

# ISSAMBA NEWS

JANUARY EVENTS | 2023 EVENTS | EVENTS REVIEW | VICTORIA AFRONEWS



Mamadou Diabate



Naxx Bitota

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Happy New Year Friends! Do you believe in making New Year Resolutions? For those who do, what sort of resolutions do you lean towards - health and fitness goals? Financial targets or more quality time with loved ones? For us at ISSAMBA, we started this year with a 'new year, new me' philosophy by giving our website a new look. We selected aesthetically pleasing design elements that make for a pleasant visit to our site, we reorganized how we present information to make navigation of our site easier. Take a look at it and let us know what you think. We would appreciate the feedback.

Alongside our new look, the new year at ISSAMBA always begins with a flurry of activities in preparation for Black History Month. Every year, in February, Canadians are invited to take part in celebrations highlighting the culture and contributions of people of African Descent. For Black History Month 2023, we have selected the theme "Building Bridges" and thoughtfully curated a series of events that honour the legacies of many black Canadians who have contributed to shaping Canada's diversity and building cross-cultural connections.

### Dinner & Dance Party

To launch Black History Month, we are hosting a dinner and dance party. Sit down to hot and spicy african food followed by an afrobeats dance party headlined by DJ Folzy. January 28th from 6 pm - 11:30 pm at the Edelweis club. Leading black organizations all over BC have been invited to present their BHM plans so we can generate an exhaustive list of all major events in BC to celebrate BHM 2023. Scan code to request invitations.



### ISSAMBA Showcase

As part of our Black History Month long celebration, internationally acclaimed artiste, Mamadou Diabate with Percussion Mania and Montreal-based artiste Naxx Bitota will take us on the musical experience of a lifetime – ISSAMBA showcase: a journey through the depths of African-rooted rhythms in Victoria (Feb 17 at 7:30 pm at Victoria Event Centre), Nanaimo (Feb 18 at 7:30pm at The Port Theatre) and Vancouver (Feb 19 at 7:30pm at The Wise Hall).

Mamadou Diabate is an award-winning balafon master and composer born in Burkina Faso. His formation, Percussion Mania, is recognised around the world as the only one with two Balafons as lead instruments. Their music is an enthralling journey, deep into the heritage of West Africa - that is as intricately crafted as it is bold and unrestrained.

Naxx Bitota, a montreal based artist described as a cross between Miriam Makeba and Whitney Houston, always finds a way to unite and honour the different regions of Africa with her unique blend of classical and traditional styles, Mutuashi and Congolese Rumba that evoke deep emotions in the listener.

### Crisis Management Workshop

A design thinking workshop scheduled January 28, 2023 from 10 am - 5:30 pm at Edelweiss Club to contextualize the impact of the current pandemic response on Black communities and to develop an advisory crisis management plan that can be adopted during future widespread emergencies. There will be lunch, an honorarium and ferry costs refund available to all attendees.

## A spectacular line up for 2023

## Your Guide to Afrocentric Events in Canada

### Black Author Boxes Project

Coming to a school near you is an exciting new concept - our black author boxes - a mobile library featuring authors of African descent traveling through local elementary schools in Victoria to celebrate Black History Month. On February 1st, we will launch the project at ISSAMBA center with a book reading by one of the featured authors, Wanda Jemly. Interested elementary school educators can scan this code to register



### Black - in -BC Symposium

In response to the UN's declaration to recognize the International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD) which ends in 2024, the Black-in-BC convener project produced the Black-in-BC Action Plan - a document that offers a situational analysis of the experiences of black people in BC in relation to key matrices such as housing, employment etc. This report was forwarded to the Government of BC at the end of the project in February 2022. The Symposium which holds February 11 at Hermann Jazz Club from 11 am - 3pm will offer a space for critical conversations around the Black-in-BC action plan report and interrogations of the actions/inactions of the government since the official handover of the document. To participate in the symposium, please scan the code



<https://kazakiz.com/>

**Sponsorship/partnership packages are now open for Black History Month 2023**

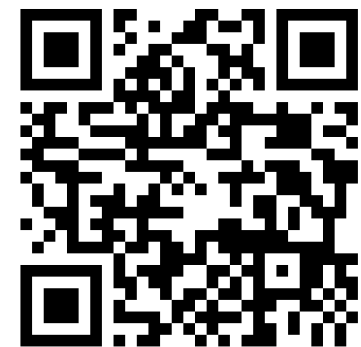
### Mamadou Day Camp



Join us for family day camp with Mamadou who would be teaching african percussion from beginner to advanced levels while immersing families in the sights, sounds and tastes of African Culture. The event will host an



African pop up eatery where vendors from various parts of Africa will prepare and sell flavourful delicacies from their home countries. Lots of fun for the whole family! Scan code to register and for more details



<https://www.issambacentre.ca>

### May 2023 - African Cultural Week

African Cultural week occurs annually around May 25th which is "African Liberation Day" celebrated by millions of Africans to mark the founding of the first union of African countries in 1963. For 2023, our line up of activities features the annual festival - AfricaFest. AfricaFest 2023 is bigger and bolder than ever before. We are hosting 2 festivals across Canada, the 10th AfricaFest in Victoria will hold at the Centennial Square over 2 days in May. The first ever Festival Afri-CaFest will hold at the historic \_\_\_\_\_ in Quebec City from May 18 - May 21, 2023. We are currently accepting sponsors and volunteers for both festivals.

**By Foundation Pulchérie N. Mboussi**

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