

ISSAMBA NEWS

DECEMBER EVENTS | UPCOMING EVENTS | EVENTS REVIEW | VICTORIA AFRONEWS

A TRIP TO EUROPE



In the winter months, as the weather gets colder, and activities/events are all winding down, our sun loving bodies really just want to hibernate till the summer but alas we must don our winter jackets and go about our business of networking. So here goes Pulcherie, all the way to Portugal for 5 days to attend a global conference, Worldwide Music Expo (WOMEX) which is the biggest, most international and culturally diverse global music expo. With over 2600 music professionals including 260 performing artists ranging in musical styles from traditional to jazz to afrobeats, Pulcherie was spoiled for choice for potential collaborations. She met and closed a deal with Naxx Bitota, the

Montreal-based artiste, to open our ISSAMBA Showcase - a series of concerts in 2023. Pulcherie also visited Austria to break bread with international artist, Mamadou Diabate and finalized plans for him to headline the ISSAMBA Showcase. You can all look forward to thrilling performances from Mamadou whose mastery on the balafon produces an outerworldly effect on listeners and Naxx, whose style has been described as a cross between Miriam Makeba and Whitney Houston.

CHRISTMAS THE AFRICAN WAY

Growing up in West Africa, the first sign of Christmas was the harmattan dust from the Sahara that settled everywhere and dried out our skin and lips. Vaseline and cocoa butter were in short supply as mothers piled it on the arms and legs of their littles to keep them from earning the moniker, "harmattan's wife/husband" which described how ashy your skin looked if not properly moisturized. We celebrated Christmas by sharing bowls of cooked food with our neighbours.. Many families would head to the villages from the big cities to rejuvenate, spend time with elderly relatives and watch the masquerades perform in the town square on or around christmas day. In Bonny Island, *Nwaotam* would spend a week in the cemetery to be fortified by the ancestors before donning the masquerade head on Christmas day. His performance would begin on the rooftops, a safe distance from everyone. We would watch in awe but knew to run as fast as our little legs could carry us once he jumped down from the roof as we were warned not to be caught in Nwoatam's path. These days Christmas in Victoria is a little quieter, spent hoping that the snow stays away till mid-February. Here are some ideas to bring a little bit of Africa home to Victoria.



African themed ornaments are easy diy or projects or purchase from Etsy/Amazon

Mix and match regular pillows with Moroccan silk pillows or this 3 wise African women pillow from Etsy



There's always something going on at ISSAMBA, This year was busy online and in person from hosting vaccine conversations with professionals to inviting many community leaders to host grassroots covid-19 conversations to collect data for Public Health Canada. We held space for Black Canadians to host an Emancipation Day conversation and numerous other events. Here's a look at some highlights of 2022

A Community Conversation on Anti-racism data legislation

We began the year by hosting a difficult conversation with the community to collect data and recommendations for anti-racism legislation. The conversation was hosted online and was attended by many who wanted to lend their voices to the cry for change. While this is a triggering topic for many racialized people, we believe it is an important conversation that we must continue to have to bring about lasting change for future generations.

February 2022 - Black History Month

For Black History Month, we selected the theme, Representation Matters and hosted a series of conversations with black Canadians who are making-history. The first conversation was held with Dr. Eni who authored *Inside Intercultural Canada*, which explores African identity and the experiences of black Canadians. Other conversations included a session with Richard Michaels, a distinguished entrepreneur, Alex Omoding, a member of Victoria Police Department, and with Dr. Amadou Ba, Wanda Jemly-Conteuse, Elder Amos Kambere. Alongside the conversations, we hosted a symposium, a convention, ISSAMBA kitchen - our African culinary workshop, and ISSAMBA showcase, a series of curated concerts headlined by renowned African artistes.

May 2022 - African Cultural Week

African Cultural week occurs annually around May 25th which is "African Liberation Day" celebrated by millions of Africans to mark the founding of the first union of African countries in 1963. This year, our line up of activities featured the annual festival - AfricaFest. AfricaFest 2022 was attended by over 4000 people and was a celebration of African culture through music and arts creating an avenue for community engagement and education. We also hosted a fundraising Gala to support ISSAMBA's programs and a series of concerts by Zal, Adama Daou, Djelly Mory and The Abahebera Drummers - a group of 12 Burundian animated drummers.

July 2022, The BUILD

We designed and successfully executed The BUILD - Black Women Mentorship & Skills Advancement Program which was designed to create avenues for Black women to build intergenerational networks through mentorship from accomplished women of African descent in BC, as well as develop in-demand skills through workshops. 11 women participated in the pilot edition of The BUILD Program.

In October, we hosted Victoria's first ever pop-up African Eatery - Mama Put. With so many events executed, we are looking forward to a well deserved holiday. Happy Holidays peoples!



AFRICAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2022
12 pm to 5 pm

MOBERLY ARTS CENTRE
7646 Prince Albert St, Vancouver

Complete your Christmas shopping with authentic products, arts, and crafts from Africa!

FREE admission
With complementary African snacks!



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien www.AfricanFriendship.org

December 18, 2022

NAIJA BUKA

11-5pm

A hub of yummy Nigerian food, freshly cooked and ready for purchase at Victoria Public Market

organized by The Ministry of Enjoyment YYJ
@TheMinistryofEnjoymentYYJ

SEMBA WEEKENDER
27-29 JANUARY 2023
WITH JEFFREY KIZOMBA
ARTISTS: Freddy & Katharina, Angola Terra
7h of Workshops
2 parties with DJ Fofa Jah & Mister Shaun
\$90 Early Bird
STUDIO Dos Con Dos 2323 GALVANI, STE-FOY (Québec)

<https://kazakiz.com/>

Sponsorship/partnership packages are now open for Black History Month 2023



<https://www.issambacentre.ca>

Sponsors

Email: issambacentre@gmail.com to sponsor a newsletter

