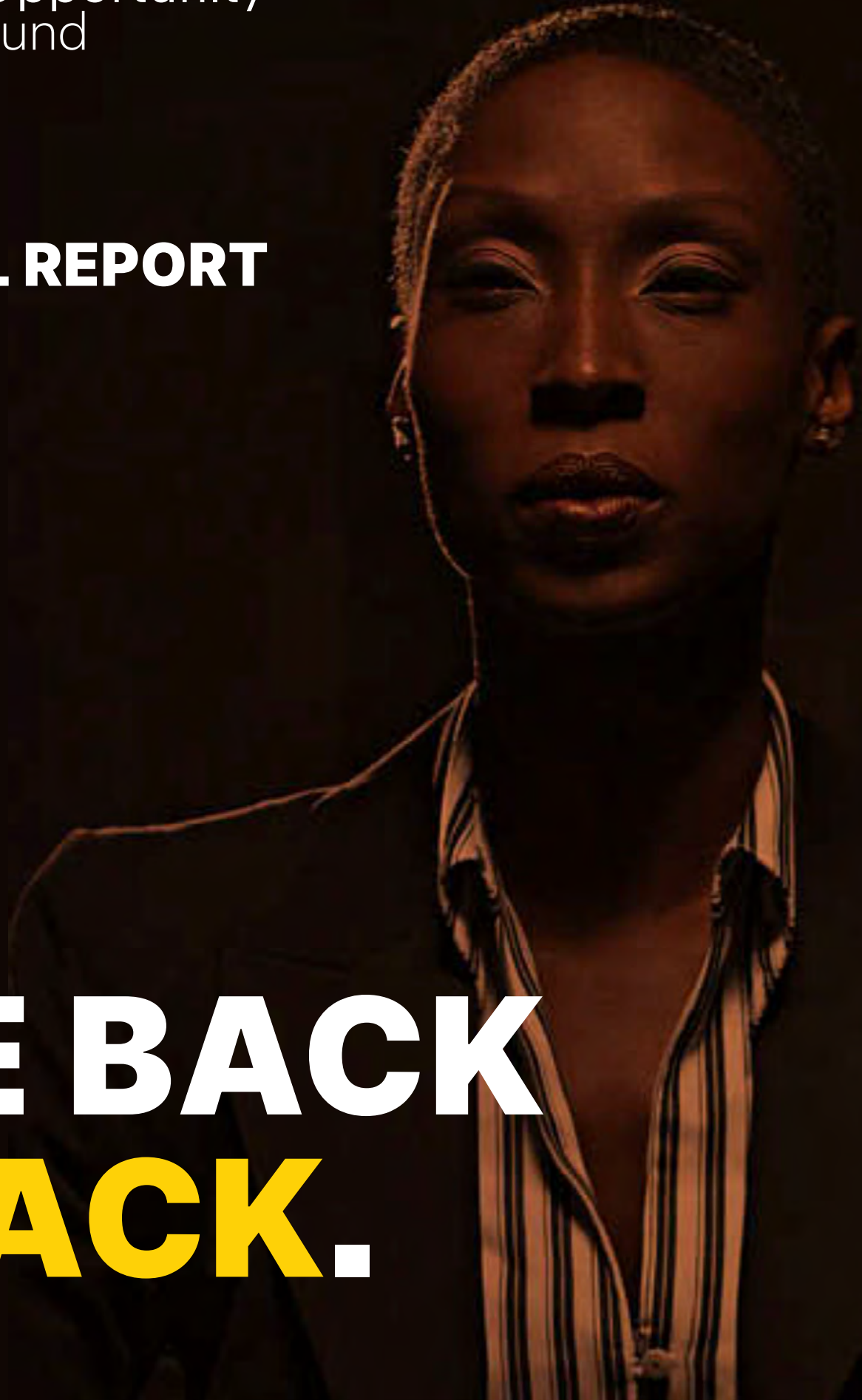


**Black
Opportunity
Fund**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

**WE BACK
BLACK.**





Board of Directors' Statement

This Black Opportunity Fund 2023 Annual Report has been prepared to present and account for our fiscal responsibilities, operating activities, and achievements, to community, stakeholders, and funders for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2023. We are committed to the highest level of accountability and transparency in how we carry out our mandate in pursuit of our community centric vision. We acknowledge that this annual report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set for the reporting period. It includes a financial overview, reports from BOF's chair, Executive Director, and treasurer, as well as reporting on operations, highlighting both quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

BLACK OPPORTUNITY FUND

79 Wellington St. W, 19th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M5K 1A2

info@blackopportunityfund.org

Follow us



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Strategic Pillars and Core Values	1
Message from the Board Chair	5
Board of Directors	6
Message from the Executive Director	9
Financial Overview	11
Key Highlights	13
Supporting Black-led, Black-serving and Black Focused Not for Profits and Charities (B3s)	15
Grant Programs for Not-for-Profits and Charities (B3s)	
BOF/ BCFC Academy	
Supporting Black Entrepreneurs	19
Grant Programs for Black Entrepreneurs	
Wrap Around Supports for Black Entrepreneurs	
BOF Black Business Loan Program	
Sponsorship of 2023 Black Founders Network (BFN)	
Accelerate Program for Black Founders	
Black Opportunity Venture	
Improving Black Health Outcomes	22
Justice	23
Arts & Culture/ Education	24
Our Partners	26



**Black
Opportunity
Fund**

**We Back
Black.**



STRATEGIC PILLARS AND CORE VALUES



Mission

BOF supports a prosperous, healthy and thriving Black Canada by challenging anti-Black racism in two ways. First, we respond to long standing underinvestment in Black communities. We do this by delivering sustainable and needs-informed capital streams, managed by Black people for the benefit of Black communities, which disrupt ineffective and disempowering contemporary funding practices. Second, we work nationally to strengthen collective actions by Black organizations and leaders, helping them to create new and more impactful ways to support and advocate for our community.

"It is not your duty to be average. It is your duty to set a higher example for others to follow."

– Lincoln Alexander

Strategic Pillars

Supporting Black not-for-profits and charitable organizations across Canada.

- Delivering targeted granting programs to build the capacity and scale of impact of B3 charities and not-for-profits including, but not limited to: education, health, arts and culture and Criminal Justice
- Capacity building for Black leaders (Executive Directors, Senior Leadership, etc.) in the charitable sector

Supporting Black businesses across Canada.

- Providing grants for Canadian Black businesses
- Creating an inclusive lending program for Black led businesses who have been declined lending by traditional financial institutions
- Providing capacity building programs for Black entrepreneurs
- Providing non repayable funds to support Black entrepreneurs while they are enrolled in BOF funded capacity building programs
- Subsidizing the costs of mandatory licenses, permits and certifications to help Black businesses scale
- Developing a Venture Capital Fund focused on equity investments in Black led businesses and a fund of funds to help build the capacity of other Black VCs



Strengthening collective action (convening, knowledge creation, advocacy) to support Black communities.

- Convening and hosting events for Black organizations (charities, not-for-profits, businesses)
- Supporting research that fills gaps in knowledge about the needs of the Black community in Canada
- Creating coalitions and working groups around specific areas of need/advocacy for the Black community
- Supporting and facilitating awareness and advocacy campaigns

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

– Harriet Tubman



"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

– Alice Walker

Core Values

The BOF approach recognizes the diversity of Canada's Black communities and integrates concrete steps to disrupt the consequences of long-standing and intersecting vulnerabilities they face whether through gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, age, immigration status, language, geography, which are rooted in systemic injustices and racism. BOF's mission and mandate are consistent with the objectives and pillars articulated in the UN International Decade of People of African Descent around: Recognition, Justice and Development.

Black Opportunity Fund recognizes and is committed to reduce the power imbalances inherent to funder/fundee relationships and to use an anti-oppression and intersectional lens. We use trust-based participatory decision-making processes so the communities who are most impacted by our work have a say in how we carry out our mandate.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



From the beginning, BOF has set out to establish a sustainable pool of funds to serve and empower, in perpetuity, the diverse Black organizations, businesses and communities in Canada.

Since June of 2020, we have secured multi-year funding of approximately \$21 million from individual donors, foundations, and corporate Canada, and through well-structured processes, have distributed funding to Black-led, Black-serving and Black-focused not for profits and charities, as well as Black-led entrepreneurs, strengthening communities as we continue to engage.

In everything we do, We Back Black.

We believe in the potential of every Black person and have established a national organization that seeks to dismantle the negative impacts of anti-Black racism in Canada.

BOF is deeply committed to change. We are already making an impact by supporting both social and economic outcomes for Black communities.

In a short period of time, BOF has become a registered charity, established a Board of highly accomplished and accredited Canadians, and created exemplary governance, financial and organizational structures. We are rooted in community. BOF's Black-centric mission and mandate has created a sharp focus on funding and capacity building programs, which have been developed through hundreds of hours of community consultations. Each area of activity we undertake is designed to overcome systemic racism faced by critically under-resourced Black community organizations and Black-led businesses.

BOF is executing an innovative approach that supports social, cultural, and economic empowerment by leveraging partnerships between the government, Black communities, corporations, philanthropic foundations, and individuals. Thus far BOF has accomplished its impressive achievements to date, without significant engagement and investment from government, demonstrating our ability to create and implement a new and independent Black community led model. We now invite government and philanthropy to invest in this unique and disruptive model. BOF is creating an ecosystem capable of driving a historic transformation of our Black communities. BOF prioritizes initiatives around education, healthcare, women + gender, criminal justice, food security, arts & culture, affordable housing, and youth that impact the quality of life in Black communities across Canada.

We bring lifetimes of experience and have seen what works and what doesn't. A traditional charity model is not sufficient to overcome the generational issues faced in our community. We are happy to engage within the charitable context, but we also bring our intention to re-imagine and de-colonize traditional philanthropy along with impact investing and corporate and individual giving. This is the only way we can successfully and sustainably reverse the impact of years of systemic and structural anti-Black racism.

Ray Williams,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Williams'.

Chair
Black Opportunity Fund

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the Community, by the Community



RAY WILLIAMS
Board Chair

Managing Director & Vice
Chairman National Bank
Financial



DENNIS MITCHELL
Investment Committee Chair

Chief Executive Officer and
Chief Investment Officer
Starlight Capital



CHARMAIN EMERSON
Communications &
Marketing Committee Chair

Senior Executive Counsel
Cultured Communications



DONNA WALWYN
Vice-Chair & Grants
Committee Chair

Chief Executive Officer The
Fairway Group



COLIN LYNCH
Government Relations
Committee Chair

Managing Director and
Head of Global Real Estate
Investments TD Asset
Management



RUSTUM SOUTHWELL
Director

Dalhousie University
Chancellor, Founding &
Interim CEO, Black Business
Initiative



CHARMAINE CROOKS
Governance & Nominations
Committee Chair

President & CEO, NGU
Consultants Inc., President,
Canada Soccer Association



DR. BUKOLA SALAMI
Health Working Group
Co-Chair

Professor in the Cumming
School of Medicine
University of Calgary



BUKKIE ADEWUYI
Director

Vice President - Finance
and Business Intelligence
Prospera Credit Union



LEKAN OLAWOYE
Director

Founder and CEO Black
Professionals in Tech
Network



VELMA MCCOLL
Director

Principal Earncliffe Strategy
Group Initiative



ELEANOR MCINTOSH
Education Working Group
Chair

Principal Ajax High School



DR. ATO SEKYI-OTU

Health Working Group
Co-Chair

Orthopaedic Surgeon
William Osler Health System



CHIMA NKEMDIRIM

Director

Vice President Government
Relations Shaw
Communications



GOURO SALL-DIAGNE

Director

Senior Executive
Governance, risks and data,
Board member MIGAN inc.



**DR. FRANCOIS DE PAUL
NKOMBOU**

Finance & Audit Committee
Chair

CPA Auditor, Corporate
Director, CEO Diaspo
Finance



FIONA O'BRIEN

Community Outreach
Committee Chair

Director of Marketing, Plant
Based Food & Beverages
Danone Canada



ALFRED BURGESSON

Director

Founder & CEO,
TribeNetwork



DR. JEROME CRANSTON

Director

Dean & Professor, Faculty
of Education University of
Regina



MARK ATTANASIO

Capital & Sponsorship
Committee Chair

President Nocera
Investment Corp System

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

– Barack Obama

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the 2022 to 2023 fiscal year, Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) achieved significant impact in advancing socio-economic opportunities for Canada's diverse Black communities.

Black Opportunity Fund takes very seriously its role as a steward of community trust. Right from the beginning, BOF's mission and programs have been directed and informed through extensive consultations with thousands of community members representing the full breadth of the Canadian Black experience. BOF has proposed a radically innovative approach to dismantle and interrupt systemic and structural inequities, by deploying needs informed capital to Black entrepreneurs and community organizations across Canada.

We are proud of the collaborative approach we have taken to advancing our mission. Where we choose to strategically partner with Black community organizations who are already doing great work, and to invest in their capacity, rather than duplicating their efforts. We are committed to acting as a community orchestrator and accelerator and will continue to play that role.

We are proud that we have achieved so much impact to date and demonstrated our ability to secure and deploy capital to catalyze Black community socio-economic empowerment in innovative and sustainable ways. We are equally pleased with the results of our commitment to achieving a best-in-class governance and policy framework.

We believe strongly in the Swahili principle of Ubuntu — 'I am because we are' — that when systemic barriers are removed to allow all communities to achieve to their full potential, it positively impacts Canada as a whole.

My sincere gratitude to the amazing and inspiring board for charting the ambitious course for the organization, to the dedicated staff team and committed volunteers, stakeholders, funders and community partners, who allow BOF to deliver on its ambitious promise to Black communities across the country.

Respectfully yours,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'C' followed by a horizontal line.

CRAIG WELLINGTON
Executive Director
Black Opportunity Fund

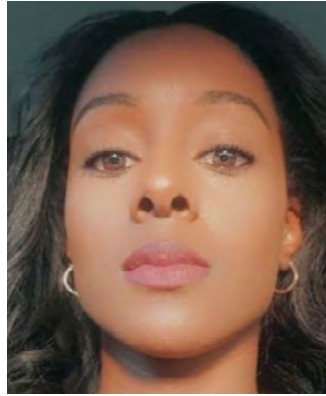
Our Staff



CRAIG WELLINGTON
Executive Director



ANDREA CHAMBERS
Treasurer and Director,
Finance & Operations



TINA ROSE
Executive & Administrative
Assistant



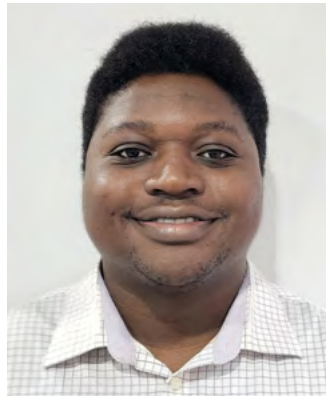
CHARLIEMAINE MARTINEZ
Business & Organizational
Support Strategist



MUZUNZA MUSUMBULWA
Program Manager



CINDY-ANN WILLIAMS
Administrative & Projects
Coordinator



ASHER KAHIIYA
Program Coordinator

A woman is holding a credit card in front of a laptop screen. The image is dark with a yellow tint. The woman's face is partially visible in the background, and the laptop screen is in the foreground. The credit card is held up, showing some numbers and text. The overall mood is professional and financial.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

	2023	2022
Total revenue	\$ 2,683,657	\$ 492,637
Total expenses	\$ 2,525,171	\$ 567,472
Excess (deficiency) revenue over expenses	\$ 158,486	\$ (74,835)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 105,267	\$ 180,102
Net assets, end of year	\$ 263,753	\$ 105,267

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

	2023	2022
Total Assets	\$ 5,702,941	\$ 4,286,359
Current liabilities	\$ 860,355	\$ 509,345
Deferred Revenue	\$ 4,578,833	\$ 3,671,747
Net Assets	\$ 263,753	\$ 105,267
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 5,702,941	\$ 4,286,359

Complete audited financial statements are available at the BOF website.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$2.5 million allocated to support Black entrepreneurs and Black led, serving, and focused not-for-profits and charities (B3s) across Canada.
- \$1 million used as collateral for loans for Black entrepreneurs declined loans by traditional banks through funding from TD Bank.
- 1,004 Black businesses benefited from BOF supported capacity-building programs in collaboration with Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce (CBCC), with funding support from the CIBC Foundation and BMO.
- \$1,090,000 in grants given to 37 Black community organizations leading impactful initiatives in Education, Health Criminal Justice and Arts & Culture in partnership with the TD Ready Commitment.
- \$215,000 donated to Sick Kids Hospital to fund 2 important initiatives to improve outcomes for children being treated for Sickle Cell Disease in collaboration with Walmart Canada.
- 98 Black entrepreneurs received non-repayable funding while enrolled in BOF supported capacity building programs through a funding commitment from the CIBC Foundation.

“Those who say it can’t be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.”

– James Baldwin



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORTING BLACK-LED, BLACK-SERVING AND BLACK FOCUSED NOT-FOR-PROFITS AND CHARITIES (B3S)



Grant Programs for Not-for-Profits and Charities (B3s)

Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) aims to help dismantle the impacts of systemic anti-Black racism by allocating resources to community organizations which undertake initiatives that impact the quality of life in Canada's Black communities. BOF prioritizes its philanthropic funding programs, support for initiatives around entrepreneurship, education, health, women, criminal justice, arts & culture, and youth that impact the quality of life in Black communities across Canada.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, BOF launched two granting programs through a generous funding commitment from the TD Ready Commitment with additional funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario.



Grants for Education and Health focused Initiatives

In 2022 BOF launched a grants Program which will be Black-led, Black-serving and Black focused non-profits and charities (B3s) leading impactful initiatives in the areas of Education and Health, which are two of BOF's key priority areas.

Congratulations to our grant recipients!

Alberta

- Sickie Cell Foundation of Alberta

British Columbia

- Ethos Lab

Manitoba

- The Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development Facilitation and Management Services Inc.

Nova Scotia

- CANSA
- HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development

Quebec

- Centre Communautaire Bon Courage de Place Benoît
- Youth Stars Foundation
- African-Canadian Development and Prevention Network

Ontario

- African Caribbean Cultural Potpourri Inc (ACCPi)
- BGC East Scarborough
- Black Health Education Collaborative
- Federation of Black Canadians
- Hey Black Girl!
- Moyo Health and Community Services
- Nelo Immigrant and Community Services
- Nia Centre for the Arts
- Nobellum Enterprise
- Oasis Youth Care Programs
- Onyx Initiative
- Parents of Black Children
- Restoration and Empowerment for Social Transition Centres
- Success Beyond Limits
- The Reading Partnership
- Black Aviation Professionals Network

BOF Arts & Culture, and Criminal Justice Grant Program

In 2023, with funding support from the TD Ready Commitment, BOF launched a two-streamed grant program to support B3s leading impactful initiatives in the areas of Arts and Culture, and Criminal Justice across Canada.

Celebrating the winners of the Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) grant program for Canadian, Black-led community organizations.



Through the generous support of The TD Ready Commitment and the Law Foundation of Ontario, BOF launched a grant program for Canadian Black community organizations making a significant impact in two of BOF's mandate areas: 1) Arts & Culture, and 2) Criminal Justice. After an extensive evaluation process, we have selected 19 Black-led, Black-serving, Black-focused not-for-profits and charities (B3s) from across Canada.

"We're excited to be partnering with the Black Opportunity Fund and supporting its first Criminal Justice granting team," "Enabling equity and justice are key priorities of our grantmaking. Our partnership allowed the Black Opportunity Fund to double the granting dollars available, increasing justice-related services and access to justice for Black communities in Ontario. We congratulate all the grantees, especially those supported specifically by the Foundation's funding, and look forward to learning about the impact they'll create." - Lisa Cirillo, CEO, The Law Foundation of Ontario.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the applicants who submitted their projects for consideration. The level of work and commitment displayed in each proposal made selecting the final recipients a challenging but rewarding task.

We would also like to thank our adjudicators and advisors who generously shared their time and expertise to identify our program recipients. Their invaluable contribution ensured a fair and thorough evaluation process.

Congratulations to our program recipients!

British Columbia

- Vancouver Black Library Foundation

Ontario

- CineFAM
- Black Artists' Networks in Dialogue
- Girl Power'd
- Amadeusz
- Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
- Sisters in Sync
- ResQ Youth
- Durham Family & Cultural Centre
- Midaynta Community Services
- Acorn to Oak Youth Services
- Kidnetix Kidz Association

Quebec

- Centre Communautaire Bon Courage de Place Benoît
- Independent Media Producers Association of Creative Talent-I.M.P.A.C.T
- Hoodstock

Alberta

- African Canadian Civic Engagement Council

Manitoba

- Rahma Community and Youth Centre Inc.

Nova Scotia

- African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes
- Hope Blooms Youth Social Entrepreneurial Ventures Inc

BOF/ BCFC Academy

BOF in partnership with the **Black Canadian Fundraisers Collective** has recently secured funding from the RBC Foundation, as well as in-kind supports and resources from **Imagine Canada** and **MAS Management Advisory Services** to develop and deploy wrap-around capacity building supports for Black-led, Black-serving, and Black-focused not-for-profits and charities (B3s) through the **BOF/BCFC Academy**.

Due to the ongoing impacts of systemic racism, B3s ability to effectively carry out their mandates is limited, lack of stable long-term funding further handicaps B3s efficacy. The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the issue, and the community has been forced to solve significantly larger problems with fewer financial resources.

This historic underfunding is also manifested in a lack of talent in human resource and internal capacity for critical areas such as: grant writing, financial management and accounting, IT, fundraising, and legal expertise.

This program aims to help develop the capacity of B3s, while using approaches centered in a Black focused cultural context. Program elements include:

- Unrestricted B3 funding (to 10 participating B3s)
- Online directory of resources, templates and tools (free access to any Canadian B3)
- Capacity Development - Training, Coaching, Consulting (free access to selected Canadian B3s)
- Digital Infrastructure
- Community Networking Hub (free access to any Canadian B3)
- Program Evaluation



SUPPORTING BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

DoorDash BOF #BlackFoodEnergy Grant Program for Black Restaurants

In September 2022, BOF partnered with DoorDash to launch #BlackFoodEnergy – an extension of the DoorDash Entrepreneurship & Access Program – to celebrate and support Black-owned restaurants across Canada.

The BOF #BlackFoodEnergy Grant Program provided 13 Black-Owned Restaurants across Canada with grants of \$10,000 each to celebrate, amplify, and support Black Chefs and Black-Owned restaurants focused on innovation within the Canadian food industry.

British Columbia

- Juke Fried Chicken

Alberta

- Uncle Brian's

Saskatchewan

- Laghos African Kitchenette

Manitoba

- Di Reggae Grill Restaurant

Nova Scotia

- Efty Dishes Restaurant
- Halisi Café Inc.

Ontario

- Ago's Boat Fish and Chips
- Energy Shack Juice Bar
- Royaltea Coffee
- Grumpy's Smokehouse
- Boukan EdibleBliss

Quebec

- Maquis Yasolo
- Les Casse-croûtes Quick Stop





ByBlacks.com Black Restaurant Week 2023

As a natural extension of Black Opportunity Fund's Black-Owned Restaurant Grant Program, BOF was lead sponsor for ByBlacks.com 2023 Spring Restaurant Week, to promote Black-owned Canadian Restaurants, Caterers, pop-ups and Food Trucks nationwide.

Black Opportunity Fund Black Business Loan Program

As part of the \$10M, 5- year investment by TD Bank, BOF is launching an inclusive lending program for Black entrepreneurs who have been unable to secure funding through Canadian financial institutions. Following extensive consultations with Black entrepreneurs in communities across Canada, Black Opportunity Fund has built a lending capacity and support network with an anti-oppression lens, that will ensure that Canadian Black entrepreneurs will have a well-capitalized and thoughtful lending partner in BOF. Loans will be in the range of \$10,000 to \$50,000.



We are pleased to be working in collaboration with the Afro Caribbean Business Network (ACBN) who is a trusted community delivery partner with a history of providing capacity building support for Canadian Black entrepreneurs.

Wrap-Around Supports for Black Entrepreneurs

As part of its mandate to provide funding and capacity building support for Canadian Black-led businesses, Black Opportunity Fund (BOF) established the **Black Entrepreneur Program** to provide Canadian Black entrepreneurs who have been unable to access traditional funding from financial institutions, with business education, financial literacy, skills training and support to help build their capacity and knowledge to operate successful, sustainable businesses.

Through extensive research and consultation, BOF recognizes the significant pain points faced by Black entrepreneurs who attempt to pursue business education and capacity-building support programs, as they have to sacrifice valuable time and related revenue from operating their businesses, or from ancillary employment to pursue these courses. To help overcome these barriers that significantly impact Black entrepreneurship, BOF disburses **non repayable funds** to entrepreneurs enrolled in the various CBCC programs administered through this initiative, throughout the duration of their enrolment.



WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT PARTNER

Black Opportunity Fund is pleased to collaborate with the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce (CBCC) on this unique and innovative program that will provide appropriate high-level wrap-around support programs to clients. CBCC is a national non-profit organization, established to support black-owned businesses, entrepreneurship, economic development and commerce within Canada's Black communities.

In 2023 BOF expanded the initiative to provide subsidies towards the cost of securing mandatory licenses, certifications and permits for Black businesses enrolled in the BOF funded wrap-around programs.



We are grateful to the generous donation from CIBC and the CIBC Foundation in support of BOF, as well as CIBC's ongoing commitment to supporting Black communities and Black entrepreneurs, which has made this transformative initiative possible.



Sponsorship of Black Founders Network (BFN) 2023 Accelerate Cohort

Through a competitive selection process, 11 startup companies with at least one Black-identifying founder from the University of Toronto community are chosen to participate in the annual BFN Accelerate Program.

The BFN Accelerate structured program delivers education and workshops tailored to Black entrepreneurs, including workshops/sessions with an emphasis on market and customer research, MVP product development, competitor analysis, beta testing, revenue generation and product-market fit. Plus, members of BFN Accelerate gain access to weekly Entrepreneur and Investor “in-residence” office hours, dedicated mentorship and dedicated co-working space for teams.

Black Opportunity Fund is pleased to be sponsoring the 2023 BFN Accelerate Cohort to support the development of this tremendous group of talented entrepreneurs.



BOF Venture Capital Fund

BOF is currently finalizing the structure for launching a **\$50 million VC fund** that will take equity stakes in Black led businesses, as well as a fund of funds to build capacity of other Black-led VC Funds.

- The fund will launch in the latter part of 2023.
- It will be industry Agnostic
- Our partnership with National Bank Financial includes a \$5M contribution for investment in Black businesses. We also have strong interest from other potential investors.



IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR BLACK CANADIANS



Partnership with Sick Kids Foundation

BOF and SickKids continue to work together to help change the health outcomes for children living with Sickle Cell Disease across Canada. SCD is the most common genetic condition affecting people of Black African Caribbean descent. It is a debilitating condition that can place considerable financial burden on families.

Black Opportunity Fund has provided funding to support two important initiatives in partnership with SickKids, related to the treatment of the Sickle Cell Disease:

- **Capsule Shredder** - to make sickle cell disease medication easier and safer to take at home via a SickKids-developed technology called a capsule shredder, which will be distributed FREE of charge to ALL Children across Canada being treated for Sickle Cell Disease, through Canada's 13 children's hospitals over the next 5 years.
- **BOF Sickle Cell Disease Patient Amenities Fund**, an endowed fund at Sick Kids Hospital, to support patients and families with expenses such as transportation, accommodations, and medication not covered by the government, for hundreds of families.
- On June 29, 2022, **Walmart Canada** joined the partnership with a generous donation to Black Opportunity Fund to establish these critically needed programs which continue to be rolled out across Canada.

JUSTICE



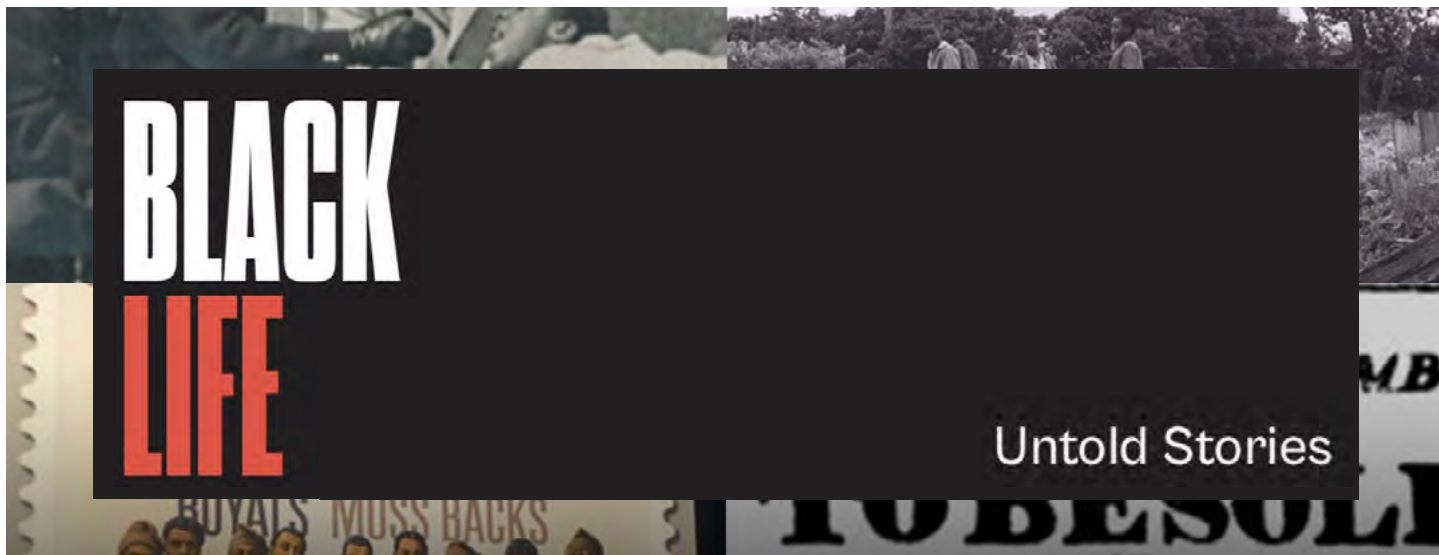
BOF National Justice Working Group

Canada's Department of Justice has appointed a Steering Committee, led by Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, to develop a Black Justice Strategy. This is a generational opportunity to develop a consistent framework to guide policy and practices to help dismantle systemic anti-Black racism in Canada's Justice System.

Black Opportunity Fund's National Justice Working Group is pleased to have consulted with and provided its recommendations to the Department of Justice and the Steering Committee over the past year. BOF's National Justice Working Group is a coalition of grassroots organizations, scholars, Elders, cultural keepers, policy specialists, youth, and members of Black communities across Canada, working in various ways to address systemic and structural inequities in the justice system.

Community consultations to inform the Black Justice Strategy are being led by 12 Black-led community organizations across Canada. Black Opportunity Fund is proud to be a funder of the work of several of these grassroots community organizations.

ARTS & CULTURE/ EDUCATION



Black Life

Black Opportunity Fund has partnered with the Black Life Impact Foundation as the National Community Impact Partner for Black Life: Untold Stories - a sweeping CBC docuseries and public engagement campaign, exploring the rich history of the Black experience in Canada. The series is Executive Produced by Canadian Hockey superstar philanthropist PK Subban, Black Lives Matter Toronto Co-Founder Sandy Hudson, and Director/Producer Leslie Norville.

The epic eight-part series airing on CBC and CBC Gem in Fall 2023, will trace the complex history of the Black experience in Canada over the past 400 years. The series, led by an all-Black creative team, celebrates the contributions of Black Canadians while presenting an unflinching examination of our collective past.

The CBC docuseries will be enhanced by a complimentary, ground-breaking education and impact campaign, designed to deepen public understanding of Canada's Black history. Led by author, activist, and Black Life co-executive producer Sandy Hudson, the campaign includes a comprehensive, bilingual curriculum; an experiential digital museum; and cross-country public screenings and events.

The Black Life Impact Foundation has partnered with the Black Opportunity Fund to ensure nationwide awareness. Individual and organizational donations to the Black Life Impact Foundation's public engagement initiative can be made through the Black Opportunity Fund.

HALIFAX DECLARATION D'HALIFAX



Partnership with Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation

The 2022 National Black Canadians Summit (NBCS) hosted in Halifax by the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation, concluded with the historic **Halifax Declaration**, demanding justice and equality for Black Canadians and people of African descent and provides a call to action and demands to various government bodies and Canadian institutions, highlighting issues such as housing, justice, healthcare, education, and media and arts.

Black Opportunity Fund helped fund the dissemination and analysis of this survey. The data gleaned from the survey has been used to validate the calls to action made in the NBCS July 2022 and to inform policy and programming activities aimed at improving the well-being of Black Canadians. Through this exercise, a mapping of the organizations that are doing vital work in Canada to activate and advance the calls for action made in the Declaration has been developed.

Black Opportunity Fund is partnering with the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation and national and local community organizations, to support the planning and hosting of the **2024 National Black Canadians Summit in Montreal** – which marks the final year of the UN Decade for People of African Descent.



OUR PARTNERS

Tier 1



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



**NATIONAL
BANK**

Tier 2



**Fondation
Foundation**



**The Law
Foundation
of Ontario**

Tier 3



**McKinsey
& Company**



**THE LOVE FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

Tier 4



BLACK OPPORTUNITY FUND

79 Wellington St. W, 19th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M5K 1A2

info@blackopportunityfund.org

Follow us

