

Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.

L'Association Jamaïque de Montréal inc.



Activity Report

2023-2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

Thank you all for an incredible year of community spirit, participation in our events and contributions, whether in words or in action to the Jamaica Association. Your efforts and commitment to the growth of organization does not go unnoticed.

This is a bittersweet message as I prepare myself and the membership for my last year in office as President, but more on this later in the year; however, I would like to overview 2023-2024 and our activities. We had a tremendous number of activities that included events at the Association and partnerships with groups such as Earth Love Soccer Fraternity, the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations, the Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, and the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal, an organization comprised of 7 Caribbean Islands, among others. We even started the Jamaica Association Arts Centre to promote Black artists and art. Further to this, we partnered with sister Jamaican Associations more readily by attending their events in Ottawa and in New Brunswick.



Mark Henry
President

Our **High Commissioner Her Excellency Marsha Coore-Lobban**, continues to be a source of encouragement, support, and presence for our Montreal Association. Respect to our **Honourary Consul Mr. George Grant** for his unwavering support. On a personal note, it was a true honour and highlight for me to receive the Governor General Achievement Award in Jamaica during the Diaspora Conference in June 2024 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

We are now focused on getting through the final weeks of the last quarter of our fiscal year and look forward to a well-deserved break with the Christmas holidays fast approaching. We are also looking forward to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections for the office of **1st Vice President (Position #2), Treasurer (Position #4), and Directors, specifically Directors #2 and #4, in January 2025**. The AGM and elections had to be moved due to circumstances beyond our control, the details of which were discussed at our last Members' Meeting in December 2024.

I would like to thank you, our members, board, staff, volunteers, and funders all very much for your unwavering support of our organization as well as those who are working to continue to build a strong, and vibrant organization.

Mark Henry,
President

"It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime."
— Joan Marques

ABOUT US

The Jamaica Association of Montreal was founded in November 1962, shortly after Jamaica's Independence in August 1962. Our seal of incorporation was granted in 1970. Since its inception, the Association has grown strong in attracting members. It is recognized as the official organization representing Jamaicans in Montreal at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We have accompanied delegations and presented briefs to all levels of government. Given our commitment to community development, the Jamaica Association developed our Mission Statement as follows:

“To assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community”

In fulfilling this Mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the development of the community through economic, educational, cultural, and social activities. In 2019, the Association became an active participant on the [Global Jamaica Diaspora Council](#) led by [The Honourable Minister Kamina Johnson Smith](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. This global initiative aims to rally Jamaicans in the diaspora with the purpose of building our island country through creativity, experience, and support.

The Association has always been in the Côte-des-Neiges borough of Montreal over its now 62 years of existence. Our members, clients, friends, new arrivals to Montreal and partners come from all social strata. They take part in the different programs, services, and activities based on interest, need and opportunity to take part.

Over these many years, countless people have come to know of the Association and have come to know it as a go-to place. As such, the number of activities that are produced reflect the versatility, openness and flexibility of the organization and the fact that its administrators and staff recognize needs and want. The members of the Board are dedicated volunteers who truly care about members of the Jamaican community but also the community at large. In that vein, they remain very reactive to needs and wants in order to continue to make the Association a welcoming place for all who use the programs, services and to take part in the activities offered.

OUR BOARD, COMMITTEES, STAFF, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of October 1 – December 9, 2023

Mark Henry	President
Sharon Nelson	1 st Vice-President
Alexander Townsend.....	2 nd Vice-President
Keisha Wilson	Treasurer
Ingrid Barrett.....	Secretary
Roger Hylton	Director
Uton Lynch	Director
Clyde Williams.....	Director
Althea Robinson.....	Director



Figure 1: Board composition Oct 1 - Dec. 9, 2023

l-r: C. Williams, I. Barrett, A. Townsend, S. Nelson, M. Henry, A. Robinson, R. Hylton, U. Lynch, K. Wilson

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Board Elections took place on **Saturday, December 9, 2023**. There were 172 eligible voters where there were 136 registered on Election Buddy. The AGM was held in a hybrid format where there was online and in-person presence, there were **46 members in-person, 11 members online and 18 guests in-person** for a total of **75 people** taking part in the meeting.

As per our bylaws, the Executive Team is selected every 2 years and Directors are selected every year. There was a discussion to hold a special by-law meeting to have the membership vote to change the number of years of directors from one year of service to two years. This meeting did not take place and will be moved to the AGM in 2024.

In the 2023 year, the Executive position that up for election were:

Position #1 – President,
Position #3 – 2nd Vice President,
Position #5 – Secretary
and all Directors.

There was one candidate for the role of President, two candidates for the 2nd Vice President's role, and one candidate for the role of Secretary.

The role of the President was won by acclamation by Mr. Mark Henry (incumbent). Secondly, the role of Secretary was won by acclamation by Ms. Ingrid Barrett (incumbent).

The contestants for the 2nd Vice President were Alexander Townsend (incumbent) and Omaire Morgan. The votes for Alexander Townsend were **49** (online votes and paper ballots) to **31** for Omaire Morgan (online votes and paper ballots). Alexander Townsend retains his seat as 2nd Vice President for the 2023-25 term.

Elected Board Members as of December 9, 2023 were:

	NAME	POSITION	SECTOR
1	Mark Henry	President (position #1), 2023 – 2025	Private
2	Sharon Nelson	1 st Vice President (position #2), 2022-2024	Para public (education)
3	Alexander Townsend	2 nd Vice President (position #3), 2023 – 2025	Private
4	Keisha Wilson	Treasurer (position #4) 2022-2024	Private
5	Ingrid Barrett	Secretary (position #5) 2023-25	Private
6	Uton Lynch	Director	Private
7	Clyde Williams	Director	Private
8	Roger Hylton	Director	Private
9	Althea Robinson	Director	Para public (health care administration)

At our Strategic Meeting held on Sunday, January 14, 2024, there were positions for Auxiliary Board members added for a one-year term. These individuals are appointed by the President to assist in organizing events for segments of the membership and other aspects. They have no Board voting rights.

These Auxiliary Board Members (appointed) are:

	NAME	ROLE	SECTOR
1	Conroy Barnes	Games & Recreation	Private
2	Peter Barrett	Delegate	Private
3	Diane Boyd	Executive Assistant to the President	Public
4	Linkcon Demetrius	Entertainment	Public
5	Sophia Heath	Membership	Public
6	Omaire Morgan	Youth and IT	Private
7	Molly Young	Delegate and Liasion Officer	Public

All members of the elected Board of Directors and Auxiliary Board are members of the Black community.



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CURRENT ELECTED BOARD REPRESENTATIVES 2023-2025

Officers (5) (President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer & Secretary elected for 2-year terms) & **Directors (4)**



Mark Henry
President



Sharon Nelson
1st Vice President



Alexander Townsend
2nd Vice President



Keisha Wilson
Treasurer



Ingrid Barrett
Secretary

DIRECTORS



Uton Lynch
Director
Assistant Security



Clyde Williams
Director
Entertainment

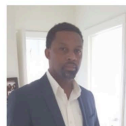


Roger Hylton
Director
Security



Althea Robinson
Director
Health & Safety

7 AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT (NON VOTING)



Conroy Barnes
Games Recreation



Peter Barrett
Delegate



Linkcon Demetrius
Special Events



Diane Boyd
Managing Director
& Executive
Assistant to the
President



Sophia Heath
Membership



Omaire Morgan
Youth & IT



Molly Young
Delegate

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Newly elected board on December 9, 2023 and appointed Auxiliary Board Members

Board and Members' Meetings

For nine months of the year, excluding January, July and August, Members' Meetings were held to share and inform members of activities as well as to hear from them regarding their feedback, suggestions, ideas and to conduct voting or polling among other activities.

There were no Executive Team meetings held in this fiscal year (5 Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) but meetings with the full complement of the Board were held (5 Officers and 4 Directors).

Table 1 - Scheduled meeting dates over the 2023 - 2024 year

EXECUTIVE	BOARD	MEMBERS
	2023	
N/A	Wednesday October 4	Saturday, October 7
N/A	Wednesday, November 1	Saturday, November 4
	Wednesday, December 6	Saturday, December 9 (AGM) Voting For Positions: # 1 President), #3 (2 nd Vice), # 5 (Secretary) & All Directors
	2024	
January 10 & 24	Sunday, January 14 – Strategic Meeting- Location Jamaica Association, 10 am to 4 pm	<i>No Members Meeting in January</i>
	Wednesday, January 31	Saturday, February 3
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Wednesday, February 28	Saturday, March 2
None	Wednesday, April 3	Saturday, April 6
None	Wednesday, May 1	Saturday, May 4
None	Wednesday, May 29	Saturday, June 11
None	Wednesday, September 4	Saturday, September 7

COMMITTEES 2023-24

1. Membership Committee

This long-standing committee is responsible for making decisions related to the membership, managing the list by ensuring it is correct and up-to-date. Over the year, there were **422 members** in the organization. Furthermore, it is responsible for ensuring that information is sent to all members over a variety of means which include:

- 1** phone calls
- 2** emails
- 3** website
- 4** quarterly newsletters
(January, April, July, & October)
- 5** posting on social media sites
(Facebook & Instagram)
- 6** physical deliveries of promotional materials

- 1. CHAIR:** Sophia Heath

Committee Members:

2. Sharon Nelson
3. Marlene Roper
4. Rosemarie Lewis
5. Keisha Wilson

Phone callers: 1. Hazel Williams 2. Lloyd Shaw

2. Social & Entertainment Committee

This committee has always been part of the Association and is responsible for creating social and entertainment events over the year. They continue to hold various parties that included the weekly, Overproof Fridays (aka **Ovaproof Fridays**) and First Friday parties in collaboration with the Earth Love Soccer Team. They also held the following events: Games Nights on every 3rd Friday, a bus trip to the Cabane a Sucre in April 2024 and a bus trip to Ottawa on August 10, 2024 to celebrate Independence with the Jamaica Ottawa Community Association (JOCA). This year there was an increase in the number of persons added to this committee.

1. **CHAIR:** Alexander Townsend

Committee Members:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Uton Lynch | 3. Clyde Williams | 4. Reta Campbell |
| 5. Karen Irons | 6. Conroy Barnes | 7. Keisha Wilson |
| 8. Lisa Morris | 9. Karima Raiss | 10. Cecile Oliver |
| 11. Terence Wright | 14. Anthony Reid | 16. Royan White |
| 12. Eric Smith | 15. Brian Kotler | 17. Marlene Roper |
| 13. Jody Ann Allen | | |

3. Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary continues to be a vibrant part of the Jamaica Association. It serves to engage more women to be a part of the Association by planning events that are of interest to this democratic group. Events organized include discussion groups on issues of concern or curiosity, outings to performances or museums and trips in and around Quebec, and the annual Potluck and Christmas tree decorating among others.

Over the year, a Whatsapp group was created and while there was some resistance to its creation that chat line has become a place to interact with and catch up with members of the group. The Mother's Day event was held in collaboration with the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal. The Auxiliary also took part in a collaborative bus trip to Quebec City with StarCan Cultural Association of Montreal in August 2024. This year, there were changes to the group with one woman removed due to other obligations; however, three others added.

1. **CHAIR:** Sharon Nelson

Committee Members

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Hazel Williams | 11. Delores Smith | 20. Carlene Clarke |
| 3. Enid Hall | 12. Yvette Bailey | 21. Lorna Spence |
| 4. Melrose Christopher | 13. Desrean McFarlane | 22. Hepta Deslandes |
| 5. Shelley Morgan | 14. Arnette Morgan | 23. Madonna Stowe |
| 6. Ann-Marie Babineau | 15. Sonia Millett-Robinson | 24. Elizabeth Newton |
| 7. Gina Mai Simmons | 16. Rose Weekes | 25. Brenda Slater |
| 8. Marlene Roper | 17. Sophia Heath | 26. Rosemarie Lewis |
| 9. Michelle Reid | 18. Yvonne Forbes | 27. Venetha Gregg |
| 10. Ingrid Barrett | 19. Nozipho Jele | |

4. Jamaica Association Business Owners and Professionals (JABOP)

This committee was created in 2017 to help promote Jamaican and Black owned businesses primarily as well as Black owned businesses in Montreal. It also serves as a hub of information for owners on how to access to tools and resources to build their enterprise within Montreal's community. There are currently 55 businesses in the list of Jamaican and Black entrepreneurs. There are approximately 60 entrepreneurs on the list of potential candidates to be added to the JABOP list Over the summer in 2024, a young person was hired to seek out and find new businesses and invite them to join the list. As a result of this mandate, there are now over 106 businesses on the list.

Many businesses continue to be highlighted on our social media platforms to further promote Jamaican and Black owned businesses in Montreal.

1. **CHAIR:** Sharon Nelson

5. Building Fund Committee

This committee was created in 2020 with the purpose to raise funds for the eventual purchase of an adequate building to house the many activities of the Jamaica Association of Montreal. Fundraising efforts took place within the year and as of September 2024 there was over \$30,000 in funds raised with additional funds in a GIC.

1. **CHAIR:** Molly Young

Committee Members

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 2. Mark Henry | 4. Melrose Christopher |
| 3. Peter Barrett | 5. Doreen Jones |

6. Human Resources Committee

This committee was created in 2021 to assist with Human Resources matters relating to the staff. Omar Ramus occupies the role of Executive Director and works with the President and the Managing Director. Professionally, he works in Human Resources as such his knowledge is beneficial for the organization.

1. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR :** Omar Ramus

7. Banquet Committee

This committee was created in 2023 to have individuals dedicated solely to preparing all aspects of our annual Heroes Banquet and other activities relating to banquets. Over the course of the year, there were changes to the structure of this committee, where Peter Barrett indicated that he was no longer able to continue on this committee.

1. **CHAIR:** Molly Young

Committee Members

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2. Sophia Heath | 3. Venetta Marshall |
| 4. Althea Robinson | 5. Ingrid Barrett |

8. Health and Safety Committee

This committee was formed in 2023 to ensure that safety precautions are being observed on the premises and that updated to extinguishers and other health and safety protocols are in place.

1. **CHAIR:** Althea Robinson

9. Senior Committee

The Senior's Committee is charged with organizing events for Seniors, reaching out to them individually to better their needs so that we all stay connected. Over the year, Christopher Thompson and John Foster worked together to contact seniors to hear from them and to report their concerns. However, due to other obligations, Christopher Thompson could no longer continue as chair. In summer 2024, we partnered with StarCan Cultural Association once again to host two bus tours. One took place in Ottawa and the second in Quebec City. There were two buses with over 50 seniors in each and family members touring.

We also work in collaboration with McGill University and Melissa Park, PhD and her team on a project dedicated to isolation of seniors and how we can better their experiences and feeling of belonging in Montreal and their community at large.

1. **CHAIR:** John Foster

10. Youth Committee

The Youth Committee is charged with organizing events for kids and young adults. The Committee will reach out to youth in various ways to better their needs, to stay connected and to create events. The Chair of this committee made links with youth groups to create opportunities for collaboration in Montreal and as far as in Toronto with our sister organization there, the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). There were talks of events to ensure that youth see the Jamaica Association as a space for them too. We used the opportunity of the collaboration with the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations and our basketball events held in February 2024 to build the youth presence within the Association. This was an opportunity to engage Mr. Morgan on the **Youth Against Violence** initiatives throughout the year.

1. **CHAIR:** Omaire Morgan

11. Election & Nomination Committee

The Elections & Nominations Committee is charged with managing the nomination of candidates for elections and for managing the yearly election process.

1. **CHAIR:** Molly Young

12. Finance Committee

The finance committee is charged with oversight and reviewing the determined budget as created by the Treasurer and adopted by the President to ensure that there is no overspend of funds.

1. **CHAIR:** Mark Henry

Committee Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Sharon Nelson | 3. Keisha Wilson |
| 4. Alexander Townsend | 5. Ingrid Barrett |

STAFF 2023-24

1. Diane Boyd,
Managing Director
(began Jan. 2022)
Executive Assistant to the
President (began Jan. 2022)
Director, Banquet, Bar &
Compliance Services
(began June 2021)
Ms. Boyd left her
employment in April 2024.
2. Kim Payton
Coordinator, Programs and
Services (began July 2020
to present)
Ms. Payton relocated to
Toronto in summer 2024 and
works remotely
3. Claudia Miranda
Teacher, French Beginner &
Intermediate Courses
began 2015 to present
4. Hazel Williams
Food Bank Coordinator
Began 2022 – present
5. Kenneth Warren
Food Bank Coordinator
Began 2022 – present
- Christopher Thompson
Food Bank Coordinator
Began 2023 – present
6. Gary Matthews
Teacher, Computers
Began 2022 – present
- Laury Rosembert,
Zoom Technical & Online
Class Assistant
Began 2023 – present
7. Markayla Black-Johnson
Footsteps Coordinator
Began in September 2022 - present
8. Pat Dillon-Moore
Executive Director,
Arts Centre
Began July 2023 – present
9. Deneale Ryan-
Stephens
Canada Summer Job student
Began April 2024 – present
10. Leona Carty
Graphic Artist,
Arts Centre
Began September 2023 – March
2024
11. Marie Beliard
Logistics & Production,
Arts Centre
Began September 2023 –
March 2024
12. Kayle Robinson
Photography & videography,
Arts Centre
Began September 2023 –
March 2024
13. Krystle Payton
Zoom Technical & Online Class
Assistant
Began April 2024 – present
14. Mireille Lacerte
Teacher,
April – June 2024
15. Susana Reyes
Teacher, Began January 2023
- present
16. Marguerita Drayton
Program Director (Au Futur,
Footsteps, Brilliant Minds)

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

We enjoy good working relationships with a cross section of community and institutional partners for the various activities that take place at the Association. These are our current partners and collaborators with whom we have had many activities whether attending events & meetings, working together on projects, or supporting each other in several ways.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Moisson Montréal | 2. United for Literacy | 3. Community Contact Newspaper |
| 4. CKUT 90.3 FM | 5. Maison d'Haïti | 6. Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) |
| 7. Cummings Centre | 8. Concordia University | 9. Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal <small>(Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the Grenadines)</small> |
| 10. Centre Universitaire Intégrée de Santé Sociaux de l'Ouest de l'Île (CIUSSS) | 11. Frontline Restaurant | 12. Carib Patties Restaurant |
| 13. Direction Régional de Santé Publique (Montréal Public Health) | 14. Black Mental Health Connections | 15. Women on the Rise |
| 16. Corporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges (CDC de CDN) | 17. Table de Familles CDN | 18. Batshaw Family Services |
| 19. Heberjeune | 20. Elizabeth House | 21. Maison Transitionnelle 03 |
| 22. Welcome Collective | 23. The Diet Dispensary of Montreal | 24. La Maison Bleue |
| 25. MiniBiblioplus | 26. West Can Folk Performing Company | 27. Gaps Vies |
| 28. Kane and Fetterly Funeral Home | 29. Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) | 30. StarCan Cultural Association |
| 31. Maison Mosaik | 32. MTL Bagel | 33. West Island Black Community Association (WIBCA) |
| 34. Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Association (CDN BCA) | 35. Jewish General Hospital | 36. McGill University |
| 37. Jamaica National Bank (JN Bank) | 38. Jamaican High Commission in Ottawa | 39. Karen Ottar Realtor |
| 40. Jamaica National Money (JN Money) | 41. YMCA Community Support Program | 42. Trajet OJA |
| 43. Bountiful Blessings Non-Profit Organization | 44. Church of God of Prophecy | 45. Wisdom and Life Apostolic Church |
| 46. Rehoboth Church of God Montreal | 47. Ebenezer Tabernacle Apostolic Church Quebec | 48. Integrated Diaspora Services |

VOLUNTEERS

We are very appreciative to our volunteers who give of their time to assist us in achieving our goals. Typically, volunteers spend anywhere between 2 to 5 hours per person or group, in any week and when possible, in assisting at the Association.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Agnes Faustin
<i>Food Bank</i> | 2. Carlene Clarke
<i>Tax Clinic</i> | 3. Michelle Reid
<i>Events</i> |
| 4. Clifford Dolphy
<i>Events</i> | 5. Desrean McFarlane
<i>Events</i> | 6. Sharon da Silva
<i>Events</i> |
| 7. Lorna Spence
<i>Events, Food Bank</i> | 8. Yvonne Forbes
<i>Food Bank</i> | 9. Carrington Falconer
<i>Events</i> |
| 10. Marlene Roper
<i>Events</i> | 11. Rowan Donaldson
<i>Food Bank</i> | 12. Gaby Piggot
<i>Arts Centre</i> |

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our 6 programs include:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Au Futur | 2. Footsteps | 3. Adult Basic Education |
| 4. Brilliant Minds | 5. Food Bank | 6. Tax Preparation |

Our services include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. Hall Rental | 2. Legal Documents | 3. Community Service /
Alternative Justice |
| 4. A place to gather with
friends | | |

DISSOCIATION OF SOCIAL ENTREPRISES FROM THE JAMAICA ASSOCIATION

The social enterprises of the Jamaica Association, namely our bar (Negril) and restaurant (Cool Runnings), are in process of getting a new NEQ from the Registre des entreprises as required by the Programmes de soutien des organismes communautaires. The confirmation of this request was confirmed in November 2024 after the visit in May 2024. Therefore, no information on the bar and restaurant will be included in this report.

PROGRAMS

1. Au Futur Program

The aim of the program is to continue to help young single Black mothers between the age of 15 to 35. This is a Federally Funded Program and we have worked in collaboration with Maison D'Haiti on this is a reinsertion / reintegration for this target population since 1985.

We continue to work with our clients online, by phone and in person to continue to provide services as per the program outline. The services of the program include:

1. accompaniments to medical appointments;
2. made home visits;
3. help with CV writing and finding employment;
4. help women with questions and processes for returning to school;
5. Immigration referrals and information;
6. Help to find day care services, among other services.

As of October 1, 2023, there were 21 active women in this program and 3 inactive for a total of 24 women. Diane Boyd took over the role of program Coordinator after the departure of both Donna-Angella Stewart and Ianna Miller had left the role. Kim Payton assisted with aspects of the program as well.

As such, Diane Boyd assumed the role and Kim Payton assisted in to ensure that all files are complete among other administrative tasks. When Ms. Boyd left in April 2024, Ms. Payton filled in the role for 4 months until Marguerita Drayton assumed the role of Program Director in early September 2024.

Ms. Drayton is responsible for 3 programs namely Au Futur, Brilliant Minds and Footsteps Programs.

The women in this program are invited to take part in the programs available. Many women use the services of the food bank, tax clinic, adult basic education, footsteps programs and brilliant minds programs.

SOME PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS USED FOR THE AU FUTUR PROGRAM:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Batshaw | 2. The Diet Dispensary of Montreal |
| 3. Heberjeune | 4. La Maison Bleue |
| 5. Elizabeth House | 6. United for Literacy |
| 7. Maison Transitionelle 03 | 8. MiniBiblioplus |
| 9. DC Cote Des Neiges | 10. Maison d'Haiti |
| 11. Welcome Collective | 12. Women on the Rise |
| 13. Dress for Success | 14. Bountiful Blessings Non-Profit
(Wisdom and Life Apostolic) |

In December 2023, winter clothing and Christmas gifts were distributed to one of the women in the Au Futur program for her children as a donation from members and from others outside of the Wisdom and Life Apostolic Church through which Bountiful Blessings operate.

During the year, our fiduciary, Maison D'Haiti, funded us **\$16,138** through this Federally funded program.



Fig. Distribution of Winter clothing and gifts to a woman in the Au Futur Program and her children (December 2023).

WORKSHOPS / INTERACTIONS OVER THE YEAR:

1. Tanya Talks

There was one workshop with Tanya Matthews, faculty member at McGill University in September 2023. Dr. Matthews is a postdoctoral research fellow in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at McGill University. Her current research interest lies in conducting ethnographical studies to document the oral language and preliteracy practices in the homes of children in low-income families. She is currently conducting this ethnographic study in the Black communities in the Montreal area.

These workshops were entitled “Tanya Talks” and focus primarily on parents reading to children and the importance of that.

2. Collective Kitchen

The women in the Au Futur Program and their children are also invited to attend these sessions done in collaboration with Maison Mosaik.

3. Follow ups

There is regular follow up done with each woman to ensure that they are doing well and to ask about their needs.

4. Dress for Success

As of September 2023, The Jamaica Association formed a partnership with Dress for Success Montreal in order to obtain suits and other professional clothing for women for when they go on interviews. There were 2 women who took advantage of the new partnership. They both expressed an appreciation of the service to obtain well-needed clothing for this purpose.

5. Graduation ceremony

There was no graduation ceremony held in August 2024 due to the number of changes of staff during that period. However, as this collaborative program with Maison D'Haiti has a time frame of 3 years for each woman, another assessment of the progress of each woman to attain their goals will be conducted in the new fiscal year to ascertain who have met their milestones and who is in a good position to exit the program with better skill sets than when they entered.

By October 2023, there were 21 women in the program where the original mandate is 30 women; however, the new representative of the Federal Government has reported with our fiduciary, Maison D'Haiti, that this number women was more than sufficient given the many activities available.

Table 2 – List of active women in the Au Futur Program

TERM	WOMEN
October 2023	21
September 2024	21

2. Footsteps Program

The aim of the program is to provide the opportunity for children to play together and to offer respite to parents. Finding a physical location was not favourable for this limited program. In September 2023, Markayla Black-Johnson was hired to Coordinate the activities of the online and in person Footsteps program. As of October 1, 2023, there were 20 children registered in the program and they were in Montreal, Quebec and Etobicoke, Ontario.

One part of the activity remained online on Saturdays from 1 pm to 3 pm. We have an educator with the Table de Famille from Centre de Development Communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges who animates the sessions. As an example, activities for the month of November 2023 included the following:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Quizzes; | 2. YouTube Videos; | 3. Drawing; |
| 4. Kahoot; | 5. Math games; | |

The Zoom sessions took place with the following themes:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. School and Reading (Nov. 4th - participants were not available); | 2. Remembrance Day; |
| 3. Cultures around the world; and, | 4. Artemus Mission Launch. |

Markayla Black-Johnson reported that the children were engaged throughout all sessions.

Field trips

A field trip to the Angrignon Park on November 25, 2023, took place and themed, “Walk in the Park & Hot Chocolate”. It was reported that one family took part in the event.

In March 2024, another field trip was organized to the Planetarium during March break. It was reported that two families took part in this event.



Fig. Angrignon Park (November 2023) and the Montreal Planetarium (March 2024)

Collective Kitchen

We continue offering the Collective Kitchen every 2nd Monday in collaboration with Maison Mosaik which is done in person on Mondays from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. We had a chef provided by Maison Mosaik, we also involved an educator from the Fraser Hickson Library to come to read books and play games. Additionally, we had an animator who also took part and engage in play. We hired an assistant who would help to clean up and wash dishes after each event.

Each week, the children and parents would make a meal from a different country and after that the group would eat together and have conversation about many topics of interest which was very enriching for all parties.



LET'S COOK & EAT A DELICIOUS MEAL TOGETHER!
TAKE HOME NEW SKILLS & A MEAL!

*featuring
Papa-en-Action
Anthony!*

FREE FAMILY COOKING CLASSES!
Open to families with at least one child from 0 - 5 years

Jamaica Association of Montreal
next events on
Mondays: Nov. 4, 18, Dec. 2, 16, Jan. 6, 20.
every 2nd Monday - 4065 Jean Talon W, H4P 1W6
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Register: jamfootstepsprogram@gmail.com
514-737-8229




Figure 4 – Collective Kitchen

The number of children varied over time, but we noted an increase in participation from fall 2023 to 2024 for in person while online participation remained constant.

Table 3 – List of children in the Footsteps program

TERM	CHILDREN
October 2023	10
September 2024	12

3. Adult Basic Education Program (ABE Program)

The courses in our A.B.E. program target adult learners who want to improve their computer, French or English as a second language skills, Math and Finance among other skill sets. We continued to hold courses online during the 2023-24 as students are engaged online as it is convenient for them.

It was observed that students appreciated the online courses and while there were only two terms: Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, there were 50 registrants. The French classes remain our most popular classes. Advertising for these courses primarily was on our social media network and in sending emails to members, partner organizations and advertising on our website.

Table 4 – List of classes and registrants – Adult Basic Education registrations

NAME OF COURSE	DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION
Beginner Spanish <i>Fall 2023</i> <i>Winter 2024 - cancelled</i> <i>Spring 2024</i>	This is course offering for those wanting to learn Spanish	Fall - 1 Winter - 0 Spring - 5 Total: 6
Beginner French <i>Fall 2023</i> <i>Winter 2024 - cancelled</i> <i>Spring 2024</i>	A course for those starting to learn French	Fall : 13 Winter – 0 Spring: 12 Total – 25
Intermediate French <i>Winter 2024 - cancelled</i> <i>Spring 2024</i>	A course for those with knowledge of French and who want to progress in their ability	Winter – 0 Spring - 13 Total – 13
Math and Budgeting <i>Fall 2023</i> <i>Winter 2024 - cancelled</i> <i>Spring 2024</i>	A course for those wanting to improve their math skills and to integrate budgeting and finance in their daily lives.	Fall : 1 Winter – 0 Spring - 5 Total – 6
	TOTAL STUDENTS	50

There were only two terms of classes offered due which was Fall 2023 (October to December 2023) and Spring 2024 (April to June 2024). No classes were offered in Winter 2024 due to scheduling and other challenges with respect to registrations.

4. Brilliant Minds Program

This program is for elementary students, high school students and adults seeking tutorial assistance in particular subjects. Volunteer tutors are from United for Literacy. During Fall 2023, there 20 students on the list of participants. We maintained the online tutoring session even though United for Literacy formerly known as Frontier College was on a gradual process to return to in-person tutoring. We opted to keep the online and as a result, the Tuesday night Homework Club sessions were maintained to allow for one evening where tutors meet their respective tutees in online breakout rooms for between 45 mins to 60 mins. This process continues to be a success and we saw a slight increase in the Winter term.

We also adopted the program to make it a Jamaica Association program that is operated out of the Association and no longer with Frontier College. We were also looking for our own tutors as United for Literacy continues to face recruiting issues. There were no donations of books from United for Literacy this year.

Table 5 – List of students & adults registered in the Brilliant Minds program

TERM	STUDENTS
Fall 2023	20 students: 16 children & 4 adults assigned. There were 2 individuals waiting for an assigned tutor.
Winter, Spring 2024	29 : 22 children & 4 adults. All learners were assigned a tutor.
TOTAL	49 registrants

5. Food Bank

As of October 1, 2023, the Food Bank continued its partnership with Moisson Montréal.

The purpose of this program is to increase food security by ensuring a healthy supply of not only fruits and vegetables but also of other needed food and non-food items. Clients continue to appreciate the ability to choose their foods they would like can eat or have.

The list of the offerings is posted weekly on our Facebook pages, along with actual photos for clients to review prior coming to the food bank. Many of the clients remarked that they continue to like this process for they can select their preferred items and that they felt respected. We maintained the same protocols used previously to continue to respect physical distancing and safety of workers, volunteers, and clients. The mobile ventilator, used to clean the air of COVID and other pathogens, is placed in the stairwell to ensure clean ventilated air while clients wait.

Clients remained distanced in the stairwell and on the 2nd floor landing and could not enter the Association except for the use of the lavatory or to choose from select clothing and household items that were donated to the Association. After they had selected their food choices, staff members would then bring out the selected items on a cart for clients to place in their own bags. Clients would enter the main hall to choose clothing or other items.

The hours of operations were Thursdays from 10 am to 5 pm and on Fridays from 2 pm to 5 pm. The cost remained at \$5 for all items selected irrespective of the amount of items chosen. However, in September 2024, the cost of items increased to \$7 and the opening hours on Thursdays changed to 11 am to 5 pm.

This price range is within the guidelines outlined by the partnership agreement with Moisson Montreal. The van that is used primarily for food bank pick up and deliveries has had decals with the Association's name, logo, phone number, email address, website and services added to it for marketing purposes. With the challenges of the maintenance of our delivery van, which is at end of life, we continue to manage to provide for the community.

Table 6 –List of monthly visits to the Food Bank

MONTH	MONTHLY VISITS (2023 – 2024)	MONTH	MONTHLY VISITS (2024)
OCTOBER 2023	305	APRIL	343
NOVEMBER	352	MAY	402
DECEMBER	246	JUNE	290
JANUARY 2024	266	JULY	258
FEBRUARY	297	AUGUST	236
MARCH	345	SEPTEMBER	196
TOTAL	3536 visits over the year		

We saw a slight decrease in the number of clients as shown in Table 6, a decrease of approximately 2 % compared to last year (3536 vs 3620 last year). Our clientele is very diverse and many ethnic backgrounds that include Caribbean, African, Southeast Asian, European, Latin-American, Quebecois, among others. Additionally, we are happy to state that many different religious groups also use our service that include

Christian, Hindu, Muslim, among others. In this year, the Hunger Count metric showed our Food Bank was assisting more than 300 individuals in one month.

Senior members of the organization continue to have the service of home delivery if they call the food bank. use the food bank. A system was developed whereby seniors would contact the Association, place their food order from the weekly list and then receive the delivery on Friday afternoons. This system is still in place and is appreciated by all who use it. We have a list of approximately 9 seniors, where 4 continue to regularly use the service.

There was a limited amount of clothing that was received as this donation was discouraged during the year. However, there is a dry cleaner in Westmount who has donated quality clothing to the Association particularly for the food bank. We thank all those who gave their good items to the food bank clients. These were greatly appreciated.

We also thank members and friends of the Association who continued to donate. By doing so, they have helped vulnerable Montrealers, new immigrants and asylum seekers in the CDN/NDG borough among other boroughs. We continue to mention **Glen Spence**, owner of MTL Bagel located on Westminster Ave. in Montreal, once again who over the past year, he has donated thousands of bagels to help feed those in need. There are many other donors and anonymous donors who sincerely give from the heart and who we thank profusely for their generosity.

6. Tax Clinic 2024

The tax clinic service was available for the 2023 income tax year. We partnered with the Canada Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP associated with Canada Revenue Agency) and the Income Tax Assistance – Volunteer Program (Revenu Québec) to offer this clinic. Participants and tax filers could reach each other via designated zoom accounts, by email and by phone. There were no in-person meetings at the Association.

We had 24 registrants of which 21 submitted all their tax documents and their files were completed. We had 3 tax volunteers, Mark Henry, President of the Jamaica Association, Carlene Clarke, a member of the Jamaica Association, and Ingrid Barrett, Secretary of the Association who is also a tax specialist. We intend to continue this program and partnerships in the upcoming years.

Table 7 – List of participants in the Tax Clinic

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	COMPLETED FILES
24	21

SERVICES

1. Banquet Hall Usage – The Noel Alexander Banquet Hall

Over the fiscal year, there were close to **80 events** in the hall ranging from public to private that were either small or large. Our space can accommodate over 150 people as per fire guidelines. The Jamaica Association also makes the Banquet hall available to community organizations to have their meetings or their events sometimes at no cost depending on the event.



Figure 4: Banquet Hall Set Ups / Rentals

2. Information, Referral, & Jamaican Document Services

The Association continues to offer services to our members and the community large. Throughout the year we assisted with providing application forms for Permanent Resident cards, Jamaican and Canadian Passport forms as well other documents that people had difficulty accessing or completing. Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, who joined the Association in July 2020 has created a step-by-step guide for the Jamaican passport application to allow individuals to fill in the forms in a relatively easy and straight forward process. She continues to update any document or process, as needed.

a. J.A.M. Services Directory 2023-24

A directory of various services available in Montreal, Ottawa, Canada, and Jamaica was created in 2020. This document is continually updated over the year to include services that range from Advocacy Groups, Food Banks, Housing, Jamaican Services, Immigration, Legal, Passport and Social Services to Tourism in the Montreal area.

b. J.A.M. How to Documents uploaded to the website

A series of step-by-step guides were updated and can be found on our website:

1. Jamaica - Passport Application Process for Jamaica
2. Jamaica – How to Apply for a TRN (Taxpayer Registration Number)
3. Jamaica - Citizenship Application Process for Jamaica – By Marriage and Descent
4. Jamaica - How to Pay Your Jamaica Property Taxes Online
5. Canada - Applying for a Permanent Resident Card
6. Quebec - Becoming A Permanent Resident in Quebec
7. Jamaica – Returning to Jamaica

Additionally, referrals were made for various services that were requested and added to the directory of services that was created.

3. Community Services (Adults) & Alternative Justice (Youths) Program

The Jamaica Association became official partners of the YMCA Community Service program again were individuals had to first register with that organization before being assigned to do community work at the Association.

There were 8 participants in the Community Work Program through the YMCA and no youth participants in the Alternative Justice Program this year. The latter program is done in collaboration with Trajet OJA.

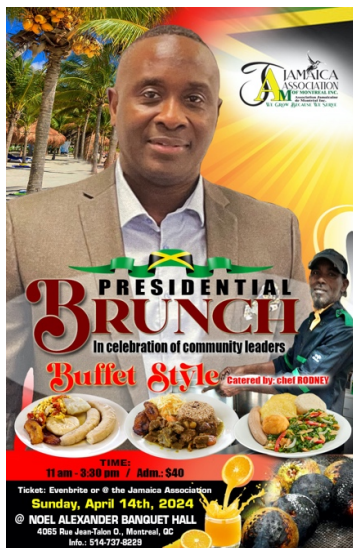
4. A place to safely gather

The Association continues to be a welcoming and friendly meeting place for people and friends to safely gather. Many individuals indicated that this facility where the social activities offered on Fridays and Saturday nights helped them relieve loneliness and boredom. It also became a space to relieve the mental distress and anguish of coping with the restrictions of the pandemic and for human contact albeit that there were many offerings of activities on the Association's various zoom accounts.

CURRENT AND NEW INITIATIVES IN 2023-2024

1. Dutch Pot

- a. The frequency changed from twice a month to every 2nd month at one point to now having this event on at least twice in the year. Over the fiscal year, 2023-24, there have been one event in this category entitled the "Presidential Brunch" held in April 2024

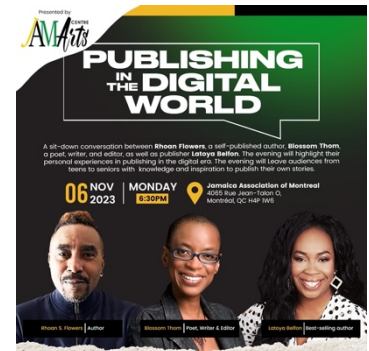


2. JAM Arts Centre

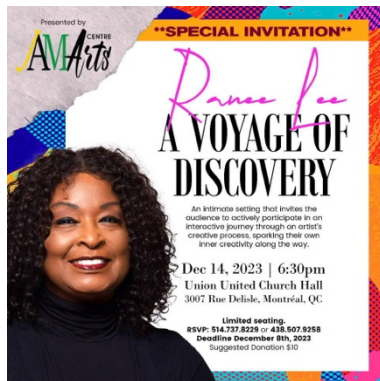
- a. The JAM Arts Centre was created with a grant received from 3737 to promote the arts. It is a creative space for veteran & up and coming, Anglophone, Francophone & Allophone Black artists. During the fiscal year, it was an opportunity to showcase the art exhibits over a 7 month period. Our Executive Director, Patricia Dillon-Moore created a series of events that celebrated art in many ways. There was an opening held in September 2023, followed by an art masterclass led by jazz artist Raneé Lee, in Winter 2024 there was a series entitled “When Big Man Talk” which was a tribute to the Right Honourable Marcus Garvey as well as an opportunity to showcase Black male artists in Montreal.



September 2023



November 2023



December 2023



January to February 2024



February 2024

3. Together against Violence Project and events for youth against violence.



February 2024



February 2024



February 2024



July 2024



July 2024



July 2024

GRANTS

1. Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiatives (SBCCI) - \$148,750

- a. Grant received through Groupe 3737 for Arts Centre (\$91,750) and Capacity Building (\$55,000). Full funding was \$125,000 but received \$31,250 for the time period in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

2. Programmes de soutien des organismes communautaires (PSOC) \$219,164

3. Ville de Montreal – Jeunes contre la violence (en partenariat avec CRARR) \$121,880

4. New Horizon Senior Program \$22,667

5. SIPPE – DRSP \$16,587

6. Additional amount \$13,213

7. Other financing - \$ 6,031 (below)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| a. Canada Summer Job | \$4,346 |
| b. CVTIP (taxes) | \$585 |
| c. Jamaica Day | \$1000 |

HOURS OF OPERATION, & STAFFING

Office hours: Mondays to Fridays 10 am to 6 pm
The Association is open for all to enter; however, we still receive a high number of calls for various services. Additionally, there is a high number of walk-ins.

Food Bank: Thursdays 10 am to 5 pm
Fridays 2pm to 5 pm

For the most part of the year until September 2024, the hours were updated to the following on Thursdays only. The hours for Friday remain the same: Thursdays 11 am to 5 pm

Clients remain on the landing as usual and food items are brought to them. If there is clothing or other items for distribution, those are left in the main hall for clients to go through on their own.

Social gatherings Fridays & Saturdays 9 pm to 3 am

In October 2023, we had 2 full-time office staff which included Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, and Diane Boyd Managing Director and Executive Assistant to the President. We had 12 part time staff in the 2023-24 year. As of September 2024, we had two full-time staff members.

MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION

Over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we noted a continued increase in membership to 421 people. This increase was evident in program offerings, services or in social activities. There was renewal of membership and approximately an increase of **4% new members** added to our list, as such we currently have a total membership of **421 people** as of September 30, 2024 (over 399 members last year).

This year, 2024 was an historic one in which we celebrated the birthdays of two centenarians, who were also former presidents of the Jamaica Association of Montreal. Namely Mrs. Ivyline Flemming whose birthday we celebrated in June 2024 and Mr. Renn Brown whose birthday we celebrated in August 2024.



Mr. Mark Henry & Mrs. Ivyline Flemming celebrating Mrs. Flemming's 100th birthday (June 2024)



(l-) Mr. Renn Brown, Mr. Neville Gray and Mr. Mark Henry celebrating Mr. Brown's 100th birthday (August 2024).

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Website

As of September 30, 2024, we have high traffic with over **15,000 visitors**. The analytics show over **99% rating for the website**. The domain name is jam-montreal.com and there are 7 email addresses associated to it. The website is: <https://jam-montreal.com>

2. Facebook

As of September 30, 2024, there were over **1,500 members** in the group and there were over **411 likes** (and over **510 followers**) on the company page. We continue to have a high viewership and engagement rate on the platforms.

Page address: <https://www.facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>

Group address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jammontrealinc>

3. Instagram

As of September 30, 2024, there were over **904 followers** (an increase of 30% over last year)

Page address: @jamaicaassociationmontreal

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Over the course of the year, the Jamaica Association continues its role in advocating for the community and there have been several radio and TV interview with Mark Henry, President and Sharon Nelson, 1st Vice President including radio (CBC, CJAD, and CKUT) and TV (CTV news, Global News & City News) interviews once again.

We were also vocal with groups such as the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR) and continued to work with their group named Communities United for Race Equality (CURE). In this year, we also worked with CRARR on another program for youth named Youth Against Violence. Funding was through the City of Montreal municipal government. In this edition, there was a basketball tournament that brought together 19 youth teams to play against each other in February 2024. There was even a team formed by the police and employees of the SPVM. The rationale was to bring together youth and police officers and to create connections of trust and sensitization. The teams included Black, Chinese, Caucasian and Filipino teams where one team consisted solely of girls. Throughout the year, we sponsored other basketball games and hosted a soccer and basketball events at the Jamaica Day event in July 2024 to promote this cause.

We have worked with many community groups over the year, chief among them was the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal. We have had several activities together and supported each other's activities. In summer 2024, along with the Caribbean Coalition, we put on the Caribbean Carnival in Montreal under the theme UNITY and with the name the Montreal Carimas Festival to highlight our new group hosting this prestigious event.

PHOTOS OF CARIMAS EVENTS JUNE AND JULY 2024 – COLLABORATION WITH THE CARIBBEAN COALITION OF MONTREAL.



Youth talent and pageant winners, June 22



Revellers on parade day, July 6, 2024



Montreal Carimas Festival Organizing Committee

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFE SEX

In this year, we continue our role in promoting health and wellness in as many ways as possible. While mental health was at the forefront, and we have partnered with **Dr. Eric Jarvis, Psychiatrist**, and his team at the Jewish General Hospital on a project for first episode psychosis detection and treatment. Monthly meetings take place where we speak on the best approaches to help people find needed help. A launch party of this project was held at the Jamaica Association in summer 2024.

We also are working with **Dr. Judy Luu, Cardiologist** at the Jewish General Hospital in the POWER Hub (to speak with women more specifically on heart health. We have had a number of events to date to discuss this matter but also to take concrete actions like monitoring heart rate and holding presentations.



Dr. Eric Jarvis and his team at the Jamaica Association
March 2024



Dr. Judy Luu and her team at the Jamaica Association
September 2024

We continue to place condoms in both the men's and women's lavatories to promote safe sex. In the Black community, discussing sexuality or safe sex are taboo topics. We continue to break that stigma and be also proactive on the matter of sexual health and wellness particularly at this time. Our patrons find this service an important one, as we replenish our stock of condoms in both bathrooms on a consistent basis.

SHARING RESOURCES

Over the past year, our collaboration with many groups has grown, including the Montreal Caribbean Coalition Network. Seven Caribbean islands are part of the group currently: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As part of our work to support each other, and outside of the Black History Month and Emancipation events, the Association has offered free use of its facilities for Coalition members' meetings. If they are hosting an event outside of a membership meeting, we offer a minimal flat rate for use of the space.

When other organizations need help or assistance, we also make ourselves available to help them in the most meaningful way possible either in time or donations when we can.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, we participate in many activities outside the Jamaica Association to support and encourage community involvement at all levels. These events are both social and community based, particularly with the member organizations of the Montreal Caribbean Coalition Network, but also with, CRARR, the West Island Black Community Association as well as with all levels of government and with the Jamaican government and more. When we can, we donate resources, time and materials to organizations as needed. We continue to work with the Regional Public Health Department on health issues within Black communities of Montreal and with Batshaw on the Clinical Intervention Group for Black Communities.

In addition, we are also collaborating with the <<Black Opportunity Fund>> in their health care group.

Montreal to host basketball tournament promoting youth violence prevention



Montreal community organizations take part in press conference Nov. 7, 2023, to announce a February 2024 basketball tournament promoting youth violence prevention. (Submitted by: CRARR)

On November 7, 2023, we were proud to participate in advocacy for youth, themed Youth against Violence press conference to announce events in February 2024.



On March 26, 2024, we were proud to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade where we had 14 participants represent the Jamaica Association and the Cote de Neiges Black Community Association.



On June, 8 2024, we were proud to participate in the Harvest Celebration held in Cote des Neiges with the Grenada Nationals Association of Montreal.



On July 1, 2024, we were proud to participate in the Canada Day event in Martin Luther King Park as organized by Carrefour Jeunesse CDN

SOCIAL & ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

(October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

In addition to the monthly meetings of the board, executive team, committees, and program activities there were many social activities. Overall, there were over 100 events on the calendar this year some of which are listed below. This list does not include the numerous parties that were held over the course of the year along with several organization meetings and other events that were attended.

In fulfilling its mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the continued development of the community through economic, educational, cultural, and social activities. Our committees are instrumental in fulfilling a large part of this mission.

2023 – 2024 EVENTS

Table 9 – list of scheduled and completed events over the fiscal year

MONTHLY EVENTS TOTAL: **155 events**

Monthly Events: October 2023 – September 2024

Event name	Number of events
Games Nights	12
OverProof Fridays	33
First Friday	12
Versatile Saturdays	20
Collective Kitchen	19
Members' Meetings	9
Table Tennis Wednesdays	50

Additional events outside monthly events, board and member meetings: **74 additional events**

October 2023 (11 events)

1. Financial Wednesdays(4)
2. Wellness Thursdays (4)
3. Visit by JN Bank Oct. 13-15
4. Heroes Banquet 2023 * Sat., Oct. 14 at the Association
5. Bamboo Lounge

November 2023 (15 event)

1. Financial Wednesdays (4)
2. Wellness Thursdays (4)
3. Socasize classes (4)
4. Preparation for Annual General Meeting during the month
5. Publishing in a digital world, Nov. 6
6. Lifeline Presentation Older Adults (seniors), Nov.8

December 2023 (16 events)

1. Financial Wednesdays (4)
2. Wellness Thursdays (4)
3. Socasize classes (4)
4. AGM December 10
5. Discovery with Ranee Lee, Dec. 14
6. Women's Auxiliary Xmas tree decorating and potluck
7. Meeting with school children from Coronation school, Dec. 23

***ASSOCIATION CLOSED FROM
FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 2023 –
WEDNESDAY JAN 3, 2024***

January 2024 (3 event)

1. New Year Church Service, Jan. 7
2. Strategic meeting, Jan. 14, 2024 in person at the Association
3. Mental Health in the Black Community, Jan 25

February 2024 (6 events)

1. When Big Man Talk, Jan 31 – Feb. 14
2. Tribute to Reggae Greats, Feb. 10
3. Black History Month Expo, Feb. 10
4. Women's Auxiliary & POWERHub event, Feb. 11
5. Tailgate Football LVIII event, Feb. 11
6. JABOP & RBC event & cocktail, Feb. 22

March 2024 (6 events)

1. Financial Saturdays (4)
2. Women's Aux event, Mar. 31
3. First Episode Psychosis welcome event and cocktail, March 15

April 2024 (2 events)

1. Presidential Brunch, Apr. 14
2. Cabane a Sucre, April 27

May 2024 (1 event)

1. Mother's Day event collab with Caribbean Coalition, May 12

June 2024 (5 events)

1. Trip to Ottawa with StarCan (collab), June 3 & 4
2. Little Miss Tiara Show, June 9 (collab)
3. Jamaica Diaspora Conference June 16-19
4. Carimas Queen Show, June 22 (collab)
5. Petit Carimas, children's Caribbean parade, June 29 (collab)

July 2024 (4 events)

1. Carimas Parade & Sizzle, July 6 (collab)
2. Jamaica Day, July 27
3. Lukie D after Jamaica Day show, July 27

August 2024 (4 events)

1. Independence Celebration at the Rehoboth Church in Montreal, Aug. 4
2. Trip to Ottawa for Jamaica Ottawa Community Association Independence event, Aug 10
3. Church service for Independence, Ottawa, Aug. 11
4. Tour of Quebec city with StarCan (collab), Aug. 17

September 2024 (1 event)

1. Women's Heart Health with POWERHub, Sept. 27
2. Membership dues deadline, sept. 30
3. End of fiscal year 2023-24

Events over the Year

October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

The Board of the Jamaica Association of Montreal has been extremely busy over the past year. Many of the over 200 activities focused on the acquisition of funds for a building. From October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, we count the following: 229 events, not including weekly interviews with radio personalities, and sometimes TV interviews on local channels to discuss the activities of the Association.

The use of the space was at an all-time high with over 80 uses. We are extremely pleased with the high energy and engagement, and we look forward to the 2024-25 year. We hope to come closer to purchasing a building to house the activities of the Association; further to this, we hope to also come closer to obtaining a charter for charitable status.

THE YEAR IN IMAGES



OCTOBER 2023 - Heroes Banquet Event at the Association



NOVEMBER 2023 – Lifeline Presentation for seniors



DECEMBER 2023 – Women's Auxiliary Potluck and Xmas tree decorating



JANUARY 2024
Church service



FEBRUARY 2024
Black History Month Expo



MARCH 2024
First Episode Psychosis Welcome and Cocktail (collab)



APRIL 2024
Cabane a sucre



MAY 2024
Mother's Day
(collab with the Caribbean Coalition)



JUNE 2024
Regional Diaspora Conference in Jamaica



JULY 2024
Jamaica Day featuring Lukie D



AUGUST 2024
Jamaica Independence celebration in Ottawa



SEPTEMBER 2024
Women's Heart Health

Figure 10 The year in images 2023-2024

CONCLUSION

This report covers the many activities of the Jamaica Association over the October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024 fiscal year. As noted, the Association is multi-faceted and as such there are several events and activities that respond to the needs of the many different populations described above.

We are happy to serve each individual and population that enters our doors.

We look forward to your comments and are open to answering your question.

