

IMPACT REPORT



2021-
2022

BUILDING LOVE
AMONGST CULTURES

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A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP

"We must appreciate the opportunity for cultural diversity as it is essential for our coexistence. This organization was started to help raise awareness for diversity and inclusion in the community through discussion, educational events, arts, fitness, etc."

~ Kaveria Lezza - Founder/CEO

Inclusion is a long game and Building Love Amongst Cultures (BLAC) embodied that greatly in 2021. BLAC's persistent efforts to incorporate inclusion in the community paid off in many ways. The surrounding communities are growing in diversity and inclusion is a topic for people within the area. BLAC was formed to develop inclusive strategies and implement unique events and programs to get the likeness of uniting the community. Our individuality sets us apart from other organization as we focus on establishing cultural awareness through cultural appreciation where we provide a defined sense of belonging in an amicable environment.

We understand change is not going to happen overnight. However, if we climb the ladder one step at a time by helping to remove thoughts of doubt, self-reluctance, insecurity, bias, and stereotype, and fill the void with thoughts of belonging we can help shape shift the views of American society.

We entered as a nonprofit in 2021 and were encourage to emerge as an organization leading positive cultural beliefs. This nonprofit recognizes the hard work of the team at Building Love Amongst Cultures.

Sincerely,

Kaveria Lezza

OUR STORY SO FAR



A DISTINCT IDENTITY

Here at Building Love Amongst Cultures (BLAC), we know that sometimes all that it takes to change the world is a little support in the right direction. Since inception, we have been determined to make an impact. The core of our efforts is to bring our team's fresh ideas and passion to the range of activities we're involved in. Through all of our endeavors we hope to display the conviction behind our beliefs.

OUR VISION

To provide educational experiences that fosters and cultivates an inclusive community where individuals, children and adults have a sense of belonging.

OUR MISSION

To unite the community through building critical consciousness and cultural competence foregrounding the aspirations of the individuals.

OUR VALUES

Establish an accessible *Community of Individuals* where each member has a sense of belonging.

Provide culturally educational spaces and programs that critically reflect on our past and utilize the momentum of the present to cultivate a *more equitable future*.

Develop a toolkit of resources to enhance the *quality of life* for individuals in the community.



OUR 2021 GOALS



1

Partnerships

Two heads are better than one! There's an advantage to partnering with other community organizations and businesses great for the trajectory for BLAC. In BLAC's first year, we built *Trust and Innovation* with likeminded organizations with *Agreed Goals* for a shared *Balance of Return*. BLAC had the ability to partner with four different organizations. We extend a special thanks to the Village of Lombard for assisting with the connections that led to partnerships and collaborations.

2

Events

This year BLAC held educational and fun events that brought supporters together to celebrate our efforts to help individuals develop a sense of belonging.

- Community members was able to enjoy "*Expositions of Transformations*" at National Indo-American Museum.
- Sheldon Peck Art and Essay Contest
- Freedom Rider: Thomas Armstrong Virtual Presentation
- Multicultural Art Fair
- Summer HIIT Workout Series
- 1-Year Anniversary Event

3

Donations

The donations we've received as an organization this year was immensely helpful for us providing us the opportunity to host our events. We received over \$15,000 in funds in our first year.

4

Our Reach

BLAC feels the importance of reaching the community to share our mission and values. In one year, we've analyzed that our social media obtained the better reach for BLAC's community. We have 373 Facebook followers, 4,616 Instagram followers, 65 new email subscriptions.



OUR ACTIONS

"EXPOSITIONS OF TRANSFORMATIONS"

Hosted by National Indo-American Museum

Building Love Amongst Cultures sponsored a group of 15 Lombard community members to attend the National Indo-American Museum program presented by Natya Dance Theater which featured three senior Natya Dance Theater Indian Classical dancers. The dancers performed interpretations through movement of various artists exhibited at the museum. The dance form was Bharatnatyam, which is a South Indian Classical dance form.

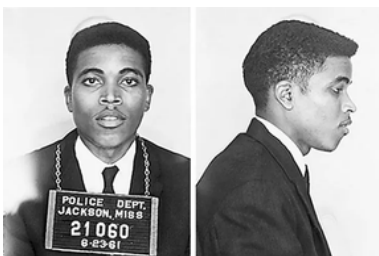


FREEDOM RIDER:

THOMAS ARMSTRONG

Virtual Presentation

Building Love Amongst Cultures in partnership with Lombard Historical Society hosted a virtual presentation featuring Freedom Rider, Thomas Armstrong. Twenty guests had the opportunity to listen to Armstrong share his story about his personal power of civic education growing up in Mississippi and migrating to Chicagoland area.



OUR ACTIONS

SHELDON PECK ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

Hosted by National Indo-American Museum

BLAC partnered with the Lombard Historical Society for the Sheldon Peck Art and Essay Contest. This contest was open to public and private school students from PreK to 12th grade in Lombard, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, and Villa Park.

Twenty students created an original work of art or essay response inspired by the art and activism of Sheldon Peck and of artists today. Winners received prizes and were honored at an awards ceremony and BLAC's multicultural art festival.



SUMMER HIIT FITNESS SERIES

Lombard Commons Park, Illinois

Fitness Coach and Organizer Kaveria led a group of 12 in a 45 minute HIIT training workout at Lombard Commons Veteran's Memorial Park, Lombard, IL. There she educated local community members on an exercise technique known as High Intensity Interval Training. HIIT is a training technique that gets and keeps your heart rate up, therefore, allowing you to burn more fat and quicker than traditional cardiovascular or traditional exercises. Exercises were available for all levels of fitness: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.



OUR ACTIONS

MULTICULTURAL ART FAIR

Sheldon Peck Homestead, Lombard Illinois



This event was one day only and was presented in fair style as we also acknowledged **the winners of the Sheldon Peck Art and Essay Contest.**

The Community enjoyed:

- 8 Vendors of one of a kind art
- Raffles sponsored and donated by Discount Tire, Shanan's Deli, Babcock's Grove House, Lombard Historical Society, Building Love Amongst Cultures, and Lezza Art
- Entertainment and performances donated by: Dawning Moon, Sky Centers Martial Arts, KM Tango, Umoja People the Ensemble, Fiddle, Fret n' Whistle
 - Performances by Umoja People of the Ensemble to speak to Black History
 - With DJ Mwelwa Musambacine
- Kid's activities: Cookie Decorating sponsored by Lilac Bakery

Hosting the first Multicultural Art Fair in Lombard, IL given the history of the town was a true success for Building Love Amongst Cultures. The feedback and amount of support was well received. Having partnered and collaborated with Lombard Historical Society at this location was reminiscent of Sheldon Peck and his ideals along with present day BLAC and our ideals. Sheldon Peck was not only an artist, but an artist advocating for life post slavery and pro women rights. Fairness and equality spoke through Sheldon Peck as much as providing an inclusive environment speaks through BLAC wondrously.

This was an opportunity for building an inclusive community by learning about other cultures and supporting our local businesses. When planning this event, we faced minor challenges that were apprehensible. The weather was great. Our marketing strategy worked thanks to Walgreens for the donating printed copies of the advertisement: large banner, flyers, and business advertisement. We utilized social media as well as email marketing. Special thanks to Illinois State Rep., Terra Costa Howard and other political leaders for attending and also promoting the event. We remained under budget for the first Multicultural Art Fair.



OUR ACTIONS



1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Brewpoint Craft , Elmhurst, Illinois

To honor our community and enjoy our greatest accomplishments, we had the opportunity to host a celebration at Brewpoint Craft, Elmhurst, IL. Brewpoint shares the shared mission and values as a business operating for-profit. Brewpoint seeks to **build a more equitable and inclusive world in all that they do.** This location seemed fitting and welcoming for the culture Building Love Amongst Cultures fosters. We enjoyed visits from political leaders surrounding DuPage County.



DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

As little as five years ago it would have been unheard of for an organization such as Building Love Amongst Cultures to host a Multicultural Art Fair. The climate didn't call for it because ostensibly there was no push for it.

Fast forward to yet another incident that dismantled our society pinning division amongst our American people involving George Floyd, left communities irate and doubtful. Can we pull this society together?

This organization is a benefit to the community. "I want to see more of the community exposed to the same opportunity and experiences I had while growing up in diverse and inclusive environments. There's an uncalled-for stereotype amongst demographics that stems from perception of people not as exposed to different cultures. Let's educate ourselves and form our own experiences with different cultures." With circumstances that have life moving tortuously and involve capricious racism, bias, and inquiries, we must disrupt the status quo and continue on **Building Love Amongst Cultures**.

Kaveria Lezza
CEO/Founder

TESTIMONIES

"This was a great event! I learned a lot!" - Guest

"I've lived in Lombard all my life, I never would have thought we have an event such as this!" - Resident

"I never visited the Sheldon Peck Homestead, I never knew the significance." - Guest

OUR TEAM



KAVERIA LEZZA

CEO/Founder



JOHANNAH TOMITA-MARTIN

Vice President



VICTOR LEZZA

Chair

KAYLA ALLEN

Chair

SARA WADFORD

Marketing Strategist

KIM MALLORY

Chair

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| BUILDING LOVE AMONGST CULTURES | Past Period |
|--|------------------|
| Sales Revenue | 2021-2022 |
| Art Fair Vendor | \$ 60.00 |
| Art Fair Vendor | \$ 150.00 |
| Lombard Crafts Fair | \$ 382.61 |
| MAF | \$ 1,078.00 |
| EPC Pride Festival | \$ 130.00 |
| Donor Restricted Donations | \$ 2,640.00 |
| Donations | \$ 14,672.29 |
| Total Sales Revenue [J] | \$ 19,112.90 |
| Cost of Sales | |
| Shirts | \$ 603.72 |
| Total Cost of Sales [K] | \$ 603.72 |
| Gross Profit [L] = [J - K] | \$ 18,509.18 |
| Operating Expenses | |
| Sales and Marketing | |
| Advertising | \$ 677.69 |
| Direct marketing | |
| (Direct mail, telemarketing and email marketing) | \$ - |
| Lilac Fundraising Event | \$ 300.00 |
| NIAM | \$ 95.25 |
| Freedom Rider Program | \$ 150.00 |
| Sheldon Peck Contest | \$ 175.00 |
| MAF | \$ 1,978.67 |
| Celebration | |
| Anniversary | \$ 375.00 |
| Total Sales and Marketing Expenses [M] | \$ 3,751.61 |
| Research and Development | |
| Technology licenses (Microsoft, Adobe) | \$ 429.80 |
| Total Research and Development Expenses [N] | \$ 429.80 |
| General and Administrative | |
| Wages and salaries | \$ - |
| Education | \$ 49.00 |
| Supplies | \$ 11,195.00 |
| Meals and programs | \$ 441.47 |
| Licenses for filing | \$ 350.00 |
| Rent | \$ - |
| Telephone | \$ 500.00 |
| Utilities | \$ - |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Depreciation | \$ - |
| Insurance | \$ - |
| Repairs and maintenance | \$ - |
| Technology hardware | \$ 1,241.98 |
| Email and website | \$ 348.85 |
| Total General and Administrative Expenses [O] | \$ 14,126.30 |
| Total Operating Expenses | |
| [P] = [M + N + O] | \$ 18,307.71 |
| Income from Operations | |
| [Q] = [L - P] | \$ 201.47 |

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Our donors made our first big event, the Multicultural Art Fair possible. Though, there is room for improvement if Building Love Amongst Cultures want to maintain great success, BLAC would like to give a special thanks to the following businesses.



LILAC BAKERY

SHANAN'S DELI

RUFF LIFE



KAREN  Ma
TANGO

The logo for Dawning Moon, featuring the words "dawning moon" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a small white star to the right of the word "moon". The entire logo is set against a black rectangular background.

dawning
moon ★

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our volunteers who made the Multicultural Art Fair a smooth success.

Thank you Lombard Historical Society for our continued partnership.
Thank you Village of Lombard for your continued support.

Thank you Sara Wadford for your design work, bring consistency to Building Love Amongst Cultures brand.

Lastly, thank you to the community in BLAC operates. You understand BLAC's vision and mission and continue to support us.

Building Love Amongst Cultures

Lombard, IL 60148

www.buildingloveamongstcultures.org

inclusion@buildingloveamongstcultures.org



WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ONGOING
SUPPORT OF OUR
PROGRAMME