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AFRICA  
CENTRE

# BLACK YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKAGE

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# BLACK YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Black Youth Leadership Program is an empowering initiative designed to uplift and engage Black youth in community and civic activities. This program, led by the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians (CAAC) in Alberta and Crown Mentorship Foundation, provides valuable resources, training, and financial support through micro-grants to foster community organizing and volunteerism. It aims to nurture leadership skills and promote a culture of ownership and accountability.

Successful applicants, aged 15 to 30, will receive up to \$5,000 to transform their enriching project ideas from the inception phase to implementation within the community.

Youth projects are supported through the grant in two distinct streams:

1. Innovation, Exploration, and Creation
2. Showcasing Cultural Heritage

Through structured activities and mentorships, participants are encouraged to lead and deliver community-based initiatives, contributing to their personal development and the collective well-being of their communities. Central to the program's ethos is enhancing understanding and practice of democratic engagement, emphasizing equity, diversity, and inclusion to inspire a lasting commitment to community service and innovation among African descent youth.



## INTENDED IMPACT

The program aims to increase accountability and resilience for African descent youth and to enhance their capacity for civic engagement.

## CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

The ideal applicant should be highly self-motivated, independent, and possess a strong interest in community engagement and leadership development. Applicants must demonstrate active involvement in bettering their communities through their activities and previous accomplishments.

## PLAN YOUR APPLICATION

Our grant can support you in making a positive impact in your community by enabling you to acquire new skills for driving change.

To enhance the likelihood of your application's success, please thoroughly review the information on this page and utilize the support available from our team. This will help ensure that your project aligns with the priorities of the Black Youth Leadership Program and addresses the needs of the people you aim to support.

## SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

The Recipient is obligated to take measures and ensure a safe, inclusive environment, free from racism, harassment, and discrimination for all participants and others within the organization.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Led and created by individuals of African descent aged 15 to 30.
- All project ideas must not replicate existing programs offered by organizations or clubs.
- Youth applicants must identify an issue within the African descent community, propose a solution, and outline an implementation process.
- Projects must have a meaningful impact on African descent communities within Alberta.
- Individuals must operate independently of larger organizations, including not-for-profits, charitable organizations, municipalities, universities, schools, religious institutions, and hospitals.
- Applicants should clearly identify an issue, propose a solution, and outline an implementation process.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

- Applications open: Nov. 10, 2023
- Information sessions: Nov. 14, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 12, 2023
- Grant writing session: Dec. 14, 2023
- Applications close: Jan. 14, 2023 (extended)
- Coaching period: Dec. 11 to Dec. 19, 2023
- Funding decision: Nov. 10 to Dec. 21, 2023
- Project start date: following approval
- Project end date: March 31, 2024
- Final report due: April 30, 2024

Successful individuals must take part in a mandatory orientation session prior to the project start date with Africa Centre staff.

Approved grant applicants must submit all receipts related to any project spending for funding purposes.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Include a brief budget in your project plan:

1. Procuring project supplies and Materials. (art supplies, tech equipment, sports equipment etc.)
2. Honoraria and fees are 10 per cent of the total budget (for services delivered by experts, facilitators, and professionals and in recognition of participants and volunteers ex. paying an elder that gives an interview for a research project.)
3. Travel 5 per cent of the total budget (flight, accommodation, car rental)
4. Hospitality 5 per cent of the total budget (food, and snacks for hosting of sessions and programs)
5. Support Services (translation, interpretation, child-minding)
6. Project equipment (rental or purchase)
7. Communications (website, promotions )

## INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Ineligible activities include fundraising efforts, activities affiliated with a political party, activities promoting harmful rhetoric, and activities taking place outside of Alberta.
- Events (such as parties or celebrations)

## INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Partisan Political Activity: Any activities involving partisan political activity, such as supporting a candidate or political party.
- Promotion of Harmful Stereotypes: Activities that promote harmful stereotypes or recreate oppressive systems.
- Financial Assistance Events: Activities primarily intended to support sponsorship/fundraising events or other forms of financial assistance.
- International Activities: Activities taking place outside of Canada that don't directly benefit 15-30-year-olds of African descent in Alberta.
- Lack of Demonstrated Impact: Activities that do not demonstrate sustained impact on the African descent community.

## FINAL REPORT

The Recipient is required to submit a final report summarizing the project scope, detailing achieved results, and explaining any discrepancies between the intended and final outcomes. This report must be provided in writing within sixty (60) days following the Project Period.

## DONATING PROJECT OUTCOMES:

### EXPECTATIONS

All project outcomes, along with equipment and supplies purchased for the project (e.g., tech, art, or athletic equipment), must be donated upon project completion

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

Donations must be made to an Alberta-based non-profit or grassroots community group that promotes cultural heritage and serves African descent communities. Additionally, grant applicants must not be directly affiliated with groups receiving donations at the time of the project, meaning they cannot be employed by the group or sit on the board

## REPORTING

After completing the project, applicants are required to provide documentation certifying the receipt of the donation. Successful applicants will be provided with templates for reporting.



## GRANT PROJECT CHOICE: STREAM 1

### INNOVATION, EXPLORATION AND CREATION

Promote positive change for Alberta-based African descent communities aged 15-30 through engagement and innovation initiatives. Below is a list of project examples within this stream:

#### PIOLET A NEW PROJECT A

- A student-athlete from the Black community wants to host a basketball tournament for local youth seeking community connection. They will use the space as an opportunity for preventative programming to encourage youth to access safe identity-affirming spaces.
- Funds are used for space rental, and purchase of equipment (medals for participants, basketballs, jerseys).
- Upon completion of the program, they donate supplies including basketballs and carts to a local community center.

#### PIOLET A NEW PROJECT B

- A youth of African descent aims to engage Black youth interested in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM).
- They host networking events at their school, inviting Black students and professionals interested in the STEM field.
- Funds are allocated for the following purposes:
  - Renting space
  - Procuring event supplies (sound equipment, decor, signage)
  - Investing in marketing costs
  - Documenting the event through photography

#### ARTISTIC CREATION

- A young artist wants to create a collection of poems and stories celebrating the experience of Black women and girls with their natural hair.
- They connect with people in their community to collect stories.
- The stories are shared through a zine (a small book with photos and stories).
- Funds are allocated for the following purposes:
  - Renting space
  - Procuring event supplies (sound equipment, decor, signage)
  - Investing in marketing costs
  - Documenting the event through photography

#### ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES

- A youth of African descent aims to create a podcast discussing the experiences of African descent youth with mental health and wellness.
- Funds are allocated for the following purposes:
  - Procuring equipment
  - Renting space
  - Providing guests with honoraria
- Upon completion, episodes are released online for community access.
- Tech equipment used for the podcast is donated to a community organization.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- A youth of African descent aims to explore Ancestral Acknowledgements and help their community better understand them.
- They conduct interviews with elders in their community to gain insight into cultural ways of knowing.
- Funds are allocated for the following purposes:
  - Dispensing honoraria
  - Accessing new cultural materials
- They share their findings by creating an online resource.



## GRANT PROJECT CHOICE: STREAM 2

### SHOWCASING CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Steward cultural practices by developing tangible projects that showcase cultural heritage and benefit communities through sustained access to materials. Following the project, both materials and project outcomes are donated to a country organization. Below is a list of project examples through this stream:**

#### ARTISTIC CREATION

- For example, a youth from the Kenyan community intends to create a series of paintings showcasing the culture and history of the Kenyan community in Canada.
- Upon completion, the paintings will be donated for display at their local country organization.
- Funds will be used to procure art supplies and display materials.

#### CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- For example, an Afro-Trinidadian youth aims to create cultural outfits that display their heritage.
- Funds are utilized to procure fabric, hire a seamstress, and purchase display materials.
- Upon completion, the materials are donated to be displayed at a local country organization.
- The outfits are also featured in a community fashion show and dance performance.

#### CULTURAL EDUCATION

- For example, a youth descending from Black pioneer communities in Edmonton aims to develop an interactive exhibit.
- The exhibit will include photos, videos, newspaper clippings, maps, and interviews describing the settlement journeys of Black pioneer communities in Alberta in the early 1800s.
- Funds will be allocated for printing fees, space rental, exhibit supplies, and honoraria for contributing storytellers.
- Upon completion, the youth plans to donate photos, maps, and other tangible materials to a local community organization promoting the culture of Black pioneer communities for engagement and education.





## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants can visit [www.africacentre.ca/black-youth-leadership-program/](http://www.africacentre.ca/black-youth-leadership-program/) to apply.

All applicants must complete the [submission form](#) and submit the following documents:

- Summary: an overview of your project idea supporting youth (350 words)
  - Who will benefit?
  - Where will your work take place?
  - Purpose of your project?
- Concept: describe and list all major activities that you intend to create (400 words)
- Plan and budget: provide more details about your idea and the core activities you will deliver (350 words)
  - How will you deliver these activities?
  - How often will you deliver these activities?
  - How many youths do you intend to engage in each activity?
  - Share elements of your program design and considerations.
  - Where will project activities take place?
  - What would your project costs entail?
- Subject: what needs or issues are you trying to address? (350 words)
- One community reference required
  - Community references are trusted individuals who will support and advise on project development throughout planning and implementation. These could be members of your community, such as elders, teachers, coaches, members of NGOs or other networks. Essentially, this is someone who can help you plan and connect to maximize your project's impact on your community. Please keep in mind that family members can not be listed as a community reference.
- Two pieces of government-issued ID (upload copy)

## DEADLINES

**The Grant Application deadline is on Jan. 14, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (MST)**

If you have any questions, please contact [bylp@africacentre.ca](mailto:bylp@africacentre.ca)

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