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Sunday 29th Oct 2023
Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum



A decade of celebrating Black brilliance in STEAM.

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Welcome to the world of **BLAST**. We create inclusive and culturally responsive spaces that foster active engagement with science and technology through Black arts and culture. Our mission is to build science, cultural and creative capital in Black communities at scale and help others to do the same.

OUR SHARED BELIEF

At **BLAST**, we're a diverse and passionate collective rooted in the communities we serve. We utilise STEM as a tool for liberation and believe the realms of art, science, and technology can open new doors, enrich knowledge exchange, and inspire change. These disciplines are not just fields of study but the building blocks of endless possibilities.

EMPOWERING OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER

But **BLAST** is not just about experiences; it's about empowerment. We actively encourage our communities to voice their ideas and dreams and work with experts from the STEM & arts fields to breathe life into those ideas, creating exciting, new collaborative ventures that belong to all of us.

As you embark on this journey with us, we invite you to discover, explore, and embrace your boundless horizons of knowledge and creativity.



Anita Shervington
Founder & Director
BLAST Impact Group



2014

2015

2016

2015

2016

2017

BLACK STEAM

10 Years

Black STEAM was created to generate inspiration and aspiration by shining the spotlight on Black brilliance and living history makers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

This year marks our 10th **Black STEAM** showcase, a momentous milestone that has been achieved through the unwavering dedication of STEM and Art professionals, the enthusiastic engagement of our community, and the tireless efforts of the **BLAST** team. This remarkable journey wouldn't have been possible without your support and participation. They are Black philanthropy embodied!

Black STEAM 10: A Retro-Future-Spective

As we reflect on this special occasion, we invite you to join us in becoming **Black STEAM** Futurists! In the spirit of Sankofa, we will look back over the last 10 years, taking the best of what works into the future. So look out for invitations to participate in interviews, focus groups and research!

Build Black STEAM in Birmingham & Beyond

Our decade year (2024) focuses on working strategically and collaboratively to develop a 10-year impact strategy to help make Birmingham the best city for Black children to grow up in for future generations. The best way to predict the future is to create it! If you haven't already, please contribute your ideas to our open survey, which asks you to imagine **what a city looks like when it loves Black children**. Only the collective "we" can generate that vision, but it will take all of us to do the work.

It is important to recognise our financial and in-kind supporters. **Thinktank Science Museum** has been a critical venue partner, hosting us for a 7th year. Thank you for being a part of our incredible journey. Here's to the next ten years of learning, growing, and celebrating Black brilliance together.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023





STEAM ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY!

Your **Black STEAM** ticket gives you FREE entry to the science museum.
Take part in a range of STEAM-inspired activities from
12 - 3 p.m. across the Thinktank Gallery floor.



TECHNOLOGY

INTRO TO NEUROTECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTICS

ROBERT CLARKE

Join us for an exciting workshop where you'll get to experience cutting-edge robots and brain-computer interfaces!



MATERIALS

TOY STORIES

DR PEARL AGYAKWA

Explore materials through Zine making! Learn how to make your own "zine" and use it to tell us about a toy that is special to you.



BOTANICAL PLANTS

EXPLORING PLANTS OF CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

NATTY MARK SAMUELS

Exploring Plants of Caribbean Carnival: A journey into the fascinating world of plants inspired by the vibrant culture of the Caribbean.



ART & DESIGN

OBSERVATIONAL WORLDS & CHARACTERS

BEN PINNOCK - 22SPACEHEAD

Traditional art principles mixed with the science of shape and colour, to make conceptual artwork.



MATERIALS

DISCOVER MATERIALS

CHRIS HAMMETT

Take home a FREE CoCoElectro Bag when you come and test chocolate bars in our impact tester to learn about toughness.



PERFORMANCE

DANCEWITHSTAGO COMPANY

3.30 PM - THEATRE

DanceWithStago Company aims to put a smile on your face through Afrobeats Dance! They perform & deliver AfroDance fitness classes & more.

BLACK STEAM 10 SPEAKERS

Today, we have a fantastic lineup of guest speakers whom we thank for sharing their time, talent, and personal stories to inspire us all. At **BLAST**, we amplify leadership that turns **'the resources we have into the power we need to make the change we want to see'** (Ganz, 2014).

Black STEAM stories are like seeds of power, implanting inspiration that grows ideas. So sit comfortably and let yourself be inspired!



GUEST SPEAKER
Keith "Cipher" Shayaam-Smith
Social Entrepreneur

Keith Shayaam-Smith is an award-winning Business Leader, Social Entrepreneur and Creative Visionary - CEO at 7E Youth Academy and Chairman of The Legacy Centre of Excellence. Keith was also a successful musician for 15 years, established an independent record label/distribution company and toured internationally. He is highly regarded as being an early pioneer of UK Rap and Hip-Hop music.



GUEST SPEAKER
Dr. Yolanda Ohene
Researcher in Neuroimaging, Physicist

Dr Yolanda Ohene is a British neuroscientist, science communicator and co-founder of The Blackett Lab Family and the Minorities in STEM network. Working at the University of Manchester, her scientific research focuses on brain imaging, analysing pictures created using a medical imaging technique known as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and developing new ways to image the brain.



GUEST SPEAKER

Robert Clarke

PhD Student and AI Researcher

Robert Clarke is a PhD researcher exploring brain-computer interface (BCI) control of assistive robotic arms. Robert's background is in Biomedical Science with a focus on neuropharmacology, and his secondary area of research is in how psychedelics and BCIs can be used for therapeutic purposes. Robert was a BLAST Media Fellow in 2022 and is the youngest Black STEAM guest speaker we've ever had!



GUEST SPEAKER

Warda Farah

Neuro-Linguistics Expert

Warda Farah is a Social Entrepreneur, Speech and Language Therapist, adjunct lecturer and author. Her company, Language Waves, addresses the barriers that Black and minoritized families face when accessing Speech and Language Therapy services, offering alternative culturally and linguistically affirming services. Her approach centres language as a multimodal emancipatory tool that resists the standard language ideologies.



GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Martin Glynn

Criminologist, Artist, Researcher

Dr Martin Glynn is a renowned criminologist, educator, theatre director, and dramatist with over 35 years' of experience working in criminal justice, public health, and educational settings. Martin was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship, spending several weeks in the city of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University looking at issues of fatherlessness, father hunger, and father deficit amongst young Black men.

Upcoming Projects & Events



Birago Day, the annual celebration of African and Caribbean folklore.

Sunday 10th December 2023

www.blastfest.org.uk

From Anansi the Spider, to The Hare & The Hound, folklore traditions have remained the benchmark of storytelling for generations. Join Natty Mark Samuels and special guests to explore the science & storytelling relating to Birds and plants within different environments and cultures, with inspiration from Natty's new book, The Encyclopedia of Rootikal Folklore.



Re-Imagining AI with Afrofuturist Speculative Design

05



Left to right: Dr Kavim Narasimhan, Anita Shervington, Dr Sanjay Sharma & Juice Aleem.

This project explores how emerging AI technologies can benefit everyone, especially communities marginalised by/within the dominant society. This means using technology for the digital good and addressing inequality, exclusion, and justice issues, particularly in finance, healthcare and criminal justice.

Drawing on the creativity of Afrofuturism and speculative design to re-imagine and shape the future through a 'Black cultural lens', participants will generate new ideas on how technology can be used to help challenge power structures by reclaiming and repurposing technology in new ways.

In partnership with Warwick University.



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ENTRY & TICKET INFORMATION

STEAM Activities & Entry

12.30 - 3.00 pm - Thinktank Science Museum

LEVEL 2

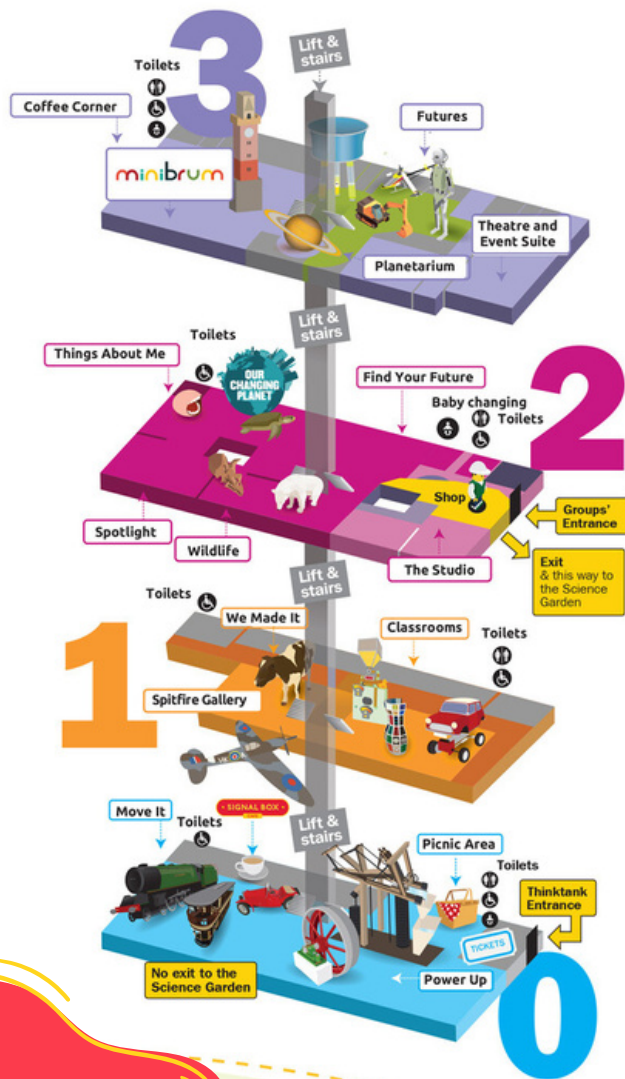
To kick off Black STEAM 10, families and science enthusiasts of all ages can immerse themselves in a world of exciting science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics activities. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore, learn, and be inspired by the wonders of STEAM at the ThinkTank! Get ready for a day of hands-on exploration and discovery for the whole family! Activities will include Exploring Plants of Caribbean Carnival, Computer Science, Science and Materials, Art and Design.

Black STEAM Showcase

3.30 - 5.30 pm - Theatre & Events Suite

LEVEL 3

In the second part of our Black STEAM 10 celebration, we delve deeper into the heart of the event, to witness STEM and Arts professionals transform into captivating autobiographical storytellers. They will share their personal journeys, providing valuable insights and inspiration to all of us.





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