

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



RIBBON ROUGE
FOUNDATION

2020

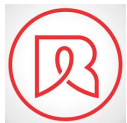
ANNUAL REPORT

It has been quite the journey. For me an exhilarating, and incredible journey from rookie student event to a full fledged organization with functioning parts and an evolving vision. The journey has been many things exciting and many things challenging, but the one constant is that it has been a journey of learning. It is humbling to see now where we are and the hope that binds us as volunteers to propel us forward. By our 2018 year end, three thousand four hundred and eighty six hours from over eighty volunteers was contributed towards our goal for positive social change. And, in the thirteen year journey from rookie student event till date, we now find ourselves in our particular niche: an evidence based social movement directed at accomplishing more favorable health outcomes for all by unconventionally influencing critical upstream social determinants of current issues.



In 2016, the Ribbon Rouge Foundation sought to Listen, to Build Trust and to Build Relationships in African, Caribbean, Black communities across Alberta. We wanted to understand how we could be of more value to our communities and to Alberta as a whole. Little did we know the enormity of where Listening would take us. For starters, our volunteer membership base has grown from a group of 57 to a documented group of 160 with cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary participation at different levels of engagement from all walks of life and with an ever expanding network of supporters, friends and collaborators. This growth in civic engagement is in itself a fundamental change and a significant achievement worth celebrating.

Over the years, we have come to accept that we (the Ribbon Rouge Foundation) will always Listen. We know now that the core principles and behaviours of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation's Listening Campaign will continue to fuel our growth and impact in community. Over these past years, the foundation has Listened at every possible opportunity in every possible way, and the results have meant that the organization has grown substantially. Our communities have benefited from a place to connect, to exchange knowledge, to share our skills and gifts. It has been indescribably enriching to watch relationships develop intentionally to grow each other towards more equitable health outcomes.



*A message
from
Morèniké Oláòşebìkan*

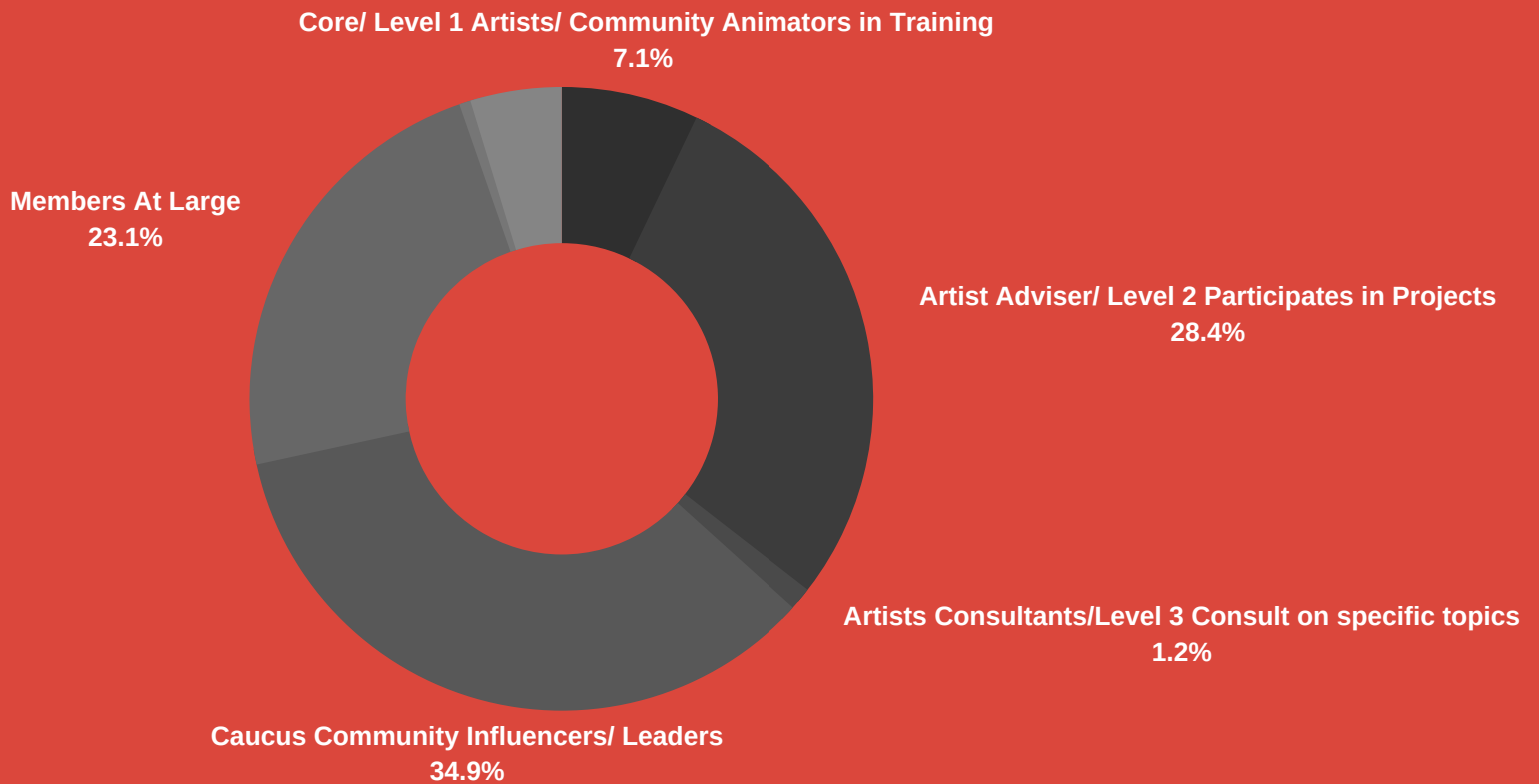
A unifying theme now runs across the work of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation. Though we remain “the forever prototype”, and even our vision has expanded from the singular focus on HIV to what appears more each day to be a socioecological exploration of health equity, what holds us together now more than ever is a sense of community... a sense of budding kinship. We are slow to superimpose frameworks on our current way of being. We (Ribbon Rouge Foundation members) are becoming more collectively aware that tying all the various activities and work of the Foundation are networks of community based approaches to health and wellbeing. It is unconventional to experiment with relationships and to experiment with long held ideas about how organizations should focus on executing particular mandates, but instead to systematically act as needed by communities and understand the value of our work in communities.

Morèniké Oláòşebìkan
President & Chair
Ribbon Rouge Foundation

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We continue to focus on the initial objective of the Listening Campaign, which was to truly understand where the Ribbon Rouge Foundation could be of highest and best use to our communities as we develop deeper, trusting relationships in these communities. We continue these unconventional processes to give meaning to our collective experience as we aim now, for an even stronger intentional community, to understand health disparities between African, Caribbean, Black communities and those who are not of African descent in Alberta. We aim to continue to be more impactful by continuing to learn.

WHO IS RIBBON ROUGE FOUNDATION



Artist Collective

12 Core/ Level 1 Artists/ Community Animators
48 Adviser/ Level 2 Participates in Projects When Matched Receives Updates
2 Artists Consultants/Level 3 Consult on specific topics/ issues

African Caribbean Black Caucus

59 Community Influencers/ Leaders

Ribbon Rouge Foundation General Members

39 Members at Large

Member Organizations

1 Organizational Member

Board of Directors

Morènikè Ọláòşebikan - President
2013

Elsa Robinson - Creatives Director
2018

Sara Nseyá Mwamba - Secretary
2018

Ivan Touko - Events Director
2018

Daniel Adewumi - Director at Large
2018

Mary Sylla - Communications Director
2018

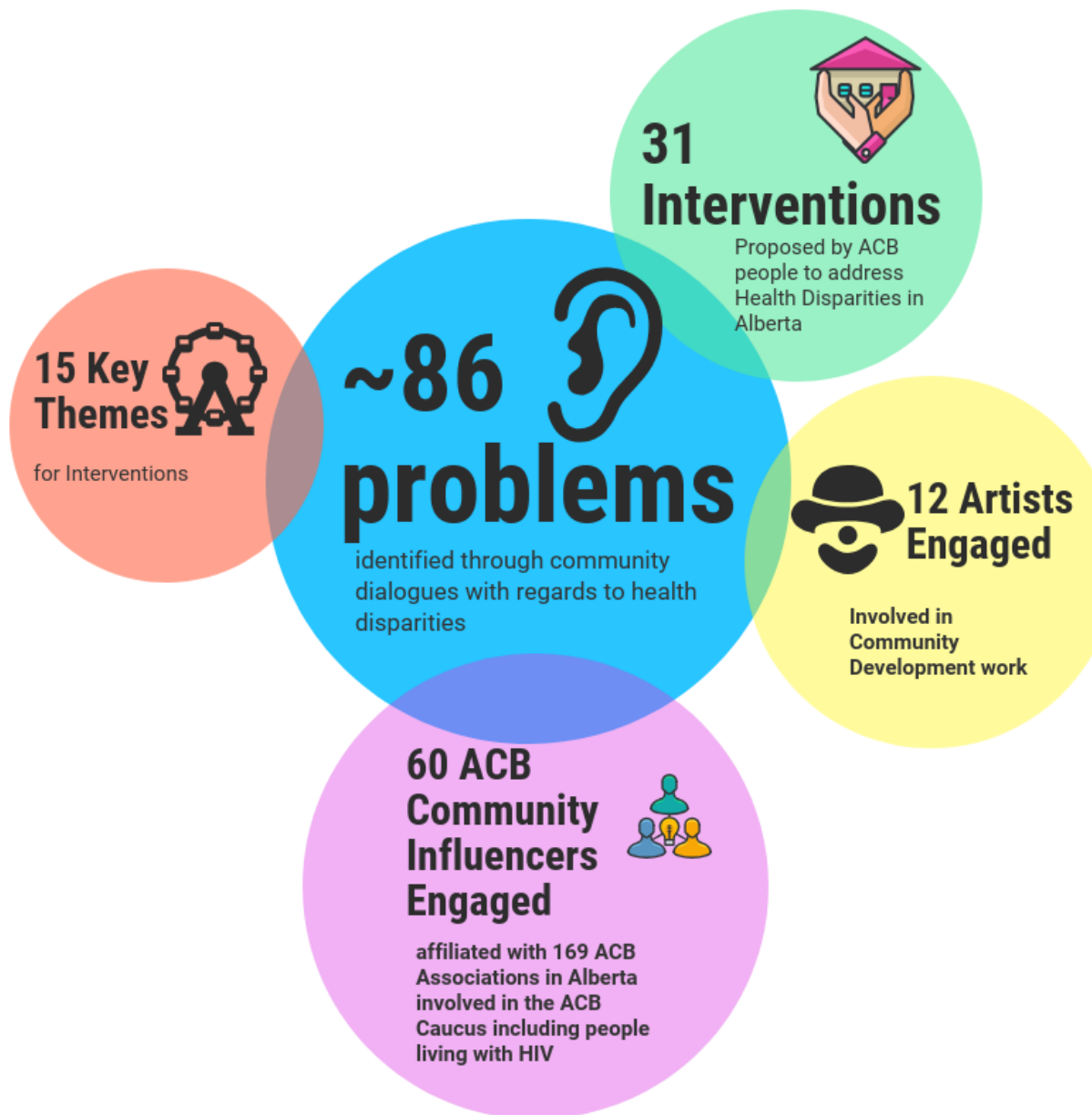
Irehobhude Iyioha - Director at Large
2018

IMPACT

Process Indicators



Short Term Outcomes



FAILURE

\$0.07

BLAMEWORTHY
FAILURE:
FUNDRAISING
SUCCESS RATE

2

BLAMEWORTHY
FAILURE:
PROGRAMS
EVALUATED
MINIMAL
EVALUATION
CAPACITY

67
PERCENT

STRATEGY FAILURE:
TARGET COMMUNITY
CONVERSATIONS
NOT REACHED BY
ARTIST LISTENING
VERSION 1

Progress on Our Board's 2018 - 2020 Major Focus:



Unaudited Financial Summary

For the Year ended May 31, 2019

REVENUE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Workshops	\$5,130	2.37%
Podcast	\$130	0.06%
Grants	\$35,000	16.17%
Donations	\$54,198.48	25.03%
In Kind Volunteer Hours	\$122,027.50	56.37%
	\$216,485.98	100.00%

EXPENSES	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Honoraria	\$ 2,227.07	1.19%
Projects & Community Development	\$5,688.08	3.04%
General Expenses: Rent; Utilities	\$7,425.13	3.96%
Travel/ Transport	\$8,087.74	4.32%
Volunteer Training	\$11,117.63	5.93%
Administration/ Communications/ Governance	\$30,701.75	16.39%
In Kind Volunteer Hours	\$122,027.50	65.16%
	187,274.9	100%

OUR WORK


The Ribbon Rouge Foundation Listening Campaign

We (The Board of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation) believe that the most urgent need amongst people of African descent in Alberta is capacity to self-determine our realities and to have our various existing social determinants of health needs met. We see HIV and its disproportional impact in various communities of African descent as symptomatic of deep structural and systemic inequities. As such understanding and addressing these upstream drivers and vulnerabilities is crucial.

There aren't any robust quantitative and qualitative studies on various systemic and structural drivers of health inequity amongst people of African descent in Alberta as well there exists a gap in communications and public awareness about skills, assets, deep collective knowledge and positive deviance within various communities of people of African descent. Furthermore, there is a need to bridge social capital and foster social cohesion amongst diverse multiple ethnic-cultural-linguistic communities of people of African descent in order to push for systems level changes. This social cohesion is important for people of African descent to enable action on various foundational structural causes of health inequity within governance, macroeconomic policy, social policy, and public policy. Considering the wealth of existing strengths and assets in African, Caribbean, Black communities allows for appreciative inquiry around how to address entangled issues contributing to health inequity such as various aspects of socioeconomic class, gender, racism, socioeconomic position, various social determinants of health including our health system itself as an intermediary determinant of health.

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation has been convening ongoing and continuing dialogue. Through our Listening Campaign, we are facilitating opportunities to bring multiple stakeholders across multiple sectors and disciplines of society and from three levels of government, from diverse community, ideological and religious perspectives together. This initiative will foster learning and deep generative listening to assets, aspirations, values and needs of diverse African communities and in so doing sustainably co- create systems level interventions to tackle structural determinants of health inequity. Our goal is to eliminate health disparities by impactfully meeting social determinants of health needs for Africans by Africans.

A Listening Campaign is a focused effort to build community and identify concerns and priorities in a specific neighborhood/workplace or organisation. It is accomplished through "one-on-one" or small group meetings facilitated by leaders. - Definition by The Poverty Alliance



The following streams of listening have fed into the Ribbon Rouge Foundation's Listening Campaign

Black History Listening Campaign 2018 - Ongoing
HIV PhotoVoice Project In Development
ACB Caucus Monthly Conversations 2018 - Ongoing
Artist Listening Sessions 2018 - Paused
OtherWise Podcast 2018 - Ongoing
Arts4Action January 2019
Challenge for Change Community Dialogues August 2017

The listening campaign has resulted in the formation of two major groups in the Ribbon Rouge Foundation.

- The African Caribbean Black Caucus
- The Artist Collective

African Caribbean Black Leadership (ACB) Caucus

The ACB Caucus is a multisectoral group (people with lived HIV experience, provincial and front-line health and social care providers, front-line legal services, public health, ethnocultural organizations, business owners and academic and community researchers) of ACB leaders who currently ideates and prototypes interventions in Ribbon Rouge Foundation towards closing racialized health gaps between ACB people and non ACB people. 31 ideas for interventions in ACB communities have been recommended by the Caucus and these are being staged and prioritized for implementation. A current prototype in the Caucus has focused on supporting systems navigation for people of African descent in Alberta and has spurred a concept being proposed for funding to build an "Intentional Community of ACB people in Alberta" towards the same systems navigation objective. The Caucus currently also comprises of high skilled professionals who are affiliated with well established institutions within both public and private sectors to facilitate links between the intentional community and these institutions as needed. The Ribbon Rouge Foundation foresees these group of leaders building an intentional community of African Caribbean Black Albertans based on our various learnings from the Caucus and in ongoing community dialogue within the Caucus, and with non-ACB peoples as we link to relevant and appropriate institutions.

Key Concepts Applied in the Caucus Within Community Centred Approaches to Health & Wellbeing:
Strengthening Communities - Or as we say: Intentional Communities:

#Asset Based Community Development

#Social Network Approaches

Volunteer & Peer Roles:

#Bridging Roles

#Peer Interventions >> Peer Support; Peer Education/ Peer Mentoring

#Volunteer Health Roles

Collaboration & Partnerships (Internally & Externally):

#Community Engagement in Planning

#Project Co-Production

#Asset Based Initiatives

#Community Based Participatory Research

Access to Community Resources:

#Pathways to participation

#Community Based Commissioning

#Community Hubs

Artist Collective

Artists, from the Ribbon Rouge Foundation Artist Collective, build interpersonal relationships with African Caribbean and Black (ACB) leaders across Alberta while facilitating information exchange, avenues for systems navigation and flow of resources through these community conversations. Over time as trust is developed, artists gather information that feeds into a robust analysis to understand the various structural determinants of health inequity in ACB communities. These relationships form capacity for implementation of interventions for positive change.

Artists within the collective build relationships with community leaders in waves of five community connections per artist every three months. The first step of engagement with African, Caribbean and Black communities through the arts will involve gathering lived experience stories from natural leaders in these communities. These initial community conversations will focus on the community development goal of building trusting relationships. Connections will be formed and stories gathered in our community outreach work through:

Community dialogue,

Go-to-people sessions, and

One to one relationship building community organizing work.

Key Concepts Applied in the Caucus Within Community Centred Approaches to Health & Wellbeing:
Strengthening Communities - Or as we say: Intentional Communities:

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Collaboration & Partnerships (Internally & Externally):

#Community Based Participatory Research

Access to Community Resources:

#Pathways to participation

TIMELINE OF RIBBON ROUGE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

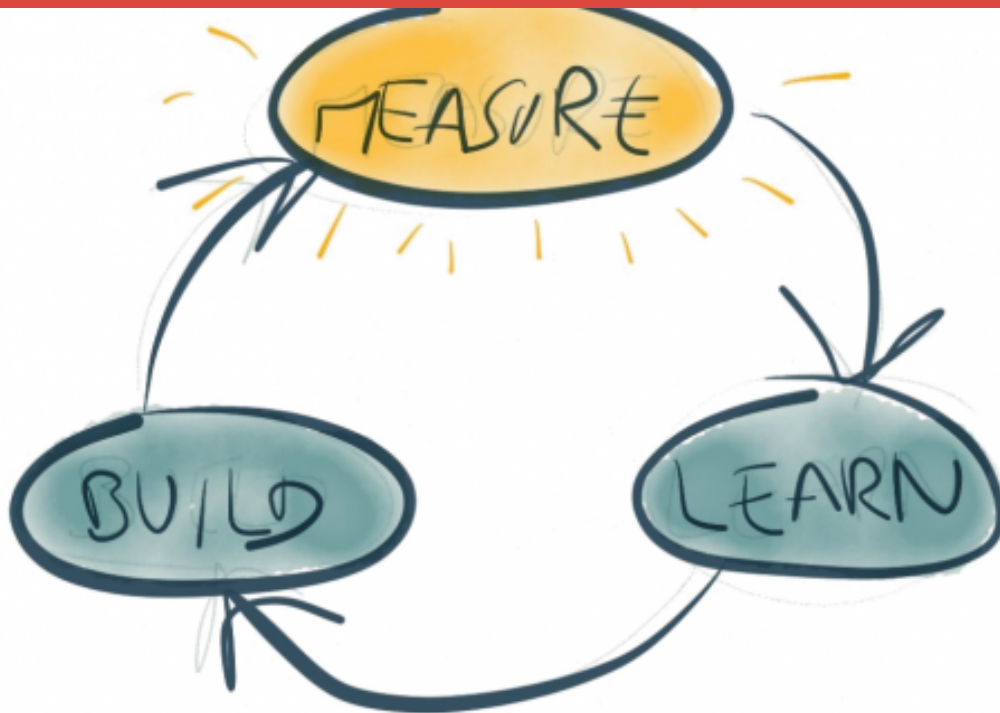
Artist Listening Sessions May 2018 - Paused January 2019 for next iteration of the prototype

what are other
words for
iterating?

reiterating, redundant,
palaverous, longwinded,
superfluous, unnecessary,
bombastic, diffuse, extra



Okay. Seriously. What We Actually Mean?





Proposed Interventions

OtherWise Podcast September 2018 - Ongoing

OtherWise is a collaboration between: The Ribbon Rouge Foundation, Keren Tang, Ahmed Ali, Maegan Robinson-Anagor, Jenna Mulji and the Alberta Podcast Network. With Ribbon Rouge Foundation as the Fiscal Agent.

“The OtherWise” is a podcast that shares the stories of our communities’ lived experiences, highlighting our collective ethno-cultural-linguistic diversity and heritage, reflecting who we are as a City, and bringing about positive social change. An opportunity was observed to address the acute absence of information pathways for people of colour in Edmonton; this absence of information pathways hinders community mobilization and cross-cultural dialogue. The OtherWise is a response to create a space to address this absence so that we can collectively understand and build our common heritage on Treaty 6 land.

The project focuses on people of colour, communities of colour living in Edmonton.

There have been numerous community development activities within the OtherWise collaboration including an interactive multi-cultural launch event, 9 episodes, presentations at MacEwan University, guest Podcasting and co-hosting the Foundation’s annual Arts 4 Action Community Celebration event.

Listen >> <https://otherwiseshow.com>th Session

Arts4Action January 2019

Arts4Action was a joint project developed and presented by the Ribbon Rouge Foundation and The Otherwise Team. This was a public event held at Norquest College on January 18, 2019. For this event, we planned a community discussion, community dance session and the creation of a community mural.

Community Discussion:

Members of the public were invited to participate in a community discussion that asked the following questions:

What is community?

Is community a social construct?

What is community of colour?

When does community of colour become resourceful/helpful?

When does community of colour become a disadvantage?

Discussion groups were led by facilitators from Ribbon Rouge and The Otherwise Team. These discussions were recorded and analyzed and will provide Ribbon Rouge with valuable information on identity within communities (across cultural differences), belonging, and cross-cultural relationships.

Community Dance:

Participants enjoyed a community dance tutorial.

Community Collage:

During the discussions, participants were invited to create a community collage to express their ideas relating to defining Black Community. At the end of the discussion, the collages created by the groups were combined into one community collage.







Black Voices on the Hill Presentation February 2019

4 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS MAPPING OUR FUTURE – FACE TO FACE WITH OUR LAWMAKERS

In celebration of Black History Month, and in recognition of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, Black History Ottawa's Connecting the Dots project premiered its documentary screening and national community conversation in partnership with the National Capital Commission and the Michaëlle Jean Foundation to launch the 2019 National Black Canadians Summit.

A presentation from content of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation's Listening campaign was shared in the Physical & Mental Heal



TIMELINE OF RIBBON ROUGE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

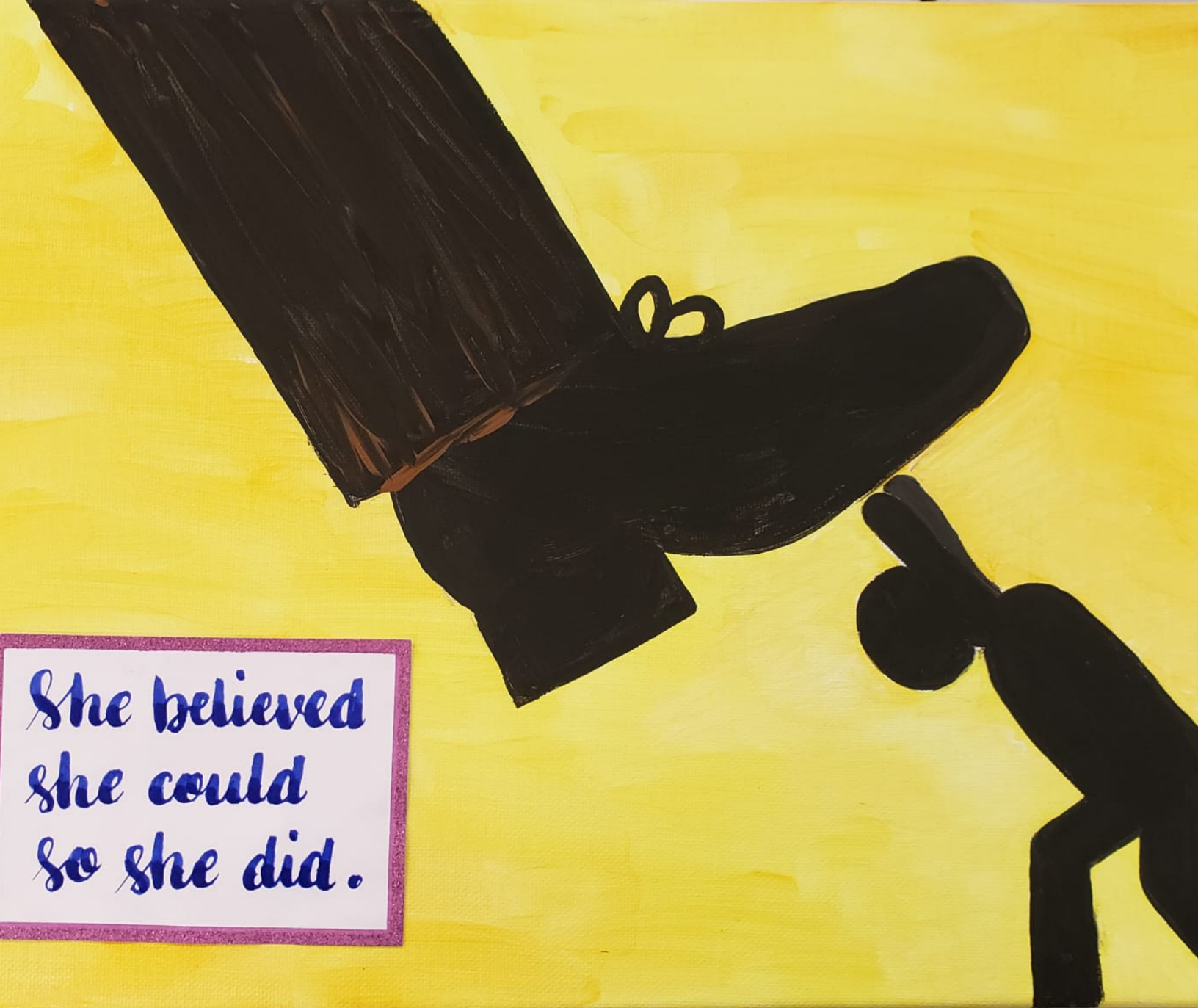
Black History Listening Campaign February - March 2019

This year, Ribbon Rouge in partnership with Norquest College developed and facilitated a celebration for Black History Month on the Norquest Campus. The theme of the event was Mental Health #BlackJoy. The celebration comprised an official opening event and in class workshops. The opening event took place on February 5, 2019 and featured presentations from members of the Ribbon Rouge Artist Collective, a community discussion and speeches from government officials as well as Norquest instructors.

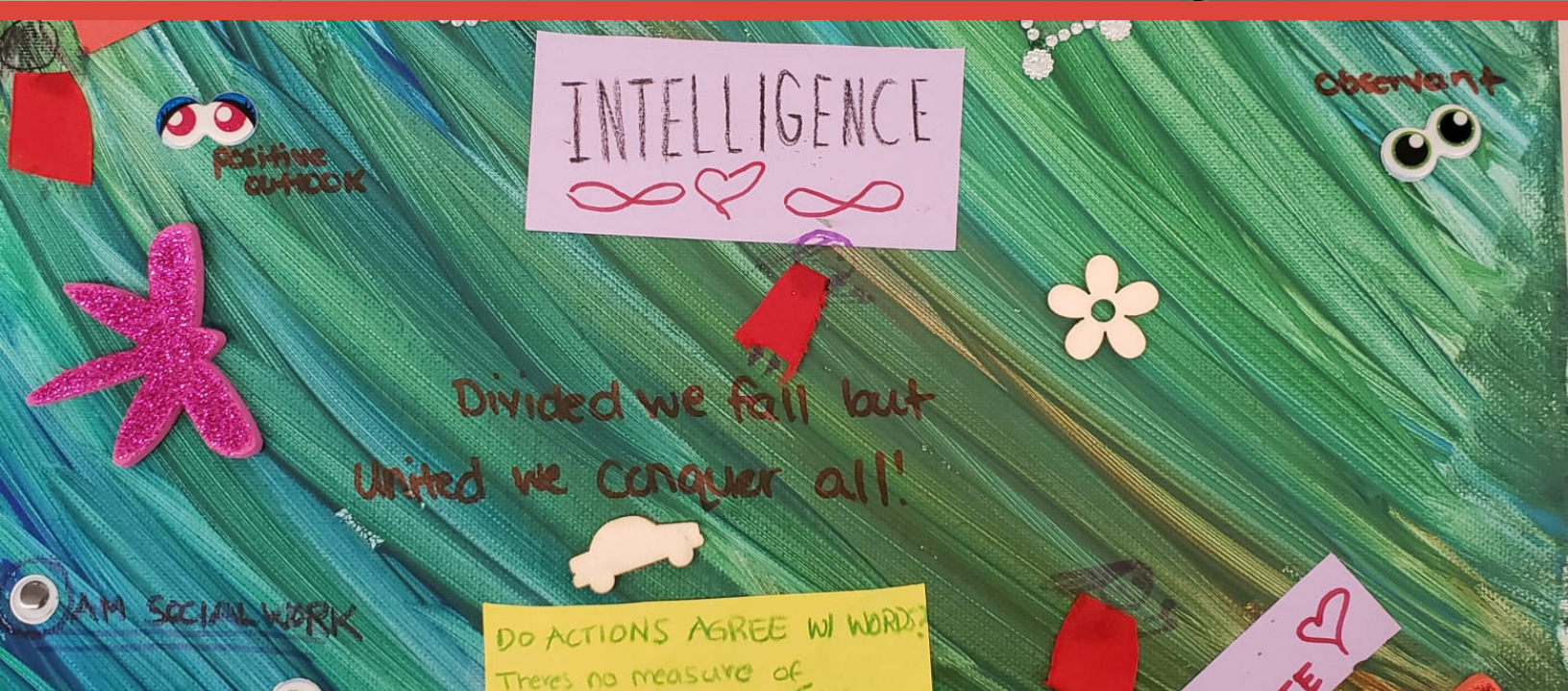
Over the next 6 weeks, Ribbon Rouge conducted a listening campaign with four groups of students from the Political Science, Social Work and LINC programs. Class instructors worked with Ribbon Rouge to plan the listening campaign. These workshops provided opportunities for students (and their instructors) to listen to stories from members of the local African Diaspora community who spoke about their lives. Each story was different. Speakers shared information about the history of their countries of origin; their lives in Edmonton and challenges they face due to racism; their accomplishments; and how their mental health is impacted by their experience of living in Edmonton. Each group of students was then guided to express their responses to the presentations using visual arts and poetry. These 'expression' sessions were led by members of the Ribbon Rouge Artist Collective.

An exhibition of community engaged arts created were displayed during the UN's Declared Week to End Racism - The week of March 21st at Inclusion Fusion.

Overall the project was very successful in helping students to increase their understanding of racism - how it expresses and its effects on members of the African Diasporic community in Edmonton. Students expressed their ideas on equality and respect for all.



She believed
she could
so she did.



INTELLIGENCE
∞ ♥ ∞

Divided we fall but
United we conquer all!

DO ACTIONS AGREE W/ WORDS?
There's no measure of

positive
OUTLOOK

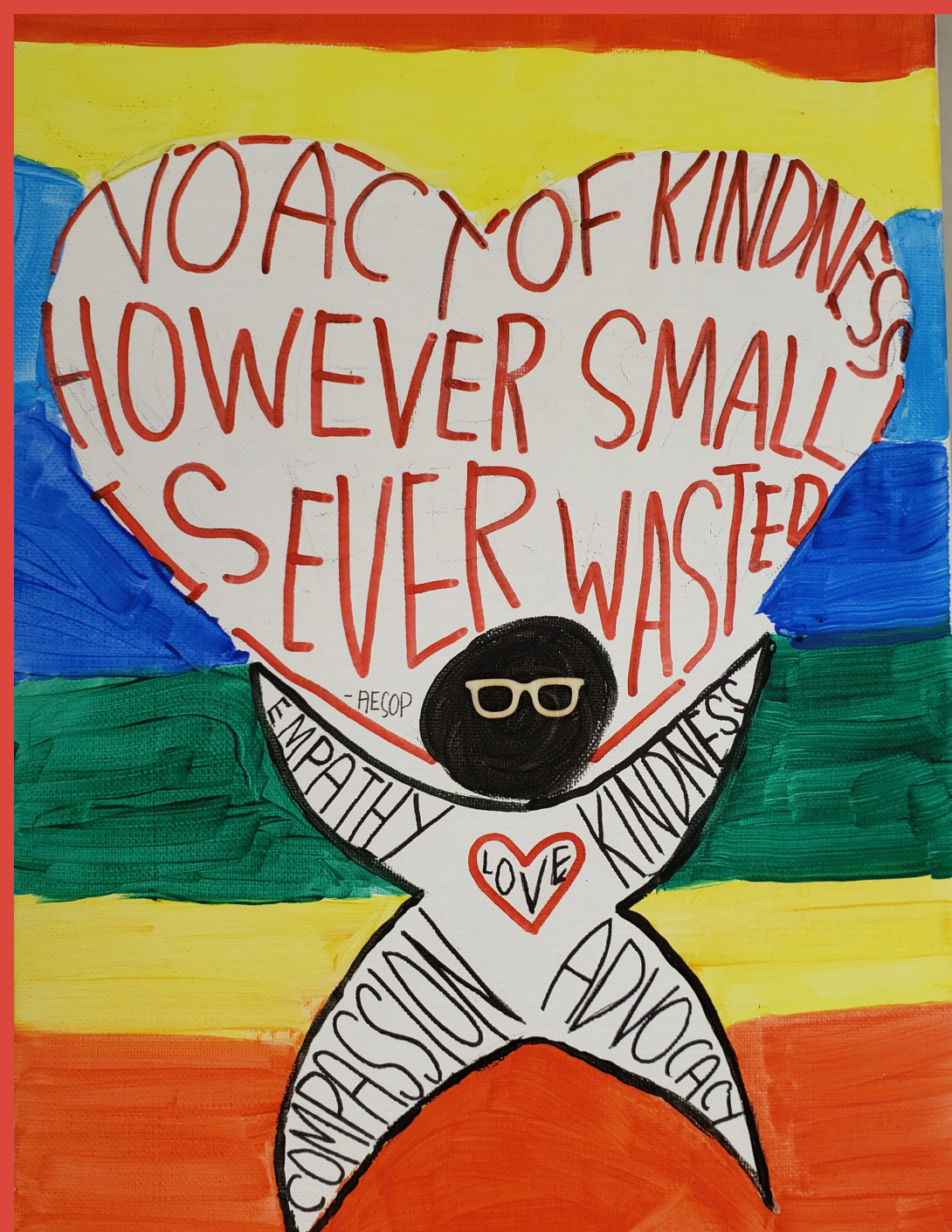
Observant



I AM SOCIAL WORK

♥
TE







Listening



Trauma

Resiliency



HIV PhotoVoice Project In Development

In Collaboration with: MacEwan University, Canadian Public Health Association, Center for Sexuality

Community conversations through intimate gatherings with African women living to gather their stories followed by an analysis of women who have lived experience of being racialized minorities, living with HIV as well as other stigmatized identities. These stories are journey maps sharing their experiences navigating through various systems in Alberta including: Health, Education, Human Services, Justice as well as through various cultural and societal structures. The analysis of policy, systems interactions, intersectionality and various other upstream and historical determinants of current issues encountered by these women along with positive deviance are highlighted in digital stories for appropriate interventions. Through dialogue these women learn about various community resources, develop relationships and share their unique skills and assets within the community developed through this project. Digital Stories created will be included in pre-health & social service provided training by various institutional partners/collaborators of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation at NorQuest, University of Alberta, MacEwan University, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Centre for Sexuality.

These stories will also be shared and used by key policy makers and decision makers of organizations currently addressing sexual health outcomes of priority populations in Alberta.

Outputs: ~ 10 Digital Stories/ Photovoice files; A 25 page report published as a field guide/ hand book on process and impact. 3.

Intended Outcome: Contribution to future policy changes and cultural shift; Civic participation of often disenfranchised women; A network or community of support for African women living with HIV

We Appreciate Our Funders



Canada Job Grants

Canada 



**Status of Women
Canada**

We are Grateful to Our Community Supporters, Friends
Collaborators & Endorsers



African
Canadian
Civic
Engagement
Council

