

## **Jarod Pratt Bio**

Jarod Pratt is a native Detroiter and graduate of Michigan State University. He joined Black Leaders Detroit (BLD) in its early stages, starting as a volunteer and contract team member in 2019 before transitioning to a full-time role in 2021. He currently serves as Vice President of Communications and Development, where he leads grant strategy, fundraising, marketing, and communications.

Since joining BLD, Jarod has helped secure nearly \$10 million in grant funding to advance the organization's mission. He holds cybersecurity and nonprofit technology readiness certificates from NTEN, as well as a certificate of completion in digital marketing from Grand Valley State University.

Jarod is also a published graphic novelist, having written *The Lemonade Code*, a middle grade graphic novel published by Oni Press. He is an alum of DC Comics' Milestone Initiative, a talent development program created to expand opportunities for underrepresented comic book writers, illustrators, and creatives.

A father of two daughters, Jarod's work is rooted in expanding access to capital for entrepreneurs of African descent, strengthening community-centered storytelling, and driving equitable economic growth in Detroit and beyond.