

BYR Youth Gala

Presented by BYR Youth
"For youth, by youth"



About us: BYR Youth

Black York Region Youth (BYR Youth) was founded in 2020 by adult mentor and leader Vanessa Stoby, a York Region teacher, and four youth: Sydney Baxter, Cameron Davis, Rachel Cheng, and Hannah Mullings-Tatum. The organization was founded to combat anti-Black racism, systemic racism, anti-Indigenous hate, and discrimination in all of its forms within the Greater Toronto Area.

Over the years, BYR Youth has continued to grow into a group of almost 30 passionate BIPOC Youth and allies who are driving the change the founders envisioned for their communities.

BYR Youth continues its mission by curating thoughtful events for Black Youth, supporting community initiatives, and advocating on Black Youth's behalf— whether at the municipal, provincial, or federal level.



BYR Youth Gala 2024



“I was very happy to win a scholarship for the trades, as I didn’t think there would be any available.
-Jordyn Brown



“Being awarded the healthcare scholarship served as a reminder of the goals, expectations, and standards I hold myself to in my academic journey, as well as a source of motivation to continue putting in the work needed to become highly successful.”
-Tayshaun Jeffererys



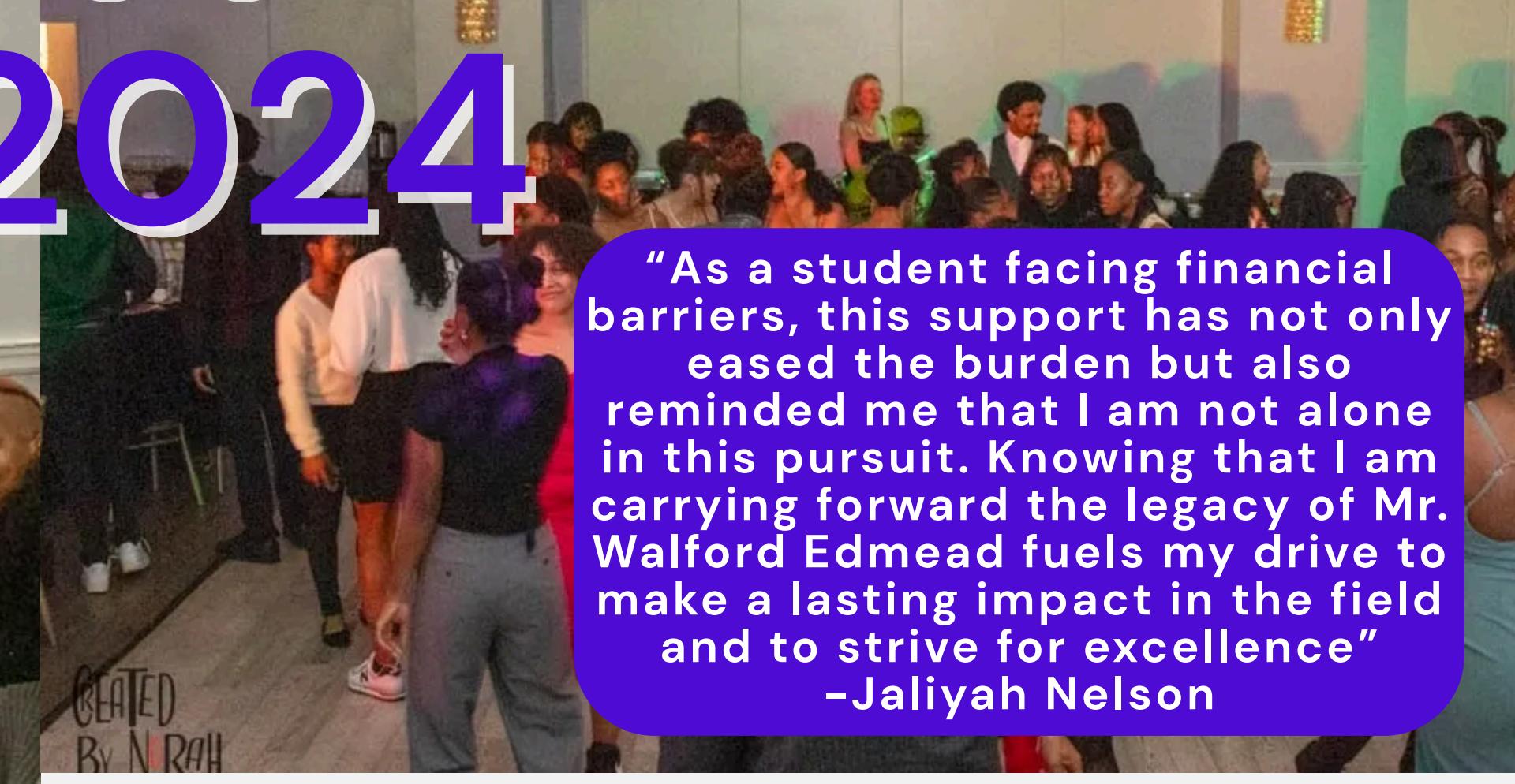
BYR Youth 1st Black Youth Gala:
BYR Youth’s 1st Black Youth Gala in February 2024 was a red carpet event celebrating the past, present and future. The event was an opportunity for the achievements of Black youth to be celebrated with community members. The event consisted of 144 youth and adult attendees, where 8 Black youth were awarded scholarships for post-secondary. Additionally, several Black youth visual artists and performers had the chance to showcase their talents.





“Planning the Gala was an educational experience that taught me the importance of outreach, networking, and communication”
-Sade Allison

BYR Youth Gala 2024



“As a student facing financial barriers, this support has not only eased the burden but also reminded me that I am not alone in this pursuit. Knowing that I am carrying forward the legacy of Mr. Walford Edmead fuels my drive to make a lasting impact in the field and to strive for excellence”
-Jaliyah Nelson



Past Initiatives

More information can be found on byryouth.ca



BYR Youth Leadership Conferences:
Designed for Black youth and allies across the Greater Toronto Area to address anti-Black racism, the conference allowed 50 youth to attend workshops educating about BSAs, public speaking, mental health, intersectionality, discrimination, receive career advice and network. This conference would not be possible without our partners at YOF and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Black Youth Market (2023, 2024)
This market provided a space for 10-15 Black youth artists and entrepreneurs to sell and showcase their products and services. The pop-up also featured a Black youth DJ, a panel of experienced Black youth entrepreneurs, catered food and more.

Other Initiatives:

- 2020, 2021, 2022: YRDSB panels on Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression
- 2020-2021: Markham Mayor Youth Council
- 2021: 3-part Youth Engagement Series
- 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024: York Region BHM Celebration Participants
- Collaboration with YRP: YRP Social Justice
- Speaking engagements at high schools and elementary schools across the GTA

Past Collaborators



Spotlight Initiative: Our Second Black Excellence Youth Gala

Laying out the red carpet for exceptional Black youth!

BYR's 2026 Black Youth Gala is a formal event celebrating the academic and community accomplishments of Black youth. Including live performances, art installations, scholarships, community service recognition awards, music and much more, the gala is an incredible acknowledgement of the GTA's Black youth. This is a moment to celebrate, empower and amplify Black youth in our communities.

When: May 30, 2026 from 7-11pm

Where: JC's Banquet and Convention Centre

Who: Youth from 16-25 and Adults 25 and older

Expected Attendance: 200 attendees

Theme: 20th Century Renaissance

Opportunities to Support

Sponsorship and Donation Opportunities



Gold Sponsor \$2,500+

- Category Exclusivity
- Logo on all event advertising
- Banner / poster at dinner (must be supplied by sponsor)
- Attend the event
- Option to give remarks at dinner (2 mins)
- Ability to add items in the swag bags
- Supporter badge to add to BYR site
- \$500 scholarship in company's name

Silver Sponsor \$1,500

- Social post and tags
- Mention at dinner by MC
- Dinner Table Sponsorship
- Name listed and link to website included on participating sponsor page from date of sponsorship.
- Ability to add 1 item in the swag bags

Bronze Sponsor \$500

- One social post
- Name listed and link to website included on participating sponsor page from date of sponsorship.

Donations

≥ \$250 value

- Logo mention with donation, name mention, and link on participating sponsor page on website

≤ \$249 value

- Business/Individual mention with donation at time of giveaway

Scholarship Donations

Include the ability to:

- Name a scholarship
- Provide the criteria for selection
- Support the recipient selection process
- Have logo and website acknowledged (if scholarship is provided by a company)

Note: Scholarship donations of \$1000 or more include the opportunity to present the scholarship to the recipient



Empower Youth: Gift a Seat

Sponsorship Schemes:

Package A: Sponsor a Youth

- Allow 1 youth to attend through a \$25 donation

Package B: Sponsor a Table

- Allow 6-8 youth to attend through a \$250 donation



Your Impact

By supporting this event you will be...

- Creating a space for Black youth to network and socialize with like-minded individuals
- Amplifying Black joy and excellence
- Giving Black youth artists and fashion designers an opportunity to showcase their talents and products
- Providing an opportunity for Black youth to receive scholarships and awards recognizing academic and community achievements
- Empowering Black youth and Black youth voices



Let's connect

Contact Info:

 byr.youth.york.region@gmail.com

 647-884-4593 or 416-885-0720

 Socials: @byryouth