

# BLACK LIVES MATTER



*Photo credit, John Kirkmire of LakeMerritt.org*

The Black Lives Matter movement started in 2013 after three Black feminist organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — hashtagged #BlackLivesMatter on social media to rally around the cry. Beginning with the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of a teenager, Trayvon Martin, the hashtag grew in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO and Eric Garner in NYC. The three founders expanded BLM into a national network of 30 chapters between 2014-2016.

BLM returned to the headlines after the death of George Floyd, at the hands of Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis police officer, in 2020. An estimated 15 million to 26 million people participated in the BLM protests in the U.S., making it one of the largest in the nation's history. The movement has had major cultural impacts on media, music, and in shifting public opinion. After the Justice for George Floyd protests, BLM called for the defunding of the police, prison abolition, and reinvestment in social services in communities of color.

The overall BLM movement is a decentralized network of groups and individuals with no formal hierarchy, and the slogan itself is not trademarked by any group. The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) is a coalition of 50 groups interested in representing the interests of Black American communities, with Oakland-based representation from PolicyLink and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. M4BL is guided by a Policy Platform 2020 in its Vision for Black Lives.



Click the play button to listen to a custom playlist for Knowledge Point 12!



# RELATED VIDEOS & READING



Black Lives Matter Co-Founder Patrisse Cullors on Defunding the Police (3 min)



An Interview with the Founders of Black Lives Matter (16 min)



Why is it time to "Defund the Police"? (6 min)



Vision For Black Lives Policy Platform

# RELATED ACCOUNTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Below are links to orgs that advocated for Black policies and art in the Bay! Check them out!



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## **SOURCES**

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"Defund OPD." APTP, [www.antipoliceterrorproject.org/defund-opd](http://www.antipoliceterrorproject.org/defund-opd).

Leazenby, Lauren; Polk, Milan (September 3, 2020). "What you need to know about Black Lives Matter in 10 questions". Chicago Tribune. July 30, 2021

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