

AISHA WICKHAM THOMAS – CORPORATE BIO (2009)



Through her communications consulting practice, **ngoma productions**, Aisha Wickham Thomas specializes in corporate communications, project management, marketing strategy, business plan development, copyediting, speechwriting, event planning and grant proposal writing.

Clients include the City of Hamilton, Centennial College, radio stations FLOW 93.5 (Toronto), 91.7 The Bounce (Edmonton) and 91.5 The Beat (Kitchener), the City of Hamilton, the JUNO Awards, *Canadian Idol* judge Farley Flex, Juno-nominated R&B singer Gary Beals and jazz legend Archie Alleyne.

Aisha is an active leader in Canada's music industry and a well-respected advisor on issues relating to the youth demographic. In addition to running ngoma productions, she is the Executive Director of the Canadian Independent Recording Artists' Association (CIRAA), a national not-for-profit association exclusively representing Canadian independent recording artists. Serving over 4,000 members across Canada, CIRAA's mandate is focused on advocacy, education and member services.

As part of the management team at FLOW 93.5 since its inception in 2001, Aisha played key roles in the new media, programming and promotions departments. She was also responsible for the station's community relations initiatives.

From 2004 to 2006, Aisha was Executive Director of the Urban Music Association of Canada (UMAC), a not-for-profit industry organization. In this role, she worked to promote the domestic and international profile of Canadian urban music and organized networking and professional development opportunities for the organization's members. She also oversaw the nationally-televised *Canadian Urban Music Awards*.

Formerly an Economic Development Officer for the City of Toronto, Aisha actively worked with public and private sector stakeholders to design and implement strategies that support the advancement of the information technology, telecommunications and new media sectors in Toronto.

As part of the *Creative Cities Leadership* team, a group of 20 leaders from the arts, cultural and government sectors, Aisha was part of a business development delegation put together by the provincial and municipal governments from 2004-2006 to advise Toronto on ways to reach its economic potential by engaging the creative industries. She helped to write the final report entitled *Imagine a Toronto*.

Aisha is the recipient of the 2002 National Association of Black Female Executives in Music and Entertainment (NABFEME) Award for "Behind the Scenes Executive of the Year", the 1999 Canadian New Media Award for "Outstanding Young Woman" and the Harry Jerome Award for leadership (1993).

Aisha has a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree in Radio & Television Arts from Ryerson University.