



IMWAH

Immigrant Migrant Women's Association of Halifax

Annual Report

IMMIGRANT MIGRANT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF HALIFAX (IMWAH) ANNUAL REPORT November 2015 – December 2016

Mission:

The Immigrant /Migrant Women's Association of Halifax (IMWAH) is a non-profit and culturally diverse organization. Its goal and mission is to respond to the unique concerns of Immigrant and Migrant women and girls and celebrate their contributions to the community. Its gender related mandate is to provide support tailored to female focused initiatives.

Objectives:

1. to promote immigrant/migrant women and girls mental and physical health and wellbeing.
2. to facilitate immigrant/migrant women and girls. integration and inclusion in the community
3. to showcase immigrant/migrant women and girls projects, initiatives and contributions to the community.
4. to research and assess situations affecting immigrant/migrant women and girls.
5. to increase awareness into the larger community of immigrant and migrant women and girls concerns and to do advocacy work.
6. to bring the voice of immigrant and migrant women into larger movements.

From November 2015- November 2016, IMWAH's Board of directors benefitted from the experiences of passionate and skilled immigrant women and one youth member who worked hard to carry out several projects that aligned with the objectives of the association. For personal reasons, a few members of the board stepped away at different times during the past year. The association would like to thank sister Saida and Sana, for their dedication, time and contributions to the board. We would like to thank the current members of the board, Sylvia, Tabinda, Maria Jose, Rana, Louise, Minzhou, Abla and Solange for everything they have done for the immigrant and migrant women and children to make Halifax a more welcoming, inclusive and culturally aware and responsive city. We would also like to thank our members of the association for showing their support and solidarity in helping us deliver on our commitments. Last but not the least we would like to thank our partners who always show their support by providing us funding and other resources and by being there with us on several occasions.

Partners & Funders:

Nova Scotia (NS) Office of immigration
 NS Department of Communities Culture & Heritage
 NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women
 Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
 Immigrant Settlement Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)
 African Diaspora Association of Maritimes (ADAMS)
 YMCA
 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
 Community Health Boards
 St. Andrews Community Centre

Project & Programs:

Church Potluck

This was the first event coordinated to welcome Syrian newcomer moms, young women and girls. We partner with Christ Church off Ochterloney St. who offer us a free venue with all the needed cutlery, plates and glasses that were environment friendly and provided coffee/tea. Ladies and their daughters along with young boys were invited to participate in this a potluck. An area was set up for the kids to have art activities and music for dancing. Drives were coordinated for the women who attended and we had a turn out of approximately 60 guests. IMWAH also provided pizza for everyone, and all in all a good time was had by everyone!

Winter Spring Carnival

This event was held in a location in Halifax and the idea was to have immigrant women and groups to display their talents as well as have women vendors introduce their products to the community. This was also a potluck with IMWAH providing extra items. We had a good turnout of a mix group of ladies from different backgrounds and the Honourable Lena Diab Minister of Immigration attended. We also were fortunate to have a translator for the event. Good food, entertainment and shopping was enjoyed by all and the turnout seemed approximately under 100 ladies and kids.

Dragon Boat Paddling Sessions

Request by several members, this year we offered six free paddle sessions for women. The sessions took place at Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club on September 7, 8, 14, 16, 21 and 23 from 6; 30-7:30 PM. Eight to ten participants attended each session. Please visit IMWAH Facebook page to see the pictures of the event showing how much fun women had.

This activity was made possible by the financial support from the Dartmouth Community Health Board. In 2015 we received \$1,500.00 to create a space for im/migrant women and girls living in the Dartmouth area to come together to participate in activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing and community integration. Due to the weather concerns attendance to some of the activities scheduled for 2015 was low and we had some funding left which allowed us to offer the dragon boat paddling sessions this year.

Family Event at the Community Oven

This family event took place in June 2016, from 1-4pm. IMWAH provided pizza dough, sauce and cheese and people brought their toppings of choice. We had perfect weather and it was well attended by women and girls along with family and friends. Funding was provided by HRM and Status of Women.

International Girls' Day

This year we commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child in partnership with Bayer's Westwood Family Resource Centre. We engaged in world café discussions and explored why we are special, the things we can do as women and as girls, and things that we like and enjoy. We

Celebrated Sana Sheikh, our youngest Board Member, and her involvement with IMWAH. We enjoyed a performance from Sari Oriental Motion, yummy treats and a bit of dancing!

A Mosaic of Identity and Community Connection

The Mosaic of Identity and Community Connection program is a three-year project lead by artist Miro Davis and Anthropologist Maria Jose Yax-Fraser. The first phase of this project included a twelve-week session of art making that took place between October 2015 to March 2016 and was attended by 20 women. This project celebrates and explores identity from an im/migrant women's perspective. The goals of the project were to create an opportunity for im/migrant women, female youth and girls to collaborate in creating a traveling art exhibit that enhanced their identity, sense of place, belonging and community connection; and to increase IMWAH's capacity and its relationship and connection to other community

organizations such as art galleries, museums libraries and cafes. The second phase of this project takes place between May 2016 – December 2018. This phase began in May of 2016 with a preview of the art works created by 11 of the women who participated consistently during the twelve-week art sessions. A sneak preview of their works was presented at two conferences held in Halifax, including the National Anthropological Conference held at Dalhousie University, and at the conference Immigration to Atlantic Canada: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives held at St. Mary’s University.

This year on March 8, 2017 at 6pm. the unveiling of the art exhibit will be held at Pier 21 to commemorate International Women’s Day. We hope all IMWAH’s members will join us in the commemoration of this day and the unveiling of the art work created by 11 participants at Pier 21. The exhibit will be open to the public from March 8 to May 4 2017. We hope that the traveling art exhibit will support the development of welcoming communities in the Halifax Regional Municipality for im/migrant women and their families.

Community Involvement:

This year the association has been involved in three different committees:
 Diversity and Social Inclusion LIP subcommittee
 Health and Wellness subcommittee
 Immigrant Health and Wellness Network

Financial Report:

International Day of the Girl Child

This event was made possible with the support of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and St. Andrews Community Centre.

Total Expenses		Total Funding received	
Hall Rental	\$ 75.00	Financial Donations	
Poster and Advertisement	\$ 75.00	Nova Scotia Office	
Administration	\$100.00	of Immigration	\$ 500.00
Facilitators	\$100.00	In Kind Donations	\$ 736.00
Interpreters	\$180.00	Bayer’s	
Refreshments	\$400.00	Westwood	\$486.00
plates, napkins and glasses	\$ 50.00	Family Resource Centre	
Henna Painting	\$100.00	St. Andrews Community	
Entertainment	\$100.00	Centre	\$ 75.00
Art making materials	\$ 50.00	Prairie Ocean	
Total	\$1,230.00	Design	\$ 75.00
		Sari Oriental	
		Motion	\$100.00

IMWAH's Incurred Financial Expenses		Financial Funding Received
Refreshments	\$ 344.00	Nova Scotia Office of Immigration \$ 500.00
Plates, Napkins and glasses	\$ 53.48	
Total expenses	\$ 397.48	

Mosaic of Identity and Community Connection

This project was made possible by the support of:

Organization	Funding Donations
Halifax Regional Municipality	\$ 5,262.47 (managed by HRM)
Communities Culture and Heritage	\$ 5,500.00
Multicultural Health and Wellness Network	\$ 500.00
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.	\$ 2,000.00 (In kind use of art studio)
Total	\$13,262.47

Expense	\$	Date Oct 2015-March 2016	
firing cones	49.08	Nov 27, 2015	Purchased directly by HRM
artist fees	3,000	Nov 10, 2015 Dec 1, 2015 Jan 6, 2016	Cheques sent to Miro Davis
AGNS workshop	200	March 31, 2016	Cheque sent to IMWAH
Food receipts submitted by Maria Jose	446.22	March 31, 2016	Cheque sent to IMWAH for combined total 709.11
Supplies receipts submitted by Maria Jose (including Staples)	262.89		
Supplies reflected in Dropbox	1,304.28	February – March 2015	Purchased directly by HRM
Supplies	203.7	April 2016	
Rental room	75.00	April 2016	
TOTAL	5,466.17		

Art Hive Project (on going):

This project was made possible by funding from the NS Department of Communities Culture and Heritage.

Facilities and Equipment

\$35.00 Gift Card to St Andrews

\$2,000.00 Studio space

Travel 0 500.00 Bus tickets Resources/Art Supplies 478.96 \$5,000.00 Art Supplies Professional fees \$450.00 \$1,000.00 Translation Services Honouraria \$1,000.00 \$1,000.00 Facilitators Administration \$744.00 \$1,000.00 Project Coordinator Beverage and snacks \$655.54 \$1,000.00 Exhibit opening N/a at the moment \$500.00 Marketing N/a at the moment \$500.00 Total Expenses \$3,213.5

Donations Monetary Donations \$198.00 Gift Cards \$75.00 Art supplies many art supplies were collected donated by people.

De Serres also donated supplies.

Expenses for January Sessions/ Exhibition Facilities and Equipment

\$85.00 Seniors room for AGM and Exhibition/ Dance room for kids art session. Travel 0 Bus tickets Resources/Art Supplies \$490.8 Art Supplies Professional fees \$200.00 Translation Services Honouraria \$800.00 Facilitators Administration 456.00 Project Coordinator Beverage and snacks \$354.62 This amount does not include food to be brought to AGM or the Exhibition by Rana.

Exhibit opening \$500.00 Marketing \$50.00 Poster Other Gift for participant's bday \$20.00 Cash Donations by Macdonald Two carafes of coffee, coffee cups, milks, creams and sugars. Aprox Total \$2456.42

Dragon Boat Paddling:

This activity was made possible by the financial support from the Dartmouth Community Health Board. In 2015 we received \$1,500.00 to create a space for im/migrant women and girls living in the Dartmouth area to come together to participate in activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing and community integration. Due to the weather concerns attendance to some of the activities scheduled for 2015 was low and we had some funding left which allowed us to offer the dragon boat paddling sessions this year.

Total Financial expenses		Funding Available	
Paddling session		Dartmouth Community	
\$5.00 per participant	\$ 205.00	Health Board	\$ 615.00