

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 | For Immediate Release

New City Grant Program Supports Youth of African Descent

VICTORIA, BC — Today, on International Day for People of African Descent (IDPAD), the City of Victoria is introducing a new annual \$25,000 youth grant program to support and empower Black youth in Victoria through leadership opportunities.

Individuals of African descent, informal community groups and non-profit organizations led by people of African descent that serve youth of African descent, can apply for up to \$8,000 of funding through the IDPAD Youth Grant. The application period opens tomorrow and runs through September 21, 2022.

The new grant program is designed by the City's International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) Advisory Committee with input from the community. The Advisory Committee will oversee the new grant program, evaluate applications and select projects to receive funding.

Programs eligible for the IDPAD Youth Grant could include youth-led programs that benefit youth of African descent; programs that create safe gathering spaces and build confidence and self-empowerment, including how to navigate systemic racism; the development of a Black Youth Council; and opportunities to learn about educational, scholarship and career opportunities.

An online information session will be held on September 7 at 5:00 P.M. for the community to learn more about the new grant program and ask questions about their project ideas. The virtual session will be recorded and made available on the City's website.

To address anti-black racism and make Victoria a more welcoming and safe city for all residents, City Council adopted the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 and established the City's IDPAD Advisory Committee in 2021.

To apply for the IDPAD Youth Grant or for more information on attending the online information session, visit: victoria.ca/IDPAD.

Quotes:

Mayor Lisa Helps

"This new grant program will build and strengthen communities of African descent in Victoria by investing in youth and work towards IDPAD's goals and the Decade's themes for recognition, justice and development. A thanks goes to the IDPAD Committee for their work in developing and administering the grant program."

Dominique Makay, Chair, City of Victoria IDPAD Advisory Committee

"This grant has been setup to maximize accessibility by removing systemic barriers that were identified by members of the community during the Town Hall. We sincerely hope that our community will use this opportunity to start reconciling its dual identity as Black and Victorian. I particularly hope

that the neighborhood space will be utilized by proponents as a catalyst for safe communal interactions between Black Youths, but also with other youths around the city".

William Goldiet, Co-Chair, City of Victoria IDPAD Advisory Committee

"The policy of racial segregation denies the people of the African descent an equal access to opportunities and services despite their historic sacrifices and contributions to build the British Columbia and Canada. I'm very thankful to the City of Victoria for introducing an annual \$25,000.00 to support and build the capacity of the youth of African descent. This step will help in the elimination of racial discrimination. The preparation for launching of the grant process on September 1, 2022, was made possible with the inputs from participants in the recent Town Hall. We look forward to connecting with communities for orientation on the grant application."

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For More Information:

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