



STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF ARCHBISHOP CARL BEAN SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

Black AIDS Institute (BAI) expresses our deep sadness about the passing of Archbishop Carl Bean, a towering figure in the Los Angeles community and an icon in the history of the fight against HIV/AIDS. He [passed away at the age of 77 on Tuesday, September 7.](#)

As the nation's only think-and-do tank specifically devoted to ending HIV in Black America, BAI celebrates and honors the life of Arch. Bean. A globally recognized advocate for the health, rights, and dignity of LGBTQ+ people, Arch. Bean founded the Unity Fellowship Church in 1982, at the beginning of the epidemic. In 1985, he played a central role in the creation of the Minority AIDS Project, serving low-income Black and Latinx people living with or at risk of HIV. In our tireless efforts to center Black and queer people as the only way to end the HIV epidemic, we honor how his vision created a pathway for us.

In addition to his influential national and global role in raising HIV awareness and catalyzing concrete action to address the needs of the most vulnerable communities, Arch. Bean's leadership led to the creation of some of the earliest HIV services in South Los Angeles. The acute and ongoing need for HIV services in South Los Angeles motivated BAI to establish "[A Clinic For Us](#)" - our own primary care clinic in South Los Angeles, in partnership with St. John's Well Child and Family Center. In taking this step, BAI was inspired by Arch. Bean's earlier leadership.

Arch. Bean's voice in the fight against HIV/AIDS fully reflected BAI's operating motto, "Our People, Our Problem, Our Solutions!" His example inspired action to respond to the epidemic – among Black communities, elected officials, faith communities, and LGBTQ+ people of all races and ethnicities. As a result of his life's work, countless lives have been saved.

As we mark the extraordinary achievements of Archbishop Bean, it is painfully evident that the fight to end HIV in Black America is far from over. Today, [42%, which is almost half of all people living with HIV are Black.](#) Within the Black community, gay men, cisgender women, and transgender women are the most vulnerable. As we honor his life, we are also determined to honor his legacy and rededicate our commitment to ending HIV in Black America.