



# Annual Report 2023-2025





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# Convener Message

**Dr. Lester Woods, Jr.**

SSG Convener



Since our founding, The Source Summit Global has been guided by a vision of bridging communities and empowering collaboration to create lasting, measurable change. While our organization has been formally building since 2019, this Impact Report focuses on 2023 to 2025, a period when our work continued to expand in scope, deepen in reach, and amplify its impact.

Over these years, we have strengthened our programs, expanded partnerships, and cultivated spaces where collaboration and community-based solutions thrive. Our roundtables have become forums for honest dialogue and problem-solving, creating opportunities to address shared challenges through collective action. Through the Cycle of Success Training Program, we have supported participants in achieving upward mobility, helping them acquire skills, confidence, and opportunities that continue to make a meaningful impact.

We also celebrated a milestone with the First/Last Mile Valet Transportation program, a cornerstone initiative that bridges critical gaps in mobility and access. With a new administrator and fleet manager, we strengthened our capacity to serve the community. More than transportation, the program provides a platform for co-creating solutions with residents, organizations, and stakeholders, expanding opportunities and fostering stronger community connections.

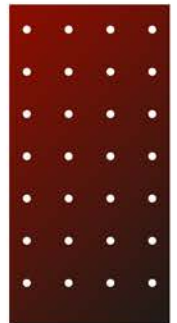
In addition, The Source Summit Global Annual Conferences have united civic leaders, corporations, faith-based organizations, and community groups to foster dialogue, collaboration, and shared solutions, bringing awareness and sharing knowledge. The conferences provide a platform for building partnerships, exchanging ideas, and advancing our collective mission of creating lasting community impact.

This report is a recognition of what we have accomplished together. It reflects not only the outcomes of our programs but also the growth of The Source Summit Global as an organization and a movement, laying the foundation for long-term impact. It is a testament to the dedication and resilience of our staff, volunteers, partners, and participants, individuals who show up every day to turn ideas into action, challenges into solutions, and vision into reality.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the possibilities before us. With the continued support of our community, we are committed to deepening our impact, expanding our reach, and creating opportunities that turn bold ideas into meaningful change, empowering people and communities to thrive together.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dr. Lester Woods, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder  
The Source Summit Global



The Source Summit Global (SSG) exists to convene churches and the faith-based community, community organizations, civic and corporate partners, and to connect them in a shared effort to co-create solutions and bridge economic and social opportunities within communities. By fostering collaboration, dialogue, and actionable initiatives, SSG seeks to support and build pathways for education, employment, and entrepreneurship, empowering communities to thrive.



## Mission

SSG's mission is to close economic and social gaps by bringing together community stakeholders to co-create solutions, bridge barriers, and implement strategies that strengthen communities.



## Vision

To empower communities through collaboration, innovation, and opportunity, creating a society where all individuals and communities can thrive and opportunity and access gaps are closed.



## Strategy

Through the implementation of summits, initiatives, and programs, SSG fosters partnership, dialogue, and actionable efforts that inspire and drive meaningful, lasting change.

### 3-Prong Bilateral Approach



## Core Pillars

### Community Empowerment

The overall intent of the summit is to bring together key community stakeholders to identify opportunities and work together to establish resolutions that will enhance economic capacity and improve lives.

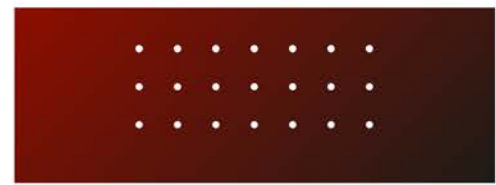
### Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

The Source Summit Global (SSG) was founded on the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) model, an approach designed to enhance and support a community's capacity to identify and leverage its existing assets, while connecting organizations with community members who can leverage these resources.

### Community Collaboration

Through an intentional collaboration, access to resources, and shared learning, we work to create pathways to opportunity. Each effort, large or small, moves us closer to a future where stability and success are within reach for all.

**"Community is the new currency"**



# SSG Strategic Success Initiative

The First/Last Mile Valet Transportation (FLM) program is a strategic initiative of The Source Summit Global designed to eliminate transportation barriers that prevent individuals and organizations from accessing essential opportunities and services. At its core, FLM focuses on bridging the gap between homes, workplaces, appointments, and civic participation, ensuring that transportation insecurity does not restrict mobility, opportunity, or quality of life.

FLM operates through a reliable, safe, and accessible transportation model that prioritizes first and last mile connections—the critical beginnings and endings of daily journeys that are often underserved by traditional transit systems. The program provides customized, door-to-door rides for employees, clients, and residents to reach work, healthcare appointments, grocery stores, civic activities such as voting, and other high-priority needs.

A key element of the program is partnership and collaboration with local employers and service providers. FLM works with organizations to coordinate transportation for employees and clients, reducing absenteeism, improving appointment attendance, and boosting morale. Through these partnerships, the program demonstrates how transportation support enhances both workforce stability and community wellbeing.

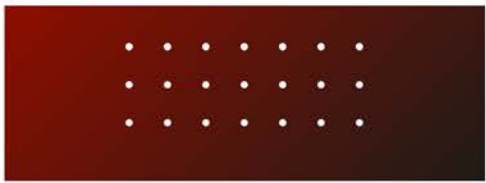
FLM also reflects a broader commitment to transportation equity by expanding access for populations that face disproportionate barriers — including seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income residents. By reducing transportation insecurity, the program directly supports economic participation and social engagement, strengthening connections across the community.

Since operations began in 2022, FLM has provided over 5,361 rides, illustrating its growing reach and impact in helping residents overcome mobility challenges and connect to opportunities. Through data-driven operations, community partnerships, and a focus on both efficiency and accessibility, the First/Last Mile Valet Transportation program continues to serve as a model for how targeted transportation solutions can improve lives, support economic participation, and remove barriers to opportunity in communities.



## FLM Corporate & Community-Based Partners





# SSG Programs and Initiatives

At the heart of our work are three core programs and initiatives that drive the execution of our mission and the realization of our vision. These initiatives serve as the foundation of SSG's approach, translating purpose into action and creating tangible impact. Through these programs, we empower communities, bridge opportunity gaps, and foster sustainable, transformative change, ensuring that every effort strengthens connections, builds capacity, and generates measurable results for the communities we serve.



## The Source Summit Global Annual Conference

The annual conference brings together civic leaders, corporations, faith-based organizations, and community groups to foster dialogue, collaboration, and shared solutions. It serves as a platform for bringing awareness, sharing knowledge, and building partnerships that advance our collective mission of lasting community impact. Since its inaugural conference in 2021, over 600 participants have convened from local, regional, and national communities at the annual gathering.



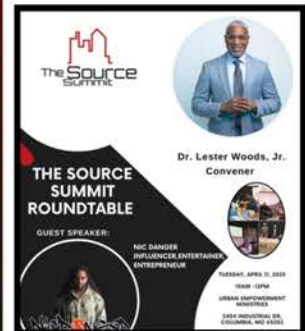
## The Source Summit Global Roundtables

Our quarterly roundtables provide a consistent space for honest dialogue, collaboration, and problem-solving. Participants work together to co-create community-based solutions, address shared challenges, and strengthen local networks through actionable strategies. Since the Roundtable launch, participants have included representatives from over 30 community organizations, corporations, and churches, and over 100 participants.



## The Source Summit Global Cycle of Success Training Program (COST)

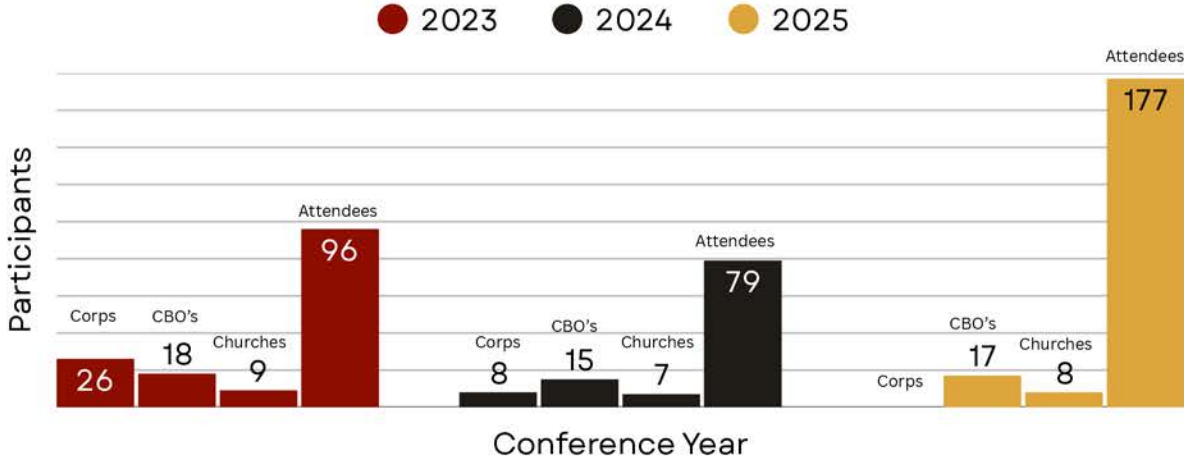
The Cycle of Success Training Program (COST) equips participants with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed for upward mobility. Since its launch, COST has graduated more than 80 participants, each empowered to contribute meaningfully to their communities and professional networks.





# Operational Highlights

## SSG Conference Attendance



Each year we convene participation from stakeholders in community-based organizations, corporations and churches. This cross-sector collaboration is how we build social capital, connecting organizations directly with the people and communities who benefit most from their resources. In 2024, we took a bold step by moving the Summit to a larger venue and have since garnered more interest and expanded our capacity to host more participants who want to make intentional connections.



### 2025 Summit Highlights

- 6 Panels**
- 10 Business Vendors**
- 32 Representatives from Corporations, Nonprofits and faith-based entities.**
- 177 Attendees**



### Sponsors

Between 2023-2025 Source Summit has received 55 sponsorship investments from corporations, community-based organizations and churches across the City of Columbia, Boone County and nationally.



### Vendors

At SSG, connecting people with resources is at the core of our mission. Each year, we host a Business Vendor Expo that brings businesses together to connect directly with potential customers. During 2023-2025, 30 local businesses and entrepreneurs participated as business expo vendors.



### Attendees

For five years, the SSG Conference has been a space for connection and progress in addressing social and economic challenges. In 2025, growth has culminated in our highest attendance yet, welcoming 177 participants over a three-day conference.



# Financial Highlights [↗](#)

**2023**

## Funds Raised

\$53,306.84

### How Resources Were Invested

- The 2023 net revenue represents the collective support of our community through sponsors, donors, and attendees who believe in the mission. This year marked an important shift as we introduced conference registration, reinforcing the shared value of the learning, connection, and resources offered. These contributions helped ensure access to high-quality educational tools, engaging out-of-town speakers, and a conference experience designed to uplift, inform, and invest back into the community.

**2024**

## Funds Raised

\$31,430.80

### How Resources Were Invested

- In 2024, SSG took a bold step forward by moving the conference to a larger venue and introducing the inaugural SSG Gala. This expansion allowed us to welcome a broader community—including adults and youth from 6th grade through college—while fostering connection through shared meals, music during breakout sessions, and intentional programming. Together, these elements created a meaningful space to share our mission and the Asset-Based Community Development principles that guide our work.

**2025**

## Funds Raised

\$59,370

### How Resources Were Invested

- In 2025, SSG entered its second year in the larger conference venue, a milestone that reflected the organization's continued growth since its founding. Building on the momentum of previous years, the conference welcomed record-breaking attendance across the weekend, underscoring the community's sustained commitment and the increasing demand for spaces rooted in connection, learning, and collective problem-solving. This moment marked not only a year of growth, but a continuation of the intentional progress that has defined SSG since its earliest gatherings.

# A Look Ahead ↗



As we look to the year ahead, we are encouraged by the growth of our organization and the strong foundation built through shared purpose and collaboration. Guided by our mission, we will continue to expand programs, strengthen infrastructure, and respond strategically to the social and economic needs of the communities we serve. Our approach to growth remains intentional, focused not only on scale, but on meaningful, measurable impact.

Collaboration will remain central to our work. Our progress is made possible by instrumental partners across the public, private, nonprofit, and faith-based sectors whose leadership, expertise, and investment advance our collective goals. In the coming year, we will deepen these partnerships, align efforts across sectors, and foster new opportunities for shared learning and innovation.

Looking forward, we are committed to translating vision into outcomes. Together with our partners and community stakeholders, we will continue to build pathways that reduce barriers, increase access to resources, and promote long-term stability and prosperity. With sustained collaboration and accountability, we enter the next year positioned for continued impact and lasting change.



## Leadership Team

**Dr. Lester Woods, Jr.**  
Founder, Chief Executive Officer  
Convener

**D'Andre Thompson**  
Co-Covener

**Whittley Walker**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Miles Gibson**  
Director of Administration

**Brittany Hilderbrand**  
Director of Marketing

**Dr. Shannon Wilson**  
Policy Strategist

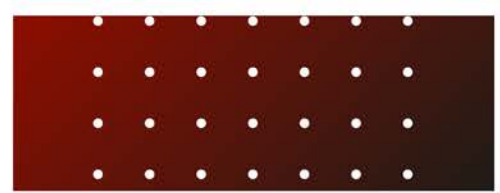
**Larisha Jones**  
Events and Engagement Manager

**Racheal Zan Harris**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Lisa McBride**  
Volunteer Coordinator

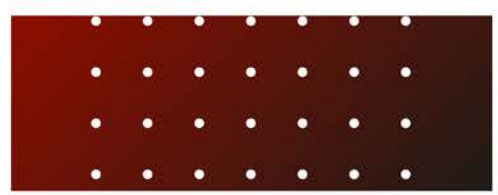
## Advisory Committee

Corey Webey  
Jane Williams  
James Henderson  
John Walter  
Pastor Masood Heidari  
Pastor D'Markus Thomas Brown  
Joanne Nelson



# SSG Highlights ↗





# SSG Highlights ↗





# Thank You!

Thank you for your continued annual support. Your commitment makes a meaningful impact each year, strengthening our collective work and expanding what's possible for the communities we serve. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to building on this momentum together in the year ahead.

## Our Contact Information



**E-Mail**

[convener@thesourcesummitglobal.com](mailto:convener@thesourcesummitglobal.com)



**Website**

[www.thesourcesummitglobal.com](http://www.thesourcesummitglobal.com)

