Black Tech Startups to Know: 20 Founder-Led Companies and What They Build

An evidence-first directory of founders, technology products, business models and decisions that matter—not another unverified startup list.

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This downloadable edition contains the full research guide, not a summary. For live updates and working internal links: https://blacktechstartup.com/education/articles/black-tech-startups-companies-founders-2026/

Black tech startups are technology-centered ventures with documented Black founders or meaningful Black leadership; that does not automatically prove present-day majority Black ownership. This guide maps 20 real businesses across software, payments, healthcare, commerce and infrastructure, tells you what they build and who their customers are, and shows the evidence behind each entry. Use the comparison table to discover companies, then the founder lessons and checklists to make an informed next decision.

Created for entrepreneurs, students, buyers and researchers by Black Tech Startup. If your immediate goal is purchasing or partnering with a company, go directly to the companion buyer's guide to Black-owned tech companies.

What qualifies as a Black tech startup?

A technology startup develops software, hardware, data infrastructure or a repeatable technology-based product that can serve customers beyond one founder's manual labor. A technology-enabled service can also be valuable, but its business model should be labeled honestly. Several companies in this reference have grown beyond their startup stage; they remain useful founder examples, not claims that every company is currently early-stage.

Our labels matter. “Black-founded” means a documented founder is Black; “Black-led” means there is relevant Black executive leadership; “Black-owned” is a current ownership claim that requires stronger evidence, sometimes tied to a certification's specific control and equity rules. The public founder sources below generally establish founding or leadership, not current shareholder percentages. We therefore do not assert that every featured company is 51%-plus Black-owned. Our foundational guide to Black tech founders and ownership definitions gives the full classification method.

1. **Claim:** Black-founded | **Minimum useful evidence:** Named founder in primary company record or reliable original interview | **What remains unknown:** Present equity and voting control

2. Claim: Black-led | **Minimum useful evidence:** Current leadership page or company statement | **What remains unknown:** Founder status or percentage owned

3. Claim: Black-owned | **Minimum useful evidence:** Current company attestation or relevant certification evidence | **What remains unknown:** Whether another program uses the same threshold

4. Claim: Active company | **Minimum useful evidence:** Current company/product evidence with a checked date | **What remains unknown:** Financial health, continued availability in every region

Research method: We used official company, founder, product, institution and public-record material accessible on October 31, 2026. Inclusion indicates an attributable source and a real technology or technology-service use case—not an endorsement, a profitability finding or a promise of current ownership. Product claims and commercial terms can change. Profiles that cannot clear the basic evidence threshold should be excluded or openly marked “verification pending.”

The 20-company comparison: technology, customers and market

Use this as an **evidence map**, not a popularity ranking. Start with the customer and the technology job. Each official-evidence link is a research starting point; the detailed profiles below explain what the source does and does not establish.

1. Company: **01. Calendly** | **Technology lane:** Workflow SaaS | **Who uses or buys it:** Individuals, sales teams, recruiters, and organizations | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

2. Company: **02. LISNR** | **Technology lane:** Payments infrastructure | **Who uses or buys it:** Payment providers, merchants, mobility and ticketing operators | **Market:** United States / global | **Evidence:** Official evidence

3. Company: **03. PopCom** | **Technology lane:** Retail automation | **Who uses or buys it:** Retail brands, venues, operators and entrepreneurs | **Market:** United States / international | **Evidence:** Official evidence

4. Company: **04. Esusu** | **Technology lane:** Housing fintech | **Who uses or buys it:** Property managers, renters and housing partners | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

5. Company: **05. Goalsetter** | **Technology lane:** Financial education technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Families, schools, employers and financial-literacy partners | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

6. Company: **06. Blavity Inc.** | **Technology lane:** Media and event technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Audiences, advertisers, event sponsors, employers and partners | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

7. Company: **07. Goodr** | **Technology lane:** Food-waste logistics technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Businesses, universities, venues and institutions managing surplus food | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

8. Company: **08. CareAcademy** | **Technology lane:** Care-workforce education SaaS | **Who uses or buys it:** Home-care agencies and other care-workforce organizations | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

9. Company: **09. Mayvenn** | **Technology lane:** Beauty commerce technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Hair customers, salon professionals and stylists | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

10. Company: **10. SQUIRE** | **Technology lane:** Vertical SaaS for barbers | **Who uses or buys it:** Barbers, shop owners and multi-location barber businesses | **Market:** United States / other markets | **Evidence:** Official evidence

11. Company: **11. Pigeonly** | **Technology lane:** Family communication technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Families and people communicating with incarcerated relatives | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

12. Company: **12. Mahmee** | **Technology lane:** Maternal-care technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Pregnant and postpartum families, employers and care partners | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

13. Company: **13. Health In Her HUE** | **Technology lane:** Health access and community technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Women seeking care and healthcare/community partners | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

14. Company: **14. Stackwell** | **Technology lane:** Investing fintech | **Who uses or buys it:** Individuals and organizations focused on long-term investing access | **Market:** United States | **Evidence:** Official evidence

15. Company: **15. QualityWorks** | **Technology lane:** Software engineering and testing services | **Who uses or buys it:** Organizations building, modernizing or testing software | **Market:** United States / Caribbean | **Evidence:** Official evidence

16. Company: **16. Flutterwave** | **Technology lane:** Payments infrastructure | **Who uses or buys it:** Online merchants and organizations moving payments across markets | **Market:** Africa / global commerce | **Evidence:** Official evidence

17. Company: **17. PiggyVest** | **Technology lane:** Savings technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Eligible Nigerian savers and financial-service partners | **Market:** Nigeria | **Evidence:** Official evidence

18. Company: **18. Moniepoint** | **Technology lane:** Business finance platform | **Who uses or buys it:** Small businesses and financial-services users | **Market:** Nigeria / selected markets | **Evidence:** Official evidence

19. Company: **19. Andela** | **Technology lane:** Global technology talent platform | **Who uses or buys it:** Companies sourcing engineering and technology expertise | **Market:** International | **Evidence:** Official evidence

20. Company: **20. Kuda** | **Technology lane:** Digital banking technology | **Who uses or buys it:** Eligible retail and business banking customers | **Market:** Nigeria | **Evidence:** Official evidence

The mix is intentional. A barbershop software platform, a rent-reporting fintech, a global talent network and a food-recovery logistics provider should not be judged by one generic “startup success” metric. A buyer cares about product fit; a founder cares about the repeatable job, route to customers and cost of serving them.

Software, infrastructure and workforce systems

These businesses remove a repeated task or supply technical capability. Their buying cycles can hinge on integration, service reliability and control of business data.

Calendly

Who built it: Tope Awotona. **Product:** Scheduling automation that coordinates availability, bookings, routing and meeting workflows.

Who it serves: Individuals, sales teams, recruiters, and organizations. **Business-model evidence:** Its public product structure centers on scheduling software for individuals and teams; plan terms and enterprise options must be checked with Calendly.

Founder lesson: A repeated coordination problem can support a useful product before its founder builds a broad platform. The wedge was removing meeting back-and-forth; extensions into team workflows increase the number of stakeholders and integrations the product must serve.

Reality check: Check calendar permissions, CRM integrations, booking ownership and data export before selecting an enterprise plan.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Calendly identifies Awotona as founder and CEO and says he founded the company in 2013. Checked October 31, 2026.

LISNR

Who built it: Rodney Williams (co-founder). **Product:** Ultrasonic data-over-audio technology for proximity communication and payment or authentication workflows.

Who it serves: Payment providers, merchants, mobility and ticketing operators. **Business-model evidence:** Enterprise technology and integration relationships appear central to the offering; commercial licensing and transaction terms are not established by the public company biography.

Founder lesson: Infrastructure startups must prove their technical method works with devices and systems customers already use. A convincing demo is necessary but not sufficient: hardware compatibility, fraud handling, uptime and partner integration determine adoption.

Reality check: Require evidence for supported devices, test environments, fallbacks, chargebacks and regulatory responsibilities.

Primary evidence: company or product source · founder record. LISNR describes data-over-audio applications; its company newsroom identifies Rodney Williams as a founder. Checked October 31, 2026.

PopCom

Who built it: Dawn Dickson. **Product:** Automated smart-vending hardware paired with retail analytics and software.

Who it serves: Retail brands, venues, operators and entrepreneurs. **Business-model evidence:** Hardware deployment plus connected technology services are the visible commercial pathways; no particular equipment price or revenue share is assumed.

Founder lesson: Retail hardware startups sell a complete operating outcome, not an attractive machine. Location economics, stocking, payments, remote management and repair response can matter more than any individual computer-vision feature.

Reality check: Ask how cameras are used, how customer data is handled, who maintains units, and whether the operator or vendor owns transaction data.

Primary evidence: company or product source. The company identifies Dawn Dickson as founder and CEO and describes its AI-enabled automated-retail systems. Checked October 31, 2026.

QualityWorks

Who built it: Stacy Kirk. **Product:** Custom software engineering, quality assurance, test automation and technology consulting.

Who it serves: Organizations building, modernizing or testing software. **Business-model evidence:** Professional service engagements and technology offerings are public; proposal scope determines actual fees.

Founder lesson: A services company can become technologically differentiated through repeatable tooling, delivery methods and quality evidence. A buyer should evaluate project outcomes and accountable execution, not marketing adjectives.

Reality check: Ask who owns source code, test scripts, repositories, third-party accounts and support after handoff.

Primary evidence: company or product source. QualityWorks describes itself as Black-owned and woman-led and identifies Stacy Kirk as founder. Checked October 31, 2026.

SQUIRE

Who built it: Songe LaRon and Dave Salvant. **Product:** Booking, payments and shop-operations software built for barbering businesses.

Who it serves: Barbers, shop owners and multi-location barber businesses. **Business-model evidence:** Shop-management software and integrated payment services are public offerings; current rates and plan details require the vendor.

Founder lesson: Vertical software wins by understanding dozens of small workflow frictions outsiders overlook. Booking is only one problem; payouts, commissions, walk-ins, recurring customers and shop reporting form the operating system.

Reality check: Evaluate who controls client records, payment reconciliation, appointment reminders, cancellations and data portability.

Primary evidence: company or product source. SQUIRE describes how LaRon and Salvant founded the company in 2015 to modernize barbershop operations. Checked October 31, 2026.

CareAcademy

Who built it: Helen Adeosun (founder and CEO). **Product:** Digital caregiver training, professional education and workforce support tools.

Who it serves: Home-care agencies and other care-workforce organizations. **Business-model evidence:** Organizational education-platform relationships are visible; per-learner and enterprise licensing terms require direct confirmation.

Founder lesson: Training products must prove more than content completion. The durable challenge is mapping course records to compliance rules, supervisors, learner accessibility and the actual quality of work.

Reality check: Confirm accepted continuing-education credits in your jurisdiction, integrations, reporting and learner record portability.

Primary evidence: company or product source. CareAcademy identifies Helen Adeosun as founder and describes its care-workforce learning platform. Checked October 31, 2026.

Andela

Who built it: Including Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, Nadayar Enegesi, Brice Nkengsa, Christina Sass, Ian Carnevale and Jeremy Johnson. **Product:** Technology-talent matching and remote talent services connecting companies with specialists.

Who it serves: Companies sourcing engineering and technology expertise. **Business-model evidence:** Company-talent service relationships are visible; contract model, worker classification and commercial terms require current documentation.

Founder lesson: A marketplace or talent network has to prove quality, retention and matching time on both sides. A founder cannot assume that collecting many resumes automatically delivers reliable specialist capacity.

Reality check: Clarify IP assignment, data access, onboarding, team timezone overlap, replacement policy and employment classification.

Primary evidence: company or product source · founder record. Andela documents its origin in 2014; IFC materials identify founders and early workforce-development structure. Checked October 31, 2026.

Commerce, logistics and overlooked community needs

These companies pair technology with people, logistics or trusted distribution. Their economics often sit outside the software screen.

Goodr

Who built it: Jasmine Crowe-Houston. **Product:** Technology-enabled surplus food collection, redistribution, logistics and impact reporting.

Who it serves: Businesses, universities, venues and institutions managing surplus food. **Business-model evidence:** Service and technology-enabled logistics for organizations are public-facing offerings; contract scope determines cost and service coverage.

Founder lesson: A logistics startup is only as strong as its execution after the screen says a pickup was booked. Routing density, real-time exceptions, food safety and documentation decide whether a socially useful concept becomes repeatable service.

Reality check: Verify service locations, pickup cutoffs, chain-of-custody procedures, food-safety requirements and reporting methodology.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Goodr identifies Jasmine Crowe-Houston as founder and explains its technology and logistics model. Checked October 31, 2026.

Mayvenn

Who built it: Diishan Imira (co-founder). **Product:** Beauty-commerce systems built around hairstylists and the products their clients purchase.

Who it serves: Hair customers, salon professionals and stylists. **Business-model evidence:** Product commerce and stylist-centered distribution are evident; affiliate or margin economics should not be inferred without current terms.

Founder lesson: A technology business can unlock demand by letting trusted service providers participate in product distribution. That is different from simply attracting consumers with paid advertising.

Reality check: Check inventory reliability, return policies, stylist program terms and customer support before recommending a product.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Mayvenn tells its origin story and identifies Diishan Imira as a founder. Checked October 31, 2026.

Pigeonly

Who built it: Frederick Hutson. **Product:** Services for photos, letters, postcards and communication with people in correctional facilities.

Who it serves: Families and people communicating with incarcerated relatives. **Business-model evidence:** Consumer-facing communication services are publicly described; eligibility and fulfillment vary by facility and product.

Founder lesson: An overlooked consumer problem often hides a complex institutional interface. Facility rules, mail handling, delivery restrictions and customer trust can be bigger barriers than building a simple sending app.

Reality check: Verify the recipient facility, restrictions, delivery expectations and charges before submitting personal material.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Pigeonly describes its communication mission and identifies Frederick Hutson in its company history. Checked October 31, 2026.

Goalsetter

Who built it: Tanya Van Court. **Product:** Financial education experiences tied to youth and family money-management tools.

Who it serves: Families, schools, employers and financial-literacy partners. **Business-model evidence:** Educational programs and financial-product experiences require separate evaluation; commercial arrangements vary by program and are not inferred.

Founder lesson: The learner, beneficiary and purchaser may be three different people. Distribution through parents, schools or institutions changes onboarding, safeguards and the cost of reaching users.

Reality check: Check account eligibility, parental controls, education outcomes, product disclosures and any relevant fees.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Goalsetter identifies Tanya Van Court as founder and CEO and describes its financial-education focus. Checked October 31, 2026.

Blavity Inc.

Who built it: Morgan DeBaun with co-founders Jonathan Jackson, Jeff Nelson and Aaron Samuels. **Product:** Digital publishing, audience-focused brands, AfroTech experiences and related community products.

Who it serves: Audiences, advertisers, event sponsors, employers and partners. **Business-model evidence:** Advertising, sponsorship, events and partnerships are visible business lines; this does not establish confidential revenue mix.

Founder lesson: Audience trust and distribution can be core technology-business assets. A media founder must protect repeat audience relationships while balancing editorial quality, platform traffic dependence and sponsor economics.

Reality check: For sponsorships, ask about audience definitions, deliverables, measurement and cancellation obligations.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Blavity names its founding team and describes the expansion of its brands, including AfroTech. Checked October 31, 2026.

Finance, banking and payment infrastructure

These businesses operate near regulated money flows. A founder story alone is never enough to establish available services, consumer protections or current financial strength.

Esusu

Who built it: Wemimo Abbey and Samir Goel. **Product:** Rental-payment reporting and financial-access tools connecting housing data with financial identity.

Who it serves: Property managers, renters and housing partners. **Business-model evidence:** Institutional partnerships and renter-facing services appear in company materials; exact fee incidence depends on current partner and product terms.

Founder lesson: A financial-technology product built on shared data must solve the incentive problem for each participant. A landlord, renter, data provider and reporting partner need aligned permissions, accurate records and useful exception handling.

Reality check: Verify reporting coverage, consent, dispute rights, eligibility, fees and what happens to a tenant after moving.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Esusu says Abbey and Goel founded the company in 2018 and explains its rent-data mission. Checked October 31, 2026.

Stackwell

Who built it: Trevor Rozier-Byrd. **Product:** Investment-access and financial education services grounded in community and ownership.

Who it serves: Individuals and organizations focused on long-term investing access. **Business-model evidence:** Investment-advisory services are described on the official site; any investor must check current disclosures and fee schedules.

Founder lesson: Financial inclusion requires trust infrastructure, not only attractive onboarding. Disclosures, account servicing, suitability and user education can determine whether engagement turns into durable customer confidence.

Reality check: Review official advisory disclosures, account eligibility, risks and fees; investing can lose money.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Stackwell identifies Rozier-Byrd as founder and describes its investment-access mission. Checked October 31, 2026.

Flutterwave

Who built it: Olugbenga (GB) Agboola (founder and CEO). **Product:** Payment-processing infrastructure, checkout and cross-border commerce tools.

Who it serves: Online merchants and organizations moving payments across markets. **Business-model evidence:** Merchant payment services and associated infrastructure are publicly described; country availability and fees are market-specific.

Founder lesson: Payments companies have to solve local rails, settlement, fraud, compliance and reconciliation in each market. An API demo cannot answer whether an actual merchant gets paid when and where promised.

Reality check: Check country support, settlement timing, supported currencies, chargeback handling and regulator/partner arrangements.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Flutterwave identifies Agboola as founder and CEO and describes its payment-technology mission. Checked October 31, 2026.

PiggyVest

Who built it: Odunayo Eweniyi, Somto Ifezue and Joshua Chibueze. **Product:** Digital savings and investment experiences intended to make disciplined saving more accessible.

Who it serves: Eligible Nigerian savers and financial-service partners. **Business-model evidence:** Financial products and service relationships have their own terms; returns, rates and fees are not generalized here.

Founder lesson: Behavioral product design matters when value grows through repeat use over months or years. The trust cost of one missed withdrawal or confusing restriction can erase the benefit of frictionless signup.

Reality check: Check eligibility, custody and partner structures, withdrawal restrictions and current product terms.

Primary evidence: company or product source. PiggyVest names its three co-founders in its anniversary coverage and describes its savings platform. Checked October 31, 2026.

Moniepoint

Who built it: Tosin Eniolorunda and Felix Ike. **Product:** Payments, business accounts, credit and business-management technology.

Who it serves: Small businesses and financial-services users. **Business-model evidence:** Financial services and merchant infrastructure are public offerings; licensing and fees depend on the product and jurisdiction.

Founder lesson: Small-business fintech scales by combining daily workflow adoption with settlement reliability and customer support. Transaction volume is not the same as profit, and a credit product has different risk from a payment terminal.

Reality check: Check market eligibility, regulated entity, deposit protection as applicable, fees, repayments and outages.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Moniepoint describes its 2015 founding by Eniolorunda and Ike and current financial-platform product categories. Checked October 31, 2026.

Kuda

Who built it: Babatunde (Babs) Ogundeyi and Mutairu (Musty) Mustapha. **Product:** Mobile-first banking and business-money-management tools for the Nigerian market.

Who it serves: Eligible retail and business banking customers. **Business-model evidence:** Regulated banking products and associated financial services are described; jurisdiction and product disclosures control the terms.

Founder lesson: A digital bank must prove operational reliability beyond interface design. Customers are buying access to their money, payment settlement, account security and functioning support processes.

Reality check: Check account eligibility, current regulated entity, money movement limits, dispute channels and official legal terms.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Kuda identifies its founder and leadership team and describes its digital banking focus. Checked October 31, 2026.

Healthcare access and care coordination

Healthcare tools must address real provider networks, patient safety, handoffs, availability and privacy—not simply ease of signup.

Mahmee

Who built it: Melissa Hanna and Linda Hanna. **Product:** Care-coordination experiences bringing maternal-health professionals and families into one pathway.

Who it serves: Pregnant and postpartum families, employers and care partners. **Business-model evidence:** Clinical care and membership or partner programs are visible; coverage, eligibility and payment terms vary and need verification.

Founder lesson: Healthcare technology is not just a better appointment interface. It must bridge clinical handoffs, follow-up, patient safety, availability and the limits of a provider network.

Reality check: Confirm licensed providers, care geography, emergency limitations, insurance and medical-record privacy.

Primary evidence: company or product source. Mahmee identifies Melissa and Linda Hanna as leaders behind its approach to connected maternal care. Checked October 31, 2026.

Health In Her HUE

Who built it: Ashlee Wisdom. **Product:** A platform connecting Black women and women of color with health information and culturally responsive providers.

Who it serves: Women seeking care and healthcare/community partners. **Business-model evidence:** Provider-discovery, community and partner relationships are visible; do not assume a particular membership fee or clinical service is available.

Founder lesson: Two-sided healthcare networks must earn trust on both sides: provider quality, practical availability and patient understanding. Discovery is useful only when a patient can actually reach suitable care.

Reality check: Validate provider availability, insurance, credentials, geography and any third-party medical advice boundaries.

Primary evidence: company or product source. The official platform identifies Ashlee Wisdom as founder and CEO and describes its care-discovery mission. Checked October 31, 2026.

Five lessons hidden inside the business models

1. Begin with a specific repeated job. Calendly removes coordination work; SQUIRE manages shop operations; CareAcademy structures workforce education. Write the job in one sentence before listing product features. If ten prospects describe ten unrelated problems, the category is too broad.

2. Identify the purchaser separately from the user. A renter may benefit from Esusu while a property organization controls deployment. A caregiver may complete CareAcademy training while an agency pays. Revenue assumptions fail when the buyer and beneficiary are confused.

3. Map the hard operational layer. Goodr must coordinate physical pickups; PopCom must service machines; LISNR must work across devices; fintechs must reconcile and safeguard money flows. The operational failure modes determine retention.

4. Distribution is a product decision. Mayvenn centers stylist relationships; Blavity builds owned audience brands; Pigeonly serves families through institutional constraints. “Run ads” cannot substitute for understanding the trusted channel through which a customer reaches the product.

5. Do not confuse fundraising, valuation and revenue. An investor announcement describes financing, not audited customer retention. Before presenting a company as a model to copy, find the repeat behavior, paying customer, gross-margin driver and source of risk. Study the full Black tech company revenue-model analysis before building forecasts.

A practical 14-day founder research sprint

Choose one of the company models above as inspiration, then test whether a similar unmet job exists in your own market. This is a research plan, not a promise that a comparable company can be built in two weeks.

1. When: Days 1–2 | **Action:** Define one buyer, one job and the measurable cost of doing it poorly. | **Evidence you should leave with:** One-sentence job statement and ten candidate interviewees. | **Stop condition:** Every interviewee describes a different problem.

2. When: Days 3–5 | **Action:** Interview buyers about their last real attempt to solve it. | **Evidence you should leave with:** Specific workflows, current alternatives, spend and failures—not hypothetical praise. | **Stop condition:** No one can recall an expensive recent failure.

3. When: Days 6–8 | **Action:** Map system dependencies, data rights and compliance. | **Evidence you should leave with:** Sketch of integrations, responsible parties, exceptions and permissions. | **Stop condition:** The MVP would require access

nobody has authorized.

4. When: Days 9–11 | **Action:** Offer a manual or narrow prototype to a qualified prospect. | **Evidence you should leave with:** Observed use, time saved, willingness to pay or another real commitment. | **Stop condition:** Interest disappears when time or money is required.

5. When: Days 12–14 | **Action:** Build a first-cost model and decide whether to continue. | **Evidence you should leave with:** Buyer price range, direct delivery cost, next milestone and honest unknowns. | **Stop condition:** Risk or unit economics cannot be controlled at a small scale.

For full execution, follow the 90-day tech startup launch plan; for nontechnical founders, use the guide to building a tech startup without coding. BTS is an educational resource, not an issuer of startup funding or a certification authority.

How to verify a company before quoting, buying or applying

Older internet lists can remain searchable after companies change ownership, sell assets, pivot or close. Historical examples can still teach founders, but presenting them as current vendors or employers is misleading. When checking any list, record the latest official product page, the date of the founding evidence, whether the legal entity is current and whether the service is actually offered in your location.

Important examples of why dates matter: Sallie Mae announced its acquisition of key Scholly assets in 2023. Reporting in 2024 described the closure of Gro Intelligence. A source describing either as an independent, actively hiring startup today would need fresh evidence. We omit those companies from the 20 active-facing profiles, rather than quietly recycling historical directory text.

- ☐ I found an official company domain and a current product description.
- ☐ I can cite a founder or leadership record without inventing present ownership.
- ☐ The organization appears to offer this product in the buyer's actual region.
- ☐ I checked whether the company was acquired, renamed or closed.
- ☐ Pricing, hiring, certification and investment claims have their own current sources.
- ☐ I recorded the exact source URL and checked date.

For company discovery beyond these examples, browse the Black Tech Directory; for founder biographies and technological history, explore BTS founder stories. A directory is a starting place for verification, not a substitute for it.

Questions researchers and founders ask

Is a Black-founded tech company always Black-owned?

No. Founder identity and present equity control are different facts. Financing, sales, acquisitions and governance changes can alter who owns or controls the company. Use the narrower term that available records support.

Are all 20 companies early-stage startups?

No. They span early concepts, growing companies and established organizations that started with Black founders or have documented Black leadership. Each is included to analyze a technology product or operating model, not to label its present funding stage.

Does a company appearing here mean BTS recommends buying or investing?

No. The guide is a sourced learning and discovery resource. A procurement decision needs security and contract diligence; an investment decision needs independent risk assessment and current legal disclosures.

Can I use this list to find Black-owned suppliers?

Yes, as a discovery starting point. For a transaction requiring Black-ownership certification, check that specific vendor's present eligibility and documentation. The enterprise supplier qualification guide explains how to do that properly.

Build beyond the company list

1. Buyer pathway**Black-Owned Tech Companies to Work With: Verified Buyer Guide**
2. Founder analysis**Founders, ownership definitions and five in-depth case studies**
3. Economics**How Black technology company business models and margins work**
4. Funding**Black venture capital firms: investor fit, stage and mandate**
5. Execution**The 90-day founder launch calendar**

Official company sources and verification notes

Company and product evidence reviewed October 31, 2026. Public pages establish their stated founders, products or service categories; they do not necessarily verify today's ownership percentages, prices, hiring status, solvency or every geographic market.

- Calendly - official company/founder material↗
- LISNR - official company/founder material↗
- PopCom - official company/founder material↗
- Esusu - official company/founder material↗
- Goalsetter - official company/founder material↗
- Blavity Inc. - official company/founder material↗
- Goodr - official company/founder material↗
- CareAcademy - official company/founder material↗
- Mayvenn - official company/founder material↗
- SQUIRE - official company/founder material↗
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- PiggyVest - official company/founder material↗
- Moniepoint - official company/founder material↗
- Andela - official company/founder material↗
- Kuda - official company/founder material↗

The directory records company- and founder-level facts; no current Black-majority ownership percentage is inferred from a founder biography. Additional verification references: Sallie Mae on Scholly assets and reporting on Gro Intelligence closure and asset transfer.

Editorial standards: Published by the Black Tech Startup editorial team. These are educational company-discovery and buyer-research materials, not endorsements, certification determinations, investment recommendations, medical advice or legal advice. No founder interview is implied. Current commercial terms and ownership should be independently confirmed.

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Visit the Black Tech Startup homepage for founder resources, research, business models and guides.