



OLIVIA CHOW
MAYOR

Proclamation

Black Music Month

June 2024

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 can be understood as an immensely rich artform that has evolved over many hundreds of years. The breadth of Black music from folk to religious spirituals and gospel, to blues, jazz, soul, Afro-Caribbean music, R&B and hip-hop – each with their own unique histories – is present in our everyday culture.

This month we acknowledge the vital role Black communities themselves have played in shaping and promoting Toronto's musical identity. Toronto enjoys the status of being a global centre for Black arts and culture thanks to the legacy and impact of Black musicians.

Modern 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 pioneers in hip-hop and R&B. The songs and personal stories of global superstars like Drake and the Weeknd, as well as newer voices like Haviah Mighty and Daniel Caesar, 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 oppression. We can all learn something from Black music and this month gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to this artform.

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 industry it helps support. Toronto is a place where arts and culture thrive. The City of Toronto invests in programs to ensure all residents have access to and the opportunity for cultural participation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Olivia Chow, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 2024** as “**Black Music Month**” in the City of Toronto.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Olivia Chow".

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

