

2015-2024

OUR DEC ADE

RECOGNITION, JUSTICE
AND DEVELOPMENT

17th Annual Black History
Month Celebration

Sat. Feb 3. &
Sun. Feb 4. 2024



CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS
PRESENTS



Cultural Expressions supports the
International Decade for People of
African Descent

OUR PARTNERS



The past couple of years have been challenging for the community. When we look back and reflect on some positive outcomes, we think about the systemic changes occurring towards dismantling and combating social injustices and addressing systemic racism – specifically anti- Black racism through listening, learning and understanding the personal lived experiences of the Black community. During the month of February and beyond, we take the time to reflect and think about what Black History Month means and the power of allyship and action as a community. Town of Ajax continues to value the importance of learning and understanding.

Black history through its multitude of facets and the many positive contributions that have influenced our professional industries, culture, music, food, heritage and much more.



The City of Pickering proudly joins all residents, organizations, and community partners across Durham Region in celebrating Black History Month as we collectively honour and centre the experiences, histories, contributions, and achievements of diverse Black communities in Canada and throughout the world. We are especially honoured to support the dedicated leadership of Cultural Expressions for CHANGE in organizing its 17th Annual Black History Month Celebration, and we congratulate their team on developing another spectacular virtual program for our community. Throughout the month of February and beyond, we encourage all community members to take time to learn, reflect, and engage in the many initiatives across Durham Region that honour Black Excellence, and look forward to connecting with you!

For more information on City of Pickering initiatives, contact Jaclyn San Antonio, Senior Advisor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, at jsanantonio@pickering.ca



The Durham District School Board's vision is that Ontario schools need to be places where everyone can succeed in a culture of high expectations. We strive to have an open and inclusive environment of equity in education in all our schools and for all our students.

The Durham District School Board has created the Compendium for Black Student Success to enhance DDSB practices to support, enhance, celebrate and be responsive to our Black communities. As a Board, we recognize there is an importance in the voice and representation for closing gaps for our Black students. Our goal is to provide students with opportunities to promote equity and social justice. Resources like the compendium are intended to help students acquire the knowledge and skills that enable them to challenge unjust practices, and build positive human relationships as members of a global community.



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

As a Catholic learning community that values the inherent dignity of every individual, we are committed to providing each student with a welcoming and safe learning environment that respects their unique identities and engages them as learners through relevant

and responsive pedagogy. Our students and families come from diverse backgrounds and we must ensure that all members of our school community are given equitable opportunities for success within a culture of high expectations for learning. We are committed to:

- . Cultivating a positive sense of self and belonging for each individual by respecting and responding to diverse identities and strengths.
- . Providing access to a broad range of programs, pathways and vocations.
- . Providing opportunities for all staff to engage in learning to support culturally responsive and relevant practice.
- . Ensuring student well-being within an inclusive learning environment that is rooted in faith, encompasses hope and optimism, personal resilience, and respect for ourselves and others in order to positively contribute in making our schools and communities better.



Durham Children's Aid Foundation is very pleased to be celebrating Black History Month as a proud partner of Cultural Expressions for CHANGE. The Foundation is delighted to be a part of this unforgettable Black History celebration, encouraging a deeper understanding of the vibrant history and ongoing impact of Black Canadian communities in shaping our nation.

The Foundation Board of Trustees, volunteers and staff congratulate the organizers of this year's Black History Celebration.

Let's make this Black History Month a time of reflection, education, and celebration.

Together, we can spark positive change, one heartwarming moment at a time.



The Pickering Anti-Black Racism Taskforce (PABRT) is a committee of Council appointees who work in partnership with the Pickering community, Durham-based organizations, businesses, stakeholders, and the City to:

- . Identify barriers and areas of opportunity, in order to enhance the shared experience and opportunities afforded to Black residents,
- . Identify and coordinate opportunities for stakeholder and community engagement,
- . Provide expert input and action on matters relating to the provision of anti-Black racism initiatives within the community; and,
- . Celebrate and promote the Black community, and promote Black culture.



Ajax Public Library designs experiences and connections where community, discover, and innovation intersect. The Teen Advisory Council (TAC) is a Library sponsored group of volunteer teens from all Ajax high schools who meet weekly in the Library during the school year.

The mandate of TAC is to:

- . advise the Library on the provision of services to young adults;
- . make suggestions about our young adult collections;
- . engage in projects of interest to young adults of its own choosing;
- . represent the interests of the Library to their own schools;
- . promote literacy among young adults in Ajax;
- . be a platform where teens can engage the community and meet other young people in a safe and welcoming environment;
- . provide a useful source of volunteers as required by the Library on special occasions.



CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN OSHAWA/WHITBY CHAPTER

Working independently and by partnering with other organizations, Chapters run programs to benefit local communities, including:



- . Youth Programs
- . Community Programs/Events
- . Advocacy on social justice issues



The Durham Black Coalition is a group of organizations and volunteers that came together in 2021 with a common vision of "Advancing the Black Community in the Durham Region". Inaugural members include: Durham Children's Aid Foundation, Durham eCAMP MENTORing, Cultural Expressions for CHANGE, Children's Aid Society and Durham Region



ESTHER FORDE
PRESIDENT

This year is a pivotal one for Cultural Expressions as we embrace change both in our name, we are now 'for CHANGE', and in the evolution of our non-profit organization. To prepare for change, we have had to look back and reflect just as we invite you to do during this year's celebration: Our Decade: Recognition, Justice and Development. As we mark this final year of the International Decade for People of African Descent we will celebrate our achievements, acknowledge our continued struggles and embrace the paths laid to move the Black community beyond 2024.

The evening will begin with community networking with our local partners, sponsors and small businesses. While you mingle, enjoy refreshments from Patty Gyal, and musical selections from DJ Majesty. Explore exhibits from the Multicultural Inventors Museum, Canada Post Corporation and ACCN's Umoja Robotics Team.

During our formal program, listen to spoken word artist, TracyJ and see new works from Centennial Dance Program students and R.I.S.E. Edutainment. Enjoy movements and sounds from Kunle and celebrate the accomplishments of Madiba Award Honouree, Dr. Leroy Clarke. Connect with the first Black Speaker of the House of Commons, The Honourable Greg Fergus, P.C.

A MESSAGE FROM CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS FOR CHANGE



NICOLE GRIFFITH
EVENT CHAIR

Rejoin us on Day 2 for the Did You Know? series presented by the Ajax Public Library's Teen Advisory Council and reflect on the decade with educator, historian and founder of OyES, Channon Oyeniran alongside Susannah A. Alleyne, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Counsel and the Equity Ombudsperson at the Law Society of Alberta.

Celebrations like these take many hands. We thank and congratulate our planning committee and all those behind the scenes who have helped to bring us to today. We are especially grateful for our partners who continually support our volunteer-led events: Town of Ajax, City of Pickering, Durham District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, Pickering Anti-Black Racism Taskforce, Durham Children's Aid Foundation, Ajax Public Library, Congress of Black Women of Canada, Ontario Region (Ajax/Pickering, Oshawa/Whitby) and Durham Black Coalition with funding provided by the Ontario Arts Council and Government of Ontario. Enjoy!

DAY 1

AT J. CLARKE
RICHARDSON COLLEGIATE

MAIN HALL

COMMUNITY TABLES
EXHIBITS
REFRESHMENTS
MUSIC

AUDITORIUM

WELCOME
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Kesha Christie
Sandra Whiting
CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM
BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM
Nikosa Holland
OPENING REMARKS
GREETINGS
SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE
TracyJ
MADIBA AWARD PRESENTATION
Presenter: Adam Brown
Honouree: Dr. Leroy Clarke
PERFORMANCE
R.I.S.E. Edutainment
FIRESIDE CHAT
The Honourable Greg Fergus
DANCE PERFORMANCE
Centennial Dance Program
MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Kunle
CLOSING REMARKS



DAY 2

WWW.CE4C.CA.

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM
BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

GREETINGS
OPENING REMARKS

SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE
TracyJ

DID YOU KNOW?
Ajax Public Library
Teen Advisory Council

TRIBUTE VIDEO
Producer: Canada Post
Honouree: MaryAnn Shad

DID YOU KNOW?
Channon Oyeniran

IN DISCUSSION WITH
Patrice Gustave
Channon Oyeniran
Susannah A. Alleyne

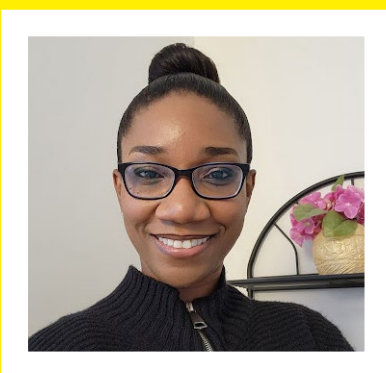
CLOSING REMARKS

ABOUT THE PARTICI PANTS



SEAN MAURICETTE – MASTER OF CEREMONIES

SeanMauricettehasbeengiftingaudiences as an artist and motivational speaker for more than a decade. He has received more than 20 awards including the 2012 Medal of Appreciation from the United Nations Association of Canada for his work with youth both here at home and abroad. A graduate from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Architecture, Sean continues to cement his role as an active leader in the community and around the world.



NIKOSA HOLLAND – VOCALIST

Nikosa Holland is an ardent proponent of Black empowerment and particularly the development of Black youth. For over ten years, she has served as a Director of the Linden Youth Leaders – an organization empowering young people for their future endeavours; fostering a sense

of discipline and leadership; promoting opportunities for young people to serve their communities and the wider world. The mother of four boys, Nikosa is passionate about engendering a world in which her sons and other Black youth are judged by their character and not the colour of their skin.



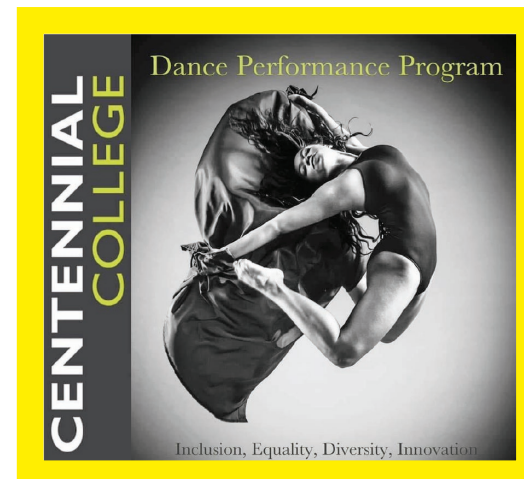
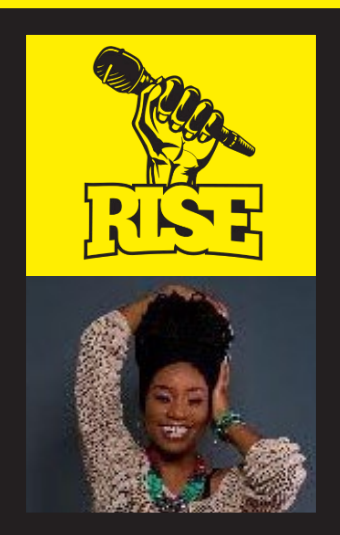
TRACYJ – SPOKEN WORD

TracyJ is a passionate poet and tea enthusiast whose life is a beautiful blend of art and serenity. Her verses touches on themes of love, Mental Health and women empowerment. TracyJ’s impactful performances grace diverse stages from the city of Toronto Archives Black Mental Health ceremony to the City of Oshawa Fiesta Week. TracyJ annually hosts the empowering “I Am Woman, I Am Enough”; poetry and music event every March, showcasing the universal power of women.

RISE EDUTAINMENT –

R.I.S.E Edutainment creates safe and inclusive spaces for youth and emerging artists to express themselves in a positive way. Through our Edutainment methodology, we empower performance artists to create meaningful art rooted in self knowledge and self expression.

We believe art has the power to transform the lives of many youth we often see lost to the system and its streets. Our programs provide youth with platforms to perform, learn and develop leadership skills. Performance by Alivia C. Liv it up!



CENTENNIAL DANCE PROGRAM

Good evening! We are presenting the Dance performance students at Centennial college who all share a love and passion for dance. Aaliyah, Jayden, Savannah, Runo, and Ezekiel are a few of the creatives from Centennial college who are so excited to showcase their dedication to Dance and demonstrate their individual artistry for you all to see. We hope you enjoy!



KUNLE – VOCALIST

An award-winning multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter, Kunle’s folk and soul music bridges contemporary styles with roots

in West African rhythms and stories. Nigerian-born and currently based in Toronto, Kunle combines his rich vocals, guitar tapping, harmonica and talking drum to take audiences into what he terms ‘music with no boundaries’. Over the past three years, Kunle has experienced a transformative journey, evolving into a versatile producer, composer, and performer. From enthralling showcases on the stages of prestigious festivals throughout North America, Africa, and Europe to making a notable debut on theatre stages, including the esteemed Stratford Festival, Kunle embodies the philosophy that creative expression is not just a performance but a way of life.



THE HONOURABLE GREG FERGUS, P.C., M.P.–

On October 3, 2023, Members of the House of Commons elected the Honourable Greg Fergus as Speaker of the House of Commons.

Mr. Fergus has been serving the people of Hull–Aylmer in Parliament since October 2015. At the time of his election as Speaker, he was the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board and to the Minister of Health.

Since his election as a Member, he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Digital Government, and to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. He founded and co-chaired the Parliamentary Black Caucus for six years.

Mr. Fergus holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Ottawa, and a Bachelor of International Relations from Carleton University. He has also undertaken graduate studies in international relations. During his time as a student, he served as a House of Commons page, part of the 1988–1989 cohort.

He and his wife are the proud parents of three adult children and the doting grandparents to two grandchildren.



SUSANNAH A. ALLEYNE – FIRESIDE CHAT

Susannah is the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Counsel and the Equity Ombudsperson at the Law Society of Alberta. Her work focuses on making the profession more inclusive and providing supports to those facing discrimination or harassment in the workplace.

In 2023, Susannah was recognized as one of Calgary's Top 40 Under 40 in Avenue Magazine and as one of the Black People Making History in Calgary by the Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (CRIEC). She was the 2022 recipient of the Tomorrow's Leader Award from Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Alberta. Susannah is passionate about equity, diversity, inclusion & anti-

racism work and volunteers extensively in her community.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Susannah celebrates her Caribbean heritage by volunteering and by participating in Caribbean carnivals all over the world. Susannah is also a published poet with her most recent contributions in an anthology celebrating Black women and non-binary voices.

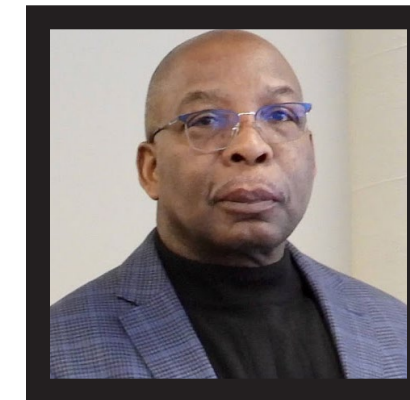


CHANNON OYENIRAN – FIRESIDE CHAT

Interested in Black History and eradicating racism against Black communities from an early age, Channon's keen interest and passion in these areas, helped her realize that she must do all she could to educate others and raise awareness of the rich history of Black people. An enthusiast of reading, travel and writing poetry, Channon has an indescribable passion and thirst to not only know more about history, in particular-slavery (historical and modern), but to educate people on these issues and to assist in stopping it from continuing!

Channon is the founder of Oyeniran Education Support (OyES), an educational organization that helps individuals and institutions identify and align with their intrinsic values, gifts and nurtures them to greatness. Channon uses the OyES platform and others, to teach people about Black History. Channon Oyeniran was born in Scarborough, Ontario but is a longtime resident of the Durham Region. She currently resides in the Durham Region with her husband and their sons.

THE MADIBA AWARD



DR. LEROY CLARKE
2024 MADIBA AWARD
HONOUREE

Dr. Clarke is Founding President and Executive Director of e-CAMP MENTORing, a Canadian federally incorporated not-for-profit organization focused on Mentoring, Training and Coaching (MTC). He is also co-founder of the Intergenerational Hub. In addition to his extensive community-based activities, Dr. Clarke was also Co-Founding Director and Vice-President of the former Centre for Rehabilitation and Health Services (CREHS) Inc, a healthcare service provider in digital technologies.

His direct academic and professional roles span Business, Computer Science, Equity and Inclusive Education, Medical Laboratory Technology, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Education and Research in Neurosciences for over thirty-five years.

With the aid of technology, Dr. Clarke's focus is on equipping both in-service and pre-service learners across all age groups with future skills for the economy of the 21st century and beyond. Based on his research, he is particularly interested in the intersection of culture, teaching and learning (Culturally Relevant Pedagogy - CRP) within an Integrated Community of Learning and Practice and applying those nuances in skills acquisition across diverse cultures. One objective of his work is a special emphasis on youth, particularly those who are racialized and underrepresented, to support them in reflecting on their academic journey and prospective careers while seeking out suitable mentors. By reflecting on our current journey and projecting into the future, we will find new hope to forge sustainable and courageous solutions to successfully participate in the new economy globally.

With a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry as well as an MPhil in Pharmacology from UWI-Mona, Dr.

Clarke obtained his BEd and PhD in Science and Technology Education with a focus on mentoring from the University of Toronto. His experience spans elementary to post-secondary institutions as well as industry including over twenty years with the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB). He has a passion for youth and inter-generational learning and is convinced that investing in them is investing in the future.

Dr. Clarke is a family and community leader, church elder, mentoring and STEM consultant as well as strategic and curriculum advisor, serving a number of organizations and public institutions. helping children and youth, especially those from underserved racialized backgrounds. Dr. Clarke has served on several boards, committees and councils including Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators (ONABSE), Durham Children's Aid Society Community Advisory Council (DCAS-CAC), New Life Church Board, Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA), Community Diversity Committee of Kinark Child and Family Services - Durham, Spelling Bee of Canada.

He is a member of several professional organizations such as Canadian Society of Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS), the Science Teachers Association of Ontario and Science & Technology Awareness Network (STAN). He has presented at several local, national and international conferences including the American Educational Research Association conferences of which he is also a member. He is the recipient of several awards, grants and honours, including a 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award and a 2016 Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) Distinguished Men of Honour Award.



ABOUT THE MADIBA AWARD

The Cultural Expressions Durham Black History Celebration Committee established the Madiba Award to honour a leader of African ancestry in Durham Region whose struggle embodies Nelson Mandela's values, visions and commitment to overcome barriers in his long fight for freedom and equality.

Historically, Madiba was the name of a ruling Thembu chief in South Africa's Transkei region, the ancestral home of President Mandela. It signifies respect and endearment and is one of at least six names by which the lawyer-activist was affectionately known. The name Madiba remained significant throughout Mandela's life as he valiantly crusaded against the legacies of colonialism, apartheid and racism. Nelson Mandela became one of the world's most famous prisoners and rose to become a beloved leader in Apartheid South Africa.

SELECTION CRITERIA

. A young person or adult whose contributions to Durham Region supports and uplifts the community at large, and particularly members of the Black community including children and youth.

. Played a significant role in enriching the lives of others over an extended period of time by exceptional service through work, community service or a cause

. Demonstrates outstanding leadership skills, including initiative, dedication, integrity.

The nominee's achievements will be evaluated in relation to circumstances or obstacles overcome.

SPECIAL THANKS

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Mannaoo Productions



MEETING SPACE

Ajax Library



CATERING

Patty Gyal
Lisa Warner

DJ

DJ Majesty



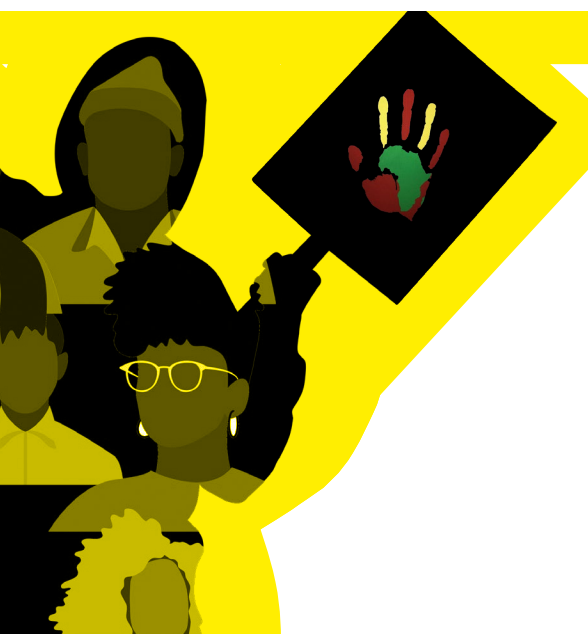
GRAPHIC DESIGN

X Height Media



A/V TECH SUPPORT

Matthew Beatty and students at
J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WORTH RECOGNIZING WITH THE MADIBA AWARD?

tell us about your nominee.

Visit www.vok.theareax.com and check out Valley of The Kings, our line of greeting cards for the **DEARLY DEPARTED**. These special cards can be buried with or left on the grave site or memorial site of a loved one.

email: vok@theareax.com
@vok_cards
416.668.4199

Valley OF THE Kings

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

For a limited time, support programming delivered by Cultural Expressions for CHANGE and have your original portrait in oil, pencil or charcoal by award winning, full time portrait artist, Hallie A. Ndorley.

Visit www.ce4c.ca for more information



CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS FOR CHANGE INC'S 2024 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship supports the development of future professional artists by assisting with post secondary studies in the arts. Individual awards of \$1,000 are available to high school students in the Region of Durham (Ontario) who will be attending eligible full-time Canadian post-secondary degree or diploma programs..

ELIGIBILITY ▼
Open to Grade 12
students in
Durham Region who
identify as Black

Successful applicants are selected based upon their application through a competitive adjudication process.



Deadline: May 31, 2024

Apply Now at www.ce4c.ca



Unity Through the Arts: Juried Exhibition

October 24 - November 10, 2024

Cultural Expressions for CHANGE Inc., in partnership with the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, presents its arts exhibition "Unity Through the Arts". This juried art exhibition will feature artists from across Durham Region. The event will unify attendees around their love for the arts and appreciation for cultural diversity. The call for submissions will launch in the spring.

Opening and awards reception is on October 24, 2024.

More information to follow on www.ce4c.ca.

**PRES
ENTER**



Cultural Expressions

Cultural Expressions for CHANGE is a nonprofit corporation that provides programming focused on the Black experience. By celebrating our heritage and nurturing generations through engagement, we aim to foster cross-cultural understanding and harmony among Durham Region residents.

Our vision is a thriving Durham community brought together through respect of cultural diversity.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ann Fyffe
Brittany Lacheé
Dane Lawrence
Esther Forde
Gillian Amos
Jasmine Griffith-Reid
Leesa McLeish-Diaz

Marie Blanchard-Thomas
Micahi Warner
Nicole Griffith
Nolan White
Patrice Gustave
Jasmine Griffith-Reid
Cecil St. George

**SAVE THE DATES!
FEBRUARY 1&2, 2025**

18th Annual Durham Black History Month Celebration



www.ce4c.ca info@ce4c.ca

