

# **NACCA**

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## Chairperson's Report

Annual General Meeting - Year Ending December 31, 2021



**Jerisha Grant-Hall - Chairperson, Founder  
Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association**

## INTRODUCTION

I would like to acknowledge all of our amazing volunteers including our student volunteers. Special thanks to our operational volunteers that support specific events and programs. Welcome to all of our new volunteers who will be onboarded with us to continue building the legacy work that we are doing here in Newmarket. A huge 'thank you' to members of the Board of Directors who are relentless in their support and commitment to dismantling anti-Black racism and ignite intercultural understanding. They represent, champion, and serve our organization and community well, and I thank them for their dedication and incredible service to the Newmarket community and beyond. You have broken down barriers and helped to build inclusive spaces for so many.

When a group of community members came together four years ago to build on the idea to create a more connected and inclusive community, Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA) began. Since then, NACCA has been a leading voice for people of African descent in Newmarket and York Region who have endured legacies of systemic discrimination and anti-Black racism.

We have championed innovative programming, like our culturally relevant mental health education and support programs, and became the first B3 (Blackled, Black-focused, Black-serving) organization in York Region to open a community space where Black youth and families can gather, share ideas and nurture a sense of belonging. On February 22, 2022, NACCA acquired charitable status which was an incredible milestone for the organization.

Since its inception, what has distinguished NACCA is its focus on delivering programming from an Afrocentric lens, with a specific emphasis on resisting anti-Black racism and oppression. This approach has enabled us to respond to daily challenges from a historical, intersectional and cultural lens. We place value on the wisdom of our ancestors, honoring their bold strength and leadership, while creating a path for Black youth and families that sees them stepping boldly into the future.

There have been many committed individuals who have given unreservedly of their time, expertise and resources to ensure that NACCA's vision of building a strong and connected community is realized.

NACCA recognizes Pauline Jones for her significant contribution and leadership, and

celebrates her three years of excellence in service as Director-at-Large, and her contribution as chair of the Black History Month Planning Committee.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Accomplishments: 2021-2022

We have decided on a new vision and mission statement and have updated our core values to include *access* because we believe that equal opportunities lead to equitable outcomes.



We are committed to fostering attitudes, behaviours and procedures that reduce barriers to access. This means having pathways to resources, networks, tools and technology to reach one's full potential.

**MISSION:** We are committed to the collective work of engaging the African Canadian communities and its allies through program delivery, education and partnerships, to cultivate an empowered and united Black community in Newmarket.

**VISION:** To serve as a community hub that will support and strengthen the present and future outcomes of the Black community, especially Black youth. To advance generational skills-building, knowledge exchange, empowerment, and expression. To ignite change through allyship and cross-cultural learning.

We are a 155 members strong organization that has seen tremendous success. Some of our most important contributions and achievements to date are as follows:

1. Opened the first Afro-centric library in York Region - the Iris Malcolm Library
2. A first of its kind Kuumba Summer camp
3. The launch of the Iris Malcolm Library with a new relationship with Chapters Indigo Love of Reading Foundation
4. Grand opening at 449 Eagle street
5. Expansion, and retention, of a committed working Board
6. Partnerships and relationships: York Region Food Network (YRFN), York Region District School Board (YRDSB), the Region of York, York Regional Police (YRP), Black-focused organizations like the York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC), and continued partnership with the Town of Newmarket
7. Black History Month 2021 Virtual Techno Delivery and virtual Ujamaa Marketplace
8. 30k Grant for a five year strategic plan and capital for outfitting our centre at 449 Eagle Street
9. Dismantling anti-Black racism work with three municipalities
10. Ongoing Community Table meetings with Region wide partners for Food Security, Policing and representation in schools
11. First of its kind in York Region culturally relevant Mental Wellness Program for Black youth and families
12. Pandemic Funding through the Canadian Red Cross for Food Security

13. New partnership with Mazon Canada for Food security
14. Food Security Program support to 40 families with three rounds of food deliveries
15. Food Security partnership with YRFN which includes fresh produce
16. A first of its kind Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Task Force and Report with 117 recommendations for the Town of Newmarket and its stakeholders
17. The delivery of four dismantling Anti-Black Racism workshop presentations and trainings
18. Post-secondary scholarships to deserving students (over 40k to date) and a NEW wrapped around scholarship added - Rightlines Computer Science Scholarship
19. Youth community events
20. Drumming event
21. Charitable Status achieved
22. Contribution to "It's Not Just About Food" Region wide report
23. Engagement with YRP in developing an implementation plan to dismantle anti-Black racism
24. Youth School Success Initiative (YSSI) After School Program design, development and delivery
25. Community of Black Mental Wellness Practitioner Network established
26. Board training and education
27. Board best practice and fundamental working policies and procedures further developed
28. Strengthened relationships (through perseverance) with Feds and Province
29. First youth placement with Summer government funded program
30. Development and structuring of a Volunteer program, best practice and policies document development and implementation

## MOVING FORWARD



In order to improve our organizational capacity, we undertook an organizational review and commissioned CQ Business Consulting Inc. (CQBC) to develop a comprehensive five-year strategic plan for the organization that includes a significant focus on capacity building using a methodology effective for Black-focused, Black serving organizations. This review helped to build on our strong foundation to develop the way forward for NACCA to better serve our community. In so doing, we achieved the following:

- A five-year organizational strategic plan.
- A deeper focus on existing initiatives and those we will continue with.
- Direction towards developing financial and fundraising plan to set a solid foundation for emerging priorities as determined through visioning.
- Provisions to develop organizational resources (human and structural) and Board capacity to bring these goals to fruition.
- Direction towards a communications strategy.

We will continue to engage with the community we serve to better understand their needs, increase our membership and increase inclusion and belonging for all – through a resisting anti-Black racism and equity lens.

## FUNDING 2022-2023

In the near future, you will see more fundraising initiatives from NACCA as we move to increase our revenue to meet community needs. In the short term (to the end of April 2023) we will continue to look at our pandemic response, community support and increase mental health supports with a focus on building resilience and helping our Black community members, and further development of organizational capacity.

\$60,000

Mid and long term (to end of June 2023), a focus on building capacity and reach of organization's work. More focus on the NACCA centre as a community hub for York Region Black communities who need a space to connect, share and grow. Building towards increased sustainability and enabling the organization to build on an incredible foundation. This includes project funding and paid resources like staffing, expertise/professional support, programming delivery.

\$150,000-\$200,000

## CONCLUSION



NACCA remains dedicated to continuing to build, engage and act. Over the next five years we will look to our strategic plan to build and guide our work. In the next stage of our development, we will prioritize mental health and financial education, access to food and other necessities of life, and build towards a vibrant, more equitable and thriving community. We will continue to centre the lived experiences of African Canadians and create opportunities for positive interaction and dialogue with the aim to reduce racism and foster cross-cultural learning. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments to date, and look forward to working together with our community members, partners, and allies for the next five years and beyond.