

Expression of Condolence for Amah Harris by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Josh Matlow

Seconded by: Councillor Jamaal Myers

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Amah Harris on July 9, 2025.

Beryl Amah Thelma Harris, known lovingly and widely as Amah Harris, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in Toronto with her sister Francine by her side. She was predeceased by her parents Hugh and Beryl Harris, and her brothers Errol and Wentworth Harris. She leaves behind her siblings, their families, the families of her deceased brothers and extended family who carry forward her legacy of compassion, creativity, and cultural pride. Siblings – Otto Harris, Joffrey Harris, Cary Harris, Francine Harris, Ray Harris.

Born in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Amah became a powerful force for cultural expression, social justice, and education in Dominica, Canada and beyond. An award-winning producer, artistic director, playwright, actress, facilitator, and educator, Amah dedicated her life to promoting the positive imaging of Caribbean and African peoples. She co-directed Black Theatre Canada in the 1970s and later founded Theatre In The Rough in 1985. Her groundbreaking “KWAH-koo Anansi Series” reimagined African folklore to teach wisdom, justice, and social change. Recognized in *100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women (2018)* and by institutions such as the John Holland Awards, Amah’s innovative work in blending theatre with education reached hundreds of thousands across Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean, and South Africa. She held a bachelor’s degree of art, a bachelor’s degree of education, and a master’s degree of education, and was best known as an anti-racist advocate and cultural champion.

Amah Harris’s life was a tapestry of art, learning, and activism. Her work will continue to inspire generations toward the harmonious coexistence of peoples. The family wishes to thank all those who have expressed their heartfelt love and sympathy during this time of bereavement. They also wish to thank the staff at the Toronto Western Hospital for making the last few days of her life comfortable.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Amah Harris' family.

July 23, 2025