

# ISSAMBA NEWS

JUNE EVENTS | UPCOMING EVENTS | PAST EVENTS REVIEW | VICTORIA AFRO NEWS



"We need to see more events that bring us together like this, the world is so divided right now - this is healing."

Pam (AfricaFest attendee)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

June 25, 2022

### ISSAMBA AT THE PARK

A casual, family-friendly community gathering, as we celebrate BC's Multiculturalism Day.

An amazing line up of drummers, dancers and community groups showcasing other cultures. Show up and show out in your cultural attire.

Experience a Capoeira performance by Axe Capoeira, listen to the afro beats jazz inspired beats of Damasco Soul system, a belly dance performance by Vivianna, Pedro Siqueira of VIBRA enralls with Brazilian Popular Music and Soca-cize with Oniel of FitRev

Music. Cake. Dance

July 15, 2022

### KIZABA & DJ EZO - AFRO-FUTURIST MUSIC & DANCE PARTY

An evening showcasing the latest in African music and culture, featuring Congolese/Montreal performer KIZABA and his band, followed by DJ's spinning the best of today's Afro-based dance music late into the night!

July 2, 2022

### THE BUILD

The Black Women Mentorship & Skills Advancement Programme will provide an avenue for Black women to build intergenerational networks and relationships through access to mentorship from accomplished and experienced women of African descent in BC, as well as in-demand skills advancement workshops.

## JULY UPCOMING AACCCS EVENTS

## African Cultural Week in Review

May 21 - 29 | Spirit of Africa Night Gala | Africa Fest



African Cultural Week began with our fundraising gala on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Edelweiss Center where the sounds, sights and tastes of Africa were celebrated. It was a beautiful night of celebration of our music and the spontaneity of our dances. The audience was introduced to the traditional art of storytelling as practised in Congo, Brazzaville through the performance of Jean-Pierre Makosso, a Congolese native. There were over 150 people in attendance who enjoyed partaking in traditional foods from various parts of Africa and dancing together to afrobeats.

We celebrated our ISSAMBA Showcase, which is a series of curated concerts showcasing rhythms, music and dances of Africa headline by Zal Sissokho, a world-renowned kora player and his band, and the Abahebera Drummers, a group of 12 Burundian drummers from the Burundian community in Regina acclaimed for their animated performances in many cultural events all over Canada. The event was scheduled over the course of two days to give all communities access to it; it was held on May 27, 2022 in Sooke and May 28, 2022 at The Dave Dunnet Community Theatre.

Africa Fest 2022 was the crowning event of our African Cultural Week which featured new presentations from our headliners as well as afrobeats workshops and workshops on African Sounds. As a cultural centered organization, we programmed the event to introduce the community to beautiful African sounds through Djembe and Balafo workshops. The workshops were led by two African born artistes with mastery of these instruments.

The performance of the Abahebera Drummers brought the centennial square to a standstill. It was a delightful celebration of African culture and intergenerational knowledge transfer as the group has members in their teenage years and one even younger than 10. Each drummer showcased their skills individually and as a group and it was meaningful to observe the youngest member incorporate contemporary Canadian culturally relevant dance movements into the traditional Burundian performance - a display of cultural exchange or blending that is the cornerstone of multiculturalism.

### Your Guide to Afrocentric Events in Victoria

**June 18**

Culture Links

A multicultural celebration organized by BC Black History Awareness Society  
<https://bcblackhistory.ca/culture-links/>

**June 18**

IDPAD Grant: Community Town Hall

organized by City of Victoria's IDPAD Advisory Committee

([victoria.ca/IDPAD](https://victoria.ca/IDPAD))

