



UJIMA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
INFORMATION PACKAGE

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The Ujima Fellowship is a leadership development program that aims to address structural racism and inequity by creating opportunities for diverse representation within advisory or decision making entities. The purpose of the fellowship is to support young Black leaders between the ages of 18 - 30 who demonstrate a willingness to develop their leadership skills and want to serve on advisory or policy-making platforms such as a agency, board, commission, or committee (ABCC).

The Ujima Fellowship is a 10-month program in partnership with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (EVCO) and various community partners which consists of 35 hours of in-class leadership training, an 8-month placement with a volunteer ABCC, and 20 hours of volunteer work.

The fellowship is named Ujima (oo-JEE-mah), after the third principle of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a week-long cultural celebration that honors African American and African culture. Ujima means collective responsibility and work. Ujima focuses on the foundation of community building and collaboration as a means to solve problems and stepping away from the individual mindset and moving towards a collective approach.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Program participants will complete 35 hours of leadership training at NAIT that will strengthen their leadership skills. After completing the course, participants will be assigned to an ABCC for an 8-month placement and must complete 20 hours of volunteer work.

Each ABCC placement will require a designated person to support and provide guidance for the program participant during their placement. The number of hours required per month will be dependent on the unique structure of the ABCC and around their meetings and planned activities.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN AN ABCC

Are you an ABCC looking to diversify your board? Do you want to bring in fresh and new perspectives? We want you!

We are looking for local community partners who can host a program participant at their respective ABCCs. Ideally, the ABCC will have a designated person who will guide and support the program participant as they actively engage and participate at your ABCC during the 8-month placement period.

The program relies on the willingness and collaboration of existing ABCCs for the success of this program. As a community partner, you will have the opportunity to actively participate in supporting diversity and inclusion in your ABCC by providing opportunities for young Black leaders to gain first-hand experience on advisory and decision-making platforms.

We are looking for organizations with:

- An objective to increase diverse representation on their boards
- A willingness to mentor and support prospective Black leaders dedicated to community engagement
- Culturally inclusive and welcoming spaces

PLACEMENT DATES

Host ABCCs can select from the following dates for their placement period:

Placement One

May 15, 2023 - December 15, 2023



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

ABCCs will be responsible for providing support and guidance to the program participants. Some duties may include the following:

- Provide the participant with an overview of your mission, goals, rules & regulations, etc.
- Provide an environment for the participant to learn the framework of your ABCC
- Provide opportunities for the participant to observe and participate (if possible) at ABCC meetings
- Encourage and engage the participant in your planning efforts, activities, or events, etc
- Provide an agenda and if appropriate, supporting materials for meetings to the participant

BENEFITS:

The Fellowship program will benefit your ABCC in the following ways:

- Bring in fresh and diverse perspectives
- Bring in passionate Black youth with demonstrated civic engagement experiences who want to be active and engaged in community-building
- An opportunity to recruit diverse members into your organization and boards
- An opportunity to utilize the various skills and talents of the program participants
- An opportunity to strengthen the Black community by creating strong Black future leaders

CONTACT:

If your agency, board, commission, or committee is interested in being part of the Ujima Fellowship Program, please contact us at ujima.fellowship@africacentre.ca.

To learn about Africa Centre and our programs, visit www.africacentre.ca



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