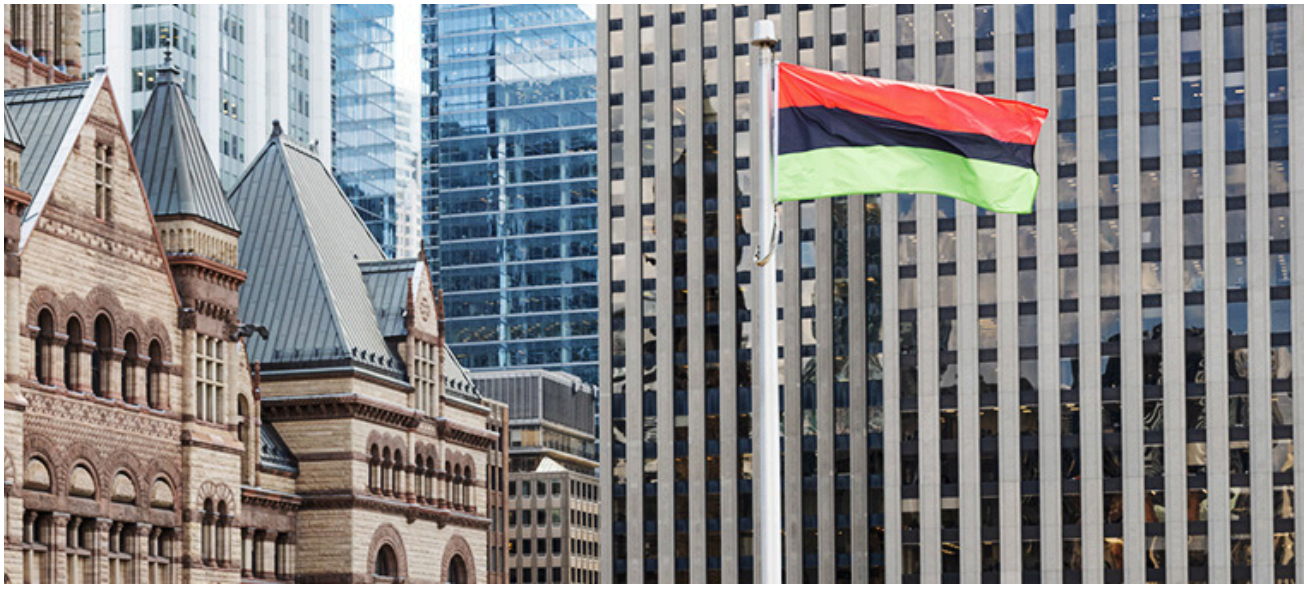
CONFRONTING ANTI-BLACK RACISM NEWSLETTER

YOUR GUIDE TO EMANCIPATION MONTH



Manager's Greeting

I am honoured that we are able to restart our newsletter to share what is and has been happening in and around the city. Emancipation Month is a special time at the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit. We remember and honour our ancestors who fought and lived so that we can continue their work. This year's theme, "Celebrating Black Disability Justice: Engaging Black Disabled Communities" renews our commitment to closing the gaps that all Black communities experience across the city while centering Black disabled leadership in our collective liberation by affirming nothing about us without us!



Kemba Byam (she/her), Manager of the City of Toronto's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit.



Emancipation Month flag raising. Photo includes community members and City Staff with Deputy Mayor Amber Morley, Cllr. Chris Moise, and Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik.

CABR Highlights & Milestones

Emancipation Month 2026

This year's theme, "Celebrating Black Disability Justice: Engaging Black Disabled Communities," both highlights and celebrates the contributions, experiences, and leadership of Black Torontonians with disabilities while promoting inclusion, accessibility, and equity. This year's events will similarly spotlight Black disabled communities and celebrate Black Disability Justice. For more information on the month and related events, please visit our Emancipation Month webpage.



Date: July 30, 2026
Time: 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall

Emancipation Day Flag Raising Ceremony

The City of Toronto's 2026 Emancipation Day commemoration will take place on July 30th at City Hall. The annual flag raising event will kick start Emancipation Month 2026.

CABR Highlights & Milestones



Emancipation Freedom Train Ride 2026

Join Blackhurst Cultural Centre's 13th annual Underground Freedom Train on Friday, July 31 at 10:30 p.m., travelling from Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Station to Union Station. This year's theme, "Food and Freedom: The Journey Continues," celebrates Black farmers and food producers and the connections between land, labour and freedom. Visit the event webpage for participation details.

Freedom Without Barriers

Join the Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities on Saturday, August 22 at the Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism. The event will celebrate the contributions of disabled, chronically ill, Deaf, mad and neurodivergent Black people to freedom, resistance and community care. Contact events@asecommunityfoundation.com for details.

Afro-Caribbean Farmers' Market

The CABR Unit is excited to celebrate the fifth season of the Afro-Caribbean Farmers' Market. Visit the outdoor plaza at Fairbank LRT Station every Sunday from July 5 to October 4 to shop from a diverse range of local vendors.





Toronto Pan Afrikan Film Festival

The fourth annual Toronto Pan Afrikan Film Festival returns with EXODUS, exploring journeys of departure, homecoming, loss and liberation across generations of Afrikan people. Visit TPAFF.com for the 18-film lineup and tickets.

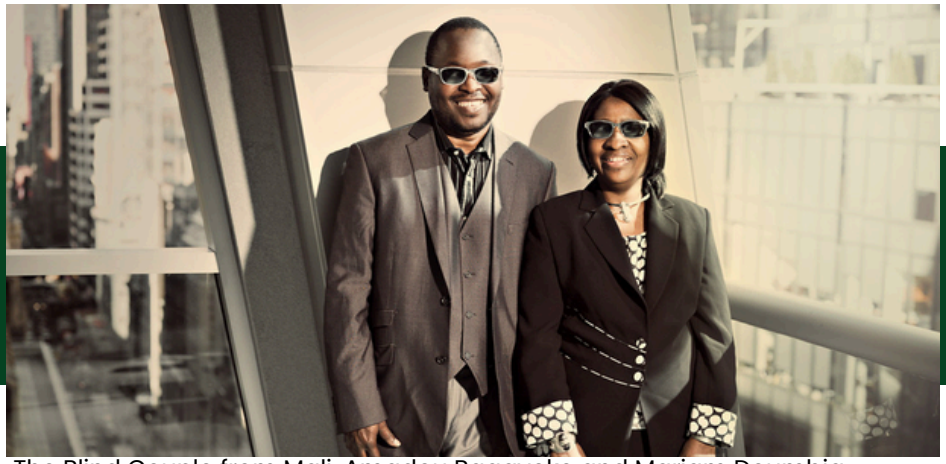
City News & Civic Updates

Thank You to our CABRAC!

As the current term of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee (CABRAC) comes to a close, we extend our sincere gratitude to its members for their leadership, expertise and dedicated service. CABRAC, a Council advisory body, provides insights, advocacy and lived experiences to strengthen the City's efforts to confront anti-Black racism. We look forward to building on their contributions and continuing this important work in service of Black Torontonians. Learn more about CABRAC.



Community Spotlight: The Blind Couple From Mali



The Blind Couple from Mali: Amadou Bagayoko and Mariam Doumbia, internationally acclaimed husband-and-wife musical duo..

On May 29th, Toronto Newcomer Day, the City of Toronto partnered with Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities to screen *The Blind Couple from Mali*. The screening drew a full house at the prestigious Hot Docs Cinema on Bloor Street. The film documents the journey of Amadou and Mariam, a blind, Francophone musical duo from Mali, as they work on their final studio album together. Following the screening, a panel discussion was facilitated by film producer, Nicole Brooks. The panel members included the film director, Ryan Marley; the Founder and Executive Director of La Passerelle-IDÉ, Léonie Tchatat; and Keya Osbourne, the Provincial Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The CABR Unit offered complimentary seats to community members, creating a meaningful opportunity of intersection and dialogue for Black newcomers, Francophones, and disabled communities.