

Titled 'SFSS Executives Support the Kickstart to the Vancouver Black Library'

Whereas the month of February was officially recognized by the House of Commons in 1995 as Black History Month and this milestone was spearheaded by the Honorable Jean Augustine, the first Black woman to sit in the House of Commons,

Whereas the SFSS passed a motion on February 1st, 2019 to formally recognize Black History Month,

Whereas the SFSS has an Issues Policy (IP-2) titled Black History Month supporting the Black community and highlighting achievements outside of trauma and struggle while focusing on Black love, art, and joy,

Whereas the SFSS has an Issues Policy (IP-8) titled Anti-Racism that notes there are systemic barriers that prevent the Black community from reaching their full potential within institutions as a direct result of the exclusion of racialized people from the creation and implementation of space, programs, policies, and practices,

Whereas the SFSS uses resources to amplify and support the efforts of Black groups doing anti-racism and anti-oppression work,

Whereas IP-8 notes that the SFSS works to celebrate and amplify Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, while exploring topics outside of racism and social justice, such as art, athletics, journalism, etc. and supports equity initiatives to reduce disproportionate impacts of anti-Black racism,

Whereas what so-called vancouver referred to as "urban renewal" demolished the city's first and last Black community, Hogan's Alley, which as a result eradicated identifiable Black neighbourhoods which had great impacts on the community, including but not limited to: a lack of Black safe spaces, areas to learn and the inability to experience a community built through an intersectional lens,

Whereas the Van Black Library is a not-for-profit initiative that seeks to raise funds in order to foster a nurturing community environment for Black people in Vancouver in the form of a library. The proposal is a library run by Black organizers, dedicated to Black and BIPOC community members. This is a space not only to sign out books for free but this is also intended to be used as a study space, a relaxing and safe space. It caters to the needs of the Black community first and foremost. Moreover, the long-term goal is that the Van Black Library can be a springboard for other initiatives like group therapy, community care efforts in the realm of fundraising, childcare, art exhibitions, poetry readings, book clubs, zine-making, and more,

Whereas the Van Black Library is requesting funds to cover costs like the studio rental costs for the operation of the library, costs for furnishing, funds for initiatives, and more,

Be it resolved that the SFSS Executive Committee allocate \$3000 from line 824/20 of the Equity and Sustainability Fund in order to support the Van Black Library for Black History Month but to also amplify and support the need for more safe Black space.