FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES – FONDATION POUR LES COMMUNAUTÉS NOIRES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Black-Led Philanthropic Endowment Fund

Canada

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Message from the Co-Chairs





Marlene Jennings
Co-Chair



Liban Abokor
Co-Chair

Reflecting on the past year, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in the journey of the Foundation for Black Communities (FFBC). In the last 12 months, we have navigated challenges with determination, emerging stronger, more focused, and more committed than ever to fulfilling our mission as Canada's first-ever Black-led philanthropic foundation.

From the outset, the expectations placed upon us were immense. As stewards of a groundbreaking Black-led philanthropic endowment, we embraced the monumental task of translating the hopes and dreams of our community into tangible action. The eyes of donors, partners, and, most crucially, Black communities across Canada were upon us—watching with both hope and scrutiny.

From launching our inaugural national grant program, the Black Ideas Grant (B.I.G.), to distributing over $9.1 million to 107 impactful programs nationwide, FFBC has demonstrated the capacity to meet community needs with trust-based philanthropy. Through participatory granting processes, we have not only funded initiatives but also fostered community empowerment, setting a new standard in the philanthropic sector.

Our financial stewardship remains strong, with strategic investments ensuring the sustainability of our endowment and enabling the continuation of impactful programs. The partnership renewals with Sun Life and Suncor, coupled with new commitments from organizations like the Walmart Foundation, underline the trust in our vision and the growing recognition of our role as a catalyst for change.

The road we have traveled has been both demanding and rewarding. Building an organization from the ground up while meeting the pressing needs of our communities required bold action, including:

- Rapidly developing robust systems and procedures
- Recruiting and nurturing top-tier talent in a competitive landscape
- Implementing a sophisticated investment strategy for our endowment
- Launching an ambitious national grant program
- Stabilizing our organization amidst change and growth
- Rebuilding and strengthening vital partnerships



Despite these challenges, we thrived. FFBC has not only met its objectives but exceeded them:

- Successfully launching our national grant program, the Black Ideas Grant (B.I.G.), providing $9.1 million in support to Black-led, mandated, and serving organizations across Canada.
- Managing our endowment with a long-term vision to ensure sustainable impact for generations.
- Fortifying our financial position to deepen our reach and broaden our impact.
- Becoming a trusted, influential voice within government, philanthropy, and our community.

As we look ahead, we are deeply aware of the trust placed in us. We are committed to continuous learning, guided by the voices and aspirations of the communities we serve. With your ongoing support and the dedication of our team, the possibilities for meaningful impact are boundless.

Together, we are not just changing lives; we are reshaping the future for Black communities across Canada. This is an honour and a responsibility we carry with confidence.

With gratitude,

Hon. Marlene Jennings & Liban Abokor
Co-Chairs



THANK YOU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Abdi Aidid
- Alex Coleman
- Djaka Blais-Amare
- Elizenda Jean-Claude
- Francis Boakye
- Joseph Smith
- Judith Bosire
- Kimahli Powell
- Liban Abokor
- Marlene Jennings
- Nomusa Taylor-Dube
- Rebecca Darwent
- Shadrach Kabongo
- Sylvia Parris-Drummond
- Tisha King

MEMBERS

- Amanuel Meles
- Djaka Blais
- Kwesi Thomas
- Liban Abokor
- Meseret Taye
- Joseph Smith
- Rebecca Darwent

STAFF

- Adeline Manikuzwe | Program Coordinator
- Aliana Romero | Financial Administrator
- Cristal Osbourne | Manager, People & Culture
- Jenny Meya | Manager, Communications
- Khary Collins | Executive Administrator
- Leah Sanford | Director of Communications
- Lydia Ghebrehiwet | Program Coordinator
- Marie-Paul Ehoussou | Program Manager
- Ngozi Adefesobi | Director of Finance
- Nneka Otogbolu | Chief Operating Officer
- Rita Rwigamba | Program Manager
- Taib Boyce | Program Manager
- Tope Oyeniyi | Investment Analyst



Organizational Capacity

Appointment of Interim Co-CEO's

As part of the succession planning for the departure of FFBC's former President & CEO, Gladys Ahovi, in December 2023, FFBC's Board appointed Hon. Marlene Jennings and Liban Abokor, Co-Chairs of FFBC, to assume the roles of interim Co-CEOs in August 2023.

This strategic decision ensured a smooth transition and continued leadership of the organization's ongoing operational activities. As Co-CEOs, Marlene and Liban have overseen and managed significant developments in FFBC's capacity building and the implementation of key objectives. This decision was instrumental in ensuring that the organization remains in compliance with various commitments to partners and the community.

In addition, a Chief Operating Officer, Nneka Otogbolu, was recruited in April 2024 to lead FFBC's operational work. Nneka's leadership has been key in driving the foundation's operational efficiency, ensuring streamlined processes, and supporting the implementation of strategic initiatives.

The Co-CEOs have maintained FFBC's financial stewardship, including investment management, driven human resource transformation, refined and executed strategic direction, and cultivated and strengthened partnerships. These combined efforts were crucial in navigating FFBC through a period of transition while continuing to build on its foundation and advance its mission.

People and Culture

FFBC enhanced its human resource and operational capacity throughout 2023-2024. By developing a comprehensive human resourcing plan, we addressed existing gaps and renewed our staffing structure, ensuring that our daily operations are well-supported.

Current Staff:

Adeline Manikuzwe | Program Coordinator
Aliana Romero | Financial Administrator
Cristal Osbourne | Manager, People & Culture
Hon. Marlene Jennings | Co-Chief Executive Officer (Interim)
Jenny Meya | Manager, Communications
Khary Collins | Executive Administrator
Leah Sanford | Director of Communications
Liban Abokor | Co-CEO Executive Officer (Interim)
Lydia Ghebrehiwet | Program Coordinator
Marie-Paul Ehoussou | Program Manager
Ngozi Adefesobi | Director, Finance & Operations
Nneka Otogbolu | Chief Operating Officer
Rita Rwigamba | Program Manager
Taib Boyce | Program Manager
Tope Oyeniyi | Investment Analyst



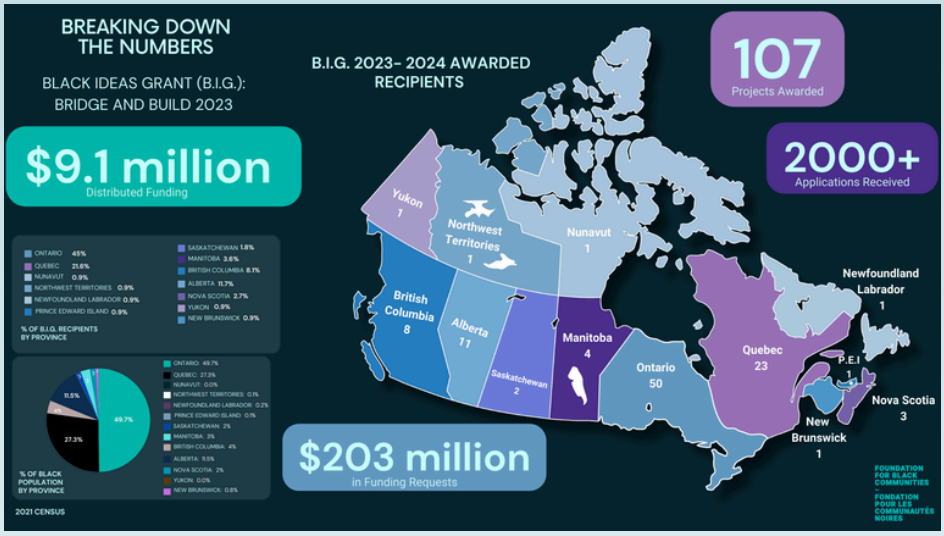
FFBC's Highlights and Impact

Grant making and Mission Related Investment

FFBC has achieved remarkable milestones this year in grant making. Below are some of the key accomplishments:

- Launched the Black Ideas Grant (B.I.G.) 1.0, FFBC's inaugural national grant program.
- Distributed over $9.1 million to 107 programs, with projects spanning every province and territory.
- Implemented a participatory granting process, involving over 200 community members in Community Selection Circles to adjudicate grants. This approach has been widely praised by community members and sectoral leaders.
- B.I.G. received significant coverage both sectoral and mainstream news outlets across the country, highlighting commitment to trust-based philanthropy and grantees.
- Received an overwhelming response to B.I.G. 1.0, with over 2,000 applications submitted, totaling more than $200 million in funding requests.
- Preparing for upcoming launch of B.I.G. 2.0, scheduled in early October 2024.
- FFBC received final reports from grantees of our Investment Readiness Program (IRP) which provided critical support to Black-led Social Purpose Organizations (SPOs). The reports revealed that these organizations have made significant progress toward becoming investment ready. FFBC continues to support these SPOs with additional resources and mentorship opportunities to ensure their success.

See **Appendix A** for list of grantees. See **Appendix B** for impact stories from grantees.



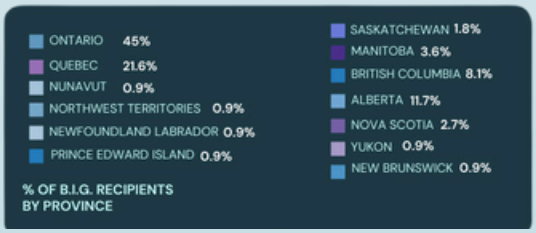


Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)

Core Stream: To support the long-term sustainability and health of applicant organizations by providing funding for fixed costs such as overhead and capacity building to improve and strengthen the organization's operations.

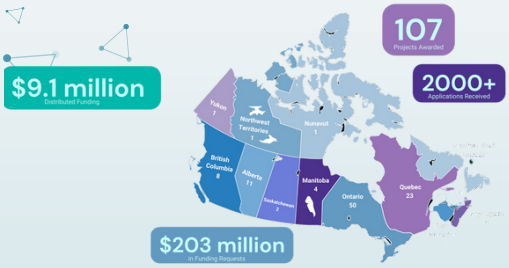
Community Spaces Stream: To support the acquisition, construction, renovation, and maintenance of physical community spaces and gathering places that directly benefit or serve Black communities in Canada.

Capital Stream: To support the design and/or delivery of projects, programs, and/or services that directly benefit Black communities in Canada.



Organization	Project Title	Stream	Total funding
Akwa-Ibom & Cross River State Community Association of Canada Toronto	Association Administrative Manager	Core	$40,000
Association De La Communauté Noire De L'ouest De L'île	Strengthening the ESBC in the West Island	Core	$39,911
Black In Nature	Black in Nature	Core	$31,967
Black Professionals and Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan	Bridge and Build Project for BPES	Core	$40,000
Blackhurst Cultural Centre	Advancing Black Arts/Culture in Downtown Toronto	Core	$40,000
Burundian Bridge International-Canada	Empowerment Through Education: Bridging the Gap	Core	$40,000

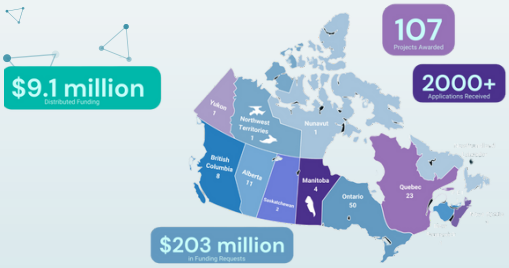
Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)





Cameroon Youth Association Calgary	Leadership Capacity Enhancement Project	Core	$39,922
Canadian Association of Black Journalists	Building Capacity in CABJ Leadership	Core	$35,000
Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton	Bringing Dedicated Leadership Staffing to CCAH	Core	$39,185
Centre Communautaire Vie Transformée	Amélioration de l'accessibilité du centre	Core	$40,000
COMPAGNIE THÉÂTRE CRÉOLE	L'art pour tous.tes	Core	$40,000
CONGO EINDOKI ASSOCIATION	MASSIVE AWARENESS & INTEGRATION PROGRAM (MAIP)	Core	$24,250
Découvertes Karanta	Renforcement du programme de mentorat Karanta	Core	$40,000
Dernière	Dernière Demeure Internationale	Core	$39,480
Doug Hudlin Charitable Society	Core Sustainability	Core	$40,000
Dufferin County Canadian Black Association	Walk Tall and Proud	Core	$40,000

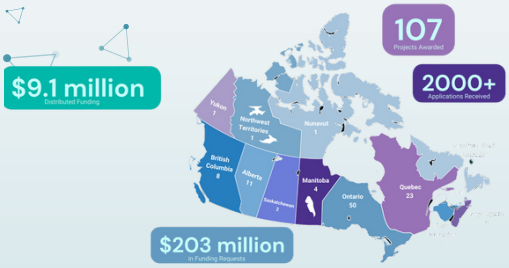
Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)





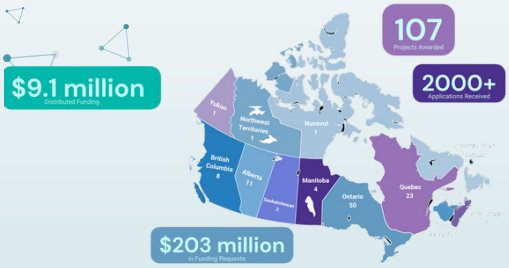
Ensemble Obiora	Le Black Excellence en musique classique	Core	$40,000
Eritrean Community Association	ECAV Transitional Phase	Core	$40,000
Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg	Giving Life to a Community Centre Seating	Core	$40,000
Fondation des médecins Canado-Haïtiens	Financement de personnels clés	Core	$40,000
Fondation Maman, bb	Réseau Dynamique et Innovants Maman, bb & co.	Core	$40,000
FOUNDATION FOR OROMIAN CULTURE EDUCATION AND ARTS SERVICES (FOCAS)	Owning Black Empowerment Responsibilities	Core	$40,000
Harmony Cultural Village	Improving Community Access	Core	$40,000
INSTITUT NÉOQUÉBEC	'Soir au village"	Core	$38,500
International Afro Society	Access, Equity and Capacity Project	Core	$40,000
Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association	LLCBDA Health and Well-Being Program	Core	$40,000

Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)



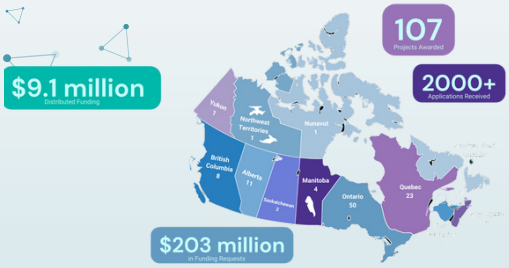


Learning Is For Everyone Charitable Youth Organization	LIFE Activities and Growth	Core	$40,000
Manitoba Women for Women of South Sudan	Black Empowerment Hub	Core	$39,840
Meet the Motivators	Resilient Woman Program	Core	$17,400
Mission Entrepren'Elle	Accélération vers une alliance prospère au féminin	Core	$40,000
Natural Kids Movement	Natural Kids Movement Inc.	Core	$40,000
Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association	Bridging Black Futures	Core	$40,000
Nigerian Canadian Teacher's Association	Fostering the knowledge of Black student in STEAM	Core	$40,000
Operation Black Vote Canada	Black Civic Engagement across Canada	Core	$40,000
PAGE-RWANDA (Association Des Parents Et Amis Des Victimes Du Génocide Au Rwanda)	Renforcer les capacités de l'organisme	Core	$40,000
Restore Somalia Foundation	Youth Leadership Forum 2024	Core	$40,000



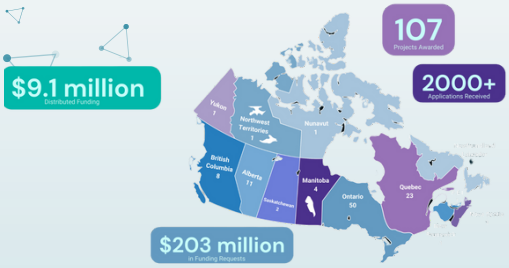


Richard Preston Centre for Excellence	RPCE Capacity Building Initiative	Core	$40,000
SHINE Gathering Group	SHINE Gathering Retreats for Black Women	Core	$38,000
SoundStock Academy	SoundStock Academy	Core	$40,000
Star Can Cultural Association	Build & Bridge Project	Core	$40,000
The Church of Jesus Christ - The Apostles Foundation	For Seniors with Love Food Basket Project	Core	$40,000
The Jamaican Canadian Association	Legacies of Black Community-Building	Core	$38,270
The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Daystar Chapel, Fort McMurray	Daystar Chapel Keyano DriveDrive	Core	$40,000
The V2V Project	The V2V Project	Core	$26,848
The Zetna Collective for Black Advancement	The Haven: A Black Queer Affirmation Project	Core	$39,984
Velma Carter Centre for African Canadian Women	Our First Operational Funds Project	Core	$39,996



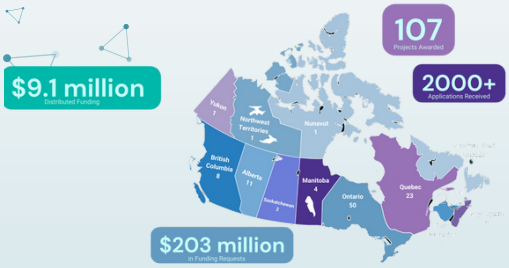


Viola Desmond Justice Institute | L'Institut de Justice Viola Desmond	Improving access to IRCAs in Ontario and Quebec	Core	$40,000
Black Boys Code Society	BlackTechBridge: From Code to Creation	Community Capital	$250,000
Black Canadian Housing Centre - NABC	Sustaining the Black Community Housing Centre	Community Capital	$240,000
Black Health Alliance	Laying the Groundwork for a Black Health Strategy	Community Capital	$250,000
Bureau de la communauté haïtienne de Montréal (BCHM)	Bureau de la communauté haïtienne de Montréal (BCHM)	Community Capital	$250,000
Etio-Canadian Azawent Association	Ethio-Eri Seniors Services - Social Enterprise	Community Capital	$205,900
Inuka Community	Inuka 1488 Main Street Affordable Housing Project	Community Capital	$250,000
Nia Centre for the Arts	Canada's first professional Black arts centre	Community Capital	$250,000
Raricanow - Rights For All LGBTIQ+ Refugees In Canada Now Society	EWAKA 2SLGBTIQ+ Housing Project	Community Capital	$250,000
Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre	ACAH_Village Hub Pilot Project (ACAH-VHPP)	Community Capital	$250,000



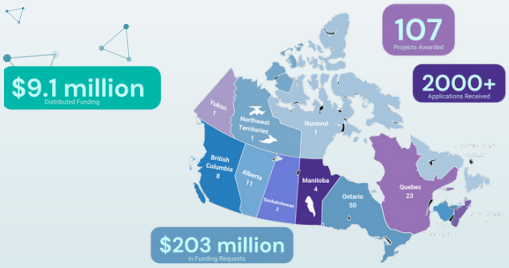


Startop	Black Stars Québec - Ontario	Community Capital	$240,000
The Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities	The Black Accessibility Knowledge Hub	Community Capital	$250,000
The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute	Diversity Creative Centre	Community Capital	$250,000
African and Caribbean Association of Nunavut	ACAN Cross Iqaluit Race	Catapult	$75,000
Afri-Can FoodBasket	Nourishing Wellness Culturally Healthy Communities	Catapult	$74,500
African Women's Alliance of Waterloo Region	The Village Pot: Fostering a Healthy Community	Catapult	$100,000
African Youths in Canadian Agriculture (AYCA)	African Youth Empowerment for Canadian Agriculture	Catapult	$75,000
AmEnough Society Canada	AmEnough Community Mental Health Support Program	Catapult	$100,000
Arctic Caribbean Cultural Society	ACCS NORTHERN SUCCESS 2024	Catapult	$72,825
Association Djiboutienne pour autisme et autres besoins (ADAB)	Soutenir les enfants autistes et leurs familles	Catapult	$100,000





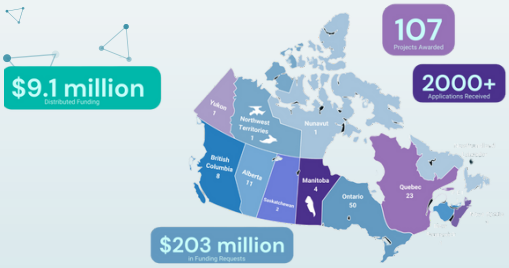
Atlantic Student Development Alliance	ASDA Nova Scotia Expansion	Catapult	$100,000
Black Healing Fund	Black Healing Fund Tio'tia:Ke	Catapult	$100,000
Black Moms Connection	"You Okay Mama?"	Catapult	$97,560
Caribana Arts Group	Caribana™ Kids Club	Catapult	$100,000
Centre Haïtien d'Action et d'Intervention Sociales (CHAIS)	La Joujouthèque du CHAIS	Catapult	$98,500
Chownation - Toronto Chowfest	AfroPulse: Elevate, Unite, Thrive	Catapult	$75,000
CIDIHCA - LE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE DOCUMENTATION ET D'INFORMATION HAITIENNE, CARIBÉENNE ET AFRO-CANADIENNE	Pour un Québec et un Canada sans racisme	Catapult	$75,000
Donald Moore Community Service Inc	Cyber Security Awareness for Seniors over 65	Catapult	$73,384
Durham Region Association of Black professionals and Entrepreneurs	Continuing STEM program	Catapult	$100,000
Empower the Youth Foundation	ThriveTogether Wellness Project	Catapult	$74,600





Espoir For All Society	Tariro/ Malaika	Catapult	$74,000
Ghana Friendship Association of Edmonton	GFAE Cultural Heritage Program (GCHP)	Catapult	$100,000
Grace Deliverance Apostolic Ministries	Grace's Nutrition and Cooking Club	Catapult	$100,000
Halton Black Voices	Halton Black Student Union	Catapult	$100,000
ICON Talent Partners	ICON's Black Talent Impact Initiative (BTII)	Catapult	$100,000
Independent Media Producers Association of Creative Talent (IMPACT)	Producer Career Catalyst Program - Expansion Year	Catapult	$100,000
Jaku Konbit	Black Youth Entrepreneure and Innovation	Catapult	$90,000
Lady Ballers Camp	LBC Youth Eco Power - Electrical Apprenticeships	Catapult	$100,000
LiftOff Black Innovation Hub	LiftOff Black Entrepreneurship Program	Catapult	$100,000
Mamak Ethnic Food Processing Centre	Black Women Adding Value to Food for the Market	Catapult	$100,000

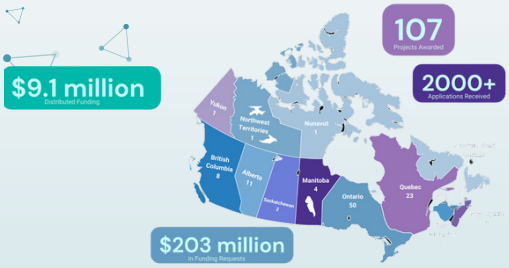
Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)





Montreal Hiking Association - Hike MTL	Nature 4 Us	Catapult	$100,000
Montreal International Black Film Festival Festival International du Film Black de Montreal	MIBFF24 - 20th Edition Programming Expansion	Catapult	$100,000
NotJustYou Foundation	Bright | Sickle Cell Patient & Caregiver Relief	Catapult	$99,785
Oasis Youth Care Programs	Oasis Transitional Housing & Resource Hub (Ext.)	Catapult	$92,131
Pitch Better	FoundHers Innovation Labs CTO Match	Catapult	$100,000
Power to Girls Foundation	Expanding Health And Mentorship Supports For Girls	Catapult	$99,528
Quebec Board of Black Educators	QBBE Ecosystem	Catapult	$100,000
Rahma Community and Youth Centre	RISE(Rahma Initiative for Success and Empowerment)	Catapult	$95,000
Somali Center for Family Services	EmpowerU: Break barriers for Blackyouth employment	Catapult	$99,540
SoundCheck Youth Arts	Beyond The Groove 2	Catapult	$100,000

Funding from the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund (BLPEF)





St. Clare Black Moms	KidGlow: Nurturing Joyful Roots	Catapult	$74,500
Sudanese-Canadian Association of Ottawa (SCAO)	SCAO Comprehensive Community Development	Catapult	$75,000
Ten2One Foundation	Resilient-Rhythms	Catapult	$100,000
The Enough Initiative Canada	Blacktion Strategy and Digital Visibility Program	Catapult	$93,300
Tribe Canada Community Services	Breaking Barriers: Systemic Challenges in Politics	Catapult	$45,000
UBC Black Graduate Student Network (BGSN)	Black Graduate Student Wellness Initiative	Catapult	$73,400
Ubuntu - Black Trans, Non-Binary and Afro-Indigenous 2Spirit Collective	Sugar, Spice and HRT	Catapult	$100,000
Ummah at Home	Feasibility of Supporting Black Elders - Aging at Home with Care	Catapult	$75,000
Union United Church	Breaking The Cycle	Catapult	$100,000
Yoruba Social and Cultural Association of British Columbia	Community Empowerment and Social Integration	Catapult	$100,000
ZTF Music Academy	Crescendo: Music Skills Development Bootcamp	Catapult	$100,000

Community, Sector and Government Engagement

- FFBC was invited as a select delegate of the federal government to attend the 3rd Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, underscoring our role in shaping national and international dialogues on racial equity.
- FFBC entered a notable partnership with TED to host the Black@TED experience. This partnership increased access for Black Canadians, enabling them to attend the prestigious event with TED waiving the $15k registration fee, hosting events, and convening Black attendees, thereby amplifying Black voices on a global stage.
- FFBC was selected to host the announcement for Canada's new Anti-Racism Strategy, reflecting our leadership in the fight against systemic racism.
- FFBC hosted a breakfast for Black organizations at the Calgary Stampede, marking the first-ever Black Breakfast at this iconic event, and creating a vital space for networking and celebration. We had several elected officials attend the event including Federal, Provincials and Municipal members.
- FFBC actively engaged with communities throughout Canada including Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Winnepeg, Ottawa and Halifax to meet with local Black communities and grantees, ensuring that Black Canadians across the country are informed and involved in our initiatives

Speaking Engagements and Thought Leadership

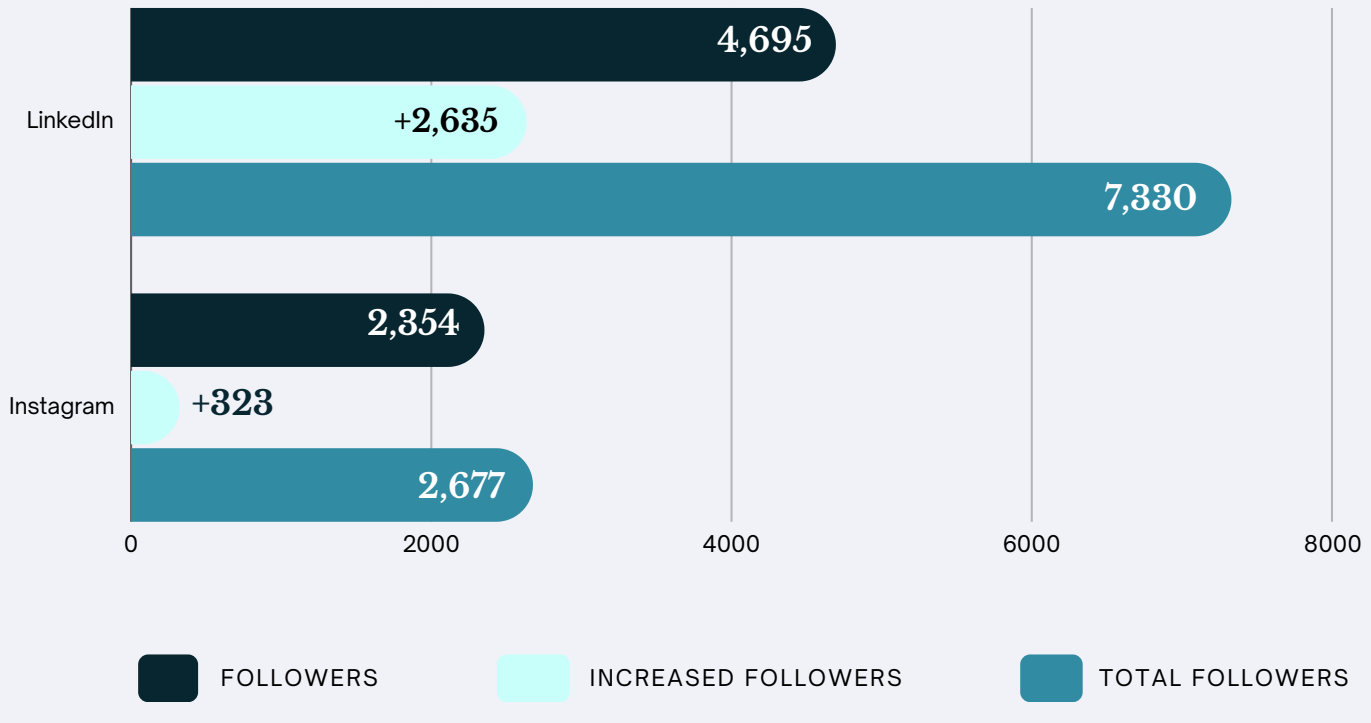
- In February, FFBC participated in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Black History Month Panel, contributing to discussions on economic development strategies to support Black communities.
- FFBC was also invited to speak at the Philanthropic Foundations of Canada Conference as featured presenters, addressing the ongoing inequity of funding in philanthropy.
- FFBC Board members part took in various interviews and research studies including Philab's study on Capital Transfers by Canadian Philanthropic Organizations to learn from FFBC's experience.
- FFBC Co-CEO will be speaking at a Walrus Talk, where they were requested to discuss the need to shift power in philanthropy and shared how FFBC is leading this change.
- In May, FFBC was invited to be part of a panel on Creating Connection and Building Bridges together as Black Business Stakeholders, hosted by Black Entrepreneurs BC Society.

Communications
Social Media Reach

FFBC saw a significant boost in its reach and awareness among external audiences, thanks to the concerted efforts of FFBC's communications and marketing team, led by Leah Sanford, Director of Communications.

10,007
New Followers

12,481
Social Media Interactive



Communications Website Traffic

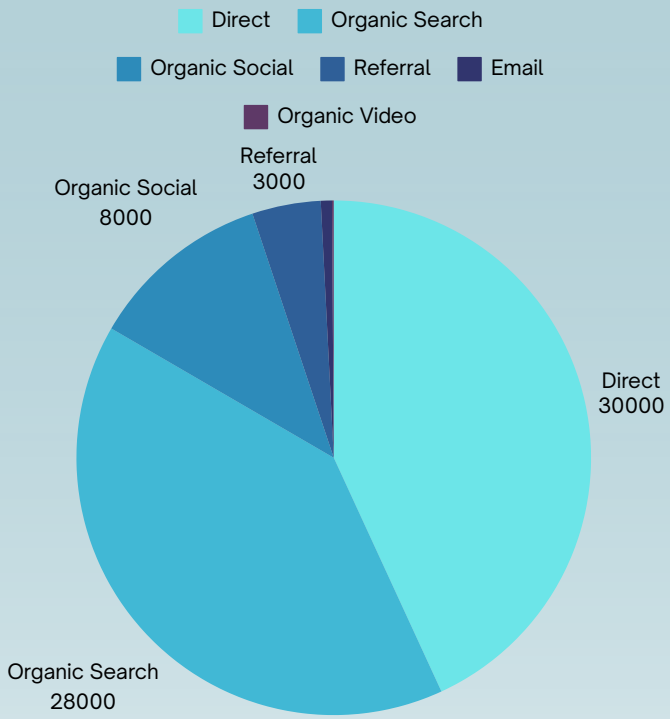
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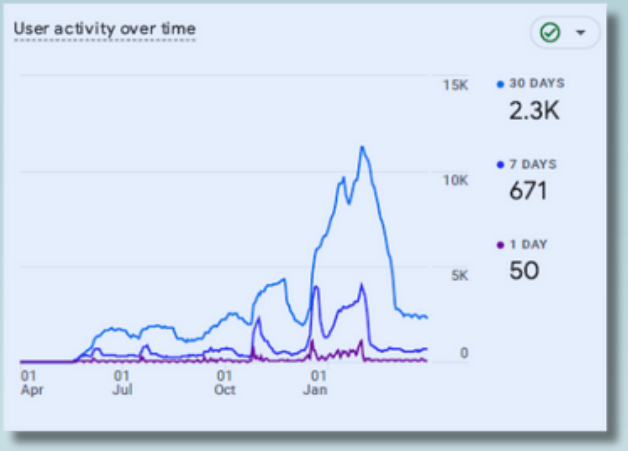
34k
New Active users

37k **Visited our Black Ideas grant: Bridge and Build grant application page**

22k **Visited our home page.**

8.5k **Visited careers' page**





Communications
Webinar

The following statistics highlight the attendance and engagement levels from the webinars we hosted last year.

Black Ideas Grant: Bridge and Build 2023 Live Information Webinar -December 13, 2023:

282 Attended

42% Attendance Rate

679 Registered

188 Questions

B.I.G. Information Session December 19, 2023

195 Registered

B.I.G. Information Session
December 21, 2023



229
Registered



121
Questions



200
Attended

B.I.G. Information Session
January 16, 2024 (English)



70
Attended

B.I.G. Information Session
January 18, 2024 (English)

28
Questions



FFBC in the Media

This strategic push resulted in widespread media coverage and positive news stories that highlighted our purpose and impact.

FFBC's presence was amplified across various media channels, including radio, print, and online platforms. Some notable highlights of the coverage include:



2023 Media Covers

CBC NOVA SCOTIA — Multi-million dollar grant for Black nonprofits | Information Morning - NS with Portia Clark | Live Radio | CBC Listen (FFBC post)

CTV NEWS TORONTO — This Hour with Angie Seth CTV

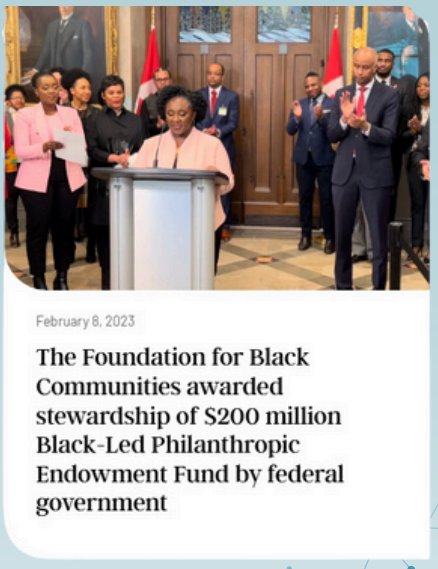
CBC PEI — Topic B.I.G. 1.0.

CTV NEWS MONTREAL — Honouring Marlene

THE HILL TIMES — The Foundation for Black Communities - The Hill Times

News Releases





NOTABLE EVENTS 2023

Check out our event highlights of what we've achieved for the past year!



APRIL 29

Keep6ix Rising Stars Basketball Tournament

SPONSORED BY FFBC



MAY 30

Permanent Forum on People of African Descent in New York City

SPEAKER: LIBAN ABOKOR



JUNE 28

FFBC co-founder at TED talk

SPEAKER: Rebecca Darwent

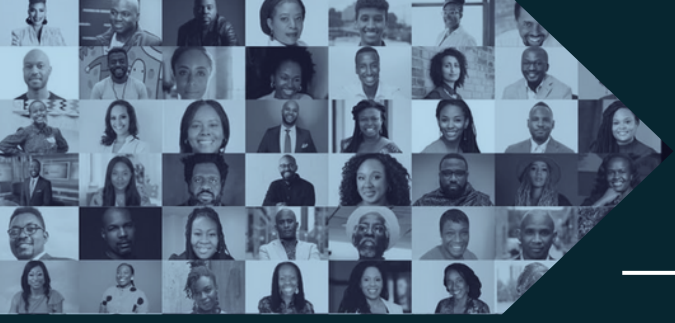


OCTOBER 7

FFBC Community Engagement at Simon Fraser University



FFBC Community Engagement Meeting & Raptors Training Camp





Black Leadership in Social Impact Summit 3rd Annual Presented by TD Bank

FUTURE OF GOOD x FOUNDATION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

September 27 & 28, 2023 – Online

750+ ATTENDEES

50+ SPEAKERS

25 PARTNERS

900+ CONNECTIONS MADE

250+ LEARNING HOURS

Black-led, Black-focused, Black Excellence //

NOTABLE EVENTS 2024



JANUARY 12 -13

Black Founders Network: 2024 Black Career Conference

Judges: Latanya Housen, Liban Abokor, Michelle Musindo

Michelle and Liban attended "Three Black professionals—Latanya Housen, Liban Abokor, and Michelle Musindo—were invited to judge the entries. They selected Roots to Routes, a non-profit dedicated to combating systemic inequities within the Black community, as the winner. This recognition included a prize of $5,000. The organization's mission centres on providing access to educational programs that prioritize a global and Africentric curriculum, aiming to educate and instill confidence in young Black students.

An additional $15,000 was distributed among the remaining top four winning teams: Stubuddy, Ekogenie, Coding with Hania, and Graspr AI. At the end of the competition, Liban generously gifted $1,000 to each of the six other start-ups, ensuring that the efforts of every start-up were duly acknowledged."



February 7th

Canadian Chamber of Commerce – "Elevate & Celebrate Black Excellence: Charting the Future for Black Entrepreneurs in Canada"

LIBAN ABOKOR SPOKE AS A PANELIST

"The second panel discussion, moderated by Diana Palmerin-Velasco, Senior Director, Future of Work at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, featured representatives from prominent Black business associations."

Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Fundraising

FFBC has continued to expand its partnerships and secure substantial funding, just over **$11 million dollars,** to further its mission. Here are some key achievements:

FFBC became a member of both Community Foundations of Canada and Philanthropic Foundations of Canada, the largest networks of philanthropic organizations in the country.

$3.5 million

Secured a $3.5 million capital transfer from the Definity Foundation.

$3.4 million

Received $3.4 million from the Walmart Foundation to address food insecurity in Black communities across Canada.

$750,000

Renewed a $750,000, three-year partnership with Suncor.

$900,000

Renewed a $900,000, three-year partnership with Sun Life.

$2.5 million

Finalizing a $2.5 million, three-year co-granting agreement with the Vancouver Foundation to support Black non-profits and charities in British Columbia.

- Continued as the Canadian partner for Global Black Philanthropy Month.
- Secured partnerships with Medical Schools to launch Black Medical School Students Scholarship.

These accomplishments demonstrate FFBC's growing influence and the strong support it has garnered from both national and international partners.

Financial Updates

FFBC's financial health remains strong. We diligently managed our resources to support our strategic initiatives, including the successful completion of our annual audit and ensuring the integrity of our financial operations.

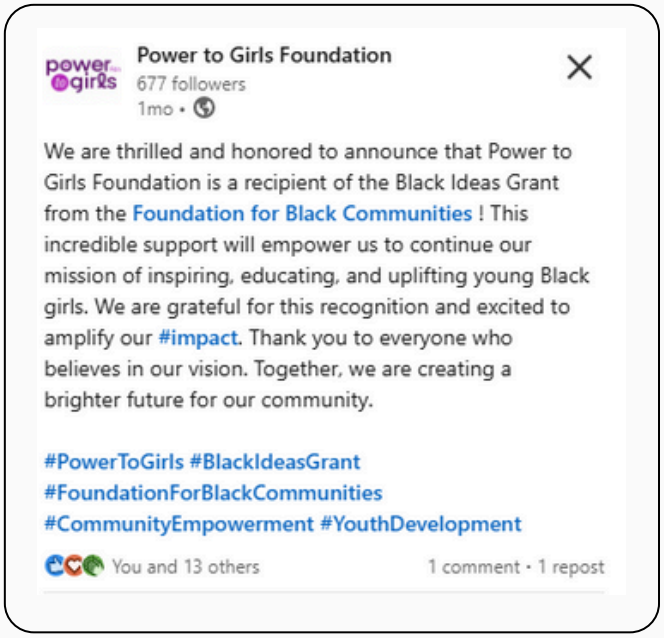
Statement of Financial Position	March 31st, 2024	March 31st, 2023
Total Assets	$218,399,307	$206,789,645
Current Liabilities	26,700,602	16,615,451
Restricted Assets – Endowments	190,181,204	190,118,704
Unrestricted Assets	1,517,501	55,490
Statement of Operations	March 31st, 2024	March 31st, 2023
Total Revenue	$12,745,256	$3,077,098
Disbursement to Grantees	$10,061,992	$2,046,817
Salaries and Benefits	$979,416	$303,030
Professional Fees	$889,172	$240,623
Administration and Office	$352,453	$143,036
Travel	$166,764	$40,878
Marketing and Communications	$147,654	$197,672
Strategic Initiatives	$86,426	$4,947
Professional Development	$54,179	$79,605
Unrealized gain on Investments	$1,454,811	-
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	**$1,462,011**	**$20,490**

B.I.G. BLACK IDEAS GRANTEES

To showcase recognition, grantees from the Black Ideas Grant 1.0 shared their excitement of being recipients using the #FUNDFFBC

Power to Girls Foundation











Canadian Caribbean Association of H...
362 followers
1mo •

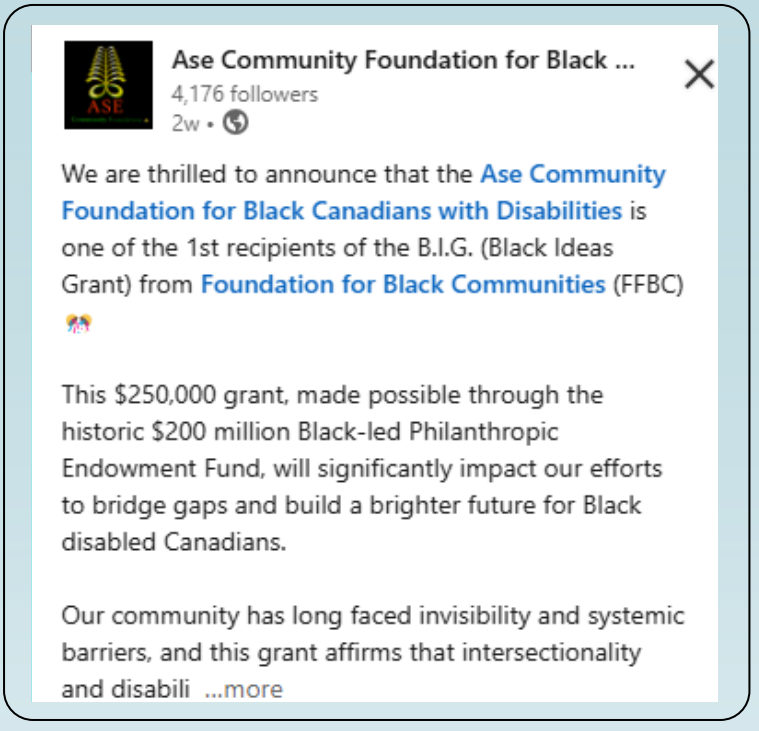
Thank you Foundation for Black Communities 🙏🌟❤️

The CCAH is now a Black Ideas Grant (B.I.G) recipient with the Foundation for Black Communities . Funding will provide partial support for the hiring of an Executive Director as part of our growth within the Halton Region.

We are proud to have lived by our four pillars for the past 47 years: Education, Culture, Community and Harmony.

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements!

#BlackIdeasGrant #FoundationForBlackCommunities #FUNDFFBC #ThankYou



Ase Community Foundation for Black ...
4,176 followers
2w •

We are thrilled to announce that the Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities is one of the 1st recipients of the B.I.G. (Black Ideas Grant) from Foundation for Black Communities (FFBC) 🎊

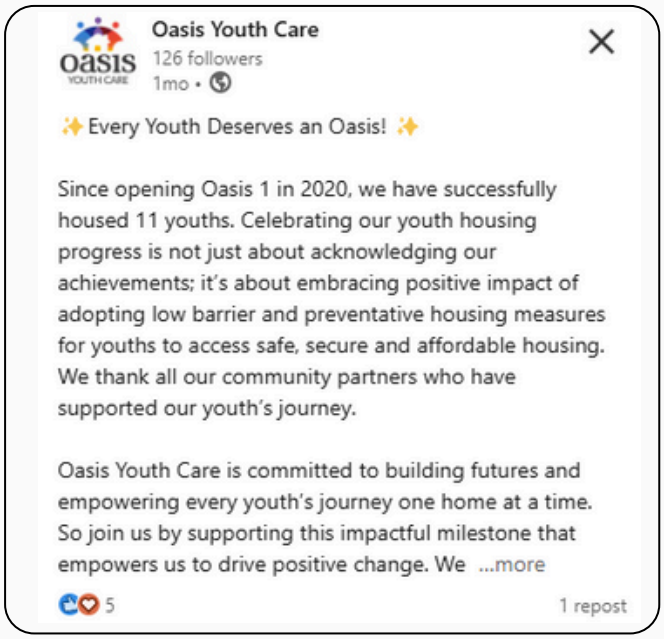
This $250,000 grant, made possible through the historic $200 million Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund, will significantly impact our efforts to bridge gaps and build a brighter future for Black disabled Canadians.

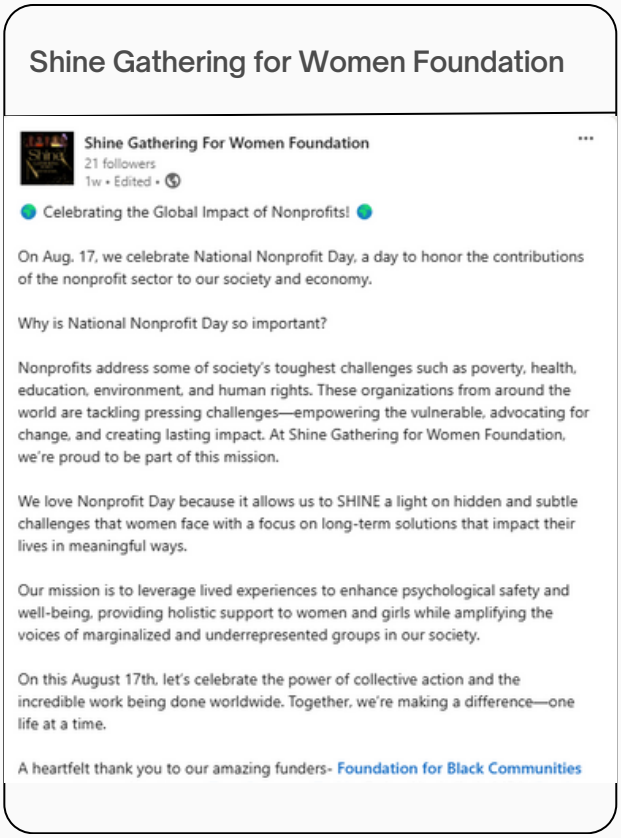
Our community has long faced invisibility and systemic barriers, and this grant affirms that intersectionality and disabili ...more

B.I.G. BIG IDEAS GRANTEES Amplification

Oasis Youth Care







List of grantees for IRP

Investment Readiness Program (IRP) – List of Grantees (31)

AbbaTek Group Inc	Afro Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton	Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities	Aspire For Higher	Baobab Services Canada Inc.
Black Bankers Ladies Council	Black E.S.T.E.E.M.	Black Screen Office	BYTES (Black Youth in Technology Engineering and Science)	Canadian Multicultural Disability Centre Inc
CEED Canada (Circular Environmental EDucation)	CommeHome Social Services	Connecture Canada	Coopérative agricole de Windsor	Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage
Ethos Lab Educational Society	Flos Seniors Health and Care Programs Network	Foodpreneur Lab	Future Black Female	Innovate Inclusion
Kingdom Acts Foundation	Manitoba Women for Women of South Sudan	Melanyn Alliance Inc	Messengers of Change	REST Centres
R.I.S.E Edutainment	Source Code Academy Canada	St James Town Community Co-op	Support Black Charities	TechSpark Canada
Ubuntu Community Farm Inc.				

foodpreneur lab

ACCESSING A WAY THROUGH A COMPROMISED FOOD SYSTEM







The Importance of Recognition

It's a rigorous fight when tackling food insecurity, since the global food ecosystem is riddled in prejudice. Black food entrepreneurs face demeaning trials as they seek access for support and funding. They, in fact, grapple with a system that impedes their progress. The data reveals that the Black representation in the food industry only accounts for 4.9%, further highlighting the stark reality of their marginalization. Painting Black communities as second-class citizens. It is a stirring reminder of the systemic biases that undermine the recognition of the historical significance of Black entrepreneurs. Perpetuating their disenfranchisement within the industry.

Janice Bartley, founder of Foodpreneur Lab, punctuates the critical issue of access to land. She outlines the barriers faced by Black food entrepreneurs. These calculated obstacles, that often red tape Black farmers, hinder their ability to secure funding; creating more lags in the system. The Foodprenur Lab, is a digital platform that aims to connect Black Foodpreneurs & Suppliers, to consumer-packaged goods producers. Janice envisions Foodpreneur as the premier hub for food knowledge. A place that garners valuable information, abundant resources, and a network of supportive community members.

Seeing that there is a national demand to reform a complex food system, Janice has found herself in a position to help mitigate a simpler path for Black food entrepreneurs.

We're trying to minimize the risk for them. Really teach them what the food ecosystem looks like and where opportunities lie for them to scale.



With three decades of entrepreneurship experience, running accelerators and incubators, Janice is well-equipped to offer knowledge, support individuals in vulnerable situations, and help them access the right resources.

A Bootstrap Narrative

When the data shows you that you represent only a fraction of a larger sample, it can be easy to internalize this as a reflection of your worth; that this somehow represents who you are and how much you contribute. Thereby constraining your sense of possibility and potential.

Historical teachings often pin the story of a Black entrepreneur as synonymous with the bootstrap narrative, perpetuating the notion that success can only be achieved through individual effort. This narrative overlooks the systemic structures that perpetuate inequality, ensuring that for someone to rise to the top, someone else must inevitably occupy the bottom rung of the ladder.



Hearing the perspectives of 1000 Black Canadians on food security brought a rich tapestry of experiences to light, underscoring the diverse challenges faced. Yet, perhaps most impactful, was the crafting of recommendations born from these interactions, meticulously tailored to the specific desires and needs of Black farmers. It's more than just data; it's the essence of understanding, empathy, and a commitment to creating positive change. In essence, our achievements go beyond statistics – they embody a genuine connection, a shared narrative, and a roadmap for a more inclusive and supportive future for Black farmers in Canada.



So, how can we shift the bootstrap narrative into one where Black farmers are integrated into a broader context where the playing field is leveled, ensuring equitable practices? Where access to land is readily accessible with adequate support and mentorship. When will Black farmers be recognized as essential partners in securing quality food and addressing the deficiencies of a faltering food system?

Foodpreneur Lab, has supported 154 Black farmers across Canada, creating bonds and community while sharing similar experiences when navigating the food industry. To gain a greater perspective of what Black entrepreneurs bear witness to, they've conducted the Africulture Study. The study features their overlooked contributions to the agricultural landscape. The approach included a literature review, food security survey, and focus group discussions.

The Power of Persistence

In Janice's view, "food is the new currency." Food insecurity also represents a significant aspect of economic hardship, particularly when access to affordable, nutritious options is restricted in certain communities. Black farmers are cultivating food to alleviate the burden of food insecurity. However, it takes a lot to voice this denigrating dilemma. It takes the voices of a community to expose and express their lived experiences in this plight.

"Nobody is listening. At some point, the more you talk, the more people start to pay attention. Because you're not going away."

Accessing a way through a compromised food system forces individuals to overcome and bootstrap unnecessary obstacles. Access to quality, affordable food is a fundamental human right. Moreover, it is essential for Black farmers to access opportunities to grow food that resonates with their cultural heritage and nourish their communities. As Janice put it, *"to humanize, and legitimize."*



MODELING GOOD GOVERNANCE

THE DIETS OF SOCIETY

Amidst the ongoing social and political turmoil surrounding housing, those in positions of power overlook conversations about ending the housing crisis that seeps into every aspect of our communities. It is the people – organizations such as Aspire for Higher (A4H), who are on the front lines attempting to be a part of a design reformation for Black and racialized communities. How can we leverage resources to address a neglected community's housing and service needs?

Access emerges as a primary concern in serving Black, and racialized communities, encompassing areas such as healthcare, affordable housing, and community resources. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these crucial aspects, Eldon Holder, Vice-President of Social Impact & Stakeholder Engagement for Aspire for Higher (A4H), has been inspired to unite and address these pressing needs.

"The activities we undertook for the project involved a multi-phased approach to design, analyze, structure, market, and implement a community bond product for our A4H social purpose real estate project."



It is a wonder how at times, a sense of calling can demand more from people, propelling them to become activists and catalysts for change in systems that have let them down. While the overcrowding of limitations in healthcare, housing, resources, food insecurity, job insecurity, and more remains a significant concern for the general public, it seems to have become less of a priority for those in positions of power to address and make these factors accessible to all. These issues are the diets of society, often amplified by caste systems where varying economic statuses determine who benefits most.

TO BRIDGE AND TO BUILD

To guarantee better understanding, is to bridge culture gaps. Gaps reveal the misunderstandings of community needs, community spaces, and the cause and effect of neglect. Aspire for Higher aims to create a social impact by setting an example and demonstrating compassion towards those who contribute to society through their livelihoods. They establish a precedent for community perception. Emboldening good governance.

Through support, Aspire for Higher set out to conduct a community engagement design strategy to identify the community's needs and outline the breadth of the affordable housing and wellness facility project.

"Our holistic approach successfully created a sustainable and inclusive model for social purpose real estate development."

For systems to deny the requests of people leaves sentimental moods of disappointment and frustration, fostering a sense of detachment from the community. People may feel marginalized and excluded, as if they've been pushed to the outskirts. It suggests a growing concern that a society that neglects certain types of communities, seeks to gentrify not only places but also people, eroding diversity and individuality in the process.

"The housing crisis disproportionately impacts Black communities in Canada. They are typically those who are most under-housed outside of core housing needs and have the greatest barriers. In some cases, to access housing. We're on a mission to solve that challenge through building and acquiring and retrofitting homes to accommodate the needs of Black and other marginalized groups. Increased funding will help us do that and advance that cause. "

A community-oriented strategy allows residents to not only feel appreciated, but to preserve the identity of the physical fabric of neighborhoods. The outer appearances of spaces are imprints of the heart and soul of people.

> By involving residents in the design process, we were able to learn together. The project now fosters a sense of ownership and pride among our network of families and community members. This empowerment, we hope will lead to increased community engagement and a stronger commitment to the success of the project.

"Our future plans for the organization are three-fold: We have a mission to build a wellness facility for Black communities and for Black families to be able to have holistic access to healthcare services. We've built the Black healthcare professional network over the last three years and launched the Black healthcare directory, so individuals can find where these healthcare professionals are, who identify with their professional background. The next step in the future is to build a facility that houses these individuals."

MATERIALIZED SEEDS

Aspire for Higher's mission is meant to be generational. It's the epitome of dreams realized. Community members aim to seek comfort and solace in the places they frequent and the houses they call homes. Striving for greater and more meaningful impact within Black communities, Aspire for Higher embodies the value of good governance and its role in shaping our collective efforts in community activism. We can all add to the seeds that they've sowed.

> I've been part of the work to get the foundation in place, I've done a lot of community work to have something like this. This is an opportunity to see the seeds you planted five ten fifteen years ago have materialized into something that is very real and very tangible, and that will hopefully be of value to the community for generations to come. Personally, it feels like a win in a very long game.

Our Supporters



Our
Supporters Cont'd

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Foundation of Greater Montreal

Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon

Fondation Lucie and André Chagnon

oakville community foundation

Oakville Community Foundation

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

Ontario Trillium Foundation

OTTAWA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ottawa Community Foundation

FONDATION FAMILIALE TROTTIER FAMILY FOUNDATION

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