



CLIMATE INNOVATION
FINANCE AUTHORITY

Renewable Energy for 30,000 Feet Black Youth Center



MnCIFA FINANCING:

\$750K loan

with 2-year term



Developed by Studio BV,
Shaw-Lindquist

PURPOSE

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

ENERGY SAVINGS

Estimated reduction in electricity and heating costs over \$30K per year.

GEOHERMAL + SOLAR ENERGY

Black Arts & Tech Center opened October 2025:

- New construction: 12,000 sqft 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: \$7.58M.
- Bridge loan from MnCIFA repayable via federal Investment Tax Credits (\$450K) and MN Department of Education grant (\$300K).

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