

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2/1/2024 9:28:14 AM
Subject: Upcoming news release: Black History Month (February 1, 2024)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on Thursday, February 1 regarding Black History Month.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at approximately 11 am.

This Black History Month, the City is asking residents to support Black and African diaspora-owned businesses. This focus was informed by recommendations from our *Black and African Diaspora Community Advisory Committee* who identified 'advancing economic wellbeing' as one of the top priorities for City focus. In partnership with the Black Business Association of BC (BBABC), the City of Vancouver's [Black History Month webpage](#) now includes the link to the BBABC's interactive map of Black-owned businesses. And throughout the month, the City will be releasing four [videos featuring Vancouver-based Black and African diaspora entrepreneurs](#) on social media.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live. We'd also encourage you to share and amplify these Black-owned business stories throughout the month of February.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News Release
February 1, 2024

Support Black-owned businesses this Black History Month

The City of Vancouver is proud to recognize Black History Month each February and this year is encouraging Vancouverites to support businesses owned by members of Black and African diaspora communities.

In partnership with the [Black Business Association of BC \(BBABC\)](#), the City of Vancouver's [Black History Month web page](#) now includes the link to the BBABC's interactive map of Black-owned businesses. Throughout the month, the City will also be releasing [videos featuring Vancouver-based Black and African diaspora entrepreneurs](#) on social media.

"Vancouver thrives thanks to the vibrant cultural and economic contributions of the Black and African diaspora communities," said Mayor Ken Sim. "Our City is committed to promoting equity and combating racism for these communities. As we honour Black History Month, let us unite in supporting the numerous Black and African diaspora entrepreneurs in Vancouver – not just in February, but year-round, as we strive to build an inclusive and flourishing community for all."

“The Black Business Association of BC is proud to be collaborating with the City of Vancouver for Black History Month 2024”, said Nerissa Allen, president and CEO of the Black Business Association of BC. “The strength and success of any community relies on the commitment of its citizens to work together towards unified growth. Vancouver will continue to prosper due to the wonderful diversity of culture and business that underpins the city.”

The focus for Black History Month 2024 was informed by recommendations from the City of Vancouver’s *Black and African Diaspora Community Advisory Committee* who identified ‘advancing economic wellbeing’ as one of the top priorities for City focus. These recommendations are also informing the development of a forthcoming city-wide action plan to address anti-Black racism in Vancouver.

Black History Month provides us with the collective opportunity to celebrate and learn about the many achievements, investments, and contributions of Vancouver’s Black and African diaspora communities, while also acknowledging the historical and enduring inequality, oppression, and erasure these communities have experienced. Beyond observing Black History Month, we must make a consistent effort to acknowledge, empower, and value the perspectives and experiences of those in the Black and African diaspora communities every day.

The City of Vancouver recognizes that it has historically played a role in perpetuating discrimination against Black and African diaspora communities and is committed to addressing anti-Black racism in all its forms. Updates on [Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress at the City of Vancouver can be found here](#).

Today, on February 1, City Hall and Burrard Bridge will be illuminated Black, Red, Green and Gold in honour of Black History Month.

For more information about Black History Month in Vancouver, visit [Vancouver.ca/Black-History-Month](https://vancouver.ca/black-history-month).

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