

**Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award**

**Nomination Form**

**NOMINEE INFORMATION**

***Name of group or organization:*** Melanated View (Open Tabs)

***Business Address:*** 120 Homestead Crescent

***City:*** London

***Postal Code:*** N6G 2E6

***Name(s) of contact people:*** (including position titles):

Jennifer Slay – Administrative Director

Christina Lord – Community Involvement Director

***Business telephone:*** 226-374-5366

Business e-mail: [melanatedview@gmail.com](mailto:melanatedview@gmail.com) [info@jenslay.com](mailto:info@jenslay.com)

***Category:***

- ✓ Small business/labour (49 or fewer employees/members)

**INITIATIVE INFORMATION**

***What is the initiative this group/organization implemented?***

Melanated View was created with the intent to explore and calm racial tensions through sharing the lived experiences/stories of 5 Black Canadians who live in the London region.

***When did the initiative take place?***

The initiative began in the Spring of 2020 and the episodes started to air in December 2020 on Rogers TV London and will continue.

***Do you know who the key department/committees involved were:***

Melanated View (Open Tabs)

***Key people involved:***

Alecia Bryan

Christina Lord

Renee Mondesir

Alisha Moser

Jennifer Slay

***Brief description of initiative:***

In an effort to raise awareness and open the dialogue about various topics related to Being Black in Canada as well as issues surrounding racism, stereotypes, and image to name a few, five Black Canadians have Executive Produced a T.V. talk show called Melanated View. Rogers TV London has partnered with Melanated View for its first season (6 episodes). It is, as mentioned, a talk show format to engage conversation with the community through television and social media platforms. The goal is to share their experiences, challenge the norms and get the conversation started in a safe environment.

***How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?***

The initiative is about creating a safe space for the community's diverse population to engage in dialogue. The purpose of this dialogue is for individuals and their families to share their stories, ask their questions and learn from each other to build bridges and contribute to unifying the London community and beyond.

***What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?***

The feedback from the viewers is that this is a necessary and worthwhile discussion. Dialogue has already started.

Feedback from the first episode and social media posts:

"This is such an important project. Thank you for sharing. I'm excited to listen to you and support you."

"I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed Melanated View. As a white person, I have little idea about , & little experience with these topics. And this is in spite of the fact that I have lived & worked with people of colour most of my life."

"I was particularly struck with the respectful and supportive nature of the discussion. In recent times I have found the media has been filled with 'discussions' which are full of blame, name calling and yelling, Melanated View was the opposite an intelligent, honest conversation. "

Due to the fact that the episodes are on social media, they are evergreen, meaning that they will always be available to view and keep the conversation going. Melanated View believes that through conversation of challenging and relatable topics about racial issues, it will lead to combatting the ugliness of racism.

This type of ongoing dialogue will promote the diversity and anti-Black racist work that is going on in the City of London. Thereby making London appear more welcoming and open to anyone considering making London their home.

***What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?***

Currently Melanated View has filmed season 1 (6 episodes) with Rogers TV London. [Melanated View - London \(rogerstv.com\)](http://Melanated View - London (rogerstv.com)) It is anticipated that Melanated View will film a second season to a wider audience.

This initiative was inspired by the current racial challenges the world is experiencing and moving forward there could be conversations about looking at various issues that impact Black and other racialized communities.

Melanated View recognizes that they are but 5 voices within the diversity of the Black community and encourages others within the community share their stories as well.

***How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, race relations, inclusivity, and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?***

This award would confirm and validate the purpose of the initiative while showing the community that London recognizes the importance of hearing the voices of 5 Black Canadians that reside in the London region.

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION**

***Your name: Harold Usher***

***Address: 718 Chiddington Av.***

***City: London , Ontario***

***Postal Code: N6C 2W8***

***Telephone:***

***Fax: n/a***

***E-mail:***

***Signature: H. L. Usher***

***Date: December 11, 2020***

Note: By submitting this form you are hereby confirming that the Nominee has consented to the nomination.

Submissions must be received by Monday, December 14, 2020 to: City Clerk's Office City of London 300 Dufferin Avenue, PO Box 5035 London, ON N6A 4L9 Phone: 519-661-CITY (2489) Ext. 4599 Fax: 519-661-4892 E-mail: [sppc@london.ca](mailto:sppc@london.ca)