

Organizing together

Aysha: Just because other people don't see us as what we are doesn't mean that we can't all come together and see each other as we are.

Rose-Eva (hosting): Hello and welcome to Unheard Youth Voices. We are a podcast created at Edmonton Centre for Race and Culture, focusing on newcomer youth voices all across Canada. We're featuring what Canadian newcomer youth have to say about identity, migration, and belonging. I'm your host, Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins. This episode is entitled, "Organizing Together."

We started off this episode with a quote from Aysha. I used this quote to start off the episode because it shows us how community events can have an impact on our sense of identity and belonging. I think that Aysha's words really beautifully sum up why community events are so important. You'll hear more from Aysha later on in the podcast when she talks about her participation in the Stay WOC event in Edmonton.

During the making of this podcast I attended two events that were focused on promoting voices that aren't usually heard in the mainstream. While I was in Montreal, I attended the MTL vs racism event. We hear from the organizer of the festival as well as the performers who've made a name for themselves in the Montreal music scene.

The second event that you're going to hear from is a Stay WOC festival that happened in Edmonton. The Stay WOC organizers asked us, the Unheard Youth Podcast, to take part in the event and showcase a preview of the podcast. We hear from the youth as they share their experience with attending the event and chat with the organizers, as well.

Both of the events featured in the podcast were being organized for the very first time. These events didn't have any huge corporate sponsorship or a blueprint to go off of from previous years. These were put together for the first time by folks who wanted to make a difference. We really want to thank these festivals for letting us get a chance to understand the challenges behind creating an event.

Also, a note on the sound quality. A lot of these conversations took place at events where there was a lot of general celebration, live music, and a great deal of activity occurring. Our goal was to get the right balance of background noise that lets listeners get a sense of what it sounds like to experience these events.

The first stop on our events calendar is the City of Montreal in the Province of Quebec. This is where the MTL vs racism festival took place September 15 of 2018. This was a live music event with a variety of Montreal-based performers that took place in Notre Dame de Grace Park, or, as it's commonly referred to, NDG. I talked to the festival organizer, Paul Cargnello, about his motivation behind organizing the event and how it all came together.

Paul C.: My name is Paul Cargnello. I'm a singer-songwriter but I also am the organizer of this event. Yeah, it's an event that I put together after I started seeing that the extreme right had been

mobilizing and setting up shop in Montreal. But then I heard that it was specifically in the borough of NDG Côte-des-Neiges, which is the borough of Montreal in which I live and currently reside and grew up. So, it kind of stung a little extra hard and I was extra frustrated with that fact and decided that maybe it would be cool to do a sort of rock against racism type concert. And I remember how what an influence that had on generations and generations of people when those concerts were happening in the seventies and eighties.

So, I thought, wouldn't it be cool if we do something similar in Montreal? A micro-cosmic version. And that was it, and then just asked and people seemed game.

Rose-Eva: Awesome. So, I was wondering what kind of artists that you asked or what kind of people did you want to be part of this concert, specifically?

Paul C: Well, I mean, for me, I asked people who were first of all, professional, because this is a complicated kind of show. It's a lot of groups and this is a plug and play situation, like people have to be good at just plugging in and doing their thing. So, a lot of professionals. But everybody has to be compassionate and have a social conscience. And I found, like in Montreal, it was funny, you know, like the artists' community were incredibly open to this idea. And I was happy to accommodate.

But the hardest part was narrowing it all down.

Rose-Eva: Yes. And maybe you can describe right now what's going on. What are the sounds that we can hear?

Paul C: Well, right now, it's a band called The Stomp All-stars, so this is like a Ska Band that ... it's like a mega group, alright? So, there's like members of The Planet Smashers and members of different Stomp labeled groups, which is really cool, because it's all very anti-racist stuff and second-wave and third-wave Ska. So, yeah, that's who's playing right now.

Rose-Eva: Awesome. I wonder if you can give me your opinion on what role that music plays within anti-racism dialogue?

Paul C: I think it's really important to speak out. I think it's really important to be verbal. I think it's really important to be outspoken, in general. And, as an artist, you know, I think it's really our role. Like when we get putting microphones in front of us all the time, and we get to actually say something, for real. So, we should take advantage of that ... that scenario and don't just leave it to the status quo, you know, like because the status quo sucks.

And any chance I get to rail against the status quo, I will.

Rose-Eva: Yes, I really like the different booths that there are situated around the festival, and there's some other booths where people can purchase things. Yeah, I'm kind of wondering where you got those organizations from?

Paul C: Well, they ... we ended up ... again, social media's been very helpful. We posted something saying, "Who would be interested in coming in and setting up shop?" You know, once you build it, they come. This is the way it always goes for event planning, like if you build something that's well done and not just well-intentioned but followed up on, people will come to you.

Rose-Eva: And in terms of a messaging of having it within this neighborhood and having it a community event, what kind of message that sends to people who are here, and what kind of message do you want to send out?

Paul C: Well, look, you know, two-three weeks ago there was a black man was shot in NDG, in the community of NDG. There are a very ... there's a very palpable anger from the black community in NDG and it's totally legit. There's a systemic problem all over the place but in Montreal, as well. And that systemic racism needs to be combatted and that's it, I mean, you know, we know that that's going on. There's an election going on. I think we needed to do it here because of all these organizations coming here. The systemic racism that is being suffered here, so I just wanted to do it in the heart of ... the belly of the beast, you know.

Rose-Eva: Did you want to talk about any other artists specifically that you chose? I notice on the bill there's a lot of artists that are from Montreal or speaking about NDG, or that are really focused on that community. Can you speak a bit more about those artists, specifically?

Paul C: Well, these are all artists that are ... that mix social justice with music, so this is ... it's funny, you know, like when you reach out to artists, some artists don't want to participate. They don't like to be politically outspoken and you gotta know that those, you don't engage those artists for this kind of thing.

Personally, I feel like the artists here are compassionate. They're not just talented but they're compassionate people. They share that compassion for our communities. That's what unites these bands, at least. For sure. And I mean, I love all these artists. Malika Tirolien, Creature, Aiza, Jah Cutta. I've known Jah Cutta for years. I've produced a lot of these artists. A lot of these people are friends that contacted me and we got in touch with each other.

I'm surrounded by friends and people that are like-minded, so this is a really nice concert for me.

Rose-Eva: Yes, so far, in terms of the atmosphere, is that how ... yeah, like you said "surrounded by friends." Is that how you felt so far in the concert? And then, how do you hope it goes for the rest of the night, as well?

Paul C: Oh, I hope this continues. I do feel like I'm surrounded by friends. It's a wonderful feeling. And it's a big party. And everybody seems to be having a good time. So, I hope that continues, for sure. And that's the vibe I want to live the rest of my life in. How's that?

Rose-Eva (hosting): Next up, we have my conversation with Aiza. I talked to Aiza backstage after her performance at the event. Here's my conversation with performer, Aiza.

Aiza: Hello. My name is Aiza. I'm a singer-songwriter, actress, and human being. Thank you for having me.

Rose-Eva: Thank you very much. So, we're here today at the MTL vs racism show. Can you tell me a bit about what this show means to you?

Aiza: Well. I am a young black woman born and raised in Montreal. I have Burundian parents. I speak French. I speak English. A little bit of Spanish. Friends from all around the world, and so I feel like it's a great way – It's a great way to just showcase that and to just ... it's an opportunity to remind people that we're here and that we're cool, man. We're cool. Like and I just from me, the thing that matters the most is just celebrating differences and learning to be more accepting of ourselves and others and so I think it's just a nice opportunity to share with people. Connect with people from all around the world and that's an opportunity I get pretty much every day, living in Montreal, it's such a multicultural city and there are artists everywhere talking about many different things. And so, for me it's just an opportunity to come out, share a bit of my gifts and receive other people's gifts, as well.

Rose-Eva: I've been having conversations with some youths in Montreal and they talk about media representation. And they say like, they love Montreal, it's a beautiful city where you see folks of everyone walking around. But they say, that doesn't say it in the media, but like I think you're such an amazing voice for that.

Aiza: Thank you.

Rose-Eva: Yeah, definitely. And how do you think about when youths see you, like what message do you want them to have?

Aiza: I just want, you know ... I'm just hoping that when they listen to my music, they feel a little less alone. That they feel like they can do anything, like I said. And that they are the future so don't play small. It's important to cohabitate and you know, sometimes you have to compromise and sometimes you have to grow, too. Like you were technically born perfect but we all have things to learn and so be open to learning and you're not always right. But for those things that really matter to you, usually they come from a good place. So as long as it comes from a good place, just go out there and shine. And don't let yourself be ... I don't know, guilty. Because sometimes, I think that's something I dealt with which was, I didn't want to steal someone else's shine but that's impossible. It's impossible to do. You either, when you shine, you help other people shine brighter.

So, hopefully, when kids listen to my music or they see the things that I'm doing, they get inspired to kick even more ass than I do. You know what I mean? Like to just go out there and be like, "She can do it. Wait a minute. I got all of this. Right on." You know, like, that's what really lights my fire is watching that spark light up in someone's eyes and like seeing their spirit come through. And so, hopefully that's what it sparks in the people who listen to my music and who follow me.

Rose-Eva: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

Aiza: Thank you for having me. This has been lovely. Yeah, my name is Aiza. You can follow me on Instagram @aizabby, Aiza Baby. You can find me on Facebook, on YouTube. I just dropped a ... a music video from my latest single. It's called "'L'univers est à moi" and that's who it speaks exactly about that, it speaks about ... it means "the universe is mine" and it's just a reminder that we can manifest literally anything we want. So, to never forget that power and never give it away unnecessarily to other people. And so, that's what I want to leave people with, hopefully, it sparked a little interest and we can connect and see you at some shows.

Rose-Eva: Yes.

Aiza: Thank you so much.

Rose-Eva (hosting): For our last conversation from the MTL vs racism festival, I had a chat with Ms Holmes. Ms Holmes performed at the event and afterwards, we talked about their music and their thoughts on the event. We also discussed Ms Holmes's work as an organizer when they took part in the SLAV resistance group.

Ms Holmes: I'm Ms Holmes and I'm a singer-songwriter and performing artist in Montreal. And I got involved with this show because Paul Cargnello just asked me to be involved, because we worked together before on my record a few years ago.

Rose-Eva: And so in the MTL vs racism show, that's a very ... there's very specific agenda to the show, so how do you feel about that?

Ms Holmes: Well, I think that the message of the show isn't as clear as it could be. I would have loved to see a bit more intention behind exactly what kind of a message they're trying to get across here. I think that everybody at the show today already understands that racism is bad and you know, that's great, but then where do we go from here? I think that the idea for the show initially was to be something similar to Rock Against Racism, which is a concert that was organized I think, started in the UK in the seventies and eighties. And so that was more for raising your voice against the alt right and for Nazi groups that were sort of becoming more vocal in the communities.

So, I think that was the main idea behind the show, but I think that it might have ... missed the mark a little bit. It has turned into a really nice community day but I think that there's a lot more critical action that could be taking place and as well as dialogue, if that's really the message that people like the organizers want to get across.

Rose-Eva: And what do you think is the role of anti-racist dialogue within music concerts and what kind of ... do you envision that future to look like?

Ms Holmes: Well, music can always play a role within that because any message you want to share, you can share through music. Something that I would love to see if this is truly what the organizers, white members of the community who are leaders and our artists, could do is I think they could do workshops maybe for youth. Specifically, for white youths who could be easily attracted by the idea of joining a hate group. And they could work with music to get people to

write songs against racism or to confront their own racism and actually talk about the ways in which they as white people have learned racism. Because, instead of just getting up on stage and saying, “We’re not racist,” I think it’s a lot more effective to look at the ways in which we are racist and start from there.

And I think there needs to be a lot more community discussion which can include the arts. But more in a critical thinking way and you know, if ever these people need any help in putting together ideas for those kind of things, they could just pay people of color to consult and then do the work. So that’s what I would love to see happen.

Rose-Eva: I’m wondering within your own music, where that critical thinking piece, I’m wondering where that enters into your own music?

Ms Holmes: Yeah, well, I have two different musical projects. So, the project that I did today is really, it’s for Ms Holmes and it’s singer-songwriter. I don’t focus necessarily on provocative or political statements in that work although I do most definitely have that present. I like to think critically about the message that I’m delivering when I get onstage. I like to think about the people who I organize with when doing concerts. I’m vocal on social media about my views as well, so that anybody who might be a fan of my work knows where I’m coming from. And yeah.

Rose-Eva: Within that social media piece, what kind of dialogue are you having on social media right now with the print folks and what does that dialogue look like?

Ms Holmes: Well, I guess right now ... I was a part of the SLAV resistance group, which was against a concert called SLAV that was being produced in Montreal, which was a collection of African-American slave songs that were being performed as a theatrical “odyssey” quote unquote by a white director and a white leads singer with an all-white cast, essentially. So, through social media we were able to do a lot of organizing around that, which is really helpful. There is also like one-sided dialogue where I’m just voicing my opinions, like on Instagram, for instance.

But, I have another project called, “Big Sissy” and then that project, it’s a lot more political, I think a lot more about blackness and bodies and I like to confront my audience with those things for that show. So –

Rose-Eva: Yeah. I’m so glad that you mention SLAV because I was actually in Montreal kind of when this was happening and I loved seeing the posters that said, “Betty me doit de l’argent” like “Betty owes me money”, “Pay your black artists” like I saw those posters that I was like, “Yes, I’m so glad that there is ... people are seeing that message ‘cause it needs to be seen.” And the way that whole situation was handled, I’m very curious as to if there weren’t grassroots movements speaking up about it, who would have questioned that show or would there have been as much backlash as there is? I’m very curious to know.

Ms Holmes: I don’t think there would have been. I mean, we’re in Quebec and Quebec has a real special type of racism. And you know, the show was performed at a theatre that’s really considered to be a cultural hub. It’s funded by Hydro Quebec. Of course, they got backing by

TD, by Jazz Fest. It was one of the best-selling shows at the Jazz Festival and I really don't think that ... they would have been very happy to go ahead with the show had we not been raising our voices about it. And that's one thing also, about this show today, is like again, it's a wonderful community event but I don't think that this is really actually creating any kind of change or there's any critical dialogue going on. And I just see it as a form of performative allyship.

Rose-Eva: What direction would you like to go through in the future with your own projects and your own work and your own music? Where do you see that going?

Ms Holmes: I hope I start getting paid. *[laughs]* You know, nobody got paid for the work today and I understand it's like volunteer. I would love to see an effort in ... I'm sidetracking here but with this kind of event when you're talking about being antiracist, I really think that race is a power structure and if we want to shift the balance of power, we need to give power to the people who are at the bottom. So, paying your artists like paying the artists of color specifically for the kind of work that they're doing today. So, I would love to see myself getting paid more for my work.

Rose-Eva: Thank you so much for being really real with me today. I really appreciate it.

Ms Holmes: You're welcome. Thanks for interviewing me.

Rose-Eva (hosting): Thank you very much to Ms Holmes for those insights. We really appreciate the variety of opinions on the way that events come together. Community events can never be perfect and we're always in the process of learning how to be better organizers. It's always worthwhile to reflect on what aspects of an event were successful and what aspects can be improved on.

Thank you so much to everyone at the MTL vs racism festival for sharing their thoughts and giving us the opportunity to see what community organizing looks like from a variety of perspectives.

Next stop on our tour of community events we travelled to Edmonton to attend the Stay WOC that took place at the Mercury room on November 24, 2018. Here to give us a description on the event and to tell us more about how it came together, we have MC and organizer, Mozan.

Mozan: Stay WOC festival is an artistic celebration of black and Indigenous women and all women of color, including trans and nonbinary identities. So today at the Mercury room we just provided a safe space for vendors, performers, and guests to come and just network and really get to know one another. With Rise and Apathy is Boring, they provided us with that platform to create this event and really start a foundation for the future generation and for Edmonton City to take over this event and make it into something that's huge and something that can become global eventually. And I just want to say that I'm really, really grateful for today.

Rose-Eva (hosting): Before the event took place the organizers got in touch with us. They invited the Unheard Youth Podcast to have our very own listening station at the event. We created a preview for folks to listen to. Two of the youth that had been involved in the podcast, Hanifa and Aysha,

were at the listening station with me. In this next section, Aysha and Hanifa give their thoughts on the event, and I asked them what it was like to present the podcast and get feedback from folks.

Hanifa: Hi, it's your girl Hanifa again. You already know. One of our youngest youths. Let go.

Aysha: Hi, guys. It's your girl, Aysha. I'm 15 years old and I am a woman of color. I'm from Botswana. I was born and raised there until I was eight. I came to Canada when I was eight and I've been living here for seven years in Edmonton, since Grade 6. I'm in Grade 11 now, so like that's –five years. And that is my story.

Hanifa: Yeah, we're here at the 2018 Stay WOC Art festival today, and there are a lot of performers. We've got people telling speeches, stories, poems. There's food, drinks going around. A lot of performances, door prizes, and our youngest one, Aysha, won something today. So you want to tell us how this went down?

Aysha: Okay, so like Hanifa, she was like she dragged me to the table where we signed our names. I'm like, okay, let's do it. And then, I went there, put my name and then there's a box outside, "Are you 18 and up?" I'm like, "Oh. I'm not 18 now." But I was like, "Ah, maybe I can't win because maybe, you know, age. You know?" I went back to their table and I was putting on my Vaseline and then I heard my name being called. I was like, "Hold up. Is there a different art show?" And they're like, "I can't pronounce your name ... your last name, but it starts with an "M - Molopesi?" I was like super gassed, I'm like, "Yeah. That's me." *[laughter]* That's me. So, I went up and I got a swag bag and it has like portable charger, a mug, a pencil. I really like the pencil. A pink nail polish because you know, "pretty in pink."

Hanifa: Anyways, besides all that, we had a poet go up and she slayed the stage and your girl's hijab was snatched in the process – I need to go find it right now. But anyways, her name was –

Aysha: Lady Vanessa.

Hanifa: Lady Vanessa and she went up there and she took ... I really know what's going on in her life and she basically just turned it into art and that art really transcended from there. And I feel like a lot of your audience could really just kind of relate and kind of take the time to just listen to her story. Aysha, what's your input on this?

Aysha: I honestly loved her. I honestly loved her, like when she walked up on stage, you know, you'd think she was going to be like quiet. But no. She was proud of her story and I loved that she captivated me with her words. Like, I was hanging onto every single word she said. And there's this ... the last poem, her last poem, where she says, "In the beginning there was Word. And we are the Word." That really touched me. It's like we are what we say we are, we create what we want with our words. Our words have a lot of impact on what we do. And what we succeed and don't succeed in. And it's just like it really touched me. I just love her message. She's proud of where she came from, proud of all of her roots, whether it be her Latina side, her native side, her African side, she's proud of all of them. And she lets that be known, that she's not going to apologize for who she is. And I feel like a lot of people, a lot of females, everybody

in this world right now need to have role models that are not apologetic where they come from and they're not embarrassed of their stories. Because her story is so beautiful.

Rose-Eva: If it's okay if I ask a question. I was wondering, because we have our little booth set up. We've had people listen to a little part of the podcast. I was just wondering how it feels to have people listen to you and have people listen to you talk and give you feedback. What's that been like?

Hanifa: It was really good. Not gonna lie, in my head, I was thinking that people were probably going to be opposed to what we were saying in our podcast. But it was the complete opposite and people were like we relate to this on a whole other level. They were talking about some of the stories that they picked up as they listened throughout it. I was really happy about that and we were able to just kind of have like a little discussion and just kind of laugh about it. And just be able to just be on the same level and just like not be afraid to share our voices and just be loud. Aysha?

Aysha: Honestly, I felt like because my voice isn't like in there, but I still feel like I can relate with the stories that were being told and I feel like hearing what others have also gone through. It's like we're all in this together. It like creates a sense of unity, like it doesn't matter where you're from. We face the same adversities. It may be to different extents but we've all done it and we're all here together. We're all here to uplift each other. Like, I just love the positive feedback from everyone.

Rose-Eva: I'm just curious if you've ever been to festivals like this before or like would you want more of this to happen? Or like how does it feel to be at an event where women of color specifically are put on the spotlight?

Hanifa: It's really good. Usually when I hear about these festivals, it's like poetry, whatnot. Which isn't a bad thing, but coming to a festival was like Stay WOC, W.O.C., Women of Color, I'm here for it and we're able to see a lot of other backgrounds, be able to share our stories, what we've been through, be able to relate on that level and just be able to just kind of share everything and be out there in the open and not feel insecure about it in any way.

Aysha: Honestly, I feel like it was about time. Like women of color were looked down upon like a lot in life and it's very hard for us to even ... to be given a chance where we could like represent ourselves and take back all the negatives that are said about us. Like, we're loud, okay. We're not loud. We're passionate. We know what we want. And I just love that. This festival celebrates that. It's taking back what has been said about us and bringing it into positive light. Again, with the masks. Well, some people will look at that, saying, "That's not cute." But no, it's not cute. It's beautiful. You're right, it isn't cute. It's amazing. The lady who creates that, she's talented. So just because other people don't see us as what we are doesn't mean that we can't all come together and see each other as we are. And I honestly feel like this is an amazing festival.

Rose-Eva: Yeah. I love how you girls are so good at expressing yourselves. Like, you're really putting it into words I'm like "yes, feeling it". Lastly, I'm just wondering, can you explain quickly what you understand as mas being?

Hanifa: Okay. From the presentation that she presented, it was a celebration of the slaves being free from the slave owners and they would go out and dress up as their slave owners and they just celebrate, dance in the street, and just be happy that they are now free. They no longer have to be tied down. And all the shackles that had been holding them down are now removed, so it's like party to the new future.

Rose-Eva (hosting): In the next section, Aysha and Hanifa took on the role as interviewers and talked to two of the organizers for the festival. Enjoy this conversation with Stay WOC organizers, Amina Ismail and Rhia Aden.

Aysha: Okay, so we're here with the ambassadors of Stay WOC, Amina Ismail and Rhia Aden. Okay, so how was it coordinating this event?

Amina: A hot mess. Just kidding. *[laughs]* Low key, not kidding. It was a lot of work but luckily it all turned out well. Some trials and errors, right?

Rhia: Yeah, so we started preparing for this event in the summer. We're part of a group called Rise, which is a part of Apathy is Boring, which is trying to get young people between the ages of 18 and 30 engaged in politics and civic engagement, and just being a part of their community. So our cohort this year happened to be mostly women of color, so we decided this is an area we'd like to focus on, so that's how Stay WOC came out. Yeah. And we've been working on it ever since then. We meet every Wednesday.

Amina: From six to nine p.m.

Rhia: And have really great ethnic foods and just get together and figure out how to do this. And here we are today. Part 1 is over and we're starting Part 2 in a bit.

Amina: Yes. When is the next event?

Aysha: Oh, yeah. What is the next event?

Amina: Oh. You know, hopefully there will be next year. We hope that this event can continue on in future.

Amina: Yeah.

Rhia: It's a program that was sponsored and got money by Rise but we want to really keep it continuous, keep relations with everyone. Like we are part of the vendor committee, so we were like, we want to collaborate in the future. And a lot of the artists as well and you guys as a podcast. So, that way we can continue this. Because there's not a lot of spaces in Edmonton that are focused on women of color. It's usually POC, like People of Color, and it's usually male dominated. Or it's women and it's white people dominated, so –

Amina: And a lot of older ages as well because usually if you do see women –

Rhia: Yeah. That's a big things as well, younger people.

Amina: It's like older ages. Older age women.

Hanifa: Now that this event is going on right now currently, could you name some of the favorite things that have happened? Like, some of the performers that came up. Like the poets. Could you name a couple of them that you liked the most?

Amina: No favoritism them here.

Rhia: Yeah. Honestly, from the bottom of our hearts, we are so thankful for all the vendors and artists and everyone who came to contribute and volunteered and organize. But at one point, I think it was Nisha Patel, I've never heard of her poem ... poetry before, but she had this poem about Eat, Love, Pray and I know so many people that love that movie, including myself. Like my basic side comes out and when she goes like, people traveling these countries to find themselves on the expense of other people, I was like, that spoke to me. I had goosebumps. So that was my ah ha woke moment. Do you have anything to say Amina?

Amina: Yes. Definitely, I think I agree with the Eat, Pray, Love one. I'm not sure if the one mentioned, chai tea latte was a part of that Eat, Pray, Love? Or if that was a different one?

Rhia: That was another one—

Amina: Yes, that one is really good. Talking about just like how being in a different country, your taste buds like literally, I don't know, but it was deeper than that, like I can't ... I'm not that deep, but it was deep. Just know that.

Rhia: You know, I have to shout out to my vendors because we were —

Amina: Yay. Shout out, shout out.

Rhia: Yeah, because we're responsible for the vendors. It was so great seeing a lot of handcrafted cultural artifacts, artistry, talent out here. We ... I got my Henna did its really cool. Shout out to henna by the Nile. And all our vendors and performers. If they are on social media our tabs on our Stay WOC YEG, IG and stuff, so —

Hanifa: But we're going to end it right there and I think we will continue on with the night.
Hanifa out.

Rose-Eva (hosting): That's it for this episode on community events entitled "Organizing Together."

We wanted to gain an understanding of the importance of events that are created for folks who don't always get a voice, and see how these events can connect to our sense of identity and belonging. We wanted folks to understand that event organizing will never be perfect but it's

always worthwhile to try and understand what is and isn't working, and how we can strive to be better in the future.

We wanted to thank everyone that attended and participated in these events. We also wanted to thank everyone who put in so much work behind the scenes to make these events possible.

A big thank you, as well, to everyone whose voices were featured in the podcast including Paul Cargnello, Aiza, Ms Holmes, Hanifa, Aysha, Mozan, Amina Ismail, and Rhia Aden.

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Now that you've heard from us, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out on social media. You could reach us on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at Unheard_Youth.

For the first half of this episode we wanted to acknowledge that these recordings took place on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha. The Island called Montreal is known as Tiohtiá:ke in the language of the Kanien'keha. We wanted to acknowledge our presence on the territories of the Mohawk or Kanien'keha, Huron Wendat, and the Haudenosaunee. The second half of this episode took place on Amiskwaskahikan, Edmonton, Alberta. The Centre for Race and Culture acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory, traditional homelands for many Indigenous peoples, including the Nêhiyaw, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi, Metis, Dene, and Nakota. We pay our respects to ancestors past and present who call this land home.

I have been your host, Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins.