

Angela Sayles 2024 Bio



Angela Marie Sayles, Cleveland native, is a corporate professional, academic, business owner, community developer and institution builder with expertise in finance and accounting solutions, curriculum development and training, research facilitation, strategic and international business development. Angela is involved in local, national and global projects addressing land and food rights, cooperative ownership equity, financial sustainability in agribusiness, and social enterprise fund development. Angela earned her B.B.A. in Finance from Cleveland State University, M.B.A. in International Business from Gatton School of Business and Economics, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Research from Bristol Business School (UK). Angela has two decades of experience within academia as a Faculty Instructor teaching Business Accounting, Personal Finance and International Business for Indiana Wesleyan University.

FOUNDER OF FINANCIAL UNITY

Angela is the Founder and Executive Director of the Institution of Financial Unity (financialunity.org), a non-profit organization specializing in brokering unity and working to improve the overall financial position of the global Black community. The organization offers financial and support services including tax preparation, bookkeeping, payroll, budget development, and financial statements. Established in 2016, the Institution of Financial Unity has built programs and services that promote, expand, and demonstrate our core values of financial independence and integrity in capacity building. Based in Ohio, our reach spans from NYC to LA to Caribbean to West Africa, Europe and East Africa through cultural financial education, local and global advocacy, program/project management and direct services.

EDUCATOR AND WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

As an educator and workshop facilitator, Angela develops and delivers program curricula on personal and business financial development for nonprofits, small business entrepreneurs, artists, community residents, youth, and working mothers. She also created and conducts sustainability training for Cleveland residents involved in greenspace projects and currently serves on a community land trust committee with the Vital Neighborhoods working group under the City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Additionally, Angela served on the ClevLot working group, which focused on the long-term stewardship and support of vacant lots in Cleveland. In this role, she identified the challenges and reasons behind the difficulties in sustaining land reuse projects and worked on solutions to address these issues. She will be attending the Midwest Community Land Trust conference in October 2024.

FOOD SYSTEMS AND AGRIBUSINESS

Angela currently serves on Collective Courage Fund governance committee which supports Black-Led food cooperatives and organizations through grant making for civic engagement and power building. She most recently held the position of CEO for the Little Africa Food Cooperative. She served as a mentor to the Food Systems Change Fellowship | Nourishing Power program facilitated by Case Western Reserve University. She advocates for local food systems and cooperatives lobbying and has worked with the Ag Noire Coalition and the National Cooperative Business Association. Angela's work with National Black Food & Justice Alliance Market Study Group as Research Facilitator has produced a 40-page summary report on the topic of *Rethinking Market Studies: Impacts for Black led Cooperatives*. She most currently facilitated a series of workshops for the Coop Peer group for Q2 2024 and leading the important discussion on effective development models for food coops in Black communities. Angela was invited and participated in the Racism in the Food System convening hosted by Cornell University in March 2024. Angela hosted the United Nations parallel event focused on Innovation and Technology in Land and Food Rights for Global African Women at the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. She and her team participated in the upcoming African Food Systems Forum in September 2023 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania presenting primary research findings from the Financial Unity East Africa team on the Tanzania sunflower cooking oil sector. Angela is also the owner of the Unity Beverages brand.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Angela serves on the Collective Courage Fund Governance Committee, where she promotes cooperative approaches to civic engagement through grantmaking. In 2022, she traveled to Paraguay with the committee to learn and share global best practices in cooperative development. She was interviewed for the Impact Report and invited to speak as a panelist at "From Intent to Impact: Towards a New Paradigm in Philanthropy," hosted by The Partnership Fund. In 2023, Angela completed the Cleveland Black Future Fund Development Fellowship with the Cleveland Foundation. She has also recently participated in the State Power Accelerator, Movement Sustainability, Full Spectrum Fund Accelerator, and Building Liberatory Capital convenings. Her focus for 2025 is to focus on fund development to support the communities she serves and loves.



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INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS PROGRAMS

Angela has been actively expanding into international markets through global travel and by leveraging her international networks and partnerships. In October 2022, she curated the “Fertile Ground” tour, which connected investors with accessible, socially impactful opportunities. This 15-month program yielded successful results, with investors receiving their principal plus a respectable return on investment, while also transforming youth entrepreneurship in the transportation sector. She has established Centers of Excellence in the northern and southern regions of Tanzania, focusing on ongoing projects in education, cultural exchange, workforce development, and business development. In July 2023, Angela was promoted to the African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council after serving as a facilitator and moderator for the Maputo Roundtable in Mozambique. Additionally, the Institution of Financial Unity co-hosted a side event “Advancing the High Council” for the African Union ECOSOC 20th anniversary in Accra in July 2024, in collaboration with strategic partners in West Africa. Angela currently serves on the AUADS Sixth Region High Council Board, the Management Committee, and as a Facilitator for North America.

ADVOCACY FOR GLOBAL AFRICAN WOMEN

Angela is the International Host and Chair of the Global African Shereroes Union, where she advocates for women at the United Nations on behalf of a global network of 200 African women across 23 regions in the African Diaspora and Continent. Her role includes coalition building at events such as the Accra Roundtable and Declaration on the Decade of Return, Global Africans Against Slavery, the Pan African Coalition on Durban+20, The Europe Region Civil Society Coalition, and the Ghana Year of Return Memorial Monument of Liberty and Reunification. She also contributed to the Addis Roundtable 10-Year African Union Diaspora Review. Angela previously served as Chair of the Working Group for the AUADS Sixth Region High Council, representing the Global African Women’s Impact on World Peace in African Societies. Under her leadership, regional representation grew from 16 to 23 regions. She has been invited and inducted into the Royal Court of the Kingdom of Kush and is leading the establishment of a Ministry of SHEROES. Her latest advocacy effort involved making a public statement at the Third Permanent Forum for People of African Descent at the UN in Geneva in April 2024. For her unwavering commitment to the social, political, economic, and upward mobility of Global African Women, she received a transformational leadership role from the SHEROES International Sisterhood.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

She developed in-depth community organizing experience while serving as a National Coordinator with the MWM20 Commemoration. Angela has experience in media as radio co-host for several years on with the Team DLW Unity Movement Radio until the Founding Host Brother Darryl L. Williams transitioned in 2021. The program served the community as an organizing mechanism for information sharing and meaningful relevant dialogue and actions. The archives of our programs can be heard by request. Angela has recently been at the forefront of the City of Cleveland Food Justice Community leading efforts to advance the agenda for a comprehensive plan to help create systems of independence, community sufficiency, land ownership, workforce development, and financial support to create careers in the agricultural field and green industry.

CONSULTANT AND BUSINESS OWNER

Angela is Chief Integrity Officer and Principal Consultant for **AMS Enterprise Systems LLC dba AMS Unlimited Business Solutions** (amsunlimitedllc.com). Angela is the owner of a startup food and beverage company, **United Diaspora Foods LLC** and the **Unity Beverages** wellness brand. Angela is the owner of **African Nations Unity Apparel LLC dba Unity Apparel and Art**.

Angela desires to complete her doctoral research and continue to raise awareness about the cultural and financial impacts of global systemic issues. Angela is a seasoned traveler and thus far, has visited 22 countries: Canada, France, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Ghana, Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, Mexico, Cuba, the Philippines, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Africa, Paraguay, Brazil, Switzerland and Italy.

You can find her on *LinkedIn* **Angela Sayles** or on *Facebook* as **AMS Unlimited** | **@blackfinancialunity** | **@unitybeverages2020** | **@unityapparelandart** and *Instagram* **Financial Unity** | **Unity Beverages** | **Unity Apparel and Art**.

