — Gateway to the Small Business Supplier Accelerator

Black Business Review is completing the primer courses as well — and we'll report back on what the process is actually like.

Start here →

One more date for your calendar: **Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 3** — the last Election Week Sprint issue lands that morning.



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