

NONPROFITS

## Kering ushers in second wave of virtual mentorship program aimed at equity

February 23, 2023



*Black In Corporate founder and CEO Candace Marie Stewart. Image credit: Kering*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

French luxury conglomerate Kering is rounding out Black History Month with the renewal of a dynamic diversity, equity and inclusion initiative.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

Launching April 7, 2023, the group has announced the extension of an existing mentorship program executed in partnership with Black In Corporate (BIC), a nonprofit tackling systemic inequities on behalf of Black talent. The virtual exercise, in which mentees are paired with leaders across Kering Americas, builds on an initial one-month inaugural run this new iteration will now span three.

"Our first initiative with Black In Corporate was an incredible success for mentees and mentors alike, and we are thrilled to partner again to connect, inspire, and empower talent," said Laurent Claquin, president of **Kering Americas**, in a statement.

"At Kering, we prioritize learning and development at all stages of one's career and understand the critical role that mentorship serves in navigating our industry, especially for BIPOC talent whose experiences can include systemic obstacles and racial biases," Mr. Claquin said. "We look forward to welcoming this year's mentees and are honored to support them in their professional growth."

Destination DEI

Applications for the Black In Corporate Virtual Mentorship Program are now open.

Initiative advisers hail from various Kering houses, including Gucci, Saint Laurent, Brioni, Bottega Veneta, Balenciaga and Alexander McQueen.

Mentors also span career tracks, from marketing and advertising, to media and communications, project management and operations, human resources, financial services and legal, as well as technology.

Originating in June 2021 ([see story](#)), the conglomerate's ongoing sponsorship of the Black In Corporate Virtual Mentorship Program aids in an aim to reach talents of color in need of support, relief and guidance in the workplace.

Black In Corporate (BIC) announces an official partnership with Kering Americas for a virtual mentorship program launching on April 3, 2023. [pic.twitter.com/yjtwj4bGQy](https://pic.twitter.com/yjtwj4bGQy)

Kering (@KeringGroup) **February 22, 2023**

Kering employees in continued search of an allyship platform will once again be afforded the opportunity to ease peer transitions into what BIC's founder and CEO Candace Marie Stewart has aptly called "challenging corporate structures."

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to partner with Kering for the second installment of the Black In Corporate mentorship program," said Ms. Stewart, in a statement.

"With the extended program time, my hope is that this will allow the mentees to establish and develop deeper relationships coupled with a stronger understanding of the inner workings of the organization in an effort to create and foster more opportunities for Black talent."

The program application [portal](#) is set to close on March 9, 2023.

---

© 2023 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.