

BlackChat Ep 01 - welcome

• 1:04:58

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, black, vancouver, talking, podcast, land, indigenous people, canada, person, auntie, part, intergenerational, feel, indigenous, important, year, conversations, life, folks, living room

SPEAKERS

Kona, Morgan, Both

Morgan 01:01

How are you? Do you love me?

Kona 01:02

I hate you right now I fucking am mad. It's okay. Hi, everybody. I'm Kona.

Morgan 01:10

And I'm Morgan.

Kona 01:12

And this is BlackChat podcast.

Both 01:14

Wowa

Kona 01:19

Our first episode.

Morgan 01:20

I know, it's so ridiculous. We no word of a lie have tried to record this. This is now the second time.

Kona 01:27

Is it?

Morgan 01:28

It's only the second time.

Kona 01:29

Well we stopped and start many times

Morgan 01:32

Correct.

Kona 01:32

Yeah.

Morgan 01:33

Cuz I'm a dick.

Kona 01:34

Uh don't talk like that about yourself.

Morgan 01:36

But also, we literally just had a moment where we did a run through of this. And I was like, Auntie, I'm sorry, I wasn't recording. And she was like, why?

Kona 01:42

Yeah.

Morgan 01:43

This way?

Kona 01:43

Yeah, I think I may have actually said that. I hate you. But I don't.

Morgan 01:47

Uh, You did say and I caught it on tape

Both 01:52

Laughter

Morgan 01:52

Wow. Thanks, everyone for coming and, or listening. Rather,

Kona 01:58

Yeah.

Morgan 01:58

And before we start, we'd really like to acknowledge the land that we're on and how it is that we got here. And on the west coast in Canada, anyways, a land acknowledgements have become like really kind of standard protocol, I think.

Kona 02:13

Yeah.

Morgan 02:15

And something that we've talked about over the last couple years is what it means to go beyond land acknowledgments. And, for me how I do that, I will do it in a couple seconds here is also by acknowledging our own ancestry and how it is that we got here.

Kona 02:33

Mm hmm. Which I think is really important learnings from the peoples of this land. Yeah. One of the things that I've observed when I go to events, and there are land acknowledgments or Indigenous people are speaking to the land, they will speak to who they are and what their history is, and what gives them the right to speak. And I think it's more complicated than that. That's probably a very sloppy explanation. But the thing that I really got from that was about honoring your elders and where you are in your history and your ancestors, and where you're, where you came from, and having a clear sense of how you got here to these lands, you know, which is, I think, complicated for Black people.

Morgan 03:17

Well, I mean, I think it's complicated for many people. But for Black people in particular, I agree. I agree. I agree. You know.

Kona 03:25

Certainly in our family. We go, we go back to the continent of Africa. And there,

Morgan 03:33

We don't know where,

Kona 03:34

Yeah, we don't know where people were snatched from, you know, it starts from there. And then our people, the history of our family, our ancestry is in Guyana, South America, and the Wapishana people of that place. And that's actually not that's a history that goes back to a quite recent generation.

Morgan 03:58

Hmm.

Kona 03:59

Right. So it's not one of these cases where somebody claims Indigenous history, and it's, you know, 100 years ago.

Morgan 04:06

I mean, I also think that I don't think I'm not out here claiming indigeneity and

Kona 04:10

I'm not either.

Morgan 04:11

You know, and so that, that is also interesting.

Kona 04:14

Mm hmm.

Morgan 04:14

Just to like, you know.

Kona 04:15

Yeah

Morgan 04:16

As a little info.

Kona 04:18

Yeah. I feel like I don't want to lose those people in my bloodlines, and yet, I don't know of them because I came here.

Morgan 04:26

Mm hmm. And it's not something in our family that I mean, you learned it from granny.

Kona 04:30

Yep.

Morgan 04:30

This information and also, I think that that to a degree there's an extent in which we don't talk about family past and family history in our family anyway. Or I at least have other than with you and a bit with granny now. I don't have those conversations.

Kona 04:46

Mm hmm. Yeah, I think it's really complicated for families or for our family. And I don't know that that's, you know, it's probably complicated for a lot of families of a Guyana highly colonized. It's the only deal in the country in South America, where the first language is England is English, it's that heavily colonized. And so in our family, no one's been born outside of Guyana, on both sides for several generations,

Morgan 05:14

Right.

Kona 05:15

Until my parents left Guyana, and came to Canada. And that was during the Trudeau years of the 60s. And they were sent

Morgan 05:24

First Trudeau years for all the young bloods listening in.

Kona 05:28

Yeah, yeah, the first Trudeau and that, and they were sent here, they were sent to Edmonton, Alberta, by the government of the day.

Morgan 05:39

So did they have the choice? They had the choice of being here? And then...

Kona 05:42

No.

Morgan 05:42

Okay, can you say more about that?

Kona 05:44

They were sent here. So there's a thing that happens right now with. So for example, if you think about Syrian refugees, okay, when they come to Canada, they are directed to a place.

Morgan 05:55

But we didn't come as refugees.

Kona 05:56

We did not my people, our people did not my parents did not come here that way. But there was this period. So I think about waves of migration to North America. So I think about the first wave as being really that huge amount of that influx of Black labor and Black bodies, right, I think about the next set, the next wave of migration from the States up into Canada, being sort of like the, the Caribbean era. I mean, they're sort of as part of that first migration. I'm also including the move from post slavery up into Canada. But that's super complicated with Canada's slavery history. And then now what I see is a third wave, which is coming primarily from the African continent, to North America.

Morgan 06:42

And so with our family, though?

Kona 06:44

Second generation.

Morgan 06:45

Second generation, and they were sent here for the purposes of education?

Kona 06:49

They came here to do education. But at the time, part of what the government was doing is they were they, they sort of opened up the borders. So to people from the Caribbean, so people from the Caribbean had an easier time coming in. It's how my, it's how granny got here. My grandmother, your great grandmother got here, right? As a nurse. So and as a result of that, what the government would do is say, yes, we're gonna, we're opening it up, but then also here is where you're going,

Morgan 07:18

Right, okay, thank you.

Kona 07:20

And then people had freedom of movement beyond that. But that's also what why they're these really interesting pockets of Black people across Canada. It's not the only reason, but it's one of the reasons.

Morgan 07:31

Yeah, that's really true.

Kona 07:32

Mm hmm.

Morgan 07:32

That's really true.

Kona 07:33

Mm hmm.

Morgan 07:34

And so where was it that my grandparents, your parents first landed when they came here?

Kona 07:41

So they landed in Edmonton, Alberta, which is Treaty six. And it's, I understand it to be the land of the Enoch, Cree. But then we were talking about it. And there's Blackfoot people that are part of the Treaty six as well.

Morgan 08:00

I mean, there's a few Nations and people of varieties that are within that Treaty. And at least the resource that we're using which we use <https://native-land.ca/> for this information, didn't go into too many details. Beyond that, in fact, actually, the one Nation that they did list was the Blackfoot peoples. It doesn't actually say anything about the Enoch Cree, which isn't to say that they aren't there. But it's interesting that it doesn't say that.

Kona 08:34

Yeah, I got Enoch, Cree, when I was doing some research shortly after the Truth and Reconciliation report came out. Because at that point, I was like, Oh, this is the national project, like this is something that we all have to get on board for. And so I did some research around then. And I, for the life of me cannot remember where I was digging into. But at the time, it was Enoch Cree.

Morgan 08:56

Oh, interesting.

Kona 08:57

Yeah. Do you know what treaty you were born on?

Morgan 09:00

Yeah, so I was born on Treaty number five, in a small little town called Flin Flon Manitoba. And on my mom's side of the family, I'm a little biracial baby. And my mom's side is Ukrainian. I know, diddly squat. Actually, I was, you know, grew up with them and born and raised by that side of my family. And we never had conversations about where was that, like, I know that we're Ukrainian. So we eventually at some point in our history came over from the Ukraine, but I don't know, at what time or how long ago. Didn't you know, so. I don't know about that. Which is less unsettling, maybe than some people would think.

Kona 09:40

Did you say less unsettling?

Morgan 09:42

Knowing not knowing about it? Yeah. And I don't know if that's just because the state of the life that I'm in and with that current side of my family.

Kona 09:50

Yeah.

Morgan 09:50

I think actually, that's probably largely why I'm like, it's not that important to me, at least at this moment. And I also, you know, the year for me moving here was also like the year in which I started really discovering my Blackness, or at least that's how some people in my life really would fit my Nigrescence.

Kona 10:08

Your Nigrescence..

Morgan 10:10

As some people would characterize it, which is essentially like an old psychiatric term for somebody coming into their Blackness, but they didn't mean it in a positive way. And now we use it. Well, we me and Auntie use it in a more positive way out of dark humor.

Kona 10:25

Yeah.

Morgan 10:26

Yeah.

Kona 10:27

I saw what you did there.

Morgan 10:28

Yeah. Yeah. And so yeah, so that's where I was born. And since then, I've lived a couple of places. And now I currently I for the, for the lurst, for the lurst for the last three and a half ish years now have resided here, in what is colloquially known as the Vancouver lower mainland. But what is actually the unceded and therefore stolen ancestral homelands and territories of the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh and Stolo First Nations, also often referred to as the Coast Salish peoples. And, you know, when we say, unceded, and therefore stolen, we really mean, there was no treaty signings or agreements or anything that meant that settlers could be here, and especially not in the way that we are now, which is highly developed and paved over waterways and, you know, displaced people and people and people along the way. It's been ridiculous.

Kona 11:37

And it's been an interesting time here in Canada, with the pipelans. And particularly, did I say pipelans?

Morgan 11:44

You did say pipelans.

Kona 11:46

Thank you for not actually coming for me, on that one.

Morgan 11:49

I was here for you.

Kona 11:50

With the pipelines that are coming through BC.

Morgan 11:55

Yeah.

Kona 11:57

I have so much appreciation for people who are committed to ensuring that there's something here for future generations, I really worry about how these times will be spoken about in 20 years, or, and that's like, because really, 20 years is time for a brand new set of high school books to be highschool

textbooks to be read, be written. And so I wonder about that. So I have a deep appreciation for all the people that are guarding and speaking for the land and the water and, and...

Morgan 12:34

The sovereignty, like, you know, like, that, I think is also something like when we talk about what it is for people to when we talk about land back when we talk about reconciliation, you know, people really love to talk about it until it you know, it comes down to ways that it those actions that land back in that reconciliation and being in alliance with Indigenous people, people really like to talk about it until it means that those actions affect them in a way that isn't necessarily positive. You know, so whether it's like, you know, oh, you're here for Atlanta back, when are you going to give your house to this Indigenous family, as a example, or, you know, you can't put a pipeline here, because this is occupied lands of Indigenous people. You know, the second that those things start to inconvenience, it's no longer about alliances in reconciliation,

Kona 13:30

The amount of trauma that the amount of trauma, the trauma on the land, the trauma on the wildlife, the trauma on the people and, you know, today...

Morgan 13:40

And the generations that follow.

Kona 13:41

You know, and today is what it's January 4th.

Morgan 13:44

Yeah.

Kona 13:45

And you know, I had great hope for 2020 and yet, it's been a fucking shitstorm.

Morgan 13:53

It's been a shitstorm.

Kona 13:54

You know, so I think about you know, and really what's on my mind, as we're talking about these unceded lands and the work that people are doing, I'm thinking about Australia, and the fact that the Black and Indigenous people there have been speaking and not being heard about climate conditions. And now look where we are.

Morgan 14:20

Yeah.

Kona 14:20

You know, Australia went through that piece of Day Zero where they were counting down to no water.

Morgan 14:26

Yup!

Kona 14:27

They dodged it. And now the whole country is the whole continent. It's not a country, the continent's burning, and I just, I feel like we're if we as people aren't paying attention, that will and can happen here, too.

Morgan 14:43

Yes.

Kona 14:44

I mean, our summers of burning have been intense and the peoples of this land that know this land well need to be consulted, they need...

Morgan 14:51

And it's not like they're not saying anything, it's we need to start listening. You're putting them at the forefront of that...

Kona 14:57

I withdraw that consult. It's past the time You're right. It's

Morgan 15:00

Yeah, so time it's like listen to the fucking people that know what the fuck is going on.

Kona 15:04

Are we gonna swear a lot during this podcast?

Morgan 15:06

I don't know. Want me to redo that?

Kona 15:09

No.

Morgan 15:10

Okay.

Kona 15:11

I just feel like, it just occurs to me that

Morgan 15:13

We swear a lot?

Kona 15:14

Yes. And also Well, I mean, this is something worth swearing about. And also, I don't know what else to say.

Morgan 15:22

Okay. I mean, like I said, when we recorded this the first time I will, before I upload it and finish editing, I will look to see what the guidelines are, if there are any, which I don't think there are, but if there are, I'll look and I'll see.

Kona 15:35

I think there's probably something about airwaves, especially stuff that's maybe not, I don't know, it's not an airway. It's a digital thing.

Morgan 15:41

I'm also like, I'm sorry if you can show people getting slaughtered and boobies on Game of Thrones on the TV.

Kona 15:48

Oh, wow.

Morgan 15:50

Like, I'm just saying.

Kona 15:50

How did we get there?

Morgan 15:52

I'm just saying,

Kona 15:52

I would like to go back to saying thank you to the Peoples of this land. And a special shout out to all my Indigenous friends and chosen family that I have. I just want to do a big shout out to you for putting up with me as I blunder around like a two year old learning to walk in a living room with crystal on the coffee table.

Morgan 16:18

Oh my gosh,

Kona 16:19

I do I feel I just feel so incompetent sometimes. But I'm really here to work on this national project.

Morgan 16:26

Yeah.

Kona 16:27

Figure it out.

Morgan 16:28

Yeah. Yeah. Being in good relations, not even good. Being in right relations with Indigenous people, wherever I go has always been important to me. And I think that's in part because I, myself was raised by a Cree and Metis woman, for the majority of my life very heavily, and who still has very heavy influence in my life. And a lot of my, the weight a lot of my spiritual practices and the ways in which I find healing come from at least her Indigenous practices and how I know them to be now and also my hometown is a large population of Indigenous people. And so, you know, these are the folks that I've grown up around, and that I, you know, have gone to hockey games for and shared bunk beds with and, you know, was babysat with and babysat for by and so

Kona 17:27

You grew up with, you have a lot of connection with Indigenous people growing up?

Morgan 17:31

Well, yeah, like, for me, for me, my connection to indigenous people, up until recently is stronger than what it is to Black people, because I didn't grow up with Black people.

Kona 17:42

That's so fascinating.

Morgan 17:43

Yeah. And so I, you know, I say to the, in, you know, the Indigenous people that I know, here, you know, I talk to them all the time about how, like, grateful, really, that I am that I've been taken in as a as a friend as a chosen family. Because, like, by no means, do they have to take me in by no means do they have to welcome me or accept me by any ways, but they really, but they do.

Kona 18:09

Yeah.

Morgan 18:10

And that is something that is really, really heavy and tender in my heart, and that I hold really close to my heart, too. Yeah.

Kona 18:19

Yeah. And the history that this country has with Black and Indigenous peoples, I think makes those kinds of connections, and community building and bridge building. Really important.

Morgan 18:31

Mm hmm.

Kona 18:31

Really important.

Morgan 18:32

Me and my partner, actually, I'm sure they wouldn't mind if I said their name. But I want for now. me my partner actually, were just talking the other day about how I think that we're at we were talking about like, people uh Black people's relation to land, which I think because of our history is really complex, like people don't want to go camping. People want don't want to be farming, stuff like that. And in that it's also

Kona 18:58

I'm not out here to like sleep on the fucking ground.

Morgan 19:01

I mean.

Kona 19:01

I'm not out here to do that.

Morgan 19:02

That's fair, that's fair. And

Kona 19:04

Camping? No.

Morgan 19:05

Sure. Sure. And I think in that it's, that's really interesting. Because I think part of the reason why that is so many of our stances is because of the historic trauma that has come from that when you know, when we look farther back, and in places that haven't been Westernized, to the same degree that we are, or even places that are still, you know, in America and Canada, but that do a few more like traditional practices. Those folks are a lot more in tune with the land. And you know, historically and I think originally similar because we're all Indigenous to somewhere, that's a real thing,

Kona 19:45

In our in our ancestry.

Morgan 19:46

In our ancestry yes. And, you know, the people like the original peoples for all of us, had close relationships with the land use, like you know, knew the land and could read the land. In the way that we understand Indigenous people to in Canada, and I think that part of what will be of our success in

the future and our prospering in the future is our strengthened relationships as Black people with Indigenous people.

Kona 20:15

I think so too.

Morgan 20:16

And going back to the Earth also.

Kona 20:18

Oh okay. Can I still have a bed?

Morgan 20:22

I hope so.

Kona 20:23

Can I have a flushing toilet?

Morgan 20:24

I hope so.

Kona 20:25

I mean, I hate to be like this.

Morgan 20:27

As somebody who's not about the waste, you're here to waste all that water with the toilet?

Kona 20:30

Oh I know. I know. I know, come the revolution. It's gonna be a problem. But you know, part of what's working, what's gonna get us into the future? Is being intergenerational coconspirators.

Morgan 20:42

Oh, my gosh, which is kind of what it is that we're about and why we're doing this. Hey?

Kona 20:47

Yeah. Yeah, that's how we got to BlackChat the podcast, right?

Morgan 20:52

And like, I mean, the podcast. And in terms of our origins, we, we've been doing this, like we said, for about three and a half years, and it really came out of the need. And it's continued to be about the dedication that we have in providing a source of healing for the Black communities here in the Vancouver, lower mainland on Turtle Island.

Kona 21:12

And Black people who come through.

Morgan 21:14

Yes!

Kona 21:16

Vancouver. So many times people who are visiting for work or play or whatever, to Vancouver, they're like, Where are your Black people?

Morgan 21:23

We're like ome to our house!

Kona 21:25

And that's literally what we do.

Morgan 21:27

Yeah, yeah. And it's, it's fascinating that we've been doing it for as long as we have.

Kona 21:31

Yeah.

Morgan 21:32

Entirely self funded, hosted out of

Kona 21:35

My home.

Morgan 21:36

Your home. What used to be our home, we used to live together. It was really cute.

Kona 21:39

Yeah.

Morgan 21:40

But yeah, of what is your home? Which isn't it? You know, this isn't a six bedroom mansion or anything? You know, this is

Kona 21:49

No, this is community building being done on 720 square feet. And a patio

Morgan 21:55

Mhm, with a clean bathtub and an empty bed.

Kona 21:58

Yeah, yeah. I mean,

Morgan 21:59

And a hot meal often.

Kona 22:00

You know, like people are welcome to when they come to just climb into the bathtub.

Morgan 22:07

Yeah.

Kona 22:08

Read a book if they need to.

Morgan 22:09

Color, have chats.

Kona 22:11

Play with Lego.

Morgan 22:12

Eat food

Kona 22:13

Eat food, laugh.

Morgan 22:14

Mm hmm.

Kona 22:15

There have been so many times when people met here and then went on to

Morgan 22:19

Form connections and...

Kona 22:20

Do projects and consult about their artistic practice. I think that's because of the kind of people that that we bit because it's my home. It's been, you know, there's only so many people that I can have in it

Morgan 22:33

Well, and also like, it has to start with the people that we know.

Kona 22:35

And it starts with the people we know.

Morgan 22:36

Who happen to be

Kona 22:37

Who, yeah, a lot of those people are like artists and activists, they're influencers

Morgan 22:42

There's queers

Kona 22:43

There's queers, lots of queer people

Morgan 22:45

Lots of trans folks,

Kona 22:46

Trans folks. But there's also, you know, straight cisgender people, and

Morgan 22:52

That range in age

Kona 22:53

And the range in age is astonishing at BlackChat,

Morgan 22:56

Like actually the youngest that we've had if we can if we count all of our additions?

Kona 23:00

Yeah.

Morgan 23:01

The youngest is 14.

Kona 23:04

Oh, that's right.

Morgan 23:04

And the oldest is?

Kona 23:08

How old am I? So you're, you're

Both 23:11

21.

Kona 23:12

And I'm almost 50.

Morgan 23:13

Yeah.

Kona 23:14

And so I know that the next oldest person that comes easily to my mind, I think is 60.

Morgan 23:21

Right?

Kona 23:22

Trying to think if anybody is older than 60?

Morgan 23:25

I feel like there has been but I

Kona 23:28

There's been so many people, we've had

Both 23:29

So many additions

Morgan 23:31

And so many people,

Kona 23:32

So many so many people and additions. Do you remember when it started?

Morgan 23:38

You mean the summer of killing Black people?

Kona 23:39

Oh my god.

Morgan 23:40

Which to like,

Kona 23:42

That's what we call it because it was a bad it was fucken terrible!

Morgan 23:45

Oh it was a bad year. It's been I mean, it's been bad years. We won't negate that. But you know, it was 2016 was a bad year. 2016 was the year that we saw footage over

Both 23:58

And over and over

Morgan 23:59

Again.

Kona 24:00

It was like snuff, videos, and especially on social media, and people would tag me and people were reposting and it was just like, you know, it reminds me of here in Vancouver when Robert Checani died at the Vancouver International Airport. And the news kept replaying over and over and over and over and over the actual moment when the person expired.

Morgan 24:25

Yeah.

Kona 24:26

And that I think was part of what was significant to me of that summer, is that it was the first time that we were seeing relentlessly every week, two weeks. Eric Garner, Tamir Rice,

Morgan 24:38

Philando Castile.

Kona 24:39

Yes.

Morgan 24:40

Walton Sterling.

Kona 24:40

Yes. And and not just men either.

Both 24:43

Right, right.

Kona 24:44

There was Korryn Gaines.

Morgan 24:46

Yep.

Kona 24:47

And Deborah Danner and

Morgan 24:51

Jessica Williams.

Kona 24:52

Yes.

Morgan 24:53

Keesha Michel? Michel? Michel?

Kona 24:55

Michel? I think you're right. Yeah. Michael?

Morgan 24:57

Yeah

Kona 24:57

Yeah

Morgan 24:58

and not then not to mention At all of those folks at the hands of police in the US,

Kona 25:03

Yeah.

Morgan 25:03

And then not to mention that it was also a really, really bad year for trans people too

Kona 25:10

For Black trans people.

Morgan 25:11

Black trans people in particular. Yeah. Both at the hands of police and not.

Kona 25:15

Yeah

Morgan 25:15

I don't have those numbers. I'm sorry. I tried.

Kona 25:18

People have the Googles.

Morgan 25:19

I know, I just want to check in.

Kona 25:21

Okay.

Morgan 25:22

And so it was as as Black people as Auntie and niece as my first time being around Black people in a tangible way.

Kona 25:32

Because you got here in

Morgan 25:33

July.

Kona 25:34

June?

Morgan 25:35

July 3rd.

Kona 25:35

Was it July 3rd?

Morgan 25:36

It was July 3rd, because I went out for Canada Day.

Kona 25:40

Oh, right.

Morgan 25:42

I went out. I went out

Kona 25:43

To col.. for Ca... for colonialism day?

Morgan 25:45

Colonialism day. Yeah, I went. That was the sorry, side note. So the June, 30 days past September, April, June. So third, June 30th.

Kona 25:53

Okay.

Morgan 25:54

I needed to make sure I didn't say 31.

Kona 25:55

It's fine.

Morgan 25:56

June 30th I went out with the first biracial Black person that I had ever met when I like many a few years ago.

Kona 26:03

Okay. So, so when you moved here in 2018, that was your first biracial date?

Morgan 26:08

No, when I'm so in 20. No, no, no. So in 2016

Kona 26:11

Okay.

Morgan 26:12

I was moving from here to here.

Kona 26:14

Yeah.

Morgan 26:14

From Calgary, Alberta.

Kona 26:15

Yeah.

Morgan 26:15

Which I have lived on and often throughout my life,

Kona 26:19

Right.

Morgan 26:20

When I first moved to Calgary, Alberta,

Kona 26:22

Right.

Morgan 26:22

and met the very first ever Black biracial person. We have the same initials.

Kona 26:29

Oh.

Morgan 26:30

And we've stayed friends. We continue to be friends now. And so in 2016,

Kona 26:34

Shout out!

Morgan 26:35

The day before I moved the night before I moved to Vancouver. I went out with this friend.

Kona 26:45

Oh my god, the look on your face right now.

Morgan 26:47

To my first ever gay bar.

Kona 26:49

What?

Morgan 26:49

In... Yes.

Kona 26:51

Wait, you never told me this?

Morgan 26:53

Oh my gosh. Wow.

Kona 26:54

What's so you're saying like two days before you came to Vancouver? Here? You went to a gay bar?
Yeah.

Morgan 27:01

Yeah, I woke up the next day in her bathtub and was like, I needed her boyfriend to drive me to my friend's house that I was staying at where all of my stuff was, um, because my grandparents were coming in a u haul to pack me up and we were driving through the rockies to Vanouwer.

Kona 27:16

Girl you are messy.

Morgan 27:20

Still am nothing's changed.

Kona 27:21

It's true. Still on brand? Correct. Very much so.

Morgan 27:27

Um,

Kona 27:28

Wow. July 3rd 2016,

Morgan 27:31

Maybe the fourth but

Kona 27:32

but whatever. Yeah, I just I just remembered that I was like, here comes my niece, my brother's child. And we'd arranged I managed to arrange with some of my chosen family. To get you a place that was like 15 minutes walk from here.

Morgan 27:51

It's literally not even that far. But yes.

Kona 27:52

Okay, I got short legs don't drag me. Stop it.

Morgan 27:55

I pick you up!

Kona 27:56

You, under your arm

Morgan 27:58
Cuz not dragging.

Kona 27:59
Oh, thank you.

Morgan 28:01
Sorry.

Kona 28:02
Okay. Thank you. Um, and And I remember thinking, What if I don't like this human being? Number one? Look, I was hedging my bets. I think it's reasonable to have a second plan. But I was like, your blood, but I may not like you. You know what I mean? You come you're you don't always like your blood.

Morgan 28:17
It's true.

Kona 28:17
So I was like, okay, and this is a young person. And I'm an older person. So whatever. Like, maybe our lives won't mesh. I don't really know.

Morgan 28:24
Right.

Kona 28:25
So I yeah, so that it was really important for me that you get hooked up into community here.

Morgan 28:32
Which we did like really right away. Because also when I arrived, there was the vigil, which was also like my first ever vigil.

Kona 28:40
That's right, the Vancouver vigil at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Morgan 28:43
Yeah. Which was, you know, to say the names and of the Black folks that had died that year at the hands of police brutality.

Kona 28:54
You know, I actually think that that Vancouver vigil was Ferguson.

Morgan 29:00

Was it? We're gonna do some fact checking and come back.

Kona 29:04

It's 2014.

Morgan 29:06

Ferguson was 2014.

Kona 29:08

I can't believe Ferguson was 2014. Oh my god, you know, you know what is most distressing to me?

Morgan 29:16

Tell me.

Kona 29:17

I can't tell when these things happened. Anymore.

Morgan 29:24

Yeah.

Kona 29:25

There's literally just too many.

Morgan 29:28

Well, when we were talking about, like, how we wanted this podcast to flow and you know, what we wanted to include and everything like that. When we came to the summer of 2016, like talking about our origins, I said, You know, I was saying I was like, I don't even know how much I remember. I remember all of that happening. And I also remember like shutting my brain off, because I couldn't. It was like trauma after trauma after trauma, just being relived over and over. And that's just and that's me, not having somebody whose family was, you know, experiencing this. Or who was like, directly impacted. I'm also in, you know, Western Canada I am a light skin.

Kona 30:05

Yeah.

Morgan 30:06

Femme female person. And so, you know, being that moment also was about me and being like, Oh, well, I'm Black, which I knew, but being like, oh, wow, I'm Black, and also being like, and I'm Black in a different way. And also, I'm feeling this really, like, not good, really visceral reaction in my body to what is happening on this continent. And, you know, that's, that was a hard time. And so I like it took a bit, I think for both of us to kind of recall what that summer looked like, make sure that we weren't like, including names that were, you know, in the wrong year or anything, because it does it really all kind of blends together.

Kona 30:47

And the other thing too, is there's a piece of me that has such a visceral body response to it, that I can't, to a certain extent, focus on it.

Morgan 30:57

Right.

Kona 30:57

It's, yeah, it's hard. Um Alton Sterling, and Philando Castile. That was the vigil.

Morgan 31:07

That was the vigil. Right! Because it would timeframe. Yeah. And All the POC that we knew or that you knew, because I didn't know anybody,

Kona 31:12

That that's what a bit and so that. And then it was, it was there was so much happening there like Vancouver was I'd never seen Vancouver like that, to be honest. Like, I took you into something Morgan than that, like I've never experienced in Vancouver. That doesn't mean that it hasn't happened or that people haven't had a similar feeling experience at other things. Yep. And then afterwards, we just invited All the people of color to just come back to the house and find respite. And then, and then that's where it started.

Morgan 31:47

And at that point, there was what like eight Black people may be in the room.

Kona 31:52

Oh, I remember that. That was so that was that was like a moment and and you turned to me and you're like, you're like, you were like, Auntie, I've never been in a room with so many Black people before.

Morgan 32:02

And Auntie's out here being like, Girl, there's six. And I was like, This is so many for me. I remember being like, overwhelmed and not knowing what to do. And there was also like, so many obvious queer people in the room. Like I which, like, yeah, which I'm like, What? And now it's funny, because when I'm around straight people, I'm like, are you a person? I mean, you're a person, but I'm like, What are you like? I'm not. I'm so not used to being around them.

Kona 32:27

Yeah.

Morgan 32:28

Yeah. So that was, that was a whole time. And since then, it originated. We originated as the gathering of the melanated.

Kona 32:35

Oh, my God, I forgot about that. That's right.

Morgan 32:37

And I wonder I've been trying to think about like, why it was that? I mean, BlackChat just developed into whatever BlackChat as a name.

Kona 32:44

Yeah.

Morgan 32:44

But I wonder because I'm thinking about that post vigil it was POC. So were we open?

Kona 32:48

I think that's why we called it the gathering of the melanated

Both 32:51

because it was

Kona 32:51

People with love high levels of melanin in their skin.

Morgan 32:55

But I don't have a high level of melanin in my skin. So that's not true

Kona 32:57

I mean compa..., well, I mean, the idea was that you are a person of color, you are not primarily identifying and living your life as a person of European descent.

Morgan 33:08

Correct. Right. Right. Right. Right. Right.

Kona 33:10

Whih is why it was gathering of the melanated.

Morgan 33:12

Right. And then I think what, you know what happened?

Kona 33:15

No.

Morgan 33:17

Black Lives Matter of Toronto sat down at pride, and the world kind of the queer communities of Canada. Oh, went bonkers. And me and Auntie were like, We need some Black people in our house.

Kona 33:28

Yeah.

Morgan 33:28

And I think we literally sent an invite to every Black person we had known at that point.

Kona 33:33

Maybe, probably,

Morgan 33:35

Our invite lists now are stupid.

Kona 33:37

Yeah, they are long. They've gotten longer and longer.

Morgan 33:39

And because we love people

Kona 33:42

True.

Morgan 33:42

But yeah, and so. And I think that was the first like all Black

Kona 33:47

Gathering at the house.

Morgan 33:48

Yeah. Plus, uncle. I think uncle was there. No.

Kona 33:52

No.

Morgan 33:53

Oh, no, no, that was the post vigil. So yeah I think that was the first all Black gathering at the house, and then when we switched from Black from gathering of the melanin to Black BlackChats in terms of like, it was this day?

Kona 34:05

I don't know. I'm guessing. So we started in the summer of 2016.

Morgan 34:10

Yeah.

Kona 34:10

I'm guessing it was sometime in 2017. We weren't doing...

Morgan 34:14

We didn't do a lot over the wintertime.

Kona 34:15

No, we didn't.

Morgan 34:16

Because we like to have the patio open.

Kona 34:18

And the patio is so good.

Morgan 34:19

Yeah. Which is interesting now as like time has gone by because I think we've also noticed that Black people in the city are also like, we're hungry for each other.

Kona 34:28

Yeah.

Morgan 34:28

24/7, 365. And so we've we've continued I mean, let's talk about the week I just did not right now, but we'll get there. But we've you know, we've gotten more intentional around having events and additions over the winter months. Even though the patio is not in as working condition just in regard that's colder there just for as a need. Like something that we've been asked by many people.

Kona 34:55

Yeah, people keep poking us about it. So so then it was like 20. So then we went through all 2017. And then we picked up our frequency again in 2018. That's when we started doing them almost like every six weeks, or seven weeks at that point, because like people would literally be up in our DMs.

Morgan 35:16

In our DMs in public.

Kona 35:17

In public, we'd be at

Morgan 35:18

People who have never come to the thing were like, Uh I've heard about BlackChat, and I want to come.

Kona 35:23

Yeah.

Morgan 35:23

And I was like, I've met you twice.

Kona 35:25

Yeah.

Morgan 35:25

But maybe.

Kona 35:26

Or I didn't, I'd be at an event and I would introduce myself, and they'd be like, oh, Kona,

Both 35:30

Do you do BlackChat?

Kona 35:31

And I'm like, Whoa, that's me. It's literally my living room like

Morgan 35:34

Yeah.

Kona 35:34

it's it's my house, and more and more people have been coming. And so now what I do, because I'm like, I'm a bit of a I'm not really about the garbage. So there's a you know, there are red solo cups that people get to write their names on and like Decorate and decorate

Morgan 35:51

and the permanent marker, like totally stays on them for a few washes through the dishwasher.

Kona 35:55

Yeah, it's great.

Morgan 35:55

And so like, you make a cup, leave your cup and then get it when you come back. And we should do a photoshoot with those cups.

Kona 36:03

You know, who wants to do that? Is the young blood out in Toronto, that artist in Toronto?

Morgan 36:07

Oh, yes, that's true. Yeah. Our young blood? Yes. Yes.

Kona 36:10

Yes.

Morgan 36:10

Yes.

Kona 36:11

The nibbling?

Morgan 36:12

The nibbling Young blood.

Kona 36:13

Right.

Morgan 36:14

Yeah. And then I think it was the fall of 2018, where we launched the second phase of BlackChat, because there were people, you know, there came a point where we just realized, like, not everybody gets to come into my house and sit on my toilet. Like, I hate to be like that, but it really is my private residence. Yeah.

Kona 36:34

I the way that we open the space invites people to climb into our bed and into our sheets or into our bathtub. It's very intimate. I'm not saying that we're snobby or class system.

Morgan 36:44

It's just actually about

Kona 36:45

Sometimes really strangers do walk through the door. You know, people bring friends.

Morgan 36:50

I was thinking about the one time

Kona 36:52

Oh, my God, that one time?

Both 36:54

Oh.

Morgan 36:55

I feel like we shouldn't even get into it.

Kona 36:56

Let's not get into it. That's a really good story. Ask us about the story of the three men, the three wise men.

Morgan 37:03

I don't know if I would give them that title at all.

Kona 37:05

Um didn't you hear the shape of my voice?

Morgan 37:08

Okay.

Kona 37:08

Yeah.

Morgan 37:08

I actually wasn't sure.

Kona 37:10

It was there. And then so I think

Morgan 37:12

Wise ass men.

Kona 37:12

Yeah. And then so was the fall of 2018. When we did the first Black attack.

Morgan 37:20

Yeah. Which is essentially, I mean, how I talk about it is like community field trips.

Kona 37:26

Yeah.

Morgan 37:26

Or like excursions to arts and cultural events.

Kona 37:30

Yeah.

Morgan 37:30

That center Blackness!

Kona 37:31

Yeah.

Morgan 37:33

Which was really cool.

Kona 37:35

Yeah.

Morgan 37:36

And continues to be really cool.

Kona 37:37

Yeah. I mean, you know, one of the things about Vancouver is that, you know, I'm my background is arts and culture. And Vancouver has been really hard for me to be out in the arts and culture community, because there are no Black faces on, there's no Black faces. There isn't. It's not like Black art and Black faces over the 20 years I've been here I've been something that have been easy to access or frequent. It's really changed, I think, in the last three years. But you know, to be able to go somewhere and see other Black people in the audience, or if you are a Black artist, particularly if you are from out of town, and you come here, to be able to see Black people in the audience. And for some of these institutions, law, large institutions. They don't see a lot of Black folks in those spaces. And we really, you know, to be able to find a way to increase the access and the attendance.

Morgan 38:32

Yeah.

Kona 38:33

Is good. So it benefits not only these, the organization, but it benefits the individual people. And it starts

Morgan 38:38

That are the creators?

Kona 38:40

The individual people who are viewing the art.

Morgan 38:43

And I think also as well as the creators, because as we know, recently.

Kona 38:47

Yeah.

Morgan 38:47

We for a the most recent excursion that we went out to, for that company.

Kona 38:54

Yeah, so the company, the program was called Black Like Me and exploration of the word Nigger. And, and it was at I'm sorry,

Morgan 39:02

It's okay.

Kona 39:03

You just made a face. I know, but I don't

Morgan 39:07

No, I'm here for the accuracy. It's, let's be clear.

Kona 39:10

Okay.

Morgan 39:11

Yeah.

Kona 39:11

That's,

Morgan 39:12

Yep. They didn't see my face.

Kona 39:13

Nope. They didn't. And, and it was at the Chan Center, which is on the UBC grounds, which, you know, that audience in that place is really, really full of White people

Morgan 39:26

And prestigiousness.

Kona 39:27

And it's very prestigious and institutional. And so, you know, to be able to take a bunch of Black people there

Morgan 39:36

On two separate days!

Kona 39:37

on two separate days. That's right. We did an evening and we didn't

Morgan 39:40

A matinee the following day.

Kona 39:42

and we were able with BlackChat to facilitate because this is part of what a Black Attack is, is an opportunity to speak with the artists or meet with the artists or have something

Morgan 39:51

the curators of the thing

Kona 39:53

Something

Morgan 39:53

Some tangible piece to what is happening in the production.

Kona 39:56

Yeah, yeah.

Morgan 39:57

Yeah. And the and the Dance Company was saying that we and keep in mind that they are Black people from America, the United States of and who have toured America and

Kona 40:11

Canada.

Morgan 40:12

Canada and internationally. And they said that our attendance in Vancouver was the most amount of Black faces that they had seen in an audience

Both 40:25

EVER.

Morgan 40:26

Which is something Black Vancouverites never hear

Kona 40:30

Yeah. It's also interesting given the the nature of the show.

Morgan 40:34

Yeah.

Kona 40:34

Which was about Blackness that they, you know, because, you know, I think the matinee, we were maybe 40 people.

Morgan 40:44

Yeah, it wasn't that many.

Kona 40:45

40 people. And so to think that these artists, these Black artists are performing this vulnerable work, show after show after show

Morgan 40:54

About Blackness

Kona 40:55

About blackness

Morgan 40:56

For Black people, they made it for Black youth,

Kona 40:58

and there's an you know, and there's less than 40 pick, that's astonishing to me, and and it was really moving when the company manager who was this really amazing, Black woman, I think she's 65 She said she was maybe she said she was older, I can't remember. But she stood there and had to pull off her glasses. She was crying. She was so moved. And I, you know, really in that moment, I was like, Black attacks and BlackChats do. They do more.

Morgan 41:28

Like I'm getting goosebumps.

Kona 41:29

I know.

Morgan 41:29

And I'm not cold. And there was the Hot Brown Honey Black Attack!

Kona 41:33

Which we also did, like met with the performers for that.

Morgan 41:37

Yep.

Kona 41:37

And Hot Brown Honey is a Black Indigenous performance art Company group.

Morgan 41:43

Yeah.

Kona 41:44

Out of Australia. And I think there's some folks that from New Zealand also.

Morgan 41:47

Yeah.

Kona 41:47

And I think they're coming back this year. And I

Morgan 41:49

I hope so and I want them to come to our living room.

Kona 41:51

Well, you know what, I had a conversation with them when they were here in town last night. And they were like, Oh, yeah, we really want to come sit in your living room.

Morgan 41:57

I mean we're around the corner.

Kona 41:58

They heard about it. They heard about BlackChat.

Morgan 42:03

I, I can't.

Kona 42:06

I've introduced myself to Black people on the street. Yeah. And they're like, and I'm like, blah, blah. So yeah, sometimes we do this thing. And they're like, Oh, yeah, I heard about that.

Morgan 42:15

Yeah, I get that too.

Kona 42:16

Like, I don't even know how we do that. It's literally 720 square feet. Like, I guess the part of the message is. And it's that easy to build community.

Morgan 42:27

I mean, sometimes it's not that easy.

Kona 42:30

Facts. And when I say easy, I'm saying 720 square feet.

Morgan 42:35

Mm hmm.

Kona 42:36

That's what I mean by easy.

Morgan 42:37

Right.

Kona 42:38

And then, yeah, this year has been this year has been a time.

Morgan 42:44

Wooo. Well, last year it's 2020. Now

Kona 42:45

Oh, yeah.

Morgan 42:46

so 2019.

Both 42:46

Wowa

Kona 42:48

What a time. What a time.

Both 42:50

What a time.

Morgan 42:53

Yeah. 2019 was a frickin Gong Show.

Kona 42:57

Yeah. Yeah.

Morgan 42:58

2019. How do we even?

Kona 43:03

2019 in the middle of 2019 is when we thought it was all going to be over because I almost died. But that's a whole. I mean, I don't know that that story, which I don't want to tell that story.

Morgan 43:12

You don't want to tell the story?

Kona 43:13

Not right now.

Morgan 43:13

Okay.

Kona 43:14

Maybe we should do it on a podcast where we talk about Black health.

Morgan 43:18

So when [mouths something] is in town next?

Kona 43:20

Yeah.

Morgan 43:21

Yeah. Yeah. We're tryna,

Kona 43:22

Yeah. Oh!

Morgan 43:23

Yeah.

Kona 43:24

That person would be

Both 43:25

perfect.

Kona 43:26

Oh, my God. And they are so people stick around.

Morgan 43:30

Stick around. Stick around because we are, lets be transparent.

Kona 43:35

Okay.

Morgan 43:36

We know some

Kona 43:37

Bomb ass!

Morgan 43:38

Capital, capital B, capital A bomb, ass people.

Kona 43:42

Yeah. And by that we mean people that are respected not only in their individual fields of choice, but also have recognition in their city, in their province

Both 43:53

In their country and internationally.

Kona 43:57

Black people. And so we're really hoping to introduce you to some of those Black people.

Morgan 44:02

And lift as we rise.

Kona 44:03

And lift as we rise.

Morgan 44:04

Yeah.

Both 44:05

Yeah.

Kona 44:06

And then, in late, late 20. You'd been talking about doing the third, like you've been talking about podcasts for a while?

Morgan 44:14

Well, I mean, we've been talking about, like, what the next steps for BlackChat are for a while,

Kona 44:21

because we've really, in some ways, outgrown. We've, I mean, I feel like we've outgrown the house.

Morgan 44:27

Pffft, For real,

Kona 44:30

Yeah,

Morgan 44:30

For real. And so like for a while we were talking about like, other ways that it can look maybe other locations to host at. But also what we were talking about is how to, in part because of conversations that we've had with people who pass through Vancouver, we're like, wow, I wish this was or something like this was or I could start something like this,

Kona 44:48

The dance company.

Morgan 44:49

I know were saying

Kona 44:50

Dance Company was like, "This is great". And the company manager, she was like, "I'm gonna start one of these in my hometown". I was like, Okay.

Morgan 44:59

Let's talk about. And so you know, something also for me that was important in part because of that, like, there's people who don't live here who can't attend and access this. But also there's some people who we want to be able to access the richness, but also the familiarity that comes with Black chats. Because it's also like, it's really like, I think of them as like family reunion type shindigs.

Kona 45:21

Yeah.

Morgan 45:23

And so it was really important for me to be able to extend that somehow to people and the way that made a lot of sense, in part because I'm a talkative person.

Kona 45:32

No lies detected,

Morgan 45:34

And we're also hilarious.

Kona 45:37

We can be when we warm up, I think, I think I think we'll get more funny as the podcast evolves. I feel really nervous right now.

Morgan 45:43

I also feel like we've been literally comedic this whole time.

Kona 45:45

Okay.

Morgan 45:47

Do you remember the moment where we just serenaded folks like two minutes ago?

Kona 45:49

Oh, right.

Morgan 45:50

Right. But yeah, so I in thinking about how it is that we can reach more people or give people more access, if they can't access. And that looked like a podcast. And so I for, I don't know, I started talking about it however long ago, I don't even know, it's all a blur.

Both 45:50

[Chuckle]

Kona 46:10

Well it's probably probably a good cause. Because you you were the person

Morgan 46:14

It was actually it was last year.

Kona 46:16

Yeah. Because you were the person who I mean, I've been dipping in and out of podcasts. And then you really, you know, it's the last probably eight, eight or nine months that I've been really listening to a lot of podcasts, different podcasts, in part because of what you were saying to me. I mean, that's one of the things I love about our relationship is, you know, you're 21 I'm 50. And I gotta say, You're my met you I consider you a mentor,

Morgan 46:42

And I you.

Kona 46:44

Beautiful relationship.

Morgan 46:45

It really is.

Kona 46:46

And I, you know, and I'm looking for more people under 25 to be my mentors. But yeah, I don't know, like, like, I don't know, what would you? How would you describe what the podcast is about? And what our goals and stuff about it are?

Morgan 46:58

Yeah, so what we really wanted or what I really wanted to do, and Auntie is like, basically, like, I'm here to support you and along for the ride.

Kona 47:06

Yep.

Morgan 47:07

But also is going to be great. Like I couldn't, I literally don't think I could do this without you. So there's also that, um, but I think our goal with the podcast was to, like, bring people into the living room, to the best of our abilities. You know, like,

Kona 47:20

I mean, bring people into the living room? [in a deep voice up close to the mic]

Morgan 47:23

Bring people into the living room. As as our another person have chosen family says to me, she's like, "I'll make my tea. Thank you." So like, make your tea, put on your sweatpants get cozy.

Kona 47:41

Yes.

Morgan 47:42

And really sit and explore the conversations with us. You know, they may be wild, they may be ridiculous even who would know? We're a bit unpredictable, sometimes. Sometimes we're talking about the real world nonsense that happens. Sometimes we're talking about trauma. Great. Sometimes we're just talking about the ridiculousness, that is stalking buddies in the living room.

Kona 48:05

Don't say things like that people will think we're sociopath

Morgan 48:09

We're not. There's context. Ask about it later.

Kona 48:11

Yeah, actually.

Morgan 48:12

Um, but yeah, like really, to just invite people into witness those conversations and feel a part of those conversations and contribute as they need to. And then to be like some family away from family also, I think is something that's important to me about it.

Kona 48:27

Mm hmm. And so I really appreciate that I really hope that people continue to, like, learn and grow with us.

Morgan 48:33

Yes.

Kona 48:34

And I'm really looking forward to doing interviews with people that are in the local Black community. And from away and you know, the list that we have going is it's pretty dope. So we're, we're still in the planning stages. We've got some we've got feelers out to our first few guests. And so you'll know more soon.

Morgan 48:56

Yeah, for real.

Kona 48:57

Yeah. And,

Morgan 48:58

Yeah, and we'll put a plug also at the end. But I also, if at this point, you're like, wow you keep saying that we'll learn more soon. How will we know? Check us out on patreon@patreon.com/blackchat, as well as on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/blackchatvancouver/>.

Kona 49:13

So you like us at least.

Both 49:15

Mmhmmmm

Morgan 49:15

Hmm. But yeah, so I really think that part of what we're doing is just extending the healing that BlackChat

Kona 49:22

Yeah.

Morgan 49:23

The like events and additions that we started doing. I think part of it is just extending that to a wider audience in a way that is celebrating and exploring what it is to be Black in Canada and elsewhere, but really focusing on what it is to be Black in Canada.

Kona 49:37

Yeah.

Morgan 49:37

Yeah.

Kona 49:38

Yeah, it's good. It's I'm really excited about what we're doing. It's, you know, there's so many interesting people that have come and sat in this living room. Because it's such a small place. Not enough people get access. So hopefully this will start to give people a bit more access to what it is that we're doing.

Morgan 49:59

Yeah. Yeah, I hope so. I hope so I also hope that like, I was thinking about this today in regards to like, what my interesting relations are currently with my family. I wonder, hope, maybe don't hope. I don't know what it would look like for them to listen along to this. Because they don't get they don't experience me this raw when I in talking about my Blackness, because often I'm talking about it to them in a mode of defense. And so I also wonder what that may look like.

Kona 50:32

Right.

Morgan 50:33

Yeah.

Kona 50:34

Right.

Morgan 50:35

Yeah,

Kona 50:35

I think the other thing I'm really looking forward to is working intergenerationally.

Morgan 50:42

Oh, I said yesterday, you are I feel my most authentic with you. Which then I hung out with my person today. And I was like, I also feel the most authentic with this person.

Kona 50:52

Look, I know your love is fleeting, it's fine.

Morgan 50:55

Wow!

Kona 50:55

Well, you know, I feel like we should end this podcast, we can continue this conversation.

Morgan 51:00

Oh you don't feel like the people, are you saying that? You don't want to be on record coming from me?

Kona 51:03

Um, that might actually be it.

Morgan 51:05

Oh, wow.

Kona 51:06

Yeah.

Morgan 51:06

Oh, well, don't want the receipts.

Kona 51:08

Whoa.

Morgan 51:10

About to say some fighting things.

Kona 51:11

I have a question for you

Morgan 51:12

Talk about it.

Kona 51:13

My question is,

Morgan 51:15

Yes.

Kona 51:16

What does intergenerational work look like to you? How does it show up in your life? Because you know what? You might as well get the receipts on the microphone now.

Morgan 51:25

Well, I really thought for a second that you were gonna come for me for like elder abuse. And I was like, don't!

Kona 51:30

I will when the microphones off. But perhaps instead of coming for you for elder abuse, perhaps you could tell me what does intergenerational work looks like to you?

Morgan 51:41

For me intergenerational work is something that has always been important to me, I've always been somebody who gravitated towards my elders, whatever way that they look like. Because I think their stories are important. I think their lessons are important. And I also think part of this, you've shown me that I am important in their lives and in their survival.

Kona 51:58

You are.

Morgan 51:59

And so I think intergenerational work, to me looks like our relationship, the work that we do collectively, like the podcast and organizing. But also the mentorship that we do for one another where we both I think, have this really lovely sense of transparency and vulnerability and respect for one another. That means that we are really able to hold each other accountable. And take care also. And so

Kona 52:26

We certainly do our best.

Morgan 52:27

We really do. Sometimes it looks like being ridiculous. Exhibit A B and C in the last 53 minutes.

Kona 52:34

Yup. 100%.

Morgan 52:36

What does it look like for you? How does it show up?

Kona 52:38

Um, whoo. For me, it looks like number one, the way that it really looks in like the last couple year or a couple years really as a result of you moving here when you were or moving here three years ago. The way it looks like to me actually is having young people around. So when you move here three years ago, I began to really understand what the interior life of somebody who was less than half my age was and to be exposed to I like I began to realize that even though I was at kind of hip, Auntie, there were still a bunch of stuff about being under 25 that I didn't know or understand. And so you helped me with that. And then through the people that I've met the young people I've met through you who some of whom call me Auntie now. y God, I have so many more nibblings.

Morgan 53:43

I have so many aunts and uncles. It's unreal, which is all thanks to you also.

Kona 53:46

Um, you know, I've, like, young people are so brilliant.

Morgan 53:52

Yes.

Kona 53:52

Like this general like, I really do you feel if I laid down died tomorrow. It's not my plan.

Morgan 53:57

I'm like, could we not?

Kona 53:58

I won't. But I feel like I feel like young people. Y'all really got it. You're so much smarter than I was at your age. And, and I know that's in part who I see and hang out with. But

Morgan 54:12

I also think it's, you know, in part not necessarily true, but I'll let you have it.

Kona 54:17

Yeah, I mean, I'm not saying that there aren't terrible people out there.

Morgan 54:20

No, I just mean the piece where like, it's like, we are smarter at this age than you were at this age. Because I don't

Kona 54:26

That is a complicated that you're right.

Morgan 54:27

You know, I feel it is more nuanced.

Kona 54:29

That's a very complicated statement without nuancing it but that's what it is for me.

Morgan 54:34

Yeah.

Kona 54:34

Right is being able to hang out with young people who, who allow me to ask questions and be and, and to stumble and put my foot in my mouth. And, you know, I'm a verbal processor. You know, I need to, you know, the way that I understand information, and new concepts and ways of being are through talking and y'all are willing to do that and it's amazing to see some of the language that people of my generation were fighting for 20 years ago that was brand spanking new. It's now like, either so old to you all that you think it shouldn't be used anymore, or it's come into such current use that it's now morphed in its meaning, which so then I need a translator. It's one of the reasons I need a translator so that I'm not 60. And the young people going like, Oh, sweet Lord, could the dusty one please.

Morgan 55:26

Wow. I would never well, I might.

Kona 55:29

Yeah, you would actually.

Morgan 55:30

Out of love.

Kona 55:31

Yeah.

Morgan 55:31

And to your face.

Kona 55:32

Yep.

Morgan 55:32

Never behind your back.

Kona 55:33

Yeah, yeah.

Morgan 55:35

Yeah. That's, that's fair.

Kona 55:37

Yeah, it's fair. Yeah. So that that feels really good. And, and so I think that's, I think that's what intergenerational work really looks like to me. And it also shows up in my life and in the gathering work that we do, because it's because there's a such a range of ages that come and hang out with each other. And there's this sense of peer.

Morgan 56:00

Yeah.

Kona 56:00

Even though there's a range of age. And that's amazing.

Morgan 56:04

Yeah, it is. Yeah. I also hope that with us doing this, that more people think about intergenerational work, whether that's the importance of it, the significance of it, how it shows up for them how it does or doesn't look like for them. I hope that that's something that the people listening really consider, also, because I think because it has such a deep importance for me, I want more people to think about that.

Kona 56:34

When the power goes out. The only thing that might be left are the stories that come from mouth to ear.

Morgan 56:40

For real. Yeah. And so you know, that's, that's also important to me. Before we head out, Auntie.

Kona 56:50

Yes.

Morgan 56:51

Would you like to tell the people where we're taking the mic next?

Kona 56:54

We're physically going to take the mic and do a live podcast,

Morgan 56:59

We really are going to be completely unedited.

Kona 57:02

Yeah. And it, which is astonishing, because usually people will start a podcast

Morgan 57:05

and then like a year and a half later,

Kona 57:07

then they do a live one.

Morgan 57:08

But we're ambitious.

Kona 57:09

We're not those people.

Morgan 57:10

Nope. Take the rulebook that, you know, throw it away.

Kona 57:14

Throw it away. So on Saturday, January the 12th.

Morgan 57:20

Yeah.

Kona 57:21

At 11:15am.

Morgan 57:22

Do it.

Kona 57:23

We will be seen at West Coast Bound, which is a conference that focuses on sex and power that happens here in the lower mainland.

Morgan 57:31

Mm hmm. It starts on January 10th. Then it goes until the 12th. So Friday to Sunday.

Kona 57:37

Yeah.

Morgan 57:38

And we on the Saturday.

Kona 57:40

Yeah.

Morgan 57:40

The 11th.

Kona 57:41

Yep.

Morgan 57:41

Have a 11:15am slot.

Kona 57:46

Hilarious. I just said all those things. And I love you so much.

Morgan 57:48

Did you say the time I did? Did you say the time? I did, actually, oh, it happened out of order than what I thought it would? And I think....

Kona 57:54

That's fine.

Morgan 57:55

Yeah. But yeah, so we're gonna be doing like a panel setup, in a style that we call kitchen table. I don't know if that's, I'm not coining that term. That's just what we're calling it. Which essentially will be a table of us and the presenters, which includes Molina, Q-tip, Yosinio, Gloria Jackson, Nefertiti and Goddess Indigo, as well as Auntie and myself.

Kona 58:20

I mean, and what's significant about the fact that we're doing this at West Coast Bound is that the people that are going to be participating in the kitchen table conversation with us, these people are internationally recognized Black sex educators, they are Black sex educators. It's what they do.

Morgan 58:40

And they range in gender and orientation and

Kona 58:42

Age.

Morgan 58:43

Age and sides of the identification

Kona 58:45

Class, all of it.

Morgan 58:47

Everything. Yeah, it's a really, it's a really interesting and like intersectional to use a popular term. And

Kona 58:53

And diverse.

Morgan 58:54

Yeah, group of people.

Kona 58:55

Yeah. So we'll do a 30 minute recorded conversation. And we'll talk about the intersection of Blackness and sex and power and leather and kink.

Morgan 59:05

Mm hmm. And then it'll be followed by a little Q & A portion that will then transition into a people of color only space. Because I mean, you'll see this with BlackChats, we will be prioritizing, probably only, but maybe not doing Black folks on the podcast. And that's who comes to BlackChats and Black attacks. And so when we go out into the world, and if we continue to do things like this,

Kona 59:31

You're talking about the Live podcast?

Morgan 59:32

The Live podcast. If Yeah.

Kona 59:35

Yeah.

Morgan 59:35

Yeah. Then people of color absolutely will be in general, like a priority. But first and foremost, I think we will be prioritizing Black folks and Indigenous people.

Kona 59:46

Oh, absolutely.

Morgan 59:47

Yeah.

Kona 59:48

Absolutely.

Morgan 59:49

Yeah. Because that's what is valuable to us. And that's what we're going to do.

Kona 59:53

So if you are checking the program, trying to figure out when you can be present for the live podcasts that we're doing. The session is called kinky when Black.

Morgan 1:00:04

Is it when back Black or while Black?

Kona 1:00:06

Did I say when?

Morgan 1:00:07

Yeah.

Kona 1:00:08

I'm old. And these things happen frequently.

Morgan 1:00:10

Oh. Kinky while Black. Yeah. And it happens at 11:15.

Kona 1:00:17

Correct.

Morgan 1:00:17

In the room requirements track.

Kona 1:00:20

Yep.

Morgan 1:00:20

And it's a 90 minute runtime.

Kona 1:00:23

Yep.

Morgan 1:00:24

But we will extend because we are us. And we are fabulous.

Kona 1:00:27

Yeah. Yeah. They're being really generous and providing food for the Black Indigenous and people of color who attend that session.

Morgan 1:00:34

Yeah.

Kona 1:00:34

I mean, not lunch, but a substantial snack.

Morgan 1:00:37

Yeah.

Kona 1:00:37

Which will be lovely. And because we will have the microphone with us. Do not be surprised

Morgan 1:00:42

If we come up and say hello.

Kona 1:00:46

We'd really like to talk to you and maybe do a short interview about your experience at the conference.

Morgan 1:00:51

Or your experiences in kink.

Kona 1:00:54

Yep.

Morgan 1:00:54

And also, if you see us and we don't see you, because we're not paying attention, then be like, Oh my gosh, wow. Hi.

Kona 1:01:00

Yeah.

Morgan 1:01:01

We'll be looking cute. We don't know what we're wearing yet. But you will see us.

Kona 1:01:04

Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Morgan 1:01:05

Or hear us because we're loud.

Kona 1:01:07

Be flattered and we will be as consensual as possible

Both 1:01:11

Laughter.

Morgan 1:01:13

Correct.

Kona 1:01:14

Yep. Yep. Correct. Um, so yeah, I think I think this is we're gonna put a button on it. Right?

Morgan 1:01:20

How do you feel like that went?

Kona 1:01:22

Um, that was really weird. For first thing, I've never done that before. I feel like it's going to get a lot easier. And I think that will be less rambley. And I think that we'll be even more interesting.

Morgan 1:01:35

You know, what's hilarious?

Kona 1:01:36

Tell me.

Morgan 1:01:37

We're not nearly as rambley as we were yesterday.

Kona 1:01:40

Oh, great.

Morgan 1:01:40

We're only had an hour and two minutes right now.

Kona 1:01:42

That's great.

Morgan 1:01:43

I also feel like we did great. I feel like you did great.

Kona 1:01:46

You did great.

Morgan 1:01:47

It felt really easy, actually.

Kona 1:01:50

I feel like was a little bit of a strange start,

Morgan 1:01:52

whatever.

Kona 1:01:52

But I feel like we kind of warmed up all through the middle.

Morgan 1:01:54

Yeah.

Kona 1:01:55

And out towards the end.

Morgan 1:01:56

Yeah.

Kona 1:01:57

And it'll be really interesting to see how this particular prong of programming because this is our third prong of programming, BlackChats, which are in the house, Black attacks.

Morgan 1:02:07

Which are out in the world.

Kona 1:02:08

Which are out in the world where we get free tickets and take people out. And now the podcast third prong. Yeah, I'm I'm I'm super excited to see how it grows and what it turns into.

Morgan 1:02:20

It's literally gonna be wild.

Kona 1:02:22

It's gonna be wild.

Both 1:02:24

Wowa, wowa.

Morgan 1:02:26

Um, so yeah, please, talk to your friends about the question we posed around intergenerational work and intergenerational life.

Kona 1:02:36

Yep. And if you know us personally, like, you know,

Morgan 1:02:39

Drop a line and be like,

Kona 1:02:40

Yeah, drop a line on our social media and say, Yo!,

Morgan 1:02:44

Yeah, maybe give us a plug if you want to also, yeah, you can find us at @blackchatvancouver/ on Instagram, that's @blackchatvancouver/ on Instagram, as well as our Patreon at which is BlackChat.

Kona 1:02:58

Do you want to try that one more time?

Morgan 1:02:59

I really do. Check us out on patreon @patreon.com/blackchat, as well as on Instagram @blackchatvancouver/. We really hope that you share us with your friends with your elders and young bloods that are in your life.

Kona 1:03:14

Yes.

Morgan 1:03:15

If you know us personally, you know, maybe give us a shout out.

Kona 1:03:18

Yes.

Morgan 1:03:19

Let us know also how we did.

Kona 1:03:21

Yeah.

Morgan 1:03:21

Like don't drag us publicly.

Kona 1:03:22

But please don't drag us publicly

Morgan 1:03:24

Like if you know us. Come on.

Kona 1:03:26

Yeah. Like if you if you know us, drag me to my face. Do not drag me online.

Morgan 1:03:31

You know where the patio door is?

Kona 1:03:32

Yeah.

Morgan 1:03:32

Come through here. If you don't know us, you can drag us online, I guess.

Kona 1:03:37

No.

Morgan 1:03:38

I'm actually here for people to

Kona 1:03:40

I don't want to be dragged online.

Morgan 1:03:41

I don't want to be dragged online for people to be clear about their feelings

Kona 1:03:45

Fair. But you know what?

Morgan 1:03:46

Tell me.

Kona 1:03:47

This. This reminds me of a topic for a future BlackChat or future BlackChat

Both 1:03:52

Podcast!

Kona 1:03:54

Which is about canceled culture.

Morgan 1:03:55

Woooo. We'll write it in the book.

Kona 1:03:58

We'll write it in the book. But see, it's gonna, this is the way it is people.

Morgan 1:04:01

Yeah, we rabbit hole a lot.

Kona 1:04:03

Yeah.

Morgan 1:04:03

Which you didn't actually see, because we're in the way that it happens.

Kona 1:04:06

Yeah.

Morgan 1:04:07

But we do rabbit hole a lot, which means that our conversations really range in terms of depth and where they stem to

Kona 1:04:18

Yeah,.

Morgan 1:04:18

and how they're connected with a bunch of other things. And so I feel like this is going to be a very interesting time.

Kona 1:04:24

It's going to be a very, very. Morgan thanks for being a co host

Morgan 1:04:29

Auntie

Kona 1:04:29

Yeah.

Morgan 1:04:30

Thanks for being a co host.

Kona 1:04:31

Yeah it's been great.

Morgan 1:04:32

I love you so much.

Kona 1:04:33

I love you.

Both 1:04:35

Byeeeeeeeeeeee