

### Materials:

- Step-by-Step instructions
- Pre-stencilled Canvas (8x10)
- 2 paint brushes
- Assorted washable acrylic paints
- Paper towel\*
- Cup of water\*
- Protective gear for the table\*

\* Not provided in kit



### Step 1:

Begin painting the woman on your pre-stencilled canvas any shade of brown to black. You will paint a second coat later on.



### Step 2:

- Paint the background any colour of your choice to make the image pop. (We chose various shades of blue!)
- Before the background dries, dip your brush into water, then pat on paper towel until the brush bristles are damp. Dip your brush into white paint and lightly brush over the background to blend the shades of [your colour choice].



### Step 3:

Begin painting parts of the headpiece **green**. The green symbolizes Fertility and Growth, for people of African descent



### Step 4:

Begin painting parts of the headpiece **red**. The red symbolizes Bloodshed and Sacrifice for people of African descent.



### Step 5:

- Begin painting parts of the headpiece **yellow**. The yellow (gold) symbolizes Cultural Richness for people of African descent.
- Let your canvas dry for 15+ minutes before applying a second coat to all the headpiece colours.

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#### Step 6:

- Let your canvas dry after applying two or more coats.
- Begin painting the woman's earrings to a color of your choice. (We chose a dark brown and later stippled yellow over the dark brown color to create a textured effect.)
- Paint lips on the woman's face with a colour of your choice.



#### Step 7:

You are almost done! Now is the time to add empowering words that represent your understanding of women's leadership in the headpiece folds. We chose Leadership, Bold, Feminist, Fierce, Inspire, Brave, and Strength.



#### Step 8:

- Use your smallest brush and begin to carefully outline the silhouette and the headpiece folds in black to make your masterpiece pop!
- Next, apply white strokes in areas depicted in the image above to create a highlighting effect. Wait until dry.

Don't forget to sign your canvas!

## BLACK WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

In celebration of African Heritage Month 2021, Halifax Public Libraries, in partnership with the Black History Month Association, offers high quality programs that highlight and celebrate the rich diversity, culture, and heritage of Black people across Nova Scotia. This year's theme is Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share, and Act.

Black women specifically, have been and continue to be proactive leaders against racial and social injustice through their perseverance, resiliency, and diverse leadership abilities. Despite the many successes, Black women are underrepresented in leadership roles across all industries and sectors, such as government and academia. Prevailing negative stereotypes about Black women, that they are aggressive and incompetent, in comparison to their male and white female counterparts creates a false perception of Black women, which can lead to poor leadership opportunities in the workplace.

Kamala Harris, the first woman and Black woman to ascend the rank of Vice President of the United States of America, can represent a turning point for Black women in leadership. This historic victory was celebrated and seen as a symbol of representation by Black women around the world. Undoubtedly, there is much more work to do.

#### **"People like us can win." – Kamala Harris, 2021**

As more Black women continue to break barriers and rise to prominence, it is important to address the systemic barriers that they have both historically and continue to face due to the intersection of racism, sexism, and classism. Through this initiative, we hope to challenge negative perceptions and stereotypes impacting Black women's success. Halifax Public Libraries is committed to elevating Black women's narratives to best reflect our community and serve as a launch point for growth, for all.

~Chanae Parsons, Programming and Community Engagement Manager, Eastern District

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