

Acknowledgments

We would first like to acknowledge the parents and families of Black children living in the Sacramento region. Your efforts, dedication, and desires for promising futures for your children have not been lost during these uncertain times. We appreciate you! We also want to lift up all our essential workers: teachers and school leaders; community activists; city, county, and state employees; and everyone at nonprofit organizations advocating for better life chances and opportunities for children who are too often marginalized and silenced because of their race. Black children matter.

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We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that the Black Child Legacy Campaign itself was born out of struggle, preventable death, and pain. While writing this book, one of our coeditors experienced this grief when her nephew Santana Kane Harris (June 15–September 11, 2021) passed of SIDS in Sacramento.

While in mourning, the healers inside the Black Child Legacy Campaign—Heather Gonzalez, Brandi Missouri, and James Willock—grabbed hold and did not let go. Another BCLC partner, the Ramsey Wallace Funeral Home and Chapel, helped lay Santana to rest. This heartfelt network of compassion and care is firsthand testimony of our beloved community.

Finally, this book focuses on the work of the legacy builders and movement makers of Oak Park, Del Paso Heights-North Sacramento, Arden Arcade, North Highlands-Foothill Farms, Fruitridge Stockton Boulevard, Meadowview, and Valley Hi. To all the organizations and people representing these communities, thank you for the opportunity to observe, listen, learn from, and uplift your stories. We are forever grateful to you.

FAITH MADE FLESH

