

Renewable energy for nonprofit serving Black youth

Geothermal + solar powers new center

**MnCIFA
financing:
\$750,000**

30,000 Feet new Black Arts & Tech Center

\$750,000 loan with 2-year term

Developers: Studio BV, Shaw-Lindquist

Purpose:

Add renewable energy system to new facility, permanently reducing energy costs so more resources can go to support programs.

Geothermal + solar energy

Black Arts & Tech Center opened October 2025:

- New construction: 12k square foot center at 1351 Arcade St., St. Paul, adjacent Johnson High School.
- Center includes Best Buy Teen Tech Center, studio for arts, dance, recording, and flex work space.
- With geothermal and solar, the center is powered by renewable energy.
- Total project cost for new facility: \$7.58 million.
- Bridge loan from MnCIFA repayable via federal Investment Tax Credits (\$450k) and MN Department of Education grant (\$300k).

Energy savings: Estimated reduction in electricity and

heating costs over \$30,000 per year, freeing resources to support more programming.



About 30,000 Feet

- Nonprofit 501(c)3 co-founded by Kevin Robinson and Vanessa Young in 2013.
- Mission: Empowering African American youth in a community of low-income households.
- Programs: After-school and summer academic programs, art education and residencies, tech education and job opportunities.
- Partner: Best Buy – Teen Tech Center
- Other project funders: Minnesota DEED, Met Council, City of St. Paul, multiple foundations and individual donors