

# ASIA GRANT

BLACK ORCHID SPA - Abbotsford, British Columbia



Asia Grant shares a lesson in building a business, "It's all about hindsight, in a way, and not making the same mistake over again. And she would know; Asia has built her company herself, including doing physical renovations to her business space.

"I actually personally built this whole thing," she describes, "like down to every piece of flooring, all the casing, and I painted every wall." Her sense of accomplishment shows as she recalls how she started out. "I was in between two jobs, and I had just finished a contract. The space came up and I thought, well, it came up because I've been looking for about two years for the perfect space. So I took it, and then when I had just finished it, I went into labour."

Family is very important to her. She explains, "I have three daughters; and when I was growing up I was fortunate enough to have a father, that said about every crazy idea I had, 'Okay go do it.' So I have four different career paths that I could do, and each one is successful." And she's taught her daughters the same philosophy. "I've tried to instill that in my daughters, that you don't have to just be one thing - if you pick the wrong thing, you can change your mind. It's good to be diversified and find everything that is your passion - not just try to find one."

Her passion shows in the beautiful Black Orchid Spa & Salon. The spa offers a full service menu of all esthetic

services like manicures and pedicures, but also hair cuts, colours and professional stylist options. It offers spa treatments and relaxation massage, as well as products and services geared to men. "We really try to appeal to the whole family," Asia states, "Managing stress in this uncertain world is key, and we encourage families and small groups to come together. Getting time with loved ones is so important."

She talks about inspiration she has had along the way. "Growing up I had a best friend, Tamara, and she is an aesthetician as well. She and her sister, Tiffany, started a business in the basement of her house. She has now been running that business for about 15 years, and those two girls are my biggest inspiration. I saw them kind of come from the bottom, all the way up. We go to trade shows together and things like that. It really gets us together, like the family aspect of it. I've met so many business women over the years at different trade shows, it's been really interesting."

Another support that she talks about is Stó:lō Community Futures, who provide business loans to Indigenous entrepreneurs, but also provide services like business counselling and training. "I didn't have a lot of obstacles with financing because Stó:lō and the band here worked really well with me, to get a little bit of funding,

at first, and then they were instrumental in helping me get funding for the COVID-19 Relief Fund, as well."

She goes on, "What I most like in my career isn't just having a business, it's having passions. I'm also an international nail educator for a nail brand. I can go and teach classes around the world. That's really fun. I've been to Dallas and different places in the States doing that."

She adds, "You really have to trust yourself when you're in business for yourself. You make mistakes all the time, but then you follow a different goal." She laughs, "Let's go this way."



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