

AFRICA CONNECT

FREE LEARNING SESSIONS

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2011

11:30am – 4pm

*In celebration of the United Nations
International Year for People of African Descent*

The City of Edmonton on behalf of Mayor Stephen Mandel and City Councillors invites you to this exciting series of FREE Learning Sessions developed in partnership with African community members. Sessions cover a wide range of topics that will interest local African community members, City of Edmonton staff, community-based organization, service providers, and the general public.

Please join us at the *Africa Connect Learning Sessions* to...

Connect! Listen! Learn! Experience Africa!

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#### **Learning Sessions Program**

*\*All sessions and speakers are subject to change without notice.*

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

#### **Take Us to Your Leaders (Civic & Community Leaders)**

The purpose of this session is for Civic Leaders to meet and address community leaders in the spirit of the Africa Connect event (to celebrate, connect, and showcase African communities & related City of Edmonton initiatives). The goal of this session is for the Mayor and speakers to acknowledge, encourage, and empower African Canadian community leaders; and to share successes, initiatives, and opportunities to continue its support to and partnerships with African communities. This is an opportunity for African community leaders to connect and engage with key Civic Leaders, obtain information on the City of Edmonton's work with African communities, and share perspectives.

Speakers: Mayor Stephen Mandel  
Councilor Amarjeet Sohi  
Linda Cochrane, GM Community Services  
Facilitator: Keli Tamaklo - Commissioner, Edmonton Police Commission

#### **African Youth Connect!**

This panel presentation will showcase youth of African heritage who have played an important role in their communities, while working successfully in various sectors of Edmonton. Coming from the University of Alberta, the world of business, international volunteerism, and AIDS education, our speakers will provide us with an opportunity to learn about their exceptional paths to success. A dynamic leader from the City of Edmonton's Youth Council will also share information about the Council's various accomplishments, community initiatives, and strategies to engage

youth. Topics covered by these strong and dynamic youth will include education, leadership, health and volunteerism. They will share inspiring messages for youth about achieving their full potential, connecting with other youth, and building community.

Speakers: Attuquaye Okai – Pastor, Market Place Chapel; Owner, Okai Associates  
Chaka Zinyemba – International Centre & Student Council, University of Alberta  
Tsion Demeke Abate – Educator, HIV Edmonton  
Meagan Robinson-Anagor – Mentor, Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage  
Facilitator: Kirsten Poon – Chair, Youth Council, City of Edmonton

### ***On Culture and Identity: African Ways of Knowing***

Participants in this session will have the unique opportunity to have a “fire-side-type” chat with elders / educators who will lead a conversation of cultural identity, African knowledge systems, and the experience of transition from African ways of knowing to living and adaptation to life in Canada. Panellists will bring expertise related to: traditional oral literature, educational and medical philosophies, and women’s ways of knowing.

Speakers: Dr Patrick Iroegbu – Anthropology Department, Grant MacEwan University  
Dr Ali Abdi – Educational Policy Studies, University of Alberta  
Dr Bitupu-Mufuta (Papa Wa) - Directeur général, Association multiculturelle francophone de l'Alberta  
Facilitator: Dr Phil Okeke-Ihejirika – Women's Studies Program, University of Alberta

**1:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

### ***Who You Gonna Call? (City Services)***

This fast-paced and informative session will showcase the broad range of services the City of Edmonton provides to its citizens, and will direct participants to visit related exhibits.

Speakers: Brad Ward – NE Division Superintendent, and African Liaison, Edmonton Police Service  
Claudio Bringas – Community Librarian, Edmonton Public Libraries  
Chris Heywood – Neighbourhood and Community Development Programs  
Chris Biensch – ACT Facility Foreman, Community Facility Services  
Mary Catharine Macdonald - Community Grants Coordinator  
Fire Prevention Education Team, Fire Rescue  
Facilitator: Mike Chow – Neighbourhood and Community Development

### ***The Power of African Sisterhood***

This session brings together African Canadian women to share and celebrate the power of African sisterhood in overcoming the challenges of adapting to and succeeding in a new culture, and to building strong communities. These extraordinary women will share their own personal stories of achievement and contribution to education, entrepreneurship, and community building, and the role the special bond of sisterhood plays in empowering women, and building strong families and communities.

Speakers: Dr Sentsetsa Pilane – Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion, Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Dora Kiliwa – Nursing Aide, entrepreneur  
Dr Christine Botchway – Dentist; Founder, Women Influencing Nations  
Facilitator: Primrose Igonor – Psychologist, Student Counsellor, NorQuest College

### ***Keeping Ourselves Healthy***

There is an African Proverb that states, ‘knowledge is power.’ Indeed, with knowledge, also comes health! This powerful panel of experts will focus on critical health topics that are relevant to all of us today. Panelists come from a variety of backgrounds including, physical, social, sexual and mental health and well-being. Participants attending this session will gain valuable information and resources for healthy living.

Speakers: Dr. Ernest Khalema – Social Work, University of Calgary  
Dr. Stan Houston – Medicine & Dentistry, Infectious Diseases, University of Alberta  
Dr. Sophie Yohani – Educational Psychology, Clinical Services, University of Alberta  
Facilitator: Obianuju Mollel – Manager, Alberta Health Services Libraries

### ***Acting Up!!! Living Actively in Our City***

This session will explore sports, recreation and active living as vital aspects of community wellness and community development. Creating healthy, active, and vibrant communities through physical activity and recreation builds great places to live! What are the benefits, resources, and endless opportunities for physical activity in Edmonton? How can we use the natural beauty of our outdoors to keep ourselves active and healthy? How do we connect and engage with other members of the community to make physical activity more socially meaningful, enjoyable, and culturally relevant, to build the hearts and minds of healthy people and communities?

Speakers: Suzana Dumo – Program Manager, Action for Healthy Communities  
Michelle Berg – Provincial Fitness Unit, Phys Ed & Recreation, University of Alberta  
Facilitator: Shelley Kwong – Child Friendly Edmonton Coordinator, City of Edmonton

### ***So you think you're an entrepreneur?***

This session highlights the experiences of Edmonton-based African-Canadian entrepreneurs, and addresses the challenges and opportunities for starting and operating a business. What do you need to know to run a successful business in Edmonton? How do you get started? Find out what you need to know? Succeed *beyond* the African community? What do mainstream Canadian customers expect? African Canadian entrepreneurs will speak of their greatest challenges, surprises, successes, and most important lessons. Business experts will provide information and resources on training, business development support, resources for starting and managing your business, and networking opportunities.

Speakers: Hawa Lula – Entrepreneur, Lula Stylish Attitude Inc. (clothing & accessories)  
Freddy Banda – Entrepreneur, Colour Blind (clothing store)  
Elizabeth Sumamo Schellenberg – General Manager, Langano Skies Ethiopian Restaurant  
Jean-Jacques Mitakaro – Business Officer, Business Link  
Facilitator: Tich Tamanikwa – Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

**2:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

### ***Civic Literacy 101 (How We Govern Ourselves)***

This session will offer lessons and perspectives from City of Edmonton representatives in:

- Civic Literacy 101 (governance)
- Advisory Boards & Committees
- Politician's perspective on citizen engagement
- Perspective on effective ways for newcomers to engage civic leaders
- Intergovernmental relations

Speakers: Councillor Amarjeet Sohi  
City Clerk's Office  
John Reilly – Senior Diversity & Inclusion Consultant  
Facilitator: Alayne Sinclair – City Clerk

**For further information on Africa Connect and/or the Learning Sessions, please call: (780) 686-8180.**

