

Thursday, June 16, 2022 | For Immediate Release

International Decade for People of African Descent Advisory Committee Hosts Town Hall on Community Development Grants

VICTORIA, BC — As part of its commitment to recognizing the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) 2015-2024, Victoria City Council has allocated funding for a grant program to support community development for communities of African descent in the city.

This Saturday, June 18 from 1 – 3 p.m. at City Hall, the City's IDPAD Advisory Committee is hosting a town hall to seek input from community members to help shape this new grant program.

“Convening Peoples of African Descent to provide direct and public feedback on their city’s approach to supporting community development and inclusion for Youths of African Descent is yet another ground-breaking step by the City of Victoria towards justice, recognition and community development that will ripple far beyond the Black Community,” said Dominique Makay, Chair of the IDPAD Advisory Committee. “As a person of African Descent, and a proud Victoria resident, I look forward to this historic event which I sincerely hope will be replicated across the province.”

The town hall is an opportunity for community members to provide input on a draft approach to the new grant program, share ideas and ask questions of the IDPAD Advisory Committee members. Input will help the development of a capacity-building grant to support the needs and aspirations of people of African descent in the City of Victoria.

“The City of Victoria’s International Decade for People of African Descent Advisory Committee is holding a town hall for public consultation with the communities of Peoples of African Descent to provide their inputs on programs of highest priority for the use of the grant program,” said IDPAD Advisory Committee Co-Chair William Goldiet. “This funding was granted by the City of Victoria to help the community with its initiatives for inclusion, recognition and development of the capacities of the Youth of the People of African Descent. It is another ground-breaking step by the City of Victoria in addition to its diverse programs towards social justice in Victoria.”

In 2021, to advance Council’s commitment to acknowledging and recognizing the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024, the City of Victoria established an advisory committee to support the Decade’s three themes:

- **Recognition:** Support efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Victorians as part of the City's contributions to mark the decade.

- **Justice:** Support efforts to promote equitable outcomes for Black Victorians on issues relating to policing. Designing, implementing and enforcing effective measures to eliminate the phenomenon popularly known as “racial profiling” and eliminating institutionalized stereotypes concerning people of African descent.
- **Development:** Support efforts for positive outcomes for Black Victorians in areas of housing, employment and entrepreneurship.

“It is inspiring to participate in the IDPAD meetings and to see the strength and resilience of community members of African descent in Victoria,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “I look forward to the input they will receive from the community to help shape the grant program and will look forward to bringing the recommendations for the grant program to Council for consideration in the near future.”

This grant program will be designed by the IDPAD Advisory Committee with community input and will help achieve IDPAD objectives and build and strengthen communities of African descent in Victoria.

The City’s IDPAD Advisory Committee members represent a range of ages and lived experience and/or expertise in issues of Black communities and include: William Goldiet, Barbara Hudlin, Hissein Idriss, Natalie Justin, Dr. Christian O. Kumi, Dominique Makay, Aziza Moqia Sealey-Qaylow and Kenny Panza.

For more information, visit: victoria.ca/IDPAD.

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