

ICA's Tools for Equity - Bystander Intervention Training

Organization/Individual:

Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$30,000

Location:

North Park / Online

What is your project?

ICA's Tools for Equity – Bystander Intervention Training program will provide training for up to 500 community members. Participants will learn practical skills they can use to support people of colour in our region.

ICA believes building awareness and changing attitudes through education and training are essential to work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and inequality, and essential to the creation of safe, inclusive communities.

The program will also create a community accessible online self-assessment tool, to be promoted to 10,000+ residents of Greater Victoria – which will help residents assess their understanding and increase awareness of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Community safety comes through community accountability.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

The program will increase the capacity of approximately 500 community members to recognize acts of discrimination, racism or hate crimes and prepare them to intervene on behalf of people of colour and other targeted individuals.

This will aid in increasing community accountability and help residents of Greater Victoria learn to be stronger allies to visible minorities.

Anti-Racist and Culturally Competent Healthcare App

Organization/Individual:

Support Network for Indigenous Women & Women of Colour

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$10,000

Location:

Online

What is your project?

We are proposing a Health Literacy app, similar to Yelp but focused on improving health outcomes for newcomers. The app will be available in English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog and Arabic.

The app will contain a list of culturally sensitive healthcare providers in Victoria with different specialties, family doctors accepting new patients, accessibility information for each healthcare provider (languages spoken, cost, insurance, etc). It will also have a review and reporting feature where newcomers can share their health care experience.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

Our app aims to provide streamlined healthcare information in multiple languages making accessing healthcare easier for newcomers.

This app will enable users to build trust in the healthcare system by helping them access essential healthcare services, report incidents of harm, and pool information and resources.

Details:

COVID-19 has resulted in numerous challenges for newcomer communities living in Victoria.

This project will promote health literacy by helping newcomers to obtain, understand and use health information in a variety of languages, and help users navigate the Canadian healthcare system. It will include the availability of local community resources and how to connect with them, and provide a safe, confidential space for newcomers to report incidents of harm or concern, including microaggressions, sexism, racism and discrimination.

Our app would fill a gap that no other apps or websites currently address.

Planting Home

Organization/Individual:

Julia Ford

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$2,000

Location:

Online / Victoria

What is your project?

Planting Home will offer 500 free, culturally appropriate plant starts to newcomers and refugees in the Victoria area. That certain pepper variety, culinary herb or tea ingredient can be difficult to find, and the cost of quality plants can be a barrier.

Using organic practices, and in consultation with newcomer and refugee gardening communities, we'll grow high-quality vegetables and herbs that will allow gardeners to grow a taste of home, here.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

For many people, growing and eating food is foundational to the way they practice their culture. Growing your own food can offer mental & physical health benefits through the practice of cultivation, connecting with other gardeners, and eating fresh, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods at home and in community.

In these uncertain times, the act of growing one's own food can also take on additional meaning and importance, as communities are stretched through isolation and concerns about food security loom large.

Financial Literacy for YOU (FLY)

Organization/Individual:

Femi Tunde-Oladepo

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$1,580

Location:

Downtown Victoria

What is your project?

FLY will be an after school/evening program where newcomer youth can connect with others in the area while learning the basics of financial literacy. Aimed at high school youth aged 15 to 18, FLY will become a safe community for youth to be empowered by their newfound financial literacy skills. Each meeting will centre around a financial topic, and participants will work in groups to tackle a task or challenge focused on that topic.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

Newcomer youth can use the experience in FLY to build a plan for their future and get excited about the possibilities that lay ahead! Newcomer youth will be able to build connections with other youth in the City of Victoria (and beyond) and have basic skills that they can note in their resumes, applications etc.

The newcomer youth can also share this financial literacy information with their families to help them thrive in one of the most expensive provinces in Canada.

Being Together & Being Here: Newcomer Integration Through Indigenous Partnership and Education

Organization/Individual:

Uvic World University Service
of Canada Local Committee

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$1,943

Location:

Downtown Victoria

What is your project?

With the intention to create a space for relationship-building conversations between newcomer and Indigenous community groups, this two-part, youth-oriented program will explore a series of questions around what resettlement means on unceded Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ lands.

By creating spaces and networks for inter-communal dialogue and learning, this project, at its core, aims to amplify voices from, and invite connections between, local newcomers and Indigenous community groups.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

This program was developed in response to the thoughtful questions posed by recently resettled students with interests in local Indigenous lands, languages, and cultures.

We feel strongly that the opportunity to learn about the historical and continuing realities of where you live, and of the people you live alongside, will facilitate the development, expansion, and strengthening of local relationships and communities. This program is undertaken as part of a broader effort to decolonize resettlement and integration practices.

Culturally Safe Intake for Rock Bay Landing Shelter

Organization/Individual:

Rock Bay Landing
(part of Victoria Cool Aid Society)

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$1,930

Location:

Rock Bay

What is your project?

Rock Bay Landing emergency shelter will create and implement an intake service that accommodates the needs of our multicultural, non-English speaking population.



How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

An updated intake could bridge the service access gap and emphasize our commitment to cultural safety.

This project would help us communicate site-specific policies that protect priority populations such as (but not limited to): refugees, people with different abilities, the Indigenous community, the LGBTQ community, and people of all genders. Furthermore, by providing this resource we will be better able to connect people (if they choose) to various local agencies.

Coming Home to the Garden: Sustainability Workshops and Resources for Newcomers

Organization/Individual:

Compost Education Centre

Participatory Budgeting Funding Request:

\$1,566

Location:

Fernwood / Online



What is your project?

The Compost Education Centre (CEC) aims to increase accessibility to sustainability and gardening education for new residents in the City of Victoria through six free workshops for 120 newcomers to Victoria.

How will your project benefit newcomers in Victoria?

By providing free workshops and then tailoring materials specifically to newcomers' common inquiries we will increase the accessibility of local food sovereignty and sustainability in Victoria.