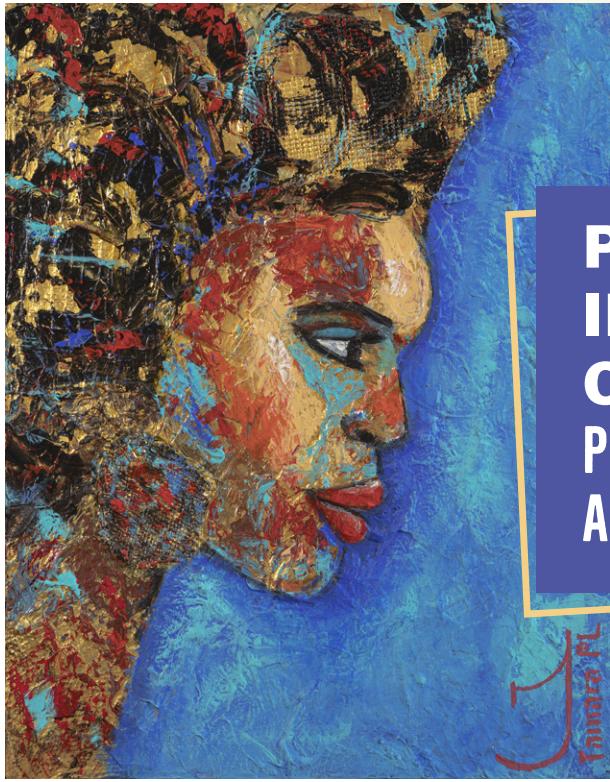


PHILANTHROPY IN QUEBEC'S BLACK COMMUNITIES: PERCEPTIONS, PRACTICES AND PLAN OF ACTION



Source: Tamara Pierre-Louis

Research by



Foundation of Greater Montréal

Involved yet invisible

Quebec's Black communities actively contribute to the common good. But their philanthropic engagement — be it through monetary donations, volunteer efforts or direct support to people in need — often goes unseen, unappreciated and undocumented.

More than 87.9%

of respondents to a recent survey made at least one donation in the previous 12 months, but

only one 1 of 2

considered themselves to be a philanthropist.

This reluctance can be explained in part by the fact that most people tend to associate philanthropy with wealthy individuals and institutional donations — a perception that overlooks the diversity of philanthropy-related practices within Black communities.

Local engagement, diasporic solidarity

Nearly 80%

of non-Canadian-born people provide financial support to family members in their country of origin.

Diasporic remittances, which are often motivated by family solidarity, play a significant role in the social and economic development of recipient countries — a contribution that is largely underestimated in official statistics.

This transnational philanthropy is in addition to local efforts to support poverty relief, education, health, social justice and other causes.

Multiple ways to give

Survey respondents see philanthropy as an expression of love for humanity and concern for community well-being, the scope of which extends far beyond the act of giving money.

In addition to monetary donations, respondents said they give:

- **Time** (volunteering, mutual support, mentoring)
- **Material goods** (clothing, food, equipment)
- **Direct support** for people in need
- **Contributions** to community and religious organizations

**The median
financial donation
is \$600 per year.**

The many faces of philanthropy

Women tend to focus their philanthropy

at the local level (through a close-knit network of individuals or organizations).

People aged 45 to 59

are the most consistent in their giving.

Religious beliefs

enhance people's willingness to give, especially donations of material goods and food.

Higher-income earners

are more likely to plan their donations, while lower-income earners tend to give more spontaneously at the community level.

Ongoing barriers to philanthropic engagement

The main obstacles to giving are:

Limited financial resources, especially among lower-income donors.

Mistrust of certain institutions due to a lack of transparency.

A lack of public recognition for Black contributions.

Funding procedures that are cumbersome and ill-adapted to the realities of small organizations.

Restricted access to decision-making networks in the philanthropic space.

Essential yet underfunded

Black-led organizations play a key role in social cohesion, taking action in the educational, cultural, health, employment and anti-racism spheres.

And yet:

58.3% of the Black leaders surveyed

said it was difficult to secure institutional funding.

38.9%

felt the problem was a serious one.

Black-led organizations in Canada received a mere 0.07% of total grants from Canadian community foundations in 2017 and 2018. This chronic underfunding undermines the capacity of these organizations, which have such a decisive impact on social and community development.

Recognizing the philanthropic contributions of Black communities means recognizing a source of collective strength shaped by solidarity, dignity and self-determination. It also means broadening our view of philanthropy and building a giving ecosystem that is fairer, more diverse and more representative of modern-day Quebec.

