



February Newsletter

Updates, events, and recommended reading from Women Transforming Cities.



Celebrating Black History Month

This month (and every month) we celebrate the legacy of Black women, trans women, non-binary, and Two-Spirit folks who are the foundation of social justice movements. In doing so, it's important to highlight both Black joy and resistance. The above image shows Black people living in "Canada" who have been paving the way for the future of both.

From left to right are:

- **Ravyn Wngz** (she/her) an abolitionist, storyteller, Afro-Indigenous 2SPIRIT, trans woman who co-founded ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company and sits on the steering committee of Black Lives Matter Toronto.
- **Dr. Jill Andrew** (she/her) the first Black queer person elected into Ontario legislature who called for an Intersectional Gender Equity Strategy in the provincial government.

- **June Francis** (she/her) co-founder of The Co-Laboratorio project, Director of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement at Simon Fraser University, and Chair of the board of Hogan's Alley Society. She is a trailblazer, advocate, professor, and researcher.
- **Faith Nolan** (she/her) whose activism focuses on homelessness, women prisoners, and labour rights. She is an iconic queer member of Canadian feminist music and the first to chronicle Afro-Scotian history with her album, *Africville*.
- **Uzoma Asagwara** (they/them) the first Black queer person elected to the Legislative Assembly in Manitoba. They are an addictions specialist, psychiatric nurse, mental health advocate, and an educator.
- **Anthonia Ogundele** (she/her) founder of Ethos Lab, a nonprofit focused on fostering community and STEM-focused exploration for youth. She launched the first Black-led Virtual Reality environment in Canada and founded Hogan's Alley Land Trust. She is a community organizer who fosters inclusive and accessible spaces "for the free expression of all people."
- **Monica Forrester** (she/her) the founder of Trans Pride Toronto, Program and Outreach Coordinator at Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers Action Project, and advocate of an influential policy that allowed trans women into women's shelters.
- **Cicely Belle Blain** (they/them) founder of Bakau Consulting, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Vancouver, poet, and editorial director. They helped develop an intersectionality toolkit for the City of Vancouver.
- **Tanya Hales** (she/her) founder of Black Moms Connection, a non-profit that provides programs and resources to Black mothers. She is a writer, speaker, and founder of an anti-racism consulting business, Color in White Spaces.
- **Dr. OmiSoore Dryden** (she/her) the first queer person to hold the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies is co-president of the Black Canadian Studies Association. She pioneered research on the barriers queer and trans Black men face with the Canadian blood system.
- **Janaya Khan** (they/them) co-founder of Black Lives Matter Toronto and international ambassador for Black Lives Matter. They are an advocate, speaker, and writer.

We encourage you to celebrate this month by attending the various Black History Month events featured below.

Updates from WTC

Understanding Local Government Workshop

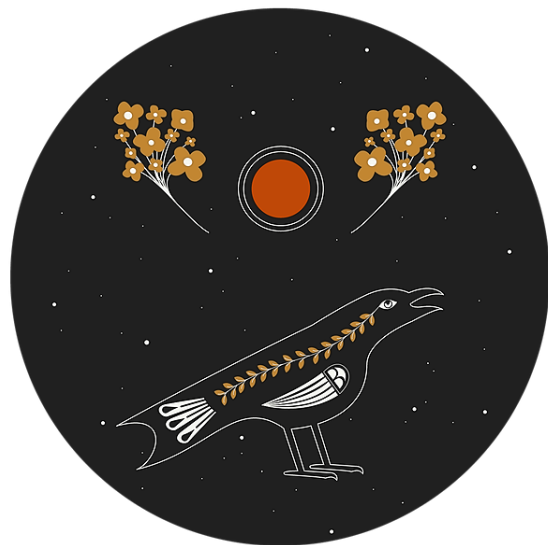
Do you want to create change in your city, but don't know where to start? Join us on **Wednesday, February 22 at 5:30 PM (on Zoom)** for a free workshop that will cover how local government works, how decisions are made, and how to have your own voice heard in the process. This workshop will be facilitated by WTC Community Organizer, Diana Kamau (she/her) and City of Vancouver Manager of Democratic Engagement, Danielle Johnston (she/her).



[Register](#)

Share our TRC Report!

Last month, we launched the report [TRC Calls to Action in BC Municipalities: Progress, Barriers, and Opportunities to Accelerate Implementation](#). The report explores the current state of progress for Calls to Action in municipalities, dives into the barriers local governments face, and explores examples of what implementation can look like in practice. Please share [this report](#) to your own City Council. This Project was funded in part by Heritage BC through the Heritage Legacy Fund.



Upcoming Events

We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Black Celebration

What better way to celebrate Black joy than to watch drag, music, and poetry all in one day? Join QMunity's free



event at the Vancouver Public Library on 350 W Georgia St. **Saturday, February 25 from 1-4 PM.** There will be free food and drinks and a variety of incredible performers, which pretty much guarantees a good time.

[More Info Here](#)



Pretty In Black

This free event put on by the Vancouver Mural Festival Winter Arts is full of incredible Black musicians from the Lower Mainland. Music will range from acoustic sets to full bands covering an eclectic mix of genres. The event runs from **1-10 PM on Sunday, February 19** at the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza and is open to all-ages.

[Learn More](#)

Queering Black Leadership: An Intergenerational Conversation for Aspiring Black leaders

Tune in to the virtual conversation on **February 13 at 1:00 PM (EST)** as

Queering Black Leadership:
An Intergenerational Conversation for Aspiring Black leaders

February 13 from 1 to 2:00PM EST

Tyler Boyce
Executive Director of The Enchanté Network

Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah
Executive Director at The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

Shelly-Ann Skinner
President and Founder, Uplift Black

Queer Black executives discuss the importance of Queer Black leadership. You won't want to miss this vital conversation between Tyler Boyce (he/him), Executive Director of The Enchanté Network, Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (she/her), Executive Director of Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, Shelly-Ann Skinner (she/her), Executive Director of Uplift Black Pride.

[Register Here](#)



32nd Annual Women's Memorial March - Feb. 14th

We hope to see you on Main and Hastings this upcoming **Tuesday, February 14 at 12:00 PM** to march in solidarity and honour of the lives of Indigenous women, girls, two spirit, and trans people. Come find us or sign up to volunteer to support this incredible rally [here](#).

[Learn More](#)

From Displacement to Housing Justice: A Conversation on Black Housing Precarity in Metro Vancouver

EVENING OF STORYTELLING



FROM DISPLACEMENT TO HOUSING JUSTICE:
A CONVERSATION ON BLACK HOUSING PRECARIETY IN METRO VANCOUVER

February 15
6:30 - 8 pm



Douglas College, New Westminster
Room N2201 @ 700 Royal Ave

join for a panel discussion & short film screening
catered event: food served starting at 6 pm

with support from: **BC POVERTY REDUCTION COALITION**

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

This storytelling event takes place at Douglas College, but can be [livestreamed here](#) as well on **February 15 from 6:30-8:00 PM (PST)**. There will be a film screening of *Secret Vancouver: Return to Hogan's Alley* followed by a fantastic panel discussion from New West's leading housing advocates and policymakers. Tune in or join us there in person.

[Learn More](#)

Declare your love for a healthy climate!

Rally at City Hall!
Vancouver City Hall
453 W 12th Ave

Friday February 10
2:30 - 4:30

Support a Strong Climate Emergency Action Plan



FOR OUR KIDS VANCOUVER

Rally to Support the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Head down to City Hall this **Friday, February 10 from 2:30-4:30 PM** in support of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. This event is organized by several climate action organizations and is timely, considering the budget considerations happening now in City Hall.

[Learn More](#)

Read, Watch, & Learn

- Fill out or share [Hogan Alley's survey Metro Vancouver's Black Communities Affordable Rental Housing Needs](#).
- Read [Why it Matters that Bedford is Black: Misogynoir and Sex Work in Canada](#)

- Sign up for a [media workshop](#) from Informed Opinions, "open to women and gender-diverse people only"
- Contemplate [Black Feminist Ecological Thought: A Manifesto](#) written by Dr. Chelsea Mikael Frazier
- Explore Angela Sterritt's CBC piece: [Reclaiming Identity in the Face of Systemic Erasure](#)
- Share [this application](#) to low income renters to apply for a Canada Housing Benefit \$500 payment
- Explore Equality Fund's list of [reading recommendations](#) regarding LGBTQI+ justice.
- Apply to [CityHive's Youth Climate Innovation Lab](#) before **February 12th**.
- Watch BBC's documentary series [Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners](#)



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[Donate to WTC](#)

Women Transforming Cities acknowledges that our work takes place on the stolen, unceded, ancestral territories of the Skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

Questions? Email us at:

info@womentransformingcities.org

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