



# Black Entrepreneurship Alliance.

**BEA X Innovation Infrastructure Forum**



# THE OBSTACLES ARE TOUGH

Because only

**2.1 %** OF CANADIAN BUSINESS  
ARE BLACK-OWNED.

Because of that small percentage, only  
1/4 are women-led.

Because less than 2% of VC funding goes  
to Black founders.

Lack of innovation infrastructure (physical incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces) in underserved areas, which are often Black and racialized communities.

**BUILD  
AGAINST  
THE ODDS.**

# OUR ORIGINS

In 2021, the BEA was established by Black Creek Community Health Centre (BCCHC), in collaboration with York University's partners in response to the inefficient access to capital, knowledge, and support experienced by Black founders and professionals within the Canadian economy.

BEA is a B3 (Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving) initiative.



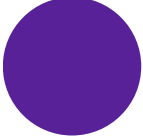
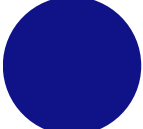
## The Partners That Make It Happen

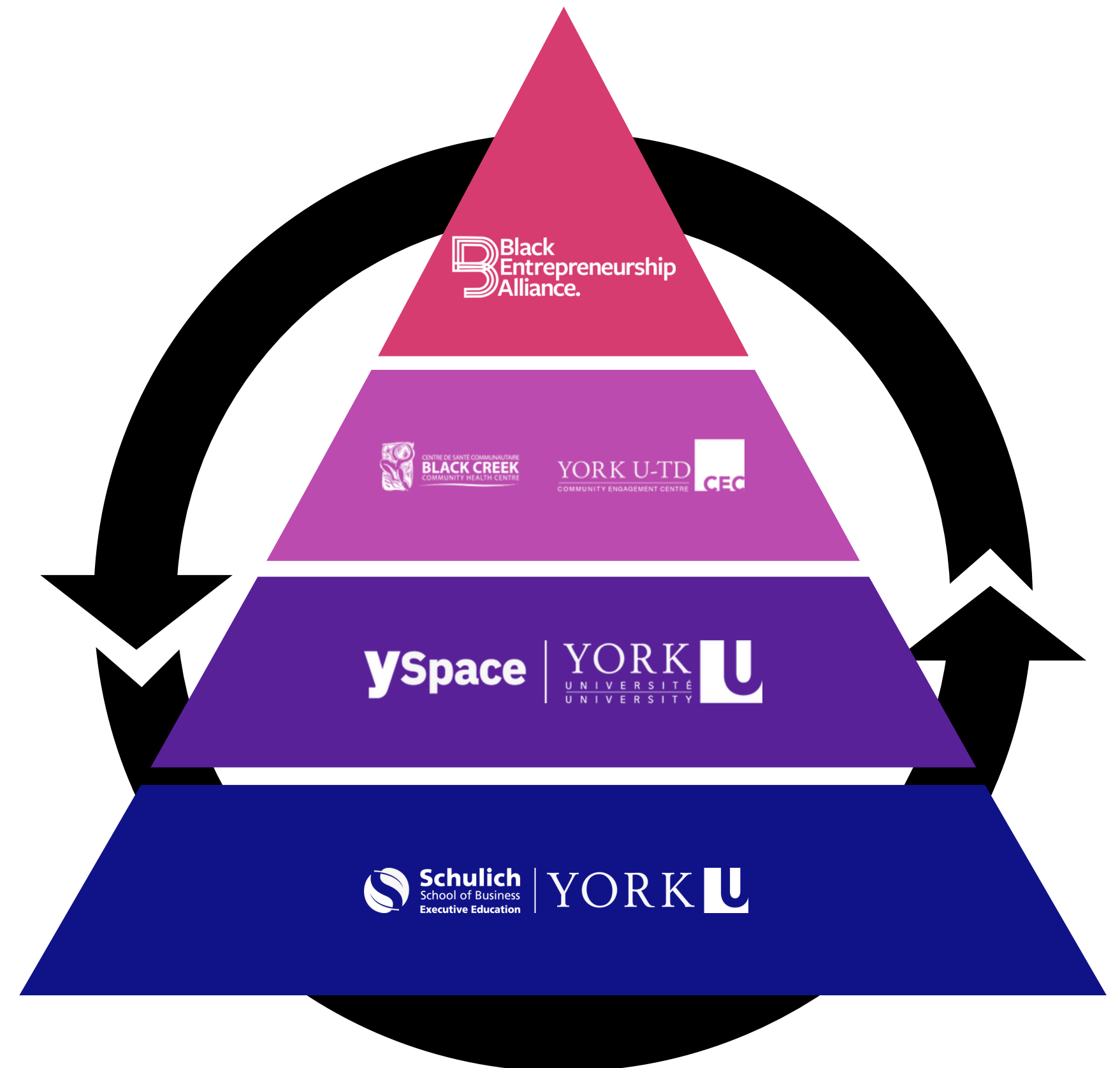




# BEA OVERVIEW

BEA provides Black entrepreneurs and professionals access to FREE, non-dilutive programs in the areas of agri-food, tech, and skill development.

-  Curation, Capacity & Community Building
-  Community Engagement
-  Tech & Food venture support
-  Leadership & Business acumen training





# DREAM TEAM



**Olu Villasa**  
Manager, BEA



**Bookie Adekanye**  
Program Officer,  
Food & Bev Industry, BEA



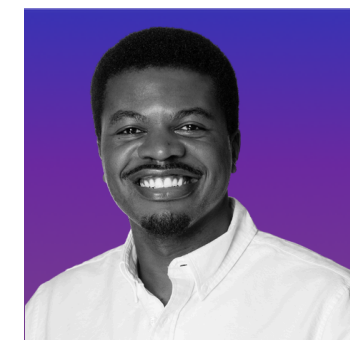
**Kanishia Mensah**  
Programs and Events  
Coordinator, BEA



**Mary Olabanwo**  
Marketing & Comms  
Coordinator, BEA



**Nunu Francisco**  
Program Officer, Tech  
Industry, BEA



**Jason Muloongo**  
StartUp Visa Advisor, Yspace



**Cheryl Prescod**  
Executive Dir, BCCHC



**Bryon Gray**  
Manager,  
York U-TD CEC



**David Kwok**  
Associate Dir,  
Entrepreneurship,  
YSpace



**Michel Shah**  
B+L Cert. Program Facilitator  
Schulich ExecEd



**Nafis Ahmed**  
Entrepreneurship Manager,  
YSpace



**Judy Chang**  
BEA Food & Beverage Stream  
Advisor



**Alexandra Lambropoulos**  
Research Project Lead,  
Untitled Planning



**Sami Ferwati**  
Research Support,  
Programming , Untitled  
Planning



# OUR PROGRAMS

## COMMUNITY PILLAR



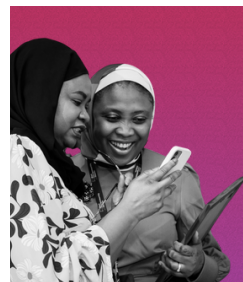
### EVENTS

Year-round lunch & learns and community events for continuous improvement and building relationships.



### CO-OP AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Opportunities for highschool and post-secondary students via co-op placement or volunteering at industry events.



### BEA LEARNING COMMUNITY

A collection of business, skill and professional development online modules + in-person sessions to build community.



### BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

A 2-month certificate program designed to quickly develop business acumen and leadership skills from top Schulich professors.

## FOOD & BEVERAGE PILLAR



### PRODUCT FEASIBILITY BOOTCAMP

A 10-week program designed to support early-stage food ventures with their product from ideation to full feasibility study.



### FOOD ACCELERATOR

A 5-month accelerator program for high growth Black-led food and beverage CPG businesses.

## TECHNOLOGY PILLAR



### VENTURE CATALYST

Validate, establish and distinguish startup ideas for early-stage Black tech founders in 6 weeks.



### INVESTMENT BOOTCAMP

A 4-month boot camp that equips early-stage, Black-led startups with fundraising insights to secure early capital. 10K in prizes during



# COMPANIES WE'VE SUPPORTED





# OUR IMPACT



**238**

VENTURES  
SUPPORTED



**85%**

WOMEN-LED  
VENTURES



**7M+**

REVENUE  
GENERATED BY  
VENTURES



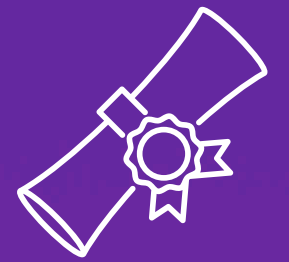
**3M+**

FUNDS RAISED BY  
VENTURES



**431**

JOBS CREATED  
BY VENTURE



**76**

MICRO  
CREDENTIALS  
AWARDED

# PARTNERS, FUNDERS & COLLABORATORS

Funded by:  
Federal Economic Development  
Agency for Southern Ontario

Canada

Toronto



TD **READY**  
COMMITMENT

ySpace

YORK  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY

30 CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE  
**BLACK CREEK**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

YORK U-TD  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE

Schulich  
School of Business  
Executive Education

YORK

AIRD BERLIS



FAIR FINANCE FUND



AFRIFURSA

RBC<sup>x</sup>

FASKEN



vaughan  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Toronto  
Community  
Housing

Centre  
FOR ADVANCING THE INTERESTS  
OF BLACK PEOPLE.



North York  
Community  
House



AK\_A/FLDWRK

bit  
BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY  
TORONTO

FAIR  
CHANCES  
COALITION

Syzi

THE  
Forum

BLACK  
CREEK  
COMMUNITY  
FARM



Fintech  
Cadence

Centre of  
Excellence for  
Black Student  
Achievement

ACCESS  
Community  
Capital Fund

UPSKILL  
SOFT SKILLS. POWERFUL RESULTS

mpl  
MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

LEGUP  
SECURE OUR WEALTH

BLCK VC

BFN  
Black  
Founders  
Network

Nobellum  
We bring ideas to life

NORTH WESTERN  
TORONTO  
Ontario Health Team

FACE

forum  
ventures



# BIZ @ COLLISION

A collective of Black-led organizations have united to create the Black Innovation Zone at Collision - an initiative curated to boost visibility and support for Black founders, investors and professionals in Canada. This collaboration fosters a more inclusive ecosystem, enabling Black innovators to learn, collaborate and grow their ventures both locally and globally.

Throughout the week of Collision, we will have booth presence on the event floor, and morning and evening event activities.

## Collective:



# BLACK INNOVATION ZONE

# X

## ***COLLISION***<sup>®</sup>

**TORONTO • JUNE 17-20, 2024**

# INNOVATION FOR ALL

Outside of Downtown Toronto, there is a lack of innovation infrastructure (physical incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces) in the northwestern and northeastern corners of the city. Which are often demographically diverse but economically depressed.

BEA is exploring Innovation Infrastructure as an economic development strategy and early intervention tool to **Build Against the Odds** for Black and racialized communities.

BEA with the support of key partners, studied the feasibility of establishing a mixed-used innovation hub to support inclusive entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in emerging sectors.

## Study Supported by



CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE  
**BLACK CREEK**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

**ySpace**

**YORK**  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY

**YORK U-TD**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE



North York  
Community  
House



**UP** **UNTITLED  
PLANNING**

**AK\_A/FLDWRK**

Funded by:  
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**Canada**





# #JOINTHEALLIANCE



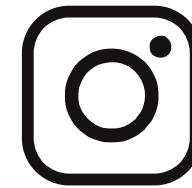
## Website

[www.thebea.co](http://www.thebea.co)



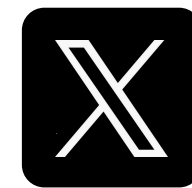
## LinkedIn

Black Entrepreneurship  
Alliance



## Instagram

[@TheBea.Co](https://www.instagram.com/TheBea.Co)



## Twitter

[@TheBea\\_Co](https://twitter.com/TheBea_Co)



## TIK TOK

[@TheBea.co](https://www.tiktok.com/@TheBea.co)



## Email

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**THE OBSTACLES ARE TOUGH...**

**BUT OUR MOMENTUM  
IS STRONGER.**





# Black Entrepreneurship Alliance.

30th Anniversary  
CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE  
**BLACK CREEK**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

**ySpace**

**YORK**  
UNIVERSITY

**YORK U-TD**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE

**Schulich**  
School of Business  
Executive Education

**YORK U**

Funded by:  
Federal Economic Development  
Agency for Southern Ontario  
**Canada**

YOU'VE GOT THE VISION.  
WE GOT YOUR BACK.  
178 TOTAL VENTURES SUPPORTED