



OLIVIA CHOW
MAYOR

Proclamation

Black Music Month

June 2025

WHEREAS during the month of June, we celebrate Black music in all its forms and pay tribute to the diverse cultures and experiences of musicians who have shaped Black music over centuries.

Black music is a rich artform that has evolved over hundreds of years. Black music, from folk to religious spirituals and gospel, to blues, jazz, soul, Afro-Caribbean music, reggae, R&B and hip-hop, each have their own unique history. This month we acknowledge the vital role that Black communities have played in shaping and promoting Toronto's musical identity. Toronto is a global centre for Black arts and culture thanks largely to the legacy and impact of past and current Black musicians. This month, we acknowledge with gratitude all those who have contributed to this artform.

Early rap and R&B Toronto icons like Maestro Fresh Wes, Jully Black, Kardinal Offishall, and Michie Mee laid the groundwork for the massive worldwide attention now paid to Toronto-based Black artists whose work in these genres is heard worldwide. The songs and personal stories of global superstars like Drake and the Weeknd, as well as newer talents like Dijah SB, TOBi, Mustafa, and WondaGurl, have come to define "the Toronto sound" around the world.

Black music has many lessons to teach us. Messages carried in Black music contain stories of history and culture that are sacred and spiritual, joyous and celebratory. Black music is also a historically significant form of resistance against injustice and oppression.

As we celebrate Black Music Month, we recognize our continued, ongoing commitment to confronting anti-Black racism. We must remain committed to ensuring sustainable and innovative opportunities for Black music and the artists and the industry it helps support. The City of Toronto is proud to be a city where arts and culture thrive by investing in programs to ensure all residents have access to opportunities for cultural participation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Olivia Chow, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 2025** as "**Black Music Month**" in the City of Toronto.

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

