

Five Good Ideas®

for building effective relationships
between community organizations,
governments, and businesses

**Agapi Gessesse, Executive Director,
CEE Centre for Black Young Professionals**

Thursday, February 23, 2023 - 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

“We couldn’t do it without you!” “Without strong partners, this couldn’t be done.” We use these phrases because they are at the heart of how we work for social change. Social change does not happen in a vacuum. Agapi Gessesse, Executive Director, CEE Centre for Black Young Professionals, will share her five good ideas on how community organizations, governments, and corporations can create ecosystems where everyone benefits from each other’s work, and advances the social change that we all want to see. She will look at the roles that different actors play and how they can best contribute to a common goal.



Agapi Gessesse is an award-winning, powerful, influential and fearless changemaker named 2020 Top Black woman to watch in Canada. She is the Executive Director of CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals and the Founder of Lehizibu Consulting and Strategy group.

Agapi has captivated audiences on local, and international stages and has been featured and invited as a commentator on media outlets such as CTV National news, BNN, Bay Street Bull, Breakfast Television and more. She speaks and writes on topics such as anti-Black racism, government relations, JEDI, workforce development and youth engagement.

For over a decade, Agapi has worked to enhance the lives of marginalized youth through her work with Toronto Community Housing (TCHC), United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT), and as the Executive Director of POV, an organization focused on breaking barriers for young people in the media and film industry.

Her roles and mandates focus on social impact, and her career leaves a trail of talented, brilliant minds to show for leadership.



Five Good Ideas

1. Build relationships (strategically)
2. Make sure everyone is benefitting mutually through the relationships
3. Directions must have an ESG plan (ESG stands for “environmental, social, and (corporate) governance”)
4. Non-profit organizations should have a government relations plan
5. Determine from the onset what success could look like and how long it will take

Resources

- [How to Build Professional Relationships: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) (Trust Well Network)
- [Five Principles of a Mutually Beneficial Partnership](#) (Emiel van Schaik via LinkedIn)
- [Workiva](#) – The platform for financial reporting, ESG, audit, and risk
- [Webinar slides: Government Relations for Non-Profits 101](#) (Puneet Luthra, Principal Consultant, PSL Consulting)



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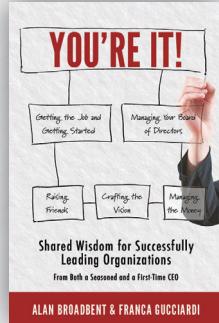
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