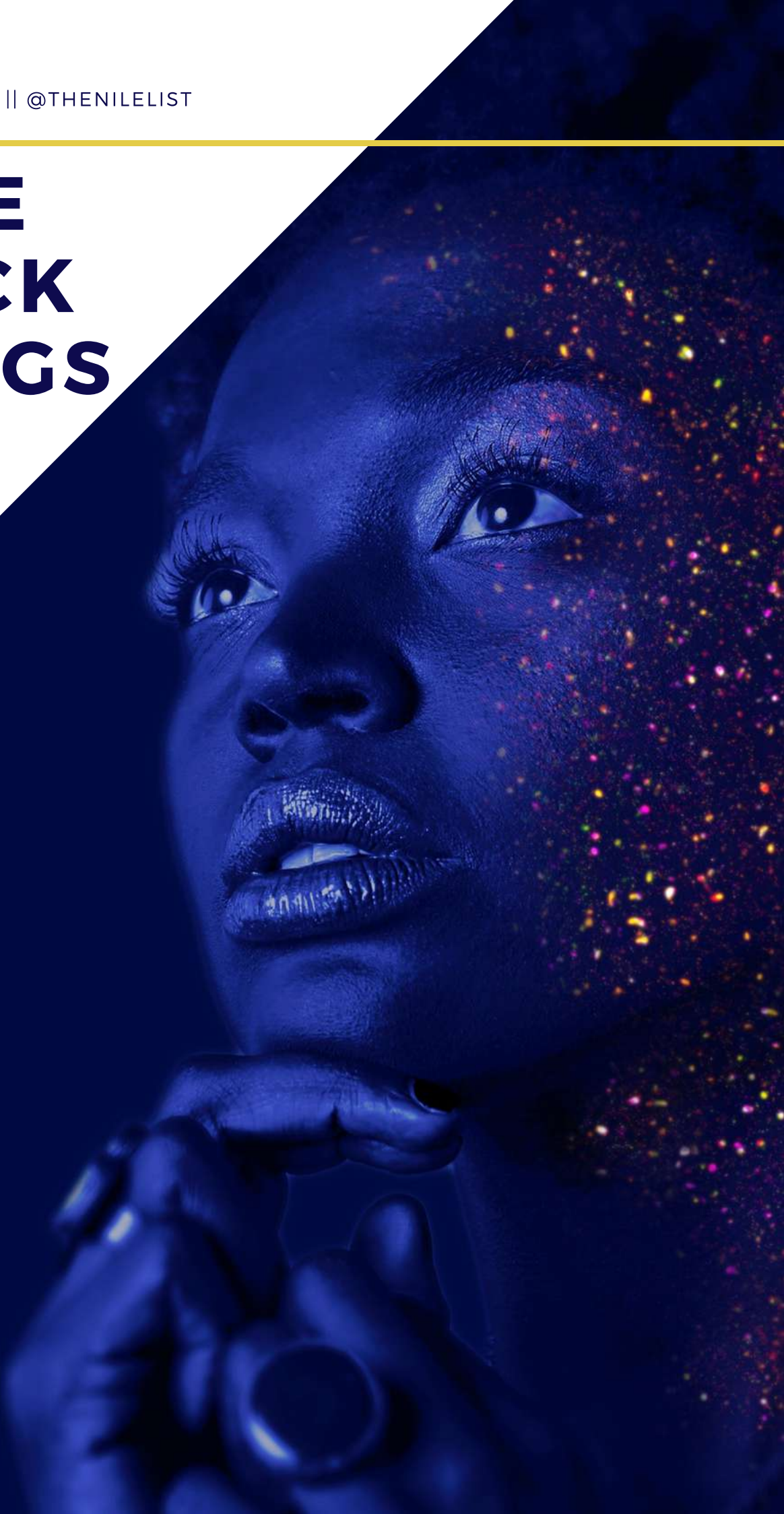


POWERED BY  
THENILELIST.COM || @THENILELIST

# DOPE BLACK THINGS

BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH  
2020

—  
NILE





NILE WELCOMES YOU TO

# DOPE BLACK THINGS

---

Nile is your most modern, comprehensive, and easy-to-use platform for shopping with Black brands online. No more Blackfishing. No more searching through endless lists. No more navigating outdated, clunky directories that are filled with businesses far away from your city. Just thousands of Black-Owned businesses at your fingertips in the place where you shop the most - online. Nile is about to make your online shopping experience BLACKITY Black. You'll be able to search for whatever products you're interested in buying, and we will tell you somebody Black who makes that. You'll even be able to filter by interests such as businesses with free shipping or women-owned businesses. Welcome to Nile, your one-stop for Black online shopping.

Sign up for our newsletter in anticipation of our March 1, 2020 launch. We will send you weekly updates with our progress on connecting you to thousands of Black-owned businesses online. We'll also send you updates about the businesses we are adding to Nile and how you can find these amazing Nilists prior to Nile's launch.



**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER AT THENILELIST.COM  
FOR MORE DOPE BLACK THINGS**



# Table of Contents

PAGE 03

2 - Nile's Welcome to **Dope Black Things**

3 - Table of Contents

4 - Dope Black Future Things

5 - 25 Dope Black Things You Can Buy Online

11 - Dope Black Fintech

12 - 5 Dope Local Black Spots  
DC | LA | Bay Area | ATL | NYC

18 - 5 Dope Black Books

19 - Dope Black Things in Africa

20 - 5 Dope Black Artists

23 - 5 Dope Black Apps

24 - Dope Black Food

25 - Nile-vigator Testimonials

26 - 5 Dope Black Media  
Outlets

27 - Dope Black  
Innovators  
and Dope Black  
Things

29 - Nile's  
Launch

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER AT [THENILELIST.COM](http://thenilelist.com)  
FOR MORE DOPE BLACK THINGS**







NILE WANTS

# DOPE BLACK FUTURE THINGS

---



Black History Month is upon us, again. Every February, the school projects and diversity programs kick into full gear in an effort to recognize the force that is Blackness in America. History.com describes Black History Month as “an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of [B]lacks in U.S. history.” What was started by Carter G. Woodson and others as “Negro History Week,” has grown into a month-long frantic scramble to bring dope Blackness to the forefront.

Not coincidentally, I recently finished reading the collection of short stories by N.K. Jemisin titled *How Long ‘Til Black Future Month?* Jemisin is one of the few celebrated Black women writers in sci-fi, and I’ve been a fan of hers for a few years. She wrote the essay that inspired the title of this collection as an ode to Janelle Monáe (how dope is that?) and as a way of grappling with the realization that Black folks were frequently left out of sci-fi writing because “no one thinks [our] people have a future.”

How can people who created so much of this country’s past not have a place in its future? I say, not possible.

I’ve seen the Black future.

It is the innovators included in this e-booklet. It is the Black-owned businesses working hard to make dope things for the world. It is the Black art that persists in telling our pain and our pleasure. It is the reconnection of the African Diaspora, which was never meant to return to a place of wholeness. It is the Black-led tech that innovates not just for shareholders and triumph, but for the Black folks out there who are often left out of the tech space.

The Black Future is Dope Black Things, and Nile is simply a conduit.

I hope that you finish this content with new purpose and goals for our Black Future. And make sure that you include some of the Dope Black Things we highlight in your future!

**BY KHADIJAH A.ROBINSON - READ MORE AT THENILELIST.COM**



# DOPE BLACK THINGS ONLINE

Nile will list thousands of Black-owned brands that are available online when it launches. Here is a sneak peek at 25 dope ones. Click to shop with anyone you see!

Owner of this amazing granola brand, Stephanie, has always believed in providing "from-scratch," all natural meals for her family to promote a healthier lifestyle. Over time, she developed her own granola recipe to provide an alternative to some of the unhealthy snacks found on grocery store shelves.



## OH-MAZING GRANOLA

1

Use discount code  
**NILE15** for 15% off

2

## CEYLON



Ceylon is a skincare line for men of color, developed by men of color! Founder Patrick Boateng worked to develop this skincare line after struggling with acne, razor bumps, hyper-pigmentation, and other chronic skin problems, all of which were exaggerated by his move to China for work. Ceylon's skincare set will leave your man-skin feeling very dope!

Bomb'd Aesthetics strives to create quality, handmade bath & body products from ingredients that are recognizable, cruelty-free, holistic, and pleasing to the eye. The selection of butters, oils, and natural additives is a careful process, and the quality and energy put into the creation of their product are essential.



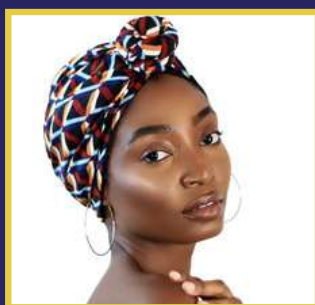
## BOMB'D AESTHETICS

3

4

## LOZA TAM

Use discount code  
**NILE20** for 20% off



This headwear and turban line was born in 2016 out of a frustration that many women experience when it comes to looking for high quality head wraps and headbands. There weren't many hair accessories that had a great fit and didn't contain that pesky silicone strip. All Loza Tam products are crafted with care by tailors in Ghana.

Mike D's BBQ is an award winning line of signature BBQ sauces and all-purpose dry rubs. Their sauces are a twist on the traditional BBQ sauce with some unique seasonings and spice levels. A core ingredient of their BIG Sauce is an all-purpose dry rub which is great with beef, pork, any bird, or vegetable. Dope foods deserve dope sauce.



## MIKE D'S BBQ

5

Use discount code  
**NILE15** for 15% off





# DOPE BLACK THINGS ONLINE

Nile will list thousands of Black-owned brands that are available online when it launches. Here is a sneak peek at 25 dope ones. Click to shop with anyone you see!

ZAAF Collection leather goods and apparel offers economic empowerment to artisans and a new perspective and standard of global luxury. The brand has expanded with a vision to create products people love and want to buy, with operations spanning from Ethiopia to Washington, D.C. Shoppers can even build customized bags with this dope brand.



ZAAF  
COLLECTION

6

7

THE GREEN  
LAUNDRESS

Use discount code  
**Green2020** for 10% off.



The Green Laundress offers the best laundry products at the lowest prices online. Owner Erica Ahmed started the company after having a hard time finding commercial products on her journey to natural cleaning. She started researching and experimenting until she found the right combination of natural, non-toxic ingredients to make eco- and people- friendly products.

Owner Tamara Dopwell created this positive, socially-conscious line of tee shirts, apparel, and accessories to support homeless children and families in New York City. Tamara is a Brooklyn social worker who decided to extend her work to offer dope apparel for a dope cause.



DESIGNS  
BY TEE

8

Use discount code  
**teenile1** for 10% off

9

GLAZE



From childhood, owner Sonja Hunt dreamed of doing exactly what she is doing now - running a successful jewelry and accessory business. After the death of her mother, she decided to go "all in" and make her baby her reality. glAze makes everything from unisex watches to sunglasses, and this clean and modern line of accessories is a true show stopper.

From street chic to couture, GlōGirl Cosmetics strives to celebrate and empower the diverse beauty of dope women and celebrate inclusivity globally. This cosmetics line believes that this is the new age of beauty, where the possibilities are limitless, and it shows in everything from their highlighter to their eyeshadow.



GLOGIRL  
COSMETICS

10



# DOPE BLACK THINGS ONLINE

Nile will list thousands of Black-owned brands that are available online when it launches. Here is a sneak peek at 25 dope ones. Click to shop with anyone you see!

The Stuyvesant is founded and run by Spencer, a photographer, perfumer, and creative based in Atlanta, GA. His fragrance, Suede, is a unisex handmade niche cologne. Spencer was drawn to the perfumer life by the memories of his grandfather's timeless cologne, and he infuses his scent with the same dope, sensual flare that he does his photography.



THE  
STUYVESANT

11

12 A LIFE  
WELL  
DRESSED



Husband and wife duo Michael and Christian Warren founded A Life Well Dressed Co. (ALWD), a clothing line built around intentionality and purpose. You'll be thankful for this union - of fashion! - when you see their items. The line takes you from casual to classy, travelling to lounging, and all the dopeness in between.

Marie Hunter's mission is to boldly empower women like you with the beauty, confidence, and class to feel like the best version of yourself on the inside and outside. This lip wear brand focuses on iconic packaging and statement-making modern collections that are designed to help you discover and walk in that reflection. Dope women deserves dope lipstick.



MARIE  
HUNTER

13

14 SMELL  
GOOD SPA

Use discount code  
**nile20** for 20% off



Smell Good Spa's mission is to produce fine, quality products, encourage women consumers to seek healthier options in bath & body care and aromatic home products, and be a positive tool in the community through empowerment and philanthropy.

Fusion Dolls was created to empower young girls of color and to embrace diversity awareness. Every child deserves to know they are beautiful just the way God made them. Fusion dolls' goal is to offer dolls of various shades to encourage young people of color to love themselves inside out - because kids need dope things too.



FUSION  
DOLLS

15

# DOIN' DOPE BLACK THINGS

GET YOUR SHIRT  
STARTING AT \$25  
[THENILELIST.COM](http://THENILELIST.COM)

WOMEN'S V-  
NECK TEE  
AVAILABLE IN  
S-XL



WOMEN'S FITTED  
CREW NECK TEE  
AVAILABLE IN S-  
3XL

UNISEX TEE  
AVAILABLE  
IN M-XL





# DOPE BLACK THINGS ONLINE

Nile will list thousands of Black-owned brands that are available online when it launches. Here is a sneak peek at 25 dope ones. Click to shop with anyone you see!

Lizzie's All-natural Products creates fresh, natural, toxin free products for your home and body. Not only does this brand care about your skin, they care about your soul. The affordable and natural products are made with real, pure, simple and plant based ingredients that are good for your skin from head to toe.



PRODUCTS  
BY LIZZIE

16

17

POSITIVE  
CREATIVE  
ENERGY

Use discount code  
**PCE10** for 10%  
off \$25+



Positive Creative Energy owner, Jemila Pratt, designs handmade greeting cards and small batch body & hair products made with organic ingredients. These beautiful \*handmade\* greeting cards are crafted and designed with love, positive creative energy, and dopeness.

Tea Please is a dessert-flavored tea for the tea connoisseur, the new tea drinker, and those who just want a sip of the good stuff. After years of being an avid tea drinker, Jasmine realized the type of tea she was looking for wasn't easily accessible - she wanted to get her sugar fix with her tea, and it just wasn't out there! So she made it! Chocolate truffle tea? Definitely dope.



TEA  
PLEASE  
TEA

18

19

BROWN-  
DAGES



Browndages was the idea of a husband and wife duo who were simply trying to fill a void they saw within their own family. This is one of the first bandage companies for us by us. Browndages carries an adult box that comes with 4 shades of brown, as well as children boxes that include characters of children in aspiring professions. Even your bandages can be dope!

Owned by Newark, New Jersey native Kalisha Carmichael, Boss Blend Coffee is an online coffee shop that produces a variety of craft blends and coffee accessories. As a mix of Central and South American beans, Boss Blend's best selling dark, smooth flavor is Culture, a nod to Kalisha's Afro-Cuban heritage. Owww, watch out Starbucks!



BOSS  
BLEND  
COFFEE

20



# DOPE BLACK THINGS ONLINE

Nile will list thousands of Black-owned brands that are available online when it launches. Here is a sneak peek at 25 dope ones. Click to shop with anyone you see!

Karibe strives to build and nurture a great relationship with their customers. A core value of Karibe is their commitment to practice honesty and transparency. This Black-owned cookware company makes beautiful cast iron pans and other cookware that will upgrade you to a dope kitchen experience.



KARIBE

21

22 HOT N SAUCY



As a black female chef, owner Samantha wanted to understand people's love of sauce. Her journey led her to Hot N Saucy, which is the intersection of hot and sweet, and is a sauce that is perfect for all foods. This hot sauce is made in small batches, with unique ingredients and pairings.

Moihey Fine Jewelry & Diamonds is owned and operated by Daniel Moiyeuh, a graduate of the American Institute of Diamond Cutting. Consulting with customers across the globe since 2009, Moiyeuh utilizes his training and field experience in diamonds over the years to offer superior service to his clientele, offering an extensive collection of engagement rings and fine jewels.



MOIHEY  
FINE  
JEWELRY &  
DIAMONDS

23

24 ABBEY CREEK VINEYARDS



Abbey Creek is the first black owned winery and vineyard in Oregon's recorded history. Visit the well-appointed tasting room just outside of Portland, which plays hip hop and promotes an unconventional approach to the wine experience. This winery puts the dope in wine.

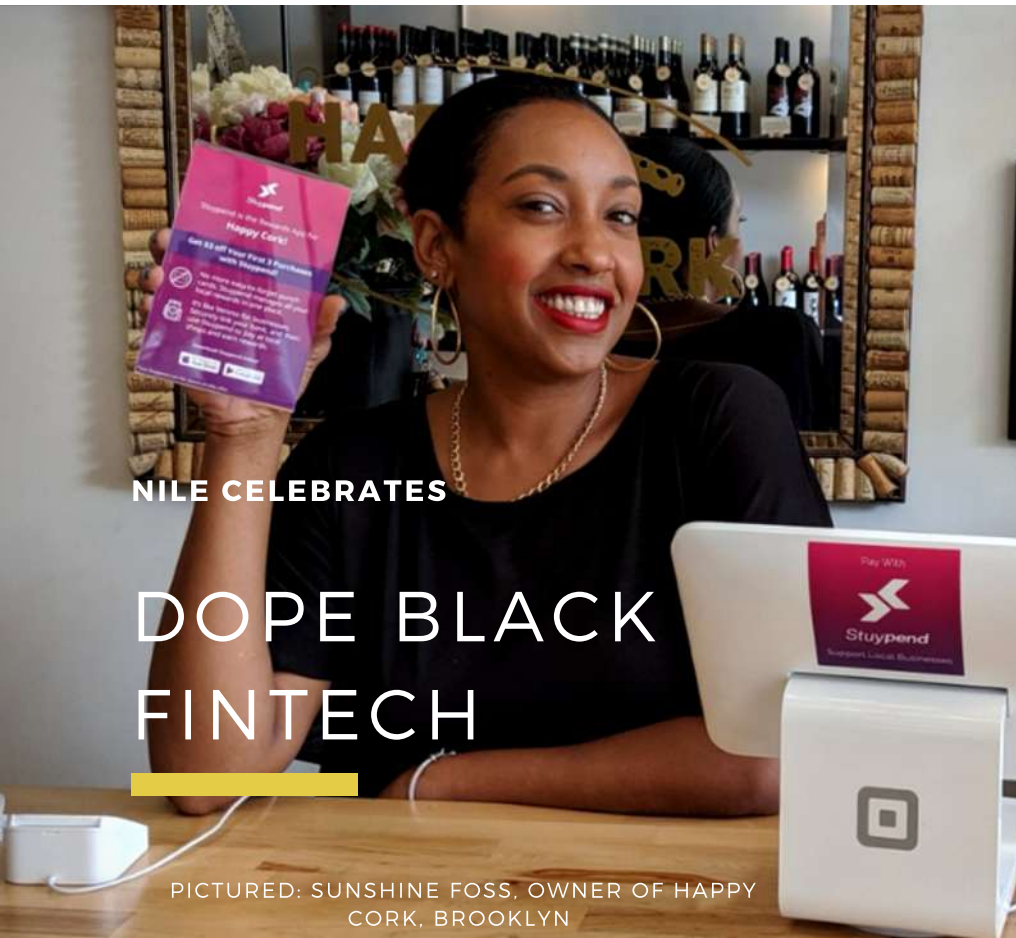
Snerb founder, Brenshevia, is an independent dyer, a wool and fiber processor, yarn spinner, knitter, punch needle designer, and more. She loves the act of making and is a big advocate for the makers movement, making your wardrobe, and slow crafting. Snerb is bringing dope vibrant colors and quality fibers to a closet near you!



SNERB  
YARN &  
FIBER

25





NILE CELEBRATES

## DOPE BLACK FINTECH

PICTURED: SUNSHINE FOSS, OWNER OF HAPPY CORK, BROOKLYN

Fintech ain't a Black space by any stretch of the imagination. For much of our beautiful Black History, innovations in financial technology have been used to further lock African-Americans out of the system of wealth in this county.

Stuypend, and other Black-owned fintech companies like it, seek to change that.

Nile sat down with Stuypend founder, Andre Powers, to discuss his company, its mission, and its future doing dope Black things for the small-businesses of Bedford-Stuyvesant and beyond.

**What is Stuypend?** - Stuypend is a financial technology app that makes it easy for small businesses to save on payment processing. Its mobile-based payment system doesn't require migration and can be used alongside an existing Point of Sale.

**How does Stuypend Work?** - "Stuypend is like Venmo for Bed-Stuy. You just download the app and securely link a bank account. You can then send payments to local businesses by scanning a QR code during checkout. You can even give tips right from your phone!"

**What were you doing before Stuypend?** - "So, I was working in a sales role before that wasn't really exciting when my brother started a company with one of his co-workers. That was a fintech company focused on the asset management industry. After they did some fundraising . . .

I came on board to help and moved to London. However, I had an impossible time trying to get a visa as an entrepreneur and part-owner of the business, which made it difficult to stay involved with the company since I had to move back to the States."

**Where did you get the idea for Stuypend?** - "It was around the time that I came back that I started to think of the idea for Stuypend. I realized going into these small businesses in Brooklyn, where I live, that a lot of them didn't take credit cards because of the costs associated. They may have ATMs for you to pull out cash, but a lot of times, those just looked shady — plus the fees to get cash could be crazy. I started speaking to merchants about why they were cash-only or why they minimums in order for customers to use their credit cards. That's when I really learned about the fees that credit card processing companies charge, and I started thinking of how to help businesses get around those fees. Stuypend was born!" . . .



READ THE FULL INTERVIEW AT [THENILELIST.COM](https://thenilelist.com)



## 5 DOPE BLACK LOCAL SPOTS IN DC

Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . but that doesn't mean we aren't hip to the local game! Check out some dope spots in a city near you!

Halfsmoke is the brainchild of Morehouse alum Andre McCain. This shaw neighborhood restaurant staple blends the young with the timeless, offering milkshakes and board games, along with delightful cocktails and 90s throwback videos playing in the background. 651 Florida Ave NW.



Nubian Hueman is a social enterprise that specializes in sourcing and curating unique goods, fashion, and art by designers representing the global Diaspora. This online and brick-and-mortar boutique, which recently opened a second store in Baltimore, has partnered with close to 400 artists and designers, from 6 different continents, and over 25 countries. 1231 Good Hope Rd SE.

The Brown Beauty Co-Op, the premiere DuPont Circle beauty store, recently celebrated its 1-year anniversary. The venture, started by Amaya Smith and Kimberly Smith, promotes beauty brands by Black and brown creators so that women of color can finally have a beauty experience that speaks to their skin and needs. 1365 Connecticut Ave NW #100.



Inclusive Innovation Incubator (In3DC) is an innovation space, opened in partnership with D.C.'s Mayor's Office, which provides programs, services and events for this generation of leaders and the next. Members of the co-working and conference space benefit from networking events, as well as mentorships and strategic connections to investors and partners. 2301 Georgia Ave NW.

Mahogany Books is a local independent bookstore that believes in social entrepreneurship. The bookstore takes a leadership role in the African-American community by promoting reading, writing, and cultural awareness. It also regularly hosts book signings with prominent writers of color. 1231 Good Hope Rd SE.



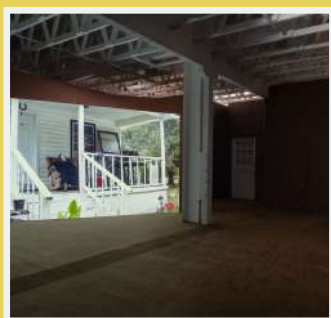




## 5 DOPE BLACK LOCAL SPOTS IN LA

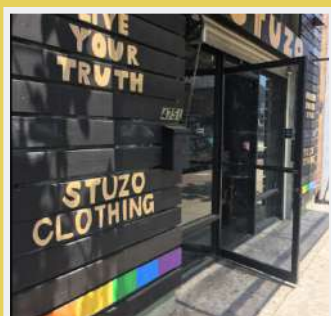
Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . but that doesn't mean we aren't hip to the local game! Check out some dope spots in a city near you!

The Smile Space was designed for entrepreneurs, artists, designers and educators to gather and create. Owner Brian Mays pursued the minimalist style of this space to create a peaceful oasis for intimate gatherings photoshoots, events or workshops. 1040 S Los Angeles St, Unit 5.



The Underground Museum is a hub for like minded artists to gather in their community. Live shows, artist galleries, and a bookstore fill up the lively space that vibrates as a voice for the culture. Stop by anytime for free. The photo to the left is courtesy of The Underground Museum. Photo by Zak Kelley. 3508 W. Washington Blvd.

At Sip & Sonder, grab a coffee and get to work! Creatives, entrepreneurs and curators are encouraged to connect, create, and use their voice to uplift their community. This space encompasses the unapologetic blackness of Inglewood in the midst of gentrification. This chill watering hole is about more than just coffee - its about culture. 108 S Market St.



Stuzo Clothing was created by two black women, Stoney and Uzo to invoke thought and emotion. The gender free clothing line is inspired by love, freedom from judgement, and life experiences. It has been worn by A-list celebrities such as Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith. 4751 W Washington Blvd.

Simply Wholesome will "Keep You Looking Good and Feeling Good" with the large selection of wholesome food choices. After opening in 1981, Simply Wholesome has supported the community with nutrition counseling and has served as a representative of cultural diversity. You can also shop online for all your health conscious needs. 4508 West Slauson Avenue.



# BLK + GRN



BLK + GRN, IS A MARKETPLACE FEATURING DOZENS OF ALL BLACK ARTISANS WHO ARE CAREFULLY CHOSEN BY BLACK HEALTH EXPERTS.

THE SITE CARRIES ONLY PRODUCTS THAT AVOID BOTH HARMFUL INGREDIENTS AND PRACTICES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY.

BLK+GRN IS YOUR CONNECTION TO NATURAL LIFESTYLES, TO HIGH-QUALITY & TOXIN-FREE BRANDS THAT SHARE IN THE MISSION OF HEALTH, AND TO WELLNESS. [CLICK TO SHOP.](#)





## 5 DOPE BLACK LOCAL SPOTS IN THE BAY

Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . but that doesn't mean we aren't hip to the local game! Check out some dope spots in a city near you!

Oeste, the premiere Old Oakland rooftop bar, combines southern comfort food with Latin cuisine. This welcoming environment will make you feel right at home. The owners, all women of color, strictly use sustainably farmed California ingredients and the bar livens up on the weekends! 722 Clay Street, Oakland.



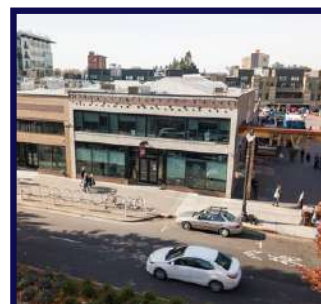
Red Bay Coffee is a splash of hospitality with a sprinkle of simplicity. The Public Roastery coffee production and cafe space also serves the community with workshops, special events, pop-up shops, film screenings, live performances, and residencies. It's also available to be rented! 3098 East 10th Street, Oakland.

B-Love's Guesthouse was founded by artist and activist Traci Bartlow with an intention of wellness and creativity. This victorian style home is equipped with a year round thriving garden full of herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Traci also offers garden tours, and weekly garden happy hours featuring some local live performances. 1131 Center St, Oakland.



Betti Ono Gallery is a space for art, culture and community. Founder Anyka Barber offers exhibition and public programs that empower the Black community. As a premiere location, this award winning gallery will not disappoint. Stop by and shop for branded products, original art, limited edition prints, and books from Oakland and beyond. 1427 Broadway, Oakland.

Impact Hub member-based coworking space and event venue for entrepreneurs looking to impact the world through innovative ideas. Change makers are invited to enjoy the space and there are many events held here with the purpose of networking, building community and accelerating the learning process. 2323 Broadway, Oakland.





## 5 DOPE BLACK LOCAL SPOTS IN ATLANTA

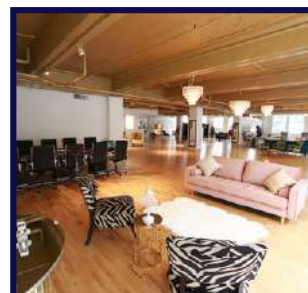
Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . but that doesn't mean we aren't hip to the local game! Check out some dope spots in a city near you!

The Gathering Spot is an ambitious collaborative space, rooted in culture, for creatives. It serves as a major networking hub for young entrepreneurs looking to impact the world. With 24/7 workspace, a full service bar and restaurant as well as several conference rooms. 384 Northyards Blvd NW



Just Add Honey Tea Company combines fresh and fun flavors with stimulating and smooth ingredients. All teas are made with pure and recognizable ingredients from around the globe. They offer black, green, herbal, fruit and specialty teas. In one of their locations, you can purchase loose teas, tea accessories, and even schedule a tea tasting. 209 Edewood Ave.

BIO BIO | The Beauty Place is a full service launchpad for brand exposure in the beauty and wellness industry. This one-stop-shop consults with entrepreneurs to curate hands on experiences that expose their product and drive revenue. These unique experiences can only be imagined and executed by a team of innovative creatives. 75 John Wesley Dobbs Ave.



Iwi Fresh was created by Yolanda Owens, or Yogi, as a means to avoid using harsh chemicals on her skin. Inspired by her grandmother's wellness recipes. Her hobby turned passion has grown into several lines of gourmet skincare recipes and a full-service spa. Packed with fresh fruits, vegetables from local Atlanta farms, as well as essentials oils, these products have made Yolanda the "skincare chef." 341 Nelson St.

For Keeps Bookstore has a compilation of work from our country's greatest literary minds. The bookstore is an ode to the many identities Blackness takes on in America. The literature can be purchased or enjoyed in the store. There is even work signed by these great minds - such as the late Toni Morrison - that can be purchased. 171 Auburn Ave NE.







## 5 DOPE BLACK LOCAL SPOTS IN NEW YORK

Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . but that doesn't mean we aren't hip to the local game! Check out some dope spots in a city near you!

Liquid Assets offers a personal hands-on experience while buying wine. Located in Brooklyn, you can speak with the experienced and welcoming staff to figure out what works for you. Owners Nigel and Natasha look forward to servicing the community at large with a variety of flavors. 504 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn.



Ethel's Club is a space for us, by us. Founder Naj Austin encourages creatives of color to commune in this multi-use place to build community and foster personal growth. As a member, you are granted access to this bright and open clubhouse which holds interactive events, a podcast studio, a landscaped courtyard, and more. 315 Meserole Street, Brooklyn.

HealHaus takes on the tranquility of both a wellness space and productivity of a cafe. Based in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn this accessible location welcomes you with a vibrant earth-tone design and keeps you coming with specialized workshops and events. 1082 Fulton Street, Brooklyn.



As the only chocolatier in Harlem, owner Jessica Spaulding and the Harlem Chocolate Factory incorporate the rich fabric of Harlem into each of its chocolates, wowing us with products such as the Ace of Spades truffle or the Harlem Brownstone chocolate bar sprinkled with gold. 2363 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd, Harlem.

Sweet Chick offers some of the best fried chicken and waffles in NYC. The menu takes on what they call "New American Comfort," combining American food with a quirky twist on cocktails and dishes. Nile tried the General Tso's vegan chicken when we went! 178 Ludlow St, Lower East Side (Multiple Locations)



# 5 DOPE BLACK BOOKS

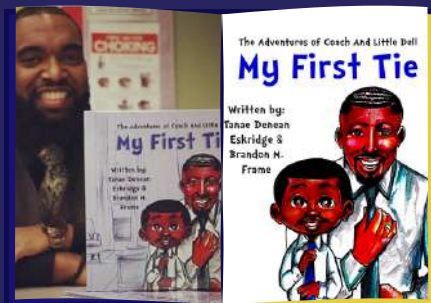
There are the classics, then there are the Black classics, right? Nah. We're making our classics \*the\* CLASSIC classics. One book at a time. Check out these 5 Dope Black Books.

This YA book by Namina Forna drops in May 2020, and we can't wait! It follows the journey of Deka, a "near-immortal" 16-year-old girl with "exceptional gifts." During a ceremony at which it will be determined whether or not she and other girls are fit to become members of Otera's patriarchal society, she's met with an unforeseen obstacle. Pre-order the dopeness now!



1

2



*My First Tie* by Tanae D. Eskridge and Brandon M. Frame follows a young boy who shares his experience learning how to tie his very first tie. The authors give us an inside scoop into the mind of a young boy seeking to mature and learn new things. It's a completely cute and wholesome story, and a great one for the kiddies (who deserve dope things too).

Just last month, Harper Collins released a collection of "lost" stories from the invaluable Zora Neale Hurston titled *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick*. This comes just two years after the 2018 publication of *Barracoon*, based on Hurston's 1927 interviews with the last known living slave. This collection of stories, written while Hurston was a student at Barnard, is the definition of dopeness, even almost 100 years later.



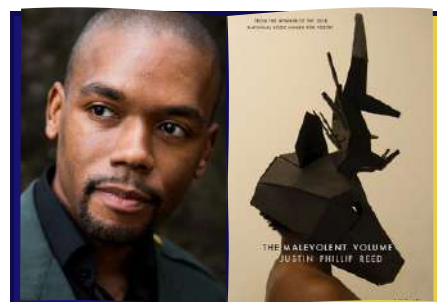
3

4



N.K. Jemisin is one of the most prominent Black writers in sci-fi. Her 2018 collection of short stories, *How Long 'Til Black Future Month?* sparked the theme of Black Future explored in this e-booklet. Jemisin remains the only author to have won the Hugo Award for Best Novel in three consecutive years for her *Broken Earth* series (which is beyond dope!). Her newest book, *The City We Became*, comes out next month!

Justin Reed's won the National Book Award for Poetry for his debut poetry collection, *Indecency*. His newest collection, *The Malevolent Volume*, drops in April. This collection investigates the works of classic, white poets like Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, as he explores the perceived "monstrosity" of the black body in the white imagination. Pre-order the dopeness if you like poetry.



5





NILE PARTICIPATED IN

# DOPE BLACK THINGS IN AFRICA

USE THE GHANA TRAVEL GUIDE THAT GOT NILE THROUGH YEAR OF RETURN - CLICK HERE FOR DISCOUNTED ACCESS (CODE: NILELIST2020)

2019 marked the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slaves involved in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Ghana celebrated 2019 as the Year of Return and welcomed over 1 million visitors over the course of the year as it sought to reconnect with the diaspora. 2020 has already been declared "Beyond the Return" and nearby Nigeria has also launched its own 2020 Door of Return campaign to re-engage with Diaspora members.

1619 marked just the first year that Black people became the primacy of commerce in the Americas. Over the next few hundred years, Africans would be kidnapped, tortured, murdered, beaten, raped, denigrated, pillaged, terrorized, subdued, broken, dominated, separated, colonized, and scattered around the world into what is now known as the African Diaspora. But Africans would also survive, pass on, find joy, create family, invent culture, vitalize societies, and build a meaning to their new existence as Black outside of Africa. We endured the largest forced migration in history, and yet we have continued to be innovative, creative, resilient, and joyful people. And though connections have been frayed and broken, they aren't lost.

**VISIT AHOUFEMAGGIE.COM & USE CODE NILELIST2020 FOR DISCOUNTED ACCESS TO OUR PREFERRED GHANA TRAVEL GUIDE**

When I started Nile, I didn't immediately think of it in the context of slavery (even though I'm a firm believer that all roads in America lead back there). I knew that I wanted to have a diasporic reach by involving Black-owned businesses around the world. But I didn't view Nile as any grand initiative to connect with our roots. What I have realized, though, is that Nile is developing in a moment that is ripe with Black people searching for one another in every which way. We want Black love, Black joy, Black magic, and Black owned. And Nile is just one of the entities that has flowered in the last few years to answer the call to connect. My favorite one line response, when people ask what Nile is, is that it is a "digital community connecting consumers with Black owned brands online," and my Year of Return participation truly unveiled for me why my subconscious has clung to the word "connecting." . . .

**BY KHADIJAH A.ROBINSON - READ MORE AT THENILELIST.COM**



NILE PRESENTS

# 5 DOPE BLACK ARTISTS

Black life is art. All over the world, we connect with one another and with ourselves through our artistic expressions. So why is it that the Picassos get all the play? Check out 5 Black artists around the world that are redefining our dope, one piece at a time.

Spencer Charles is a photographer, writer, and musician based in Atlanta GA, originally from Newark NJ. He has specialized in photography for almost a decade, and shoots mostly artistic nudes, implied nudes, fashion, lifestyle and street style photography.

[thestyvesant.com](http://thestyvesant.com)





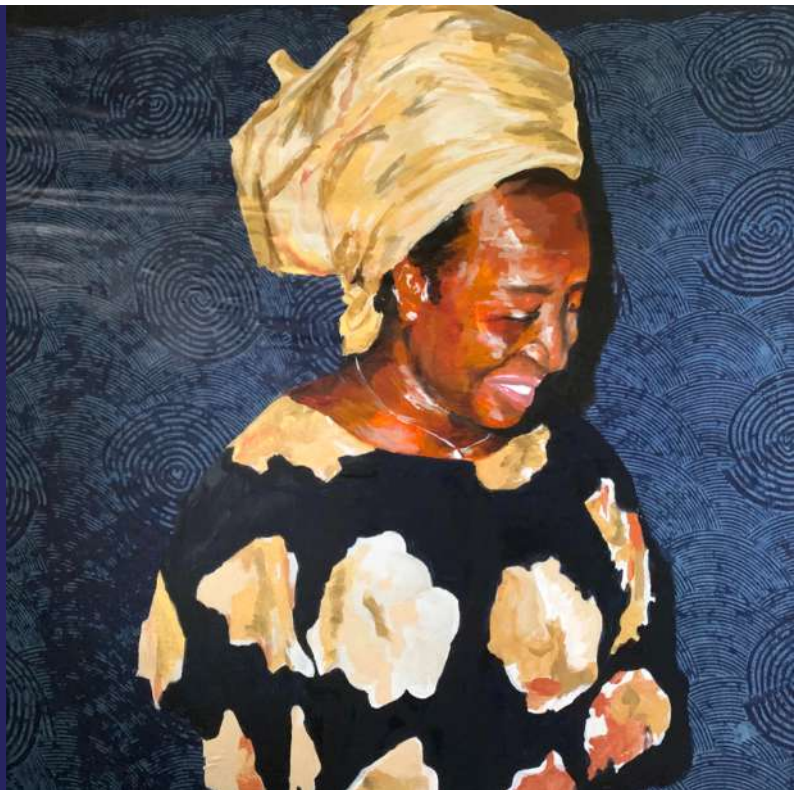
Black life is art. All over the world, we connect with one another and with ourselves through our artistic expressions. So why is it that the Picassos get all the play? Check out 5 Black artists around the world that are redefining our dope, one piece at a time.

**NILE PRESENTS**

## 5 DOPE BLACK ARTISTS

Yasser Claud-Ennin is a Nigerian artist. Yasser's impressive and expansive portfolio extends from visual art to pop productions, such as murals and textile imprints. Yasser's art focuses on multi-medium portraits that explore cultural backgrounds identity. View more of his art on Instagram at [@yasser\\_fw](#).

Featured to the right is *I Know This Fabric Well*, acrylic on Adire fabric.



Ashley Robertson is a DC-based artist. Her works explore Black female identity and creativity to challenge how we imagine the future and experience place. See more of Ashley's work on Instagram [@westlabelart](#).

Featured to the left is *Denizen*, acrylic on canvas.





NILE PRESENTS

## 5 DOPE BLACK ARTISTS

Black life is art. All over the world, we connect with one another and with ourselves through our artistic expressions. So why is it that the Picassos get all the play? Check out 5 Black artists around the world that are redefining our dope, one piece at a time.

Julius Pryor and Marttise Hill are award-winning filmmakers and co-founders of Pryor Hill Productions, which creates compelling content by underrepresented filmmakers. Pryor and Hill have premiered work at Sundance and worked with creators such as Spike Lee and Will Smith.

To the right is a still from “Stronger Magic,” a music video directed by Phillip Youmans for Leslie Odom Jr from his new album, “Mr”. Produced by Pryor and Hill.



Known as the “Eye of the Culture,” Thompson S. Ekong (aka TSE) creates images that look like stills from a psychedelic sci-fi movie, capturing his subjects in carefully stylized shoots. With inspirations as diverse as Lakin Ogunbawo, Kanye West, Steve Jobs, Santi, and Hayao Miyazaki, Ekong strives for uniqueness in a society based on uniformity. Ekong is based in Lagos, Nigeria. Follow him on Instagram at @\_\_tse





## 5 DOPE BLACK APPS

This dope app has an even doper purpose. It has committed to developing innovative ways to raise \$1 billion over the next 5 years for historically Black colleges and universities. The start? Allowing users to make automated micro-payment donations to the HBCU of their choice using the round-up method.



At first glance, the tech world looks whiter than "white on rice in a glass of milk on a paper plate in a snowstorm" (in the words of the great Major Payne). But Black tech exists and is here to make our lives better. Check out these 5 dope Black-owned apps.



Recently named one of Technical.ly DC's most promising startups for 2020, Happied was launched with the goal to connect people to happy hour experiences they'll actually enjoy - or as they say "find happy hours that fit your vibe." The app allows users to search for happy hours by day, time, location and then filter to find a specific type of spot matching their interests. Happied users can also upgrade to access exclusive extended happy hours at the best spots.

The Cookout is an invitation-only, Black-centered social media platform and safe space where dope Black speech, ideas, activists, creatives, and entrepreneurs are centered and celebrated. Named for a Black community tradition and safe space, The Cookout seeks to bring the spirit of community that is inherent to its namesake to the digital platform through special attention to keeping hate and hate speech off the platform.



Swivel Beauty is all about one thing: Black hair. The app serves as a destination that makes it easy to build a beauty team that meets all your haircare needs. Founders Jihan and Jennifer are going city by city and building out a platform that allows users to find hairstylists that are proficient with their hair type and desired style.

EatOkra is on a mission to provide a food-themed directory that encourages fellowship through one specific avenue: black food. This app allows users to find Black-owned restaurants all over the country, in an effort to promote one of the most sacred Black spaces. The one where we break bread together. The app is currently rolling out a Black-owned food truck tracker as well.





**NILE CAN'T MENTION  
EATOKRA WITHOUT REPPING  
THE OKRA . . .**

## DOPE BLACK FOOD: OKRA

## RECIPE T'INGS

The easiest cooking method for okra is to roast it! Get your oven up to 425° - 450°F, cut the okra in half (hotdog style), toss it with some light olive oil, and add your favorite all-in-one seasoning. Then spread the okra on a baking sheet. Bake it anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes (depending on how soft you like your veggies), and voila! A side dish that EVERYONE is gonna love.

Follow @NoNewFoodies on IG for more food fun!

Growing up in the south comes with a lot of pleasantries that I often took for granted . . . cornbread, sweet tea, and barbecue are just a few of the culinary treats I was privileged to have regularly. I now bring you one of the most polarizing foods to ever come out of the south. The all-powerful OKRA. People often disparage this veg, saying “it’s too slimy” or “it’s bitter.” If your only interactions with okra have been in a gumbo (which probably wasn’t that good anyway) or Church’s Chicken fried okra, you’ve honestly missed out on the hidden potential of a vegetable that quite honestly tastes like the triumph of our ancestors. *Abelmoschus esculentus* is thought to have originated somewhere around Ethiopia. However, it wasn’t until the 12th century B.C that we would see the ancient Egyptians start to cultivate it for human consumption.

Historians believe that its cultivation then spread across North Africa and then to Western Africa, where slave ships carried it (along with . . . us) to Southern America. Now, we may often ask what exactly the South offered to society for the couple hundred years before the civil war, besides human bondage. Surprise! One of the successes of the antebellum south was the cultivation of the Perkins Long Pod type of okra. This is the kind I’m SURE you’ve had if you’ve done any type of brunch in a major southern city.

So now we’re here. You’ve decided to recognize okra as a dope Black thing and you went out and got a couple pounds of okra in a bag. What do you do with it? Okra is versatile, so you can do the most! It can be roasted, fried, pickled, sautéed, added to stews and soups, and even boiled. Add to that the fact that it’s rich in dietary fiber, vitamins C & K, folate and magnesium. This is DEFINITELY a vegetable to add into your normal culinary routine . . .

**BY JARED TOLBERT - READ MORE AT THENILELIST.COM**





## 5 DOPE BLACK THINGS FROM NILE

Nile exists to connect people to the all the amazing Black-owned businesses that exist online . . . that they've never heard about! Hear from 5 Nil-vigators about how we hipped them to dope Black things.

"I learned about Figgers, a Black-owned telecoms company, from Nile. I ordered earbuds from Figgers, and absolutely love them! So thankful for Nile."

- LaFeetz F. ([Click to shop Figgers](#))



"Being a macaron enthusiast, I was so excited to find a Black-owned macaron company, Be Macaron, from Nile. They had a diverse selection of flavors and I was impressed by everything from the packaging to customer service. I will definitely be purchasing these melt-in-your-mouth treats again soon!"

-Malikat R. ([Click to shop Be Macarons](#))

"Nile has made shopping exclusively with Black-owned businesses a breeze! With more online businesses 'Blackfishing' consumers, Nile has helped take away the skepticism and connected me with real Black business owners."

-Destani P. ([Click to explore Nile's site](#))



"I've been following Nile for a while now, and found out about the Black Beard Brigade products from Nile's Holiday Gift Guide. My beard is so on point now that I even have people stopping me on the street to ask me what I use!"

-John P. ([Click to shop Black Beard Brigade](#))

"I fell in love with Loza Tam after I discovered the brand in Nile's Holiday Gift Guide. I've bought 4 Tams in less than a month. Great for my headwear game, not great for my wallet. Thanks Nile for helping me find this gem!"

-Rashida R. ([Click to shop Loza Tam with code NILE20](#))





## 5 DOPE BLACK MEDIA OUTLETS

The news is crazy lately, right? It's also crazy that most of our news comes from outlets that have never prioritized our interests. Check out these Black-owned media orgs for the NEW news.

CultureBanx is a multimedia organization redefining business, finance and tech news for minorities through music. The media company delivers high quality content focused on market driven stories, innovative products and services transforming our culture.

[culturebanx.com](http://culturebanx.com)



**CultureBanx**



**NEW YORK  
Amsterdam News**

The New York Amsterdam News was started more than a century ago, with a \$10 investment. It has gone on to become one of the most important Black newspapers in the country and today remains one of the most influential Black-owned and -operated media businesses in the nation, if not the world. Check it out for nationwide-coverage in addition to a Harlem focus.

[amsterdamnews.com](http://amsterdamnews.com)

Wealth Noir exists to preach and teach about the importance of financial freedom and generational wealth to Black millennial professionals. This digital media company focuses on helping our community transform income into wealth through investing and building a wealth mindset.

[wealthnoir.com](http://wealthnoir.com)



**WEALTH NOIR**



**TRAVEL ✈️ NOIRE**

Travel Noire is digital media company under the Blavity umbrella that serves millennials of the African Diaspora with inspired content to help discerning travelers discover, plan, and experience new destinations. Travel Noire publishes a variety of travel-related content, including travel deals, city travel guides, and travel-related news. Travel Noire also coordinates trips all over the world!

[travelnoire.com](http://travelnoire.com)

the Rule is a weekly newsletter created to elevate the everyday excellence of Black people and Black business. The newsletter aims to add value for readers by focusing strongly on the "how" and "why" of business. This means that you can expect fewer headlines, and more "How-To." Less curation, and more practical content.

[therulemedia.com](http://therulemedia.com)

**the Rule**







# A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE DOPE BLACK THINGS

Nile asked 10 innovators of 2020 what were some of their favorite Dope Black Things this year. They put us on game. So we're putting you on too.

"Can my favorite dope Black thing be Nile? No? Okay, fine. The dope Black thing that I am looking forward to right now is the Women of Color and Capital Conference hosted by the Avant Garde Network in New York. Last year, it was one of the best conferences I've ever been to, and this year will be even bigger and better. A great way to kick off Hot Girl Summer Part 2!"

- Khadijah A. Robinson, Nile Founder



"In my personal creative practice, I've been obsessed with craftsmanship and also the tactile process behind some of my favorite black artisans. Right now, I am looking forward to seeing what dopeness Marty Moto delivers in 2020. Marty Moto is a Brooklyn-based leather goods brand that creates well-designed backpacks and luggage."

- Russell Ladson, CEO of Drop Software Inc.

"The dope Black thing I'm most looking forward to in 2020 is summer BBQs in New York City. I'm running for Congress in the suburbs and my primary is over on June 23rd. I'm looking forward to some relaxation in the form of good food, music, and my folks. And hopefully, I'll be able to call myself the Democratic nominee in my district at that point!"

- Mondaire Jones, Democratic Candidate for Congress in New York's 17th District



"The dope Black thing that I look forward to every year is Curlfest. It's more than a festival, it's a movement! To see so many women and men celebrate our natural hair - there's nothing like it. Thousands of people gather to uplift Blackness and Black women. It's a full day of fun, fashion, and family too!"

- Adeola Adejobi, Attorney and Founder of the Avant-Garde Network

"My favorite dope Black thing is, and always will be, big Black group trips. My organization, the Wave USA, organizes at least 10 group trips every year (domestically) and we go everywhere from Mexico to Colorado to ski with the travel group Social Excapade. Nothing beats getting a bunch of professional Black folks together to let loose and take over a new location."

- Jason Kelley, co-founder of the Wave USA





# A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE DOPE BLACK THINGS

Nile asked 10 innovators of 2020 what were some of their favorite Dope Black Things this year. They put us on game. So we're putting you on too.

"If you're looking to make a smart investment and also raise up African Artists, then start buying works from some amazing artists on the continent! West Africa has been my focus, but I follow the @afropolitancollector (on Instagram), and I've discovered some amazing young artists that are ready to blow up! Billie Zangewa, Sunyi Mlengeya, Amoako Boafa to name a few. Very dope."

- Eku Edewor, Nigerian TV Host and Actress



"My Dope Black Thing for 2020 is NYT best selling author Michael Arceneaux's new book *I Don't Want to Die Poor*. Michael is truly one of the smartest voices of our time and I'm counting the days until his new book drops!"

-Africa Miranda, Media Personality, Author, and Founder of Beauty by Africa Miranda

"My favorite dope black thing that people should watch out for in 2020 is the rise of new Black-owned specialty bookstores. It's been a hard time for independent booksellers across the country, and the struggles of Sankofa Video Books & Cafe here in DC are illustrative. That's why new projects like Rosa Duffy's For Keeps shop in Atlanta and Tomarra Buckner's Instagram book store, Black Soul Vintage, are so important. They keep the tradition of Black book stores alive in a new social media age when curation is as important as text."

- Vann Newkirk, Commentator and Journalist with *The Atlantic*



"True to my roots, I'm looking forward to expressing my creativity through fabrics and jewelry from the dope shop around the corner from my own in Brooklyn, Martine's Dream. And, I wouldn't be me without highlighting a book, so I'm highly looking forward to NK Jemisin's new title, *The City We Became*. It will undoubtedly be dope."

- Kalima Desuze, Owner of Cafe Con Libros, a Feminist Bookstore in Brooklyn

"I'm excited about our members club, The Gathering Spot ("TGS") expanding to two more locations this year - DC and LA. TGS has always been rooted in culture and community, and I'm proud that we will now be able to connect and collaborate across the country. I view expansion and connectivity as two very dope Black things."

- Ryan Wilson, CEO and Co-Founder of The Gathering Spot





THENILELIST.COM PRESENTS

# DOPE BLACK THINGS:

# A LAUNCH PARTY

SUNDAY | MARCH 1 | 1 TO 5  
INCLUSIVE INNOVATION INCUBATOR  
2301 GEORGIA AVE NW, WASHINGTON, DC

RSVP AT [THENILELIST.COM/LAUNCH](https://thenilelist.com/launch)



INCLUSIVE  
INNOVATION  
INCUBATOR

NILE

CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF OUR SITE WITH  
BLACK-OWNED VENDORS, COMPLIMENTARY  
FOOD, DRINKS, MUSIC, PRIZES, AND GENERAL  
DOPE BLACK THINGS!

#JOINTHENILEWAVE  
#DOPEBLACKTHINGS

# ***JOIN THE NILE WAVE***