

ANNUAL AFRICAN DESCENT SUMMIT 2025

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Summit Introduction

The 4th Annual African Descent Summit 2025, hosted by African Descent Ontario, will take place from July 17–20, 2025, at 237 Sackville Street, Toronto, Ontario. It brings together a powerful mix of leaders, artists, policymakers, and advocates to advance justice, economic empowerment, education, and culture within communities of African descent. The summit includes high-impact sessions, cultural showcases, and a concert by international artist Pallaso (Mayanja Pius) and Adson Assemble

Theme: Recognition, Justice, and Development – Shaping a Future Together

- Recognition: Honoring identity, legacy, and excellence.
- Justice: Confronting systemic discrimination and fostering inclusion.
- Development: Promoting growth and opportunity in African descent communities.
- Art & Culture: Highlighting the creative brilliance of the African diaspora.

Moderator

Full Summit Schedule						
Date	Time	Session	Description	Speaker(s)/Panelists	Target Audience	Location
July 17	All Day	Arrival of International Delegates	Reception and logistics	African Descent Team	International Delegates	237 Sackville Street
	3:00 PM	Press Conference	Media session with artist Pallaso (Uganda)	Pallaso	Media, Artists, Leaders	Adson Office
July 18	9:00 AM	Registration & Opening Ceremony	Official welcome and keynote	MPP Alexa (Parkdale), ADSON Leaders	Leaders, Officials, Youth	237 Sackville Street
	10:30 AM	Panel: Anti-Black Racism	Global and local strategies	Shelly (Uplift Black), Walid (Crisis in Our City Network)	Advocates, Activists, Youth	237 Sackville Street
	11:30 AM	Lunch Break & Networking	Break and community connection	African Descent Team	All Attendees	237 Sackville Street
	12:30 PM	Workshop: Strategic Planning for Justice	Equity and advocacy strategies	Rachel Kalaba (University of Toronto)	Leaders, Policymakers, Advocates	237 Sackville Street
	1:30 PM	Workshop: Education Pathways for Newcomers	Access to education and employment	Pooja Dewani Business Development Manager (Academy of Learning)	Newcomers, Job Seekers, Students	237 Sackville Street
	2:30 PM	Keynote: Development & Empowerment	Community-centered empowerment	Fatumah Tanzania Associaion	Leaders, Youth, Academics	237 Sackville Street
	3:00 PM	Panel: Economic Empowerment	Entrepreneurship & financial inclusion	Dakarayi Chigugudhlo (Black Cup), Others TBA	Entrepreneurs, Youth, NGOs	237 Sackville Street
	4:00pm	Closing Ceremony	Summit reflections and closing	MPP Alexa (Parkdale), ADSON	Leaders, Officials, Youth	237 Sackville St
July 19	5:00 PM	Art Exhibition Opening	Diaspora visual art	Various Exhibitors	General Public, Artists	Exhibition Space
	6:00 PM	Award Ceremony	Recognizing leadership and impact	Kristyn Wong-Tam (MPP, Toronto Centre)	All Attendees	Main Auditorium
	7:00 PM-2:00PM	Live Concert	Performance by Pallaso	Pallaso & Guests	Public, Youth	Main Auditorium
July 20	9:00-4:00 PM	Tour of Historical Sites	Black heritage tours	ADSON Program Director, Tour Guides	International Guests	Toronto Highland

Speaker & Session Summary

Session	Speaker(s)/Panelists	Affiliation	Date
Moderator		Hope for Refugees International	July 18
Press Conference	Guest Artist (Mayanja Pius)	International Artist – Uganda	July 17
Reflection and Summit closing Ceremony	MPP Alexa	Parkdale MPP	July 18
Anti-Black Racism Panel	Shelly, Walid, Florence (ADSON)	Uplift Black, Crisis in Our City Network	July 18
Strategic Justice Workshop	Rachel Kalaba	University of Toronto	July 18
Education Workshop	Pooja Dewani	Academy of Learning	July 18
Development Keynote	Fatumah- Tanzania Community	Community Leader	July 18
Economic Panel	Dakarayi Chigugudhlo	Black Cup	July 18
Art Exhibition	Various Artists	Diaspora Creatives	July 19
Award Ceremony	Chief Guest MPP- Kristyn Wong	MPP Central	July 19
Live Concert	Pallaso	Uganda	July 19
Heritage Tour	Program Director & Guides	African Descent Ontario	July 20