



2023–2025

IMPACT REPORT

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Platform operates across what is currently known as Canada, based on the land known in Kanien'kéha as Tkaronto (Toronto). The land we occupy has been and continues to be home to many Indigenous nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and now hosts diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge the ongoing colonial violence taking place on this land and its devastating impact on Indigenous communities. The structures that uphold rape culture, sexual violence, and gender-based violence are deeply connected to colonial land-based violence. We are committed to dismantling these power structures through Indigenous-led, anti-oppressive, harm-reduction frameworks, rooted in truth, accountability, and the call for Land Back.

A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM

This year marked a period of profound growth, change, and recommitment to our values. Despite the growing tensions globally and within our own communities, Platform remains grounded in the belief that collective care, solidarity, and civic engagement are revolutionary.

We experienced a leadership transition and strengthened our internal capacity, revisiting how we work to prioritize people over process. Through a multi-year capacity building grant from WAGE, we made intentional changes—less administrative burden, more project-based engagement, and a deeper alignment between our values and our operations.

We also launched impactful new programming, built stronger community partnerships, and continued offering safer, affirming spaces for Black, Indigenous, and racialized women and gender-diverse youth across the country.

This year saw the successful launch of our Cyber Bytes project under our Civic Engagement Program supported by Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA). This initiative focuses on digital safety and cybersecurity for queer and trans BIPOC youth and includes upcoming workshops on cyber-misogyny, digital protest safety, and collective care as a security strategy.



REFLECTING ON 2023 TO 2025

We also leaned into our commitment to global solidarity and community support through fundraising initiatives:

- **Film Screening Fundraiser:** *Talking About Trees*, a 2019 documentary by Sudanese film director Suhaib Gasmelbari, hosted at Innis College, University of Toronto. With a great turnout of 113 attendees, we raised \$3,324.
- **Iftar Dinner – “Fears and Freedom Dreams”:** In collaboration with Shoot for Peace and Furqan Mohamed Who’s Afraid? Series, we hosted a community dinner for 32 people that raised \$898. Proceeds from both the film screening and Iftar dinner went to support a small community in Al Jazirah facing critical shortages of food, water, medicine and fuel.

Thank you to Raghad El Niwairi for leading this work, and to our community partners and funders for making these events possible. Additional event highlights include:

- **Healing Together – Crafting Together:** Platform hosted an in-person arts-based event in London, Ontario creating space with and for queer racialized youth.
- **Black History Month Initiatives:** We delivered care packages spotlighting GTA-based Black-owned businesses, and hosted a two-part book club reflecting on Dionne Brand’s *An Autobiography of the Autobiography of Reading*, guided by Yasmin Ahmed and Raghad El Niwairi.
- **Community Collaboration:** We proudly supported the Black History Month Art Show & Brunch in partnership with Women’s Health in Women’s Hands.

With gratitude,
The Platform Team

OUR MISSION

To build leadership capacity among Black, Indigenous, and racialized women and gender-diverse youth to advance gender equity and justice.

OUR VISION

For a liberated future where Black, Indigenous, and racialized young women and gender-diverse folks have autonomy over their bodies, land, and decision-making in and for their communities.

OUR WHY

We do this because the voices of Black, Indigenous, and racialized women and gender-diverse youth are too often dismissed within civic and political spaces. We're here to change that.



OUR PROGRAMS

HEALING TOGETHER

Led by Raghad El-Niwairi, Gachi Issa, and Rowa Mohamed,

Healing Together continues to offer trauma-informed, culturally grounded spaces for community connection, creativity, and care.

Healing Together Highlights:



1 Crafting Together

This healing arts gathering hosted in London, ON brought together queer, racialized youth for a day of creativity and community. Participants engaged in hands-on crafting activities that encourage creativity, while cultivating a space for storytelling, community connection, and mutual care. Facilitated by Eisra Mahmoud, the gathering emphasized the importance of creativity as a form of healing and resistance.

2 Black History Month Care Packages

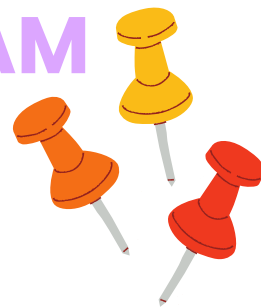
In celebration of Black History Month, Platform curated care packages featuring products from Black-owned businesses based in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Packages were sent to 40 people across what is currently known as Canada.



3 Two-Part Book Club on Dionne Brand's *An Autobiography of the Autobiography of Reading*

Guided by Yasmin Ahmed and Raghad El-Niwairi, this insightful two-part book club invited participants to engage with Dionne Brand's *An Autobiography of the Autobiography of Reading*, which reflects on her encounters with colonial, imperialist, and racist narratives, examining how reading and writing are shaped by these dominant structures—and the difficulty of crafting a narrative of Black life that remains true to its own voice, experience, and consciousness.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



1 Cyber Bytes Project

Led by Sarah Tariq, supported by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), Platform's first digital safety initiative for queer and trans BIPOC youth. We spent time speaking with activists about their needs, concerns, and aspirations for this project through discussions and surveys. We learned that activists urgently need accessible cybersecurity training, protest and border security strategies, legal guidance on digital privacy, and trustworthy tools to protect their data. Insights from community consultations shaped the upcoming workshop series on:

- Cyber Misogyny
- Collective care as a digital security strategy
- Understanding AI's impact on visibility and vulnerability
- Secure organizing in online protest spaces

2 Queer & Racialized Youth Research

Led by Gachi Issa, supported by WAGE, Platform conducted a national research project to better understand the experiences and needs of queer, racialized youth. These findings will inform future programming and advocacy.

3 **Art as Resistance Workshop**

Facilitated by educator Nashwa Lina Khan (she/her), discussed the political history of Street Art, Graffiti and Wheatpasting/Postering as an artistic form of activism by allowing activists to convey powerful messages through visual means. This workshop was attended by 23 people and was hosted at the Center for Social Innovation in Toronto.

4 **Community Workshops & Knowledge Mobilization**

Led by Rowa Mohamed, Platform offered tailored workshops for community organizations such as Women's Health in Women's Hands. These sessions are offered on a sliding scale and center trauma-informed, anti-oppressive values.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

FUNDRAISING FOR SUDAN

Talking About Trees film screening at Innis College: **Raised \$3,324**

Fears and Freedom Dreams Iftar dinner co-hosted with Shoot for Peace and Who's Afraid: **Raised \$898**

Proceeds supported communities in Al Jazirah experiencing extreme shortages of food, medicine, and water.

\$4,222

Total raised for fundraising

COLLABORATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 1 Supported the Black History Month Art Show & Brunch with Women's Health in Women's Hands
- 2 Supported arts, healing, and community connection across multiple cities and diasporic networks

CAPACITY BUILDING

With the support of a multi-year capacity building grant from WAGE – including a critical one-year extension – we were able to deepen our roots and develop in ways that live our values. This support allowed us to strengthen core internal infrastructure, including finance, administration, and people-centered leadership and governance grounded in care and accountability. These behind-the-scenes investments are key to building a more sustainable and responsive organization. Strengthening our internal systems takes time, care, and intention – and it’s critical to building an organization that can not only sustain itself, but also support its team and community in lasting, meaningful ways.

At the same time, through focus groups and key conversations we dedicated time and care to listening to the needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ BIPOC youth in our communities. This work has helped us better understand how to reflect those needs in our programming and build safer, more affirming spaces. Capacity building goes beyond our operational sustainability – it’s about fostering conditions for a future where all Black, Indigenous, and racialized women and gender diverse folks have autonomy over their bodies, land, and decision-making in and for our communities.

Capacity-building isn’t just about infrastructure—it’s about creating liberatory conditions that enable our communities to thrive.

A STORY OF IMPACT

This year, our impact didn't come from one-on-one programming or individual case work. Instead, it grew from our intentional choice to prioritize collective care, community-building, and responsive programming. We chose not to operate "business as usual."

The "Fears and Freedom Dreams" Iftar dinner, co-hosted with Shoot for Peace and Who's Afraid?, embodied this shift. Held during a time of widespread grief and fatigue—locally and globally. It brought together a room of diverse community members, activists, artists, and friends to break bread, reflect, and dream alongside one another.

Rowa, one of our organizers, shared how many attendees expressed how much they needed this gathering. For some, it was their first community event in years. People spoke about how grounding it felt to be physically present again, surrounded by love, culture, and care after so much isolation and uncertainty.

This dinner reminded us that healing is not always about direct service, it's about being present. It's about being in the right relationship with one another. And it's about responding to what our communities actually need: spaces for connection, reflection, and

collective strength.

This is the kind of work we're proud to champion at Platform.



Thank You

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful for the support of all of our donors and supporters, including the organizations listed below, and the many individual donors and partners who fuel our work.



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

FONDATION
CANADIENNE
DES FEMMES



TORONTO
FOUNDATION

TO OUR TEAM & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rowa Mohamed

Gachi Issa

Sarah Tariq

Janine Ayoub

Layla Farhat

Carly Friesen

Raghad El Niwairi

Jade Sullivan

Emily Quesnelle

Rhona Rahmani

Our Finances

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023–2025

For the year end of March 31 **2024–2025** **2023–2024**

Revenue

Grants – Non Profits	73,262	5,000
Grants – Government	64,679	205,225
Sales	9,345	–
Event Sales	3,321	–
Contributions – Corporate	2,000	–
Donations	925	257
Canadian Roots Exchange	–	24,623
CWF Renewal	–	61,816
Girls Action Foundation	–	19,000
Other Primary Income	–	91,817

Total revenue 153,532 407,738

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	104,949	190,430
Honoraria and Professional Fees	34,807	137,806
Administrative Expenditures	7,000	13,750
Publicity and Promotion	3,461	3,844
Amortization	696	453
Facilities	199	1,648
Travel	–	48
Bad Debt Expense	–	3,249

Total expenses 151,112 351,228

Net Revenue 2,420 56,510

Let's stay connected!



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