

FIRST AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL SEPT-19<sup>TH</sup>-2015, THORNTON PARK VANCOUVER

UNITED BLACK CANADIANS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.



***This amazing stage was designed and managed by Vancouver Sound and Lighting operated and managed by Vancouver-based Sound and Lighting productions Mr. Conrad, Ceo and Managing Director. Great thanks to all the contribution with your team to make First African Music Festival event happen 2015.***

The audience is able to learn and appreciate the different cultures from different parts of Africa; The event brought together a large audience and public, as well as different local artists, community groups and organizations; Participants were able to connect and interact as well as have fun; The event was able

to showcase the cultural expressions and productions of various local artists in the community and in the Lower Mainland; The event contributed to promoting and recognizing Hogans's Alley as an important cultural heritage for the Black Community as well for the City of Vancouver, for BC and for Canada and brought social interactions among multicultural groups.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The United Black Canadian Community Association (UBCCA) is a non-profit organization that exists to foster, empower and increase education, economic development and tolerance for the preservation and promotion of Black, Culture, Customs, Values, History, Arts, Heritage and way of life within Canada. The UBCCA promotes [HOGAN'S ALLEY MEMORIAL PROJECT](#) Black Canadians Cultural Centre, as a legacy for Vancouver Black Community, Cultural programs and Black cultural centre. The UBCCA works to produce and present cultural, heritage, education and social events that profile and celebrate Canadians of African descent and to acquire all real and personal property which the Society shall deem necessary or convenient to carry out its purposes. The UBCCA intends to connect and better serve all Black Canadians and the general public through this vision.

The UBCCA is a well-known and established organization that was revived from the Black Canadians Cultural Association which was started by the late Honorable Emery Barnes and Roger B Jones, in 1985. The organization was revived in 2014 as United Black Canadian Community Association to promote Black Canadian cultural heritage through the Hogan's Alley Memorial Project, which seeks to build a Centre for African Heritage at Hogan's Alley former Black Community, in Vancouver. UBCCA is registered as a non-profit organization under the BC's Society Act. The UBCCA society's registration number is S-0063022.

The UBCCA is governed by a solid Board of Directors and the project is led by a team of experts from both the African and Canadian community, as well as experienced staff consultants (please refer to the attached list for project management team). The project team is made of five volunteer experts assisted by two paid consultants. We also have over one hundred volunteers that help us in our community and cultural programming such as festivals, conferences, historical tours of the community, webmaster and webdesign, etc. The UBCCA programs include cultural programs such as cultural community connections through dialogues and African festivals, art entertainment including music, dance, sport, games, poetry, storytelling, and many other activities that promotes African arts, culture and heritage. We also have seniors and elders community engagement activities as part of the community cultural services, as well as intercultural activities through sports programs (example soccer) for youth and adults.



The UBCCA provides cultural services to the Black community as well as to the community at large. Geographically, the UBCCA is rooted in Hogan's Alley and Vancouver Lower Mainland, but its mandate extends to the whole of British Columbia. We engage our communities and audiences through several art and cultural programs, such as the Black Strathcona, Vancouver Movie Theatre, the black dot poetry, the black community cultural historical walk/tour and community gatherings for elders who used to live in Hogan's Alley, etc. We organize every summer black community cultural festivals and activities. Training, learning, and research are also conducted here and this is where the headquarters of UBCCA is based. It is for this reason that we need a Centre for African Heritage after the viaduct is removed to preserve our history, culture, and heritage of the black community.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER.



Yasin Kiraga Misago. Founder, Ceo for United Black Canadians Community Association and First African Music Festival in Vancouver.

**THE MESSAGE FROM FIRST AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNITED BLACK CANADIANS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BC.**

Dear community members, colleagues and Vancouverites. For years stories were told about the Black Underground railway, the Black, Americans, Africans, Salt Lake Island in Victoria, BC, Jamaican Maroons and the Black from Alberta Refugees who settled in Hogan's Alley Vancouver, made homes, established communities, some who gave up and others who stayed to build a lasting legacy. The Black Cultural Centre began telling this story in 1970. Now you can join visitors from across Canada, the U.S, Africa, Asia, Europe and South America who have all discovered a part of history that they had not experienced before. Perhaps a visit to the Centre will reveal to you the important link between Vancouver, Halifax, Nova Scotia and Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The Black Cultural Centre for Hogan's Alley Vancouver, welcomes you to experience the story of why thousands of people with African heritage came to be Canadians, in Vancouver, Nova Scotia, almost a hundred years before Canadian confederation took place in 1867. At the same time when African men and women continued to be captured, chained and forced into servitude, thousands of free Black settlers arrived in Nova Scotia from the USA and Caribbean. This Centre is the only place where you can unravel the riddle of voluntary migration that brought this population to Canada during the turmoil and upheaval following the U.S. War of Independence and the War of 1812.

The Centre's history of settlement, Art and Music is revealed through Jimi Hendrix, Nora Hendrix Shrine, African Fountain Chapel, artefacts, charts, Viaduct and images including some that explain how to organize more than 20 small remote villages so that their populations can work together with people beyond their own local community. At the Centre you can explore a unique, Vancouver organization, the African United Baptist Association, which provides that unity of purpose.

The Black Cultural Society of Vancouver proudly presents the exhibits and programs at the Centre.

Yasin Kiraga M Cell: 6043554434. The president of United Black Canadian Community Association of Vancouver.

**AFRICAN CANADIANS COMMUNITY AT THE AFRICAAN FESTIVAL THORNTON PARK IN JOY.**



*In the photo above, members of the Black Community led by Paul Mulangu, Director of Centre for Integration of African immigrants in Vancouver handing a gift for outstanding Black community supporter Mr. Vincent Fodera, owner of Creek side students residence and Jimi Hendrix Shrine. Vincent wants the City to build a statue for Jimi Hendrix in front of the Shrine as a tourist attraction in Vancouver for Jimi and Norah Hendrix his grandmother.*



*Milcah Kasomali a Zimbabwean Canadian Vancouver Based Cultural Artist and Entrepreneur in African and Caribbean Art gallery was among the Art and Cultural entrepreneurs attended the First African Festival 2015.*

Canada being a Cultural diversity country, we, members of United Black Canadians Community Association of BC will appreciate the opportunity to organize an African Cultural Festival in the City of Vancouver. Here in Canada, we are encouraged to embrace each other's culture, heritage, and background, and by hosting an

African Musical Festival to celebrate international cultures, the city is directly recognized in promoting this attitude of oneness among all ethnic groups and communities.



An African traditional hub medicine with a very nice smell attractive to many Vancouverites was part of the First African Music Festival with the variety of different cultural hub to expose as part of African diverse cultural heritage in Vancouver.

African Music Festival is a cultural event that enables Canadians to enjoy and learn about different cultures from different parts of African and also helps to promote local artists. It is a forum that provides every performer the opportunity to highlight their region (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and North Africa) music and cultural heritage. Different community groups and organizations will be invited to participate by hosting booths of any culture of their choosing. Different ethnic Foods and games will be available. This event will have no admission fee but donations will be encouraged and all monies raised will go toward the Edo Friends of BC new immigrants and refugees settlement and integration programs in the Vancouver Region.



*African Caribbean food from Columbia South America was among the best dishes served at the the First African Music Festival in Vancouver. The community members were so thrilled to be served by the food vendors at the event in from different sources with music led by Afrobeat Karakata the largest Afro Canadian Band in British Columbia.*

The most important thing for this event demonstrated tribute to Hogan's Alley Black Community heritage, entertainment and Black Community immigrants for the development of Vancouver Art, Cultural and Music Entertainment. Provided contacts for musicians, artists, culture groups in the community. Provided avenue for different ethnic groups to showcase their arts and cultures in the city Organize information booths that represent different cultures (these could be posters, food, games, music, souvenirs, etc. Anything that could help educate people about different Arts, cultures and to celebrate diversity, Promotion of local artists Building socially integrated society by building bridges among communities that promote intercultural understanding Fostering citizenship, civic, pride, and respect for core democratic values grounded in Canada history. Promoted equal opportunities for individuals of all origin in BC. Improving the responsiveness of institutions to become more responsive to diversity to integrating multiculturalism into their policy and program development and service delivery.



Afrobeat Karakata the largest multitalented Afrocadian band based in BC performed for the whole effect despite of the rain. The Ceo of the band Mr. Kàrà-Kátà Afrobeat Group is a multi cultural/Ethnic Music/Dance/Entertainment/performance/Afro-western Fashion Group based in Surrey/Langley, Canada. Toyinirawoo accepted our request to bring his entire band to the show just to educate, entertain and expose nature of Black Canadians and African culture. Thanks so much for the time and dedication Afrobeat Karakata band for promoting intercultural understanding in our community.

#### WHAT ARE AFROBEAT?

Afrobeat is a combination of traditional Yoruba music, jazz, highlife, funk and chanted vocals, fused with percussion and vocal styles, popularised in Africa in the 1970s. Its main creator was the Nigerian multi-instrumentalist and bandleader Fela Kuti, who gave it its name, who used it to revolutionise musical structure as well as the political context in his native Nigeria. It was Kuti who coined the term "afrobeat" upon his return from a U.S. tour with his group Nigeria '70 (formerly Koola Lobitos). Afrobeat features chants, call-and-response vocals, and complex, interacting rhythms. The new sound hailed from a club that he established called the Afro-Shrine. Upon arriving in Nigeria, Kuti also changed the name of his group to Africa '70. The band maintained a five-year residency in the Afro-Shrine from 1970 to 1975 while afrobeat thrived among Nigerian youth. Afrobeat is now one of the most recognizable music genres in the world and has influenced as many Western musicians as it has African ones with its exuberant style and polyrhythms.

#### THE HISTORY OF AFROBEAT.



In 1969 Fela coined the term, "Afrobeat" to describe his new amalgam of Yoruba, highlife, soul & jazz. Quote Fela, "I was playing highlife when Geraldo Pino came to town in '66... that's what upset everything, man. He came to town singing James Brown's music.... Made me fall right on my ass, man... I went to Ghana shortly after... Pino was playing there... To me it was swinging music. I say, 'Look the drummer, how he play drums! Ohhhhh, I say... this is heavy-o'... One day I was sitting in a club in Accra, listening to soul music... Everybody was playing soul, man, trying to copy Pino... I said to myself: 'I have to be very original ... and clear myself from this mess. I must identify myself with Africa... I must give it a name-o, a real African name that is catchy... I've been thinking of calling it 'Afrobeat' ' (Carlos Moore, Fela Fela- This Bitch of a Life, 1982). Thirteen years later, Fela stated, "How do I define my music? People continue to call it Afrobeat. I call it 'African Music'. But African music is so extensive.... Let's call it 'African music by Fela,' then. Finish!"

#### WHO IS FELA ANIKULAPO KUTI.

was born Olufela Olusegun Oludotun Ransome-Kuti in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria into a middle-class family. His mother, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti was a feminist activist in the anti-colonial movement and his father, Reverend Israel Oludotun Ransome-Kuti, a Protestant minister and school principal, was the first president of the Nigerian Union of Teachers. His brothers, Beko Ransome-Kuti and Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, both medical doctors, are well known in Nigeria. Fela was a first cousin to the Nigerian writer and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, the first African to win a Nobel Prize for Literature. Fela was sent to London in 1958 to study medicine but decided to study music instead at the Trinity College of Music. While there, he formed the band Koola Lobitos, playing a fusion of jazz and highlife. In 1960, Fela married his first wife, Remilekun (Remi) Taylor, with whom he would have three children (Femi, Yeni, and Sola). In 1963, Fela moved back to Nigeria, re-formed Koola Lobitos and trained as a radio producer for the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. He played for some time with Victor Olaiya and his All Stars. In 1967, he went to Ghana to think up a new musical direction. That was when Kuti first called his music Afrobeat. In 1969, Fela took the band to the United States. influence his music and political views and renamed the band Nigeria '70. Soon, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was tipped off by a promoter that Fela and his band were in the U.S. without work permits. The band then performed a quick recording session in Los Angeles that would later be released as The '69 Los Angeles Sessions. Fela's music became very popular among the Nigerian public and Africans in general. In fact, he made the decision to sing in Pidgin English so that his music could be enjoyed by individuals all over Africa, where the local languages spoken are very diverse and numerous. As popular as Fela's music had become in Nigeria and elsewhere, it was also very unpopular with the ruling government, and raids on the Kalakuta Republic were frequent. During 1972, Ginger Baker recorded Stratavarius with Fela appearing alongside Bobby Gass. Around this time, Kuti was becoming more involved in Yoruba religion Fela Anikulapo Kuti died On 3 August 1997, More than a million people attended Fela's funeral at the site of the old Shrine compound.

#### ORIGIN OF AFROBEAT.

Originated from the southern part of Nigeria in the 1960s where Fela Kuti experimented with many different forms of contemporary music of the time. Prevalent in his and Lagbaja's music are native African harmonies and rhythms, taking different elements and combining, modernizing and improvising upon them. Politics are essential to afrobeat, since founder Kuti used social criticism to pave the way for social change. His message can be described as confrontational and controversial, which can be related to the political climate of most of the African countries in the 1960s, many of which were dealing with political injustice and military corruption while recovering from the transition from colonial governments to self-determination. As the genre spread throughout the African continent many bands took up the style. The recordings of these bands and their songs were rarely heard or exported outside the originating countries but many can now be found on compilation albums and CDs from specialist record shops.

#### DANCINGAFROBEAT.

Since Afrobeat is a combination of traditional Yoruba music, jazz, highlife, funk and chanted vocals, fused with percussion and vocal styles, Its spiritual and also has a lot of connection and spiritual believe linked to Traditional Yoruba gods which Fela himself believes so much in. Dancing Afrobeat is not only about the fun, its also about the connection the individual is making with the Yoruba traditions and culture. Afrobeat is a very fun, funky, melo and energetic type of beats. There are few dance-breaks in dancing Afrobeat, sometimes the break comes after the whole instruments, some breaks also comes just the drums, and the trumpets/saxophone/trombone or even the bandleader can signal a break. To be able to dance Afrobeat

very well, the dancers must listen to all aspect of the instruments used in the Music of Fela Anikulapo Kuti's songs and of his kids; Femi Kuti and Seun Kuti. If you want to make either Conga, Akuba/Gbedu, Samba or the Drum set, generally in the form polyrhythmic percussion the base of your dance moves, pick it up and second it with keyboard/organ, Bass guitar, tenor guitar, saxophone or the trumpet. Afrobeat is very diverse and can be found in many African/world music today. Listening to Nigerian/Ghana highlife music is also a very useful source of knowing or learning how to dance Afrobeat.



*Members of South Sudan and Philippine Ms. Elizabeth Abit Adit, Ceo and co-founder of South Sudan international Youth Ambassadors, Me An, Ceo of Me An Insurance agency and Philipino Community shares stories about culture diversity and African cultural festivals part of the intercultural understanding in Vancouver.*

United Black Canadians Community Association of BC Association will need your help to make this musical event a success because event like this is not self-sustaining. Publicity and marketing fees of this event around the Mainland, venue rental, security, logistics and transportation, artists and musicians' fees, and general administration fees are some of the expenses that need to be taken care of. Since part of the government's legitimate business is to support arts and culture in the community, we believe that, the participation and support of the City of Vancouver and all other sponsors during this event will further reinforce the belief that your city and these sponsors are arts friendly and support cultural activities in general.

Our target audience for this event includes new immigrants and refugees, different ethnic groups throughout the lower mainland, citizens of the City of Vancouver and the general public around the lower mainland, Fraser Valley, British Columbia and Canada as a whole.



### **Vision**

To build a society enriched and interconnected through African descent Canadian arts, history and culture with a mandate to build a center for African Heritage Cultural Centre at Hogan's Alley.

### **Values**

Community Engagement We thrives on and encourages community participation and social connectedness.

Artistic Excellence: We cultivate and support talented artists and cultural producers.

Accessibility: we program a wide variety of events and activities to appeal to and engage a diverse range of attendees and volunteers.

Heritage: We honour Vancouver's original people of African descent Canadian neighbourhood and its History our programming reflects the diverse perspectives of People of African descent heritage in Vancouver.

### **Event Goals**

Pay tribute to Hogan's Alley Black Community entertainment and Black Community immigrants for the development of Vancouver Art, Cultural and Music Entertainment. Help promote cultural diversity in the City of Vancouver. Provide contacts for musicians, artists, culture groups in the community. Provide avenue for different ethnic groups to showcase their arts and cultures in the city. Organize information booths that represent different cultures (these could be posters, food, games, music, souvenirs, etc.) Anything that could help educates people about different Arts, cultures and to celebrate diversity. Promotion of local artists. Building socially integrated society by building bridges among communities that promote intercultural understanding. Fostering citizenship, civic, pride, and respect for core democratic values grounded in Canada history. Promoting equal opportunities for individuals of all origin in BC. Improving the responsiveness of institutions to become more responsive to diversity to integrating multiculturalism into their policy and program development and service delivery. Actively engaging in discussions on multiculturalism and diversity at the international level by: 4promoting Canadian approaches to diversity as a successful model while contributing to an International policy dialogue on issues related to multiculturalism. (Funding for this objective will be primarily for activities that take place in Canada).



### **Event Plans**

Any event's success depends on location. Choosing Thornton Park, part of Former Hogan Alley black community focal entry area in Vancouver as the event venue with lots of Black History, high-traffic, accessibility through skytrain warrants large number of people attending the event.

## The First African Music Festival Vancouver BC, 2015



*A Tribute to Hogan's Alley Black Community in Vancouver, BC, 2015AD*

According to our event schedule, beginning late morning and running through late afternoon to the evening allows enough time for large group to take in the African Music, the booths and displays. Also, it provides time for visitors to learn some African dances, arts and crafts.

Volunteers are the most important asset to a successful event. Our network of volunteers have proved to us time and time again that they can really get the job done by scheduling activities, promoting the event, and making sure that event day goes smoothly.

We do have different committees that facilitates different aspects of the event, namely: Management committee, Planning Committee, Publicity Committee and Marketing Committee

### **Community Impact**

At the close of the event, we measure our community impact by:

- How many people attended the event?
- Comments made on the evaluation sheets about the event by attendees
- Comments made about the event on our website.
- Numbers of unwanted incidents that came up during the event.
- Numbers of cultural and ethnic groups that were represented at the event.

### **Benefits to the City and Citizenship and Immigration Canada benefits.**

Some of the benefits to the city through this musical festival are the recognition of the city of Vancouver in all our promotional materials – flyers, banners, leaflets, letters, and public meetings with stakeholders, radio,

community television and our website. During the event, the city will be mentioned as a sponsor in all our activities and will encourage participants and visitors to patronize the city because of her friendliness to cultures.

#### WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE FIRST AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015.

##### Why we held this event?.

To provide an opportunity for the audience to learn about diversity and multiculturalism in metro Vancouver, appreciate different cultures from the different parts of Africa and an occasion for artists from different cultural origins to have a platform to promote their work; while paying tribute to Hogan'Alley as a one of Vancouver Black and African cultural heritage, and to the former Hogan's Alley Black Community and their contribution to the Vancouver art, cultural and entertainment, and multiculturalism. We held this event specifically for this purpose and this led to great appreciation from the public. This was the first African festival in Vancouver history and according to the survey results, 90% respondents would like to have this festival in 2016, July. It was important to organize this festival to bring all African immigrants and multicultural groups in Vancouver. Different community groups and organizations will be invited to participate by hosting booths of any culture of their choosing. Different ethnic Foods and games will be available. The event took place on September 15th, 2015 at Thornton Park - Hogan's Alley, Vancouver. Our targeted audience for this event included new immigrants and refugees, different ethnic groups throughout the Lower mainland, citizens of the City of Vancouver and the general public around the Lower mainland, Fraser Valley, British Columbia and Canada as a whole. The African Musical Festival is a cultural event demonstrated tribute to Hogan's Alley former Black Community and enables Canadians to enjoy and learn about different cultures from different parts of Africa and also helps to promote local artists. It acted as a forum that provided every performer the opportunity to highlight their region's (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and North Africa) music



and culture.

The audience is able to learn and appreciate the different cultures from different parts of Africa; The event is able to bring together a large audience and public, as well as different local artists, community groups and organizations; Participants are able to connect and interact as well as have fun; The event is able to showcase the cultural expressions and productions of various local artists in the community and in the Lower Mainland; The event contributes to promoting and recognizing Hogans's Alley as an important cultural heritage for the Black Community as well for the City of Vancouver, for BC and for Canada.

#### FIRST AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL AIMED TO FOSTER CORE DEMOCRATIC VALUE.

Democracy is all about being able to make informed choices. For example, if all citizens decide to enjoy their culture, liberty, human rights values and respect of immigrants and cultural diversity as well as Canadian multiculturalism values and all you make a choice from the individual candidates, and/or from the programmes and positions of the parties they represent. The event demonstrated how citizens make genuinely informed choices, you need to be able to: engage meaningfully in open dialogue and debate access relevant and objective information so that our views are informed perceive that your participation in the debate and knowledge mobilization on issues about the immigrants and all communities.



Above in the first photos, Afro Caribbean and Afro Philippine sisters part of the African Descent on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept-2015 and below them are African immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa first right Faith, from Uganda, Paul Mulango from DRC Congo, Yasin Kiaraga Misago from Burundi, Pascaline from Burundi,



*Eunice and Milcah Kasomali from Zimbabwe and Musicia Toyinirawoo, Ceo of Afrobeat band from Nigeria all at First African Music Vestival 2015.*



Great thanks to Milcah Kasoma a Zimbabwean Canadian cultural vendor at First African Music Festival.



The audience were able to learn and appreciate the different cultures from different parts of Africa; The event brought together a large audience and public, as well as different local artists, community groups and organizations; Participants were able to connect and interact as well as have fun; The event was able to showcase the cultural expressions and productions of various local artists in the community and in the Lower Mainland; The event contributed to promoting and recognizing Hogans's Alley as an important cultural heritage for the Black Community as well for the City of Vancouver, for BC and for Canada and brought social interactions among multicultural groups.



My long time friend and community builder, a friend of Black community and Jimi Hendrix Mr. Vincent Fodera receiving honorarium from the Black Community for outstanding historical support of Black Community with Jimi Hendrix Shrine a source of tourist attraction of the Black Community in Vancouver.



Yasin Kiraga Misago the Executive Director of African Music Festival and United Black Canadians Community Association BC along with Black community handing over the gift to Mr. Vincent Fodera. Thanks always to leave a legacy behind for supporting the Black Community and thanks for the outstanding services and love of multiculturalism.



Great thanks to all Vancouver Sound and Lighting team led by Mr. Conrad, Ceo of the Vancouver Sound and Lighting for stage design, event managements which made our event successful. Thanks Ms. Faith for bring Culture Arts, Ms. Eunice, Pascaline and Milcah Kasomali for participation and promoting culture for the people of African descent in Vancouver at African Music Festival 2015.



Great Afro Philippine girl Ms. Me An



Afro Canadians friends of the Black Community in Vancouver Me An, right and Marquis in African style.



Me An Insurance Services Ltd., is an Insurance & Investment Brokerage firm based out of Vancouver specialise in Life, Insurance, Investment, Living benefits and Travel. The company was founded by Me An who has been successfully operating as a Managing General Agent since with offices in Vancouver. Every person needs insurance and this was the reason we had a great insurance company at our event to make sure citizens are aware of the companies responsible for protecting their lives and businesses as Me An is among the potential companies which were present at African Music Festival 2015.



Geese are becoming a huge problem for a Vancouver memorial honouring Concordia female L'Ecole Polytechnique students killed in 1989.