

Black Umbrellas* NEWSLETTER

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Reflecting on a year of resilience

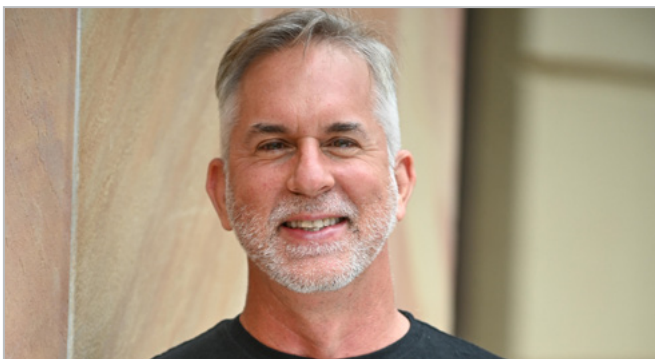
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Reflecting on a year of resilience



As we come to the end of a turbulent year for many, both on a macro and a personal level, we are grateful to be able to reflect on a year where Black Umbrellas has consolidated its expanded offerings, built strong foundations for growth and positioned itself for a large number of exciting opportunities for 2022.

In the final quarter, we have seen persistent themes of celebration, confidence and collaboration in the sphere of entrepreneurship. Black Umbrellas has hosted a range of forward-facing events that have emphasised the importance of developing black-owned SMEs as a critical component in rebuilding future economic growth within South Africa.

2021 has been a year of building back bigger and better, with a strong focus on positioning Black Umbrellas for the future we envision. A future which

involves entrepreneurial and innovative initiatives that seek to open doors for SMEs. With 344 SMEs having been onboarded to our virtual incubation programme this year, we are confident that the digitisation of our programme offering is instrumental to the contributions the businesses within our programmes make to the economy. In 2022, we will continue this momentum with ever increasing impact.

The initiatives that we will be undertaking in the new year are exciting. Amongst them, the newly developed Accelerator Programme stands out as a mechanism to facilitate access to procurement, finance and networking opportunities for SMEs.

Partnership and collaboration have also grown increasingly significant as we pursue economic reform. Without the various organisations and individuals in our ecosystem, it would have been impossible to maintain the kind of positivity and resilience that we have. With that, I would like to thank our donors, every entrepreneur who continues to trust us with their dreams, and the dedicated Black Umbrellas team for remaining steadfast throughout this year.

May you have a restful festive season and a new year filled with prosperity.

Mark Frankel

The Black Umbrellas Club

Supporting innovative black entrepreneurs,
the heroes of the South African economy

What is the Black Umbrellas Club?

The Black Umbrellas Club is an individual giving initiative in support of black-owned SMEs in the Black Umbrellas enterprise development programme. By joining the Black Umbrellas Club, individuals and organisations can contribute to rebuilding the South African economy, with direct support to the SMEs that create employment, innovate and inspire communities.

Our virtual incubation programme allows black-owned SMEs to access the support they need to grow into viable and sustainable businesses that create jobs. As the champions of the economy, SMEs require unyielding support to facilitate their growth and capability.

Joining the Black Umbrellas Club is simple: visit www.blackumbrellas.co.za/donate to make your first donation, which automatically makes you a member.

Why donate?

- Give a black entrepreneur access to the training, mentorship and business support they need to grow.
- Help an SME to become sustainable enough to create jobs
- Be a part of uplifting the communities that black-owned SMEs serve
- The process is quick and easy
- Give as little as R100 per month
- Stand the chance to win monthly cash prizes in our lucky draw.

East London Business Lounge Launch

Black Umbrellas proudly launched its first business lounge in Berea, East London, on the 23rd of September. The intimate launch was attended by a delegate of Black Umbrellas partners, including Mr. Mpumi Fundam, Senior Manger of Enterprise Development at the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECD), and Mr. Ayanda Gqoboka, CEO of the Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency (JoGEDA). Liso Fawule, Black Umbrellas alumni and founder of ELIMNA TECH, also joined the event as a speaker.

The launch of the business lounge marked the beginning of an initiative that seeks to give entrepreneurs and small business owners access to essential office infrastructure and resources. To commemorate the occasion, Mark Frankel, Black Umbrellas CEO, and Xolile Ndumndum, Black Umbrellas COO, officially cut the ribbon before welcoming guests into the lounge.

Having launched the a Virtual Incubator in 2020, Black Umbrellas has actively been working to extend its reach across the country.

At the launch of the business lounge, speakers noted the exciting opportunities that the space represents for entrepreneurs. Facilities include boardrooms with projectors, printing facilities, telephones, WiFi and access to professional reception staff. Born out of the vision to give business owners essential access to the resources they need to grow their businesses, the business lounge is a beacon of hope for its surrounding communities. In the Eastern Cape, where levels of entrepreneurship tend to be relatively low, this coworking space plays a critical role in the local economy's development.

The lounge is open to all entrepreneurs, who can visit the space at Chesswood Office Park, Berea, East London.



National Enterprise Development Awards

The 9th annual Black Umbrellas National Enterprise Development Awards (NEDAs) took place on 11 November 2021. The virtual event celebrated top performing entrepreneurs in the Black Umbrellas programme with a formal ceremony that included inspirational speeches, trophy handovers and captivating performances.

The work done through the Black Umbrellas virtual incubation programme supports SMEs to ensure their sustainability and ultimately prepare them for procurement opportunities, financing and markets. The businesses on the programme go on to create jobs and contribute positively to their communities and the South African economy as a whole.

Recognising that celebrating SMEs' achievements is an integral part of nurturing them, the NEDAs were conceptualised at the request of President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2013.

This year's NEDAs categories were formulated with the intent of giving due recognition to entrepreneurs who have made great strides in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. We would like to proudly congratulate this year's winners:



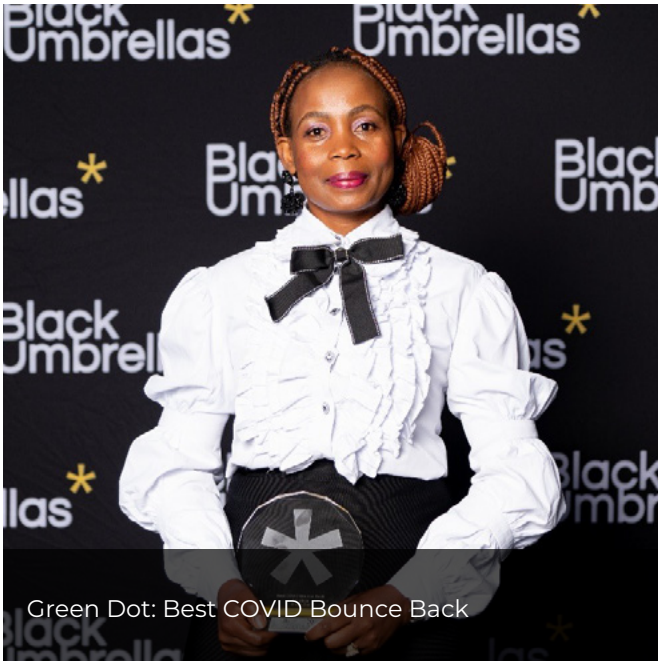
Tendai ICT: Most Resilient Business and the People's Choice Award



GMSQ (MS Quality R Trading Enterprise): Overall National Winner and Most Jobs Preserved in a Pandemic



Bolwa Security: Most Jobs Created in a Pandemic



Green Dot: Best COVID Bounce Back



Sampax Health: Black Umbrellas Ambassador's Award



NEDA Awards 2021

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2021



Each year, Black Umbrellas hosts a three-day event to commemorate Global Entrepreneurship Week, facilitating key discussions and activities for South African entrepreneurs. This year's theme revolved around running an effective business in a digital world.

Over three days (9 -11 November), BU hosted a series of masterclasses, panel discussions, exhibitions and a pitching competition. With presentations by Jay Zhou of Huawei and Tasneem Mohammed and Asmaa Fenniri of REGENT BUSINESS SCHOOL, the week was one filled with knowledge-sharing and business inspiration. The panel discussion consisted of insights

from Steven Howard of Netcash, Shahiem Patel of REGENT BUSINESS SCHOOL and Truman Hadebe from Supply Chain Academy. On the final day of the series of events, Theo Baloyi, founder of proudly South African brand Bathu, delivered a keynote address.

GEW is an international initiative geared towards empowering entrepreneurs and those who face systemic barriers to starting and scaling their own companies. This year, we looked toward the serious work of rebooting our communities and our economies for a better, more sustainable and equitable post-pandemic world.



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Winner:

**2019 International Business Innovation Association
Dinah Adkins Incubator of the Year Award**

**Black
Umbrellas***

