



Social Connectedness Fellowship Program

Partnership Proposal: Books, Art, Music Collective (B.A.M)



**SAMUEL CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
CONNECTEDNESS**



Partnership Proposal

Partner Organization: BAM – Books Art Music Collective

Founded in 2018, BAM Collective is Ontario's first youth-led collective that empowers equity-seeking young people through art and community engagement. BAM is a group of young, racialized artists and community organizers based in Toronto, improving the lives of youth through workshops, local activism, and BAM (Books, Art, Music).

Operating from a non-partisan and anti-oppression framework, BAM Collective creates impact in several ways, such as:

- Hosting community art events and workshops
- Raising awareness of crucial issues through online campaigns and conferences
- Uniting local changemakers to effect positive change
- Connecting youth with resources to strengthen communities

Learn More: <https://www.bamcollective.ca/about>

Location of Fellow: Remote

Description of Proposed Project:

Are Newcomers to Canada well-equipped with resources on Indigenous life, culture, and History in what is known as Canada? Do they have opportunities to connect with Indigenous people and community leaders? What is the role of Newcomers to Canada in the Truth and Reconciliation commitment? What improvements and investments should be made to the educational system for Newcomers to Canada to learn about Indigenous life, culture, and history and their role in their new home?



Background:

If you are interested in finding answers and recommendations to these questions, join BAM – Books Art Music Collective - which has been hosting several workshops, events, and conferences to open dialogue between Newcomers, refugees, immigrants, and Indigenous people. BAM has highlighted several gaps through its work, including limited resources and opportunities for Newcomers to understand Indigenous issues, histories, and cultures. Newcomers have fewer opportunities as there is a vacuum of resources in some areas which leads Newcomers to be separated from accessing Indigenous-based resources on how to access the road to meaningful reconciliation. Often they have no face-to-face interaction at the community-level with Indigenous peoples and have less access to educational resources to learn about Indigenous people in Canada. There is a vast gap in the system for providing an accurate history of Indigenous people living in Canada. Anecdotally, we have seen that there are several negative stereotypes associated with Indigenous people, including assumptions about substance use, unemployment, and violence-related stories.

Newcomers are told that Indigenous peoples are not friendly nor welcoming towards new immigrants. We believe that those assumptions are equipping our community, specifically the youth, with the wrong education about Indigenous communities and peoples and this increases the rate of racism, discrimination, and bias facing Indigenous people.

We are committed to highlighting more gaps and providing solutions and recommendations to meet the 93 recommendations made by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#), being that the information kit for Newcomers to Canada is revised and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Indigenous peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools. (TRC, 2015, p.10).

The fellow has the option to analyze a focus group, community event, or individual interviews with stakeholders. The Fellow will also have access to BAM “Bridging the gap between Newcomers and Indigenous youth conversation” virtual event, the first-ever mental health conference between Indigenous, Newcomers, refugee, and immigrant youth and has also access to our connection to both Newcomers and refugees, immigrants and Indigenous communities. The



Fellow can also use BAM socials to promote interviews or focus group calls out. The Fellow is expected to work on a final report/ research paper.

Stakeholders are.

- Newcomers, refugees, and Immigrants
- Indigenous groups
- Community organizations, charities, or grassroots that are working with Newcomers, refugees, and immigrants.
- Indigenous-led organizations
- Policymakers
- Any other stakeholder the fellow think would enrich the research

Skills and education background:

Enrolled in undergraduate or graduate-level studies that encompass knowledge of one of the following fields: law, public policy, immigration/refugee settlement, Indigenous policy, and/or social justice studies.

- A background or interest in Immigration and refugee settlement, Indigenous affairs, and public policy.
- Strong research and writing skills in English are essential.
- Strong initiative, time management, and project management skills.
- Excellent communication skills
- Background or interest in researching issues affecting marginalized groups, especially newcomers, refugees, immigrants, and Indigenous.
- Interest to work with youth and marginalized groups

We are committed to working with BIPOC groups Indigenous, Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees, Black and People of Color (BIPOC), women, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Key Deliverables:

The Fellows will be working on a research paper/ final report based on the interviews of Individuals/ community events or focus groups and materials BAM has. We are aiming to use the report to campaign for our goal, meet with stakeholders, and encourage conversations on this critical topic.



- Engagement in BAM events as appropriate
- Write a 25-35 page report, which may include:
 - Interview relevant community contacts and/or analyze focus groups
 - Literature review of BAM resources
- Blog post for SCSC [500-1000 words]

Goals:

The goal of this research is to highlight the gaps between Newcomers and Indigenous people and encourage opening conversations on the culture and history of Indigenous Peoples and Canada. For Newcomers, it is especially hard to understand and interact with Canada's ongoing process of colonization. There are fewer resources for Newcomers and many provide an inaccurate history of Canada. This will lead Newcomer youth to go through their lives without understanding residential schools, the historic and ongoing impacts of the Indian Act, the significance of treaties, or the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the mosaic of Canada.

We want to encourage organizations, government, education systems, and community leaders to start conversations. . We believe reconciliation means working together to meet shared needs and celebrating shared successes through dialogue and relationship building. We want Newcomers, refugees, and immigrants to stand against injustices, remember and learn from the past, ensure injustices are not repeated and move toward healing as a community and as a country. We want this conversation to lead to truth and reconciliation, and community and nation-building. We want this research to highlight recommendations and solutions to meet the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 93rd Call to Action.

We are aiming to work closely with stakeholders and the SCSC community to meet our goals and celebrate successes.

Contact Details:

Hanen and Hani both came as refugees to Canada and are able to be interviewed on the topic or answer any questions when needed. Jenna is an



Indigenous youth and can also participate in the interview and support when needed.

Main Contact: Hanen Nanaa – Director BAM Collective

Hani Moulia – Co-founder BAM Collective

Jenna Robar – Indigenous Ambassador and Program Coordinator BAM Collective