

Friday, October 14, 2022 | For Immediate Release

Four Projects Funded to Support Youth of African Descent

VICTORIA, BC — Youth of African descent in Victoria will benefit from four new projects receiving a total of \$25,000 in funding through the City of Victoria’s inaugural International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD) Youth Grant.

The four successful projects include: a safe and inclusive hub for youth arts and leadership activities, a community celebration to honour significant milestones of K-12 and post-secondary students of African descent, a project to encourage entrepreneurial, interpersonal and artistic endeavours and a series of workshops on inclusion and civic engagement. A total of 11 project ideas were submitted.

The City introduced the IDPAD Youth Grants to support and empower Black youth in Victoria through leadership opportunities. Individuals of African descent, informal community groups and non-profit organizations were invited to apply for up to \$8,000 of funding for programs.

“This ground-breaking initiative is the first of its kind in B.C.,” said Dominique Makay, Chair of the City of Victoria IDPAD Advisory Committee. “I am very pleased that, for the first time, youth of African descent will be directly supported by the City of Victoria in an innovative, deliberate and intentional fashion. I am only sorry that we couldn’t fund some of the other great projects that were submitted and strongly encourage those applicants to bring back these initiatives next year. I also hope that the City will increase funding for this program in future years, and introduce similar opportunities for other people of colour.”

“My appreciation goes to the staff of the City of Victoria under the responsible leadership of Mayor Lisa Helps for allocating the first grant to help with empowerment of the youth of the African descent,” said William Goldiet, co-chair of the City of Victoria IDPAD Advisory Committee. “I also thank the members of the IDPAD’s Advisory Committee for their ethical management of the grant. The future rests in the hands of the young people. I thank all applicants for applying for the grant to serve youth. I regret that all applicants did not get what they applied for. But I’m optimistic for the future since our municipal government has started to work with grassroot communities with direct service delivery to the beneficiaries. I look forward to more opportunities and services to promote an equitable and inclusive society.”

The new grant program was designed by the City’s International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) Advisory Committee with input from the community. Funding comes from the City of Victoria. The Advisory Committee oversaw the grant program, evaluated applications and selected the projects to receive funding.

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.

Check out the grant recipients and learn about their projects at: victoria.ca/IDPAD.

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BACKGROUND:

2022 City of Victoria IDPAD Youth Grant Recipients

| Organization or Individual | Project Title | Project Description | Funding Amount |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island | AHAVI Youth Council's Safe and Inclusive Hub | The project seeks to create a safe and inclusive space for the youth of African descent to connect with each other and feel a sense of belonging. A safe space will be provided with programs such as artistic workshops in poetry, music, dance, comedy, drama, storytelling and drumming. This project will also provide leadership mentoring and the recruitment of youth leaders living in the community. | \$7,300 |
| Binkadi Wellness Society | Inaugural Celebration of Excellence and Achievement for Students of African Descent | The inaugural Celebration of Excellence and Achievement will be a familial and community celebration to honour K-12 and post-secondary students of African descent who have achieved a significant milestone in their academic journey. The June 2023 ceremony and reception will include various ceremonial traditions, food, student speakers, musicians, poets and a student-centred slide show. | \$3,100 |
| HINGA | Hinga (to cultivate) | Hinga is a project containing three aspects: entrepreneurial, interpersonal and artistic. The three components will work together to build a community that celebrates intersectionality. Each component of the project will not only empower African youth but allow them to navigate networking and work collaboratively for the overall growth of the project. | \$7,300 |
| Congolese Community of British Columbia | Youth Empowerment Workshops and Civic Engagement | A series of workshops on inclusion and civic engagement including topics of immigration and racism, education, inclusion and multiculturalism, and leadership. Through education and empowerment, youth will share experiences and explore potential solutions. | \$7,300 |