

Black Creek

OUTBOUND



[BLACK] HISTORY IN CANADA

Detailing our unforgettable **8-day** journey across Southwestern Ontario, learning about Black history



Ontario Trillium Foundation
Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

AfrikaOutbound.org

The Why

How much do you know about Canadian history?

Do you know there were Black settlements all over Southwestern Ontario, from Windsor, Chatham-Kent, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, to Oro and Owen Sound? Do you know what happened to all the historically Black-owned land in the province? Do you know who Mary Ann Shadd is, and what she achieved for Black people? Neither did we, before embarking on our journey.

Our education system only shares a part of Canadian history. And unfortunately most of what is shared does not include us.

“Black” is not a monolith. We have our own unique histories, cultures, struggles, and contributions. What we hear about Canada’s diversity often fails to identify African Canadians as their own distinctive cultural group. Frankly, we need to recognize the African Canadian populations who paved the way for the diaspora to live healthy and meaningful lives here.

Land Acknowledgements

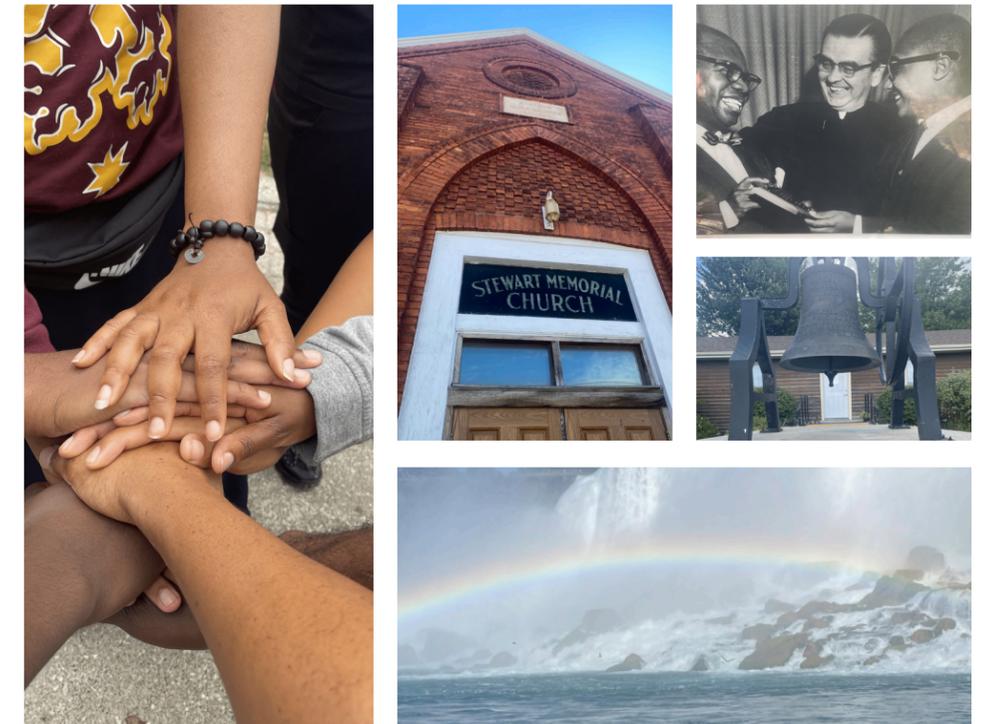
We acknowledge that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples who have long standing relationships to the land, water and region of Southwestern Ontario. As Torontonians, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. Tkaronto is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Another hidden aspect of Canadian history is the relationship between Blacks/African Canadians and Indigenous Americans. While students learn about relationships between white settlers and Indigenous Americans, we don’t dive into the early relational stories that people of colour have with one another, especially outside of the slavery-colonialism narrative.

Our cultures and histories are intricately connected. If we or our children are not going to learn about it in school, we need to take matters into our own hands, before our elders leave us and take a bit of that history with them.

We created this ‘zine not only to share our experiences with you, but to encourage you to get out there and make the journey yourself! It’s so worth it. The views are amazing (a lot of it is by the water), and you’ll walk away feeling more connected to people,

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Zine designed by Jessica Campbell IG @CampJess

Map	1-2
About Afrika Outbound	3
Introductions	4
The Journey	5-19
Community Highlights	20
Self-guided Tour	21
Doodles	22
Acknowledgements	23



About Afrika Outbound

What is Afrika Outbound?

Akilah: Afrika Outbound is a Black- and youth-led nonprofit organization providing youth from marginalized communities with afrocentric educational opportunities through the medium of travel. Our greater goal is to provide youth with life-enriching travel experiences to Africa.

Who are the people behind Afrika Outbound?

Akilah: I co-direct Afrika Outbound alongside Andron Mckoy, and our lovely board members Deji Adesanya, Chandni Khatri, and Hanna Kalif.

What inspired you to create Afrika Outbound?

Akilah: In 2017 on a trip to the Philippines, I met this 27-year old named Peter who worked at the hotel I was staying at. We started talking and he was telling me how much he wished he could travel. He had never even been to the capital, Manila.

At this moment, it really sank in how lucky I was because there are youth back home who also feel this way. I realized I was finally in a position in my life where I could help change that.

When did the organization feel like everything was coming together?

Akilah: Our "Woah! This is really happening!" moment came once we started telling people about the idea and they supported it. People were reaching out, asking us how they can get involved and how they can help. We continuously emphasize, we're just the glue connecting the pieces together. This whole organization is a community effort. It took a community effort to create

and run the Black Creek Outbound In Ontario program, and it will take a community effort to start sending youth to Africa.

Why do you feel it is important for Black youth to travel?

Akilah: Many Black youth have the unfortunate burden of being placed into a box that limits their potential. A lot of the messaging in mainstream media, in our education system, and in our society feeds Black youth a narrative of who they are, instead of letting them discover and define their own identities.

Afrika Outbound was founded so youth who grew up in the underserved neighbourhoods of Toronto, many of whom are Black, have an opportunity to expand their horizons by experiencing the world. We think it's important for all youth to travel, but youth from marginalized communities face increased financial barriers to travel. Yet, it's these very same youth who could use a break from their surroundings. When our surroundings feel limiting, we feel limited. Travelling breaks these limits. It forces you to challenge everything you thought you knew about the world and yourself.

What do you recommend for youth who can't travel?

Akilah: Explore the city! Visit the Scarborough Bluffs, Roncesvalles, Leslieville, Little Portugal, Willowdale. We're so lucky to live in a diverse city like Toronto. We have access to so many foods, cultural programming, and festivals. There's always something new to experience.

Introductions

Nneka Allen taught us that our introduction allows us to tell people who we are and what we value, so they don't assume it for us.



The Founder

I'm **Akilah Blackett**. "Wise One Who Reasons". Eldest daughter of a Bajan father and Scottish-Canadian mother. One of seven siblings, granddaughter, niece, and chosen sister. A dependable & generous, loud, high-energy, community-centered people connector and world traveller.



The Storyteller

Blessing O. Nwodo is an African Storyteller, Incorrigible Feminist, and Norm Breaker. When she's not relishing fashion, she can often be found pulverizing the patriarchy.



The Athlete

My name is **Kaiden Birch**. I am a creative, determined football player who loves different types of music and cars. I'm also a Black teen who loves playing video games and hanging with friends.



The Activist

Kwame is a servant of God and the people. His uncompromising revolutionary spirit is grounded in an Anti-Capitalist ideology. As a Pan-African, he lives by the philosophy Ubuntu "I am because We are." Consequently, until our mother Africa is free, no African anywhere in the world will be free. Kwame is an avid reader, a lover of music, student of nature and a seeker of truth. Throughout his life he has learnt love people and use things because the opposite never works.

The Freckled Wonder

Andron Mckoy is a freckled Black Canadian/Jamaican man with an old soul and new curiosities. A rational optimist with a heart for people and a passion for progress. A man whose legacy will follow the words, "He left environments better than he found them". An aid to many, fuel for some and introspective with those willing to go deep. A man that will change the world one day.



The Creative

My name is **Jessica Campbell**. I am the quirky & independent oldest daughter to my Floridan melting pot family. I believe in using creativity and optimism to support my circle of friends, family and underserved communities.



The Film & TV Buff

I'm **Kaison Stone**, an aspiring multidisciplinary artist and producer. Being people-taught, nomadic by nature and hailing from a family of resilient islanders, I serve as the glue that brings people together in everything I do.



The Comedian

I'm **Sagal Ali**, Muslim Somali comedian. I'm a poet, cat owner content with life, and an advocate for self expression. I like basketball. Meow



Day 1

📍 Location: Hamilton

Saturday, August 13, 2022



Outbound team with Aileen Duncan, Mo Knaus and Rev. Richard Dove at the Stewart Memorial Church

Our journey begins! First stop, the Stewart Memorial Church in Hamilton. We pull up to the red-bricked church and are greeted by a member of the congregation, Mo Knaus. She gives us the history of the church's construction in the 1800s, and we snap a picture touching the original bricks. Eileen Duncan, who grew up in the church, shares stories of her family and the important role the church played in Black communities at the time. It wasn't just a place of worship, but a community center and refuge. We learn about Emancipation Day in Canfield, and only begin to understand how interconnected the communities we'd be visiting are.



*"You can travel, you get fed."
- Sagal*

Touching the original 18th century bricks



dart-throwing contest

playing piano

Sagal's birthday

dancing

connections

beginnings

pizza lunch

Sagal

Today was my birthday. I was excited to see what was going to happen but secretly running on fumes I had barely slept. Before I got into the car, I got to talk to Kaiden and his mom, and we all took group pictures. The car ride was a nice bonding moment to get to know Blessing and Akilah, whom I had decided to instead call "Akilah And The Bee" during the trip. I told them my cat would miss me, and a plethora of topics including the entire plot to *Frozen*, how amazingly advanced the plots of Disney movies are, news stories, my love of Harriet Tubman, whom I named my cat, Ms. Harriet Catman, after. I even read them one of my poems.

Yes, this car ride was going well. When we got to the Stewart Memorial Church, the Muslim in me almost didn't want to go in there, but it was chill. They showed us where they used to baptize babies and we got to see the church basement and got a whole booklet of knowledge; we were told stories, overall learning on this day was a 10/10.

After eating, I said I wanted to go on stage. I ended up manifesting myself up there and shaking some maracas. I shook them to the best of my ability to make my Afrika Outbound family proud. When I went back to the group, they were like, "Wow, Sagal you did that, huh?"



Day 2

📍 Location: Fort Erie/St. Catharines

Sunday, August 14, 2022



Group shot with Lezlie Harper

We drive from Hamilton to Fort Erie, all the way down to Niagara. We meet with Lezlie Harper, operator of Niagara Bound Tours. She gives us the history of Waverly Beach, along with tidbits on notable figures, places and events, like the NAACP and The Niagara Movement, Harriet Tubman, Mary Ann Shadd, the Coloured Cemetery, and the story behind "Uncle Tom".

During the tour, she highlighted something important which can often be forgotten: Black folks who descended from the Underground Railroad, some call themselves African Canadian, have a unique history. As first- and second-generation Black Canadians, we often defer to our Caribbean or African heritage and experiences.

African Canadians also have their own unique heritage to be celebrated and remembered.



"I had work to do and I decided, let me put the books down and go have fun with everyone else." - Jess



Akilah

On this day I was humbled. I told the youth not to do something, only for me to get carried away in the very thing I told them not to do a few moments later. Though I was an organizer and chaperone, this journey was as much for me as it was for the youth. I was learning and growing right alongside them. My nerves quelled a bit on this day. I was less concerned if everyone was paying attention or having a good time. I could guide, but ultimately, I needed to trust them to be responsible for their own experience.

Jess

It felt so good to be by the beach when we arrived in Fort Erie. I felt extremely fortunate to have learned about the history of the beach. The thought that someone would swim across the Niagara River for the freedom I was born with struck me hard. Being from the United States, I had no idea how closely linked the civil rights movement in the United States and Canada were. I'll never forget how comforting this day felt because I came in with such an open mind and heart, as well as so much empathy and understanding for those who came before me.



empathy of struggles
big chair
St. Catharines
group hug
waterfall
NAACP



Learning about Richard Pierpoint



Group pic at Freedom Park

Day 3

📍 Location: Niagara Falls

Monday, August 15, 2022

Group pic before the Niagara Falls boat cruise



Today, we bonded. A whole day dedicated to having fun and getting to know each other on a deeper level. We did an escape room and made it out in an hour and seven minutes. We took a magical boat ride under the Falls to try something new. The views were beautiful and we would highly recommend this tour.

We closed the day with a good old-fashioned bbq at the Mckoy family home. Andron's mom was sweet enough to cook for us, which frankly was the best meal of the whole trip!

Setting this day aside to decompress and to check in with each other really set the tone for the rest of the trip. We all felt like old friends, though we had only just met that summer. Scratch that — we felt like family.

Although Jess couldn't be with us that day, due to work obligations, she was with us in spirit.

"My favourite was going to Andron's family's house because we got to see a nice, positive, and supportive Black family." - Kaison



Kwame and Kaison killing it at Skee-Ball



Akilah

Day three was our bonding day. In retrospect, I'm so happy we set a day aside to just have fun. We started the day with a team-building activity — an escape room. I quickly realized how smart all the youth were and how well we all vibed. I thought about how lucky I was to have been connected with this specific group of youth. During the Falls boat ride, I thought, "What a unique experience, and I get to spend it with great people who make it so incredibly easy for me." Then we saw a rainbow. I felt blessed.

Kaison

The third day got a bit less "restful" when the unthinkable happened at the midway: I'd lost my wallet! I was prepared to call it quits and start cancelling cards until a total stranger returned it, out of the blue. I learned two things from that experience. For one, I was definitely luckier than I thought! But in addition, it gave me a sense of the power community has. It would have been easy to panic and give up, but knowing I had people I could count on to help (both in AO and this country I call home) really helped, and it's shaped the way I think about less fortunate events.

up-close rainbow

escape room

Andron's family home

bonding

long convos

quarters

playing card games

Day 4

📍 Location: Chatham Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Group pic outside the Black Mecca Museum



We make the long journey from Niagara Falls to Chatham. Our first stop, the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society and Black Mecca Museum. We notice the small town vibes right away. It's quiet and there's a bunch of kids playing across the street at the community pool.

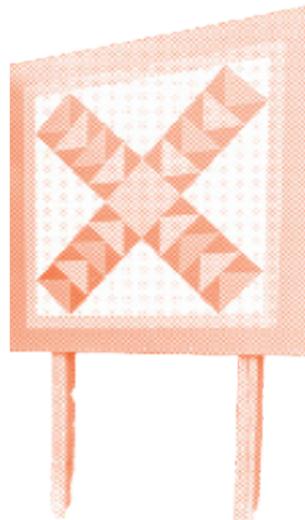
We're honoured with a neighbourhood walk with Elder Dorothy. We learn about the small town of Chatham that had a huge impact on the Black Freedom Movement in North America. It was once called a "black

mecca" (hence the name). Black people came here and built their communities from the ground up, taking on all sorts of professions from lawyers, to educators, to skilled labourers.

Dorothy Wright-Wallace



"Let's unpack that." - Kaison



Getting into the archives



Kaison

Chatham was easily a highlight of the trip for me. From athletes to doctors, it was amazing to learn about the history of a thriving, affluent Black settlement.

Even in the area's present form, seeing a small tight-knit town of Underground Railroad descendants interacting at a park was nothing short of inspiring. As the GTA continues to urbanize and develop, I hope there can be room for a similar thriving Black region, where people can celebrate their heritage with fellow community members every day.

Dorothy

migration

segregated schools

truly understanding Canada

everyone knows everyone

vocational training

archives

Akilah next to statue of Mary Ann Shadd



Chatham Coloured All-Stars uniform



Day 5

📍 Location: Dresden/Buxton

Wednesday, August 17, 2022



The Liberty Bell outside the Buxton National Historic Site

Today was heavy. Up till now, we had mainly heard positive stories of community, strength, perseverance, and prosperity. We visited the Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History, and for the first time, heard the in-depth story of Josiah Henson. We heard more about slavery across the Americas, saw the torture devices used and the conditions of the slave ships. We debated the value of these things being put on display, and if they outweigh the harm this type of shock history has on

Black people. Some of us feel dehumanized and embarrassed looking at these horrific things, especially in the presence of non-Black folk. We end the day at the Buxton National Historic Site. We're left with questions about land ownership. We're curious as to what happened to the land given to Black folks at the time.

"Yes... we call Josiah Henson Uncle Jo..." - Andron



Blessing in front of the Henson house



How many can we fit on one couch?

Andron

Our time at the Josiah Henson Museum felt the heaviest for me. To hear the story of a former slave escaping with his family under the condition he was in; start a community and help free other slaves with the lowest possible chance of survival, left our group inspired by the level of resilience a person can have under harsh conditions. His story left our team in silent reflection. Our freedom became much more clear, our lives felt a lot more meaningful and our spirits felt a lot more empowered. When he landed on Canadian soil and spoke the words "I will use my freedom well", he left words that reminded us of the opportunities we have in front of us. It was also a highlight to eat an apple from an apple tree he planted...it wasn't sweet though.

We took in a heavy load of information around the actual life of a slave and their journey. Both at the Josiah Henson Museum & the Buxton Museum, we stepped closer into the dark reality of a horrific time in history. Gratitude, anger, frustration, and hope. We have come a long way as a people but we still have so much further to go.



Reflecting under the tree of Josiah Henson's resting place

drum
truth or dare
got free McDonald's
I can do anything
big talk under the tree
history of land ownership

Day 6

📍 **Location: Emeryville** **Thursday, August 18, 2022**

Group pic with the Walls after a warm conversation



We spend the day with the Walls family on their family-owned property, which is also the location of the John Freeman Walls Historic Site. We hear stories about their



family history and of their great- great-grandfather, John Freeman Walls. It blew our minds to find out that Rosa Parks not only knew of this place, but even used to come up to visit. We talk about land ownership, the passing down of legacy, and the

next generation's responsibility to carry the torch, much like the Walls have for their family. We arrive in Windsor later that afternoon, and it's surprisly gorgeous. We're tired but we link up with Papa Mike in the lobby of our hotel. This is our first time meeting him in person, so we definitely didn't want to miss our opportunity!



Blessing

Josiah Henson is dead, but we got to eat the apples from the tree that he planted. The tree outlasted him. Rosa Parks is also gone, but we got to see the tree that she planted and used to come visit. Trees don't require maintenance in that way. So even if they couldn't maintain the buildings at the Walls place, because of money and things like that, even if something happens and they shut down the place, the trees will remain there. Even if there's no sign saying Rosa Parks planted the tree.

Jess

I loved when we got to the Walls property and saw signs indicating how far each state had to travel to reach the end of the Underground Railroad. Of course, my first instinct was to look for the Florida sign, which wasn't there. I had forgotten that Florida was such a young state and wasn't really a thing yet. It was a nice moment when Dr. Walls asked our names and what we were doing in life. It felt like community, like he really wanted to get to know us. I can imagine how exhausting it would be to talk about the same thing with every visitor. I could only imagine how lively and safe the land was for all those people who traveled for their freedom, as well as for Rosa Parks to visit and reflect under her favorite tree. It's sad to hear that once Black people got land, it was sometimes harsh land, and some were unable to maintain it. And that's why most of it is not Black-owned anymore.

Rosa Parks' tree

Papa mike

we had hundreds of acres of land

amazing grace

ownership

the land felt warm and fuzzy

interconnected

Group shot with the incredible Papa Mike



Honouring Rosa Park's special tree

"I get lost even with Google maps, but Black people were out here following the North Star to freedom."

-Blessing

Day 7

📍 Location: Amherstburg/Windsor

Friday, August 19, 2022



The Historic Sandwich Town Arch

Our jam packed day starts at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum with a tour. Taking us back to day one, we hear about the role church played for freedom seekers. Some churches were not only built by freedom seekers, but they had false floors, creating a hiding space for when the bounty hunters came seeking to bring escaped slaves back to their "owners". Next, we meet with Lana Talbot, who gives us a walking tour of historically Black Windsor neighbourhoods. During our walk, we're acosted by security, who asks

us what we are doing there and why we are filming. We are in a public and populated location behind city hall. Lana gives him a piece of her mind. We're all uncomfortable, but laugh it off. We can't believe that just happened. We share a meal at Diva's Delite and take a walk by the river-front. We close our journey with a trip to the movies. We saw *Nope*. It was definitely a "no".



Eating Jamaican food at Diva's Delite



Lana Talbot's art collection in the First Baptist Church

Sagal

Today, I tried to learn how to play the drums. I was not very good at it but Blessing and Kaiden did much better. I remember singing church music, the iCarly theme song, and High School Musical.

We met an elder named Lana. She was a good storyteller, really engaging, a singer and a painter; very multi-talented. She told me that I had a beautiful singing voice. Loved when we went on a neighbourhood walk and the entire community knew each other. It was nice to see.

Blessing

Today, a lot of people care about a lot, but don't have the time to think, learn, give time to causes, or do things that would make their lives better and happier because they are always working to survive.

This picture strengthens my resolve to continue to find a way to do things that I care about, and not spend all my time running on the patriarchal hamster wheel of capitalism. Afrika Outbound gave us the time and space to build community and to learn history. For that, I am grateful. Like Tempie's mother, I hope that we find more ways to subvert the rat race, and keep our ears to the ground in those chimney corners of the world where decisions are being made, so we can see when something monumental is happening around us that requires us to act, in order to liberate ourselves and others.

lemonade shots

happy

singing in a church

Jamaican food

movie Nope

drumming in the church

*What do you think your friends would say if you encouraged them to join the program?
"They'd probably say no, I'm not going."
- Kaiden*

Day 8

📍 Location: Windsor
Saturday, August 20, 2022

It's time to pack up and go home. Before concluding our journey, we make a stop at the Tower of Freedom in downtown Windsor.

As we stand around the tower reflecting on the past week, an older lady approaches us. She's speaking another language and we do not understand her. She manages to tell us that she's a refugee from Uganda. She gives us some life advice and tells us to remember our history. We look at each other and laugh.

If that's not symbolism, we don't know what is.

windmills

abc car game

I'll miss you guys

saw a dog

money tips

drive back

Last all-hands of the trip



Group pic at the Tower of Freedom monument



The guys



Community Highlights

This past summer we had a fantastic visit from a youth program called Afrika Outbound.

Sam had asked me to come over to help our Summer Staff (Faith and Mariah) with a tour for the group as she always likes to throw me as a "community elder" and like I always say, I'm just part of the community and have always lived here. I'm always happy to share stories of my community, what it was like growing up here and what the community was like historically too.

When the Black community in Chatham really thrived and prospered, one third of the city were Black citizens (in the 1850s). But today, you might not see that when you visit, as the population has decreased significantly over the generations. Opportunities outside of our community, post-secondary education, jobs and bigger and better things sway much of Chatham's youth to leave and not come back. But we want to make sure their history and their stories are continued to be shared, learned from and celebrated in the museum.

I want youth, especially Black youth to see that there are people that can be their heroes in Canadian history. That strides have been made, that barriers have been broken, and they have the right to be anywhere they want and need to be. Being able to share the stories of my community with the youth from Afrika Outbound was a great joy. Access to Black history is important to us and this group brings access to its youth.

Since Chatham itself is a small city, many people outside of our area and in Toronto may not hear about us or know that we are here. When Sam told me that Afrika Outbound had planned to visit as many Black history sites in the province as possible, I was excited to see such passion in the group organizers in sharing a full history story. Stories in Canada's Black history overlap so much with each other and with the Black histories in the United States that to get a good understanding you have to visit multiple places.

I really enjoyed the group's visit and look forward to future visits and sharing my community's stories with them.

Dorothy Wallace, President of the Board of Directors at The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society and Black Mecca Museum

The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society and Black Mecca Museum shares the story of Chatham's Black community from the 1780's until present day. Through our museum room, archive and historical walking tour of the neighbourhood, we strive to bring history to life in a meaningful way. Sharing the history in a truthful manner, as it happened, is so very important to us here at the museum. So often, Canadian history is looked at through a singular lens and as being the land of milk and honey, and that isn't the case. Sharing both the struggles and triumphs of the communities who built our nation is where true history lies. We celebrate the successes of the community in the Black Mecca Museum: including the people from the Black community who broke barriers and paved the path for future generations. But we also share the stories of the hardships, what the community had to go through: from the abolitionist movements, the civil rights movements, to anti-Black racism in the present day. *Black history is Canadian history.* As Canadians, it is our history to learn and to share. Learning from the past can lead us to a better future.

- Samantha Meredith, Executive Director-Curator

Self Guided Tour

For the people that are thinking about taking this tour yourself. Here are the cities visted, the activities we did, where we stayed and restaurants we visted.

01 Toronto to Hamilton 1hr drive

Activities: Stewart Memorial Church, Hamilton Latino Festival
 Hotel: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
 Hamilton Restaurants: Saint James Espresso Bar & Eatery, The Hearty Hooligan, Shorty's Pizza

02 Hamilton to Fort Erie /Niagara Falls 1hr30mins drive

Activities: Niagara Bound Tours
 Hotel: Howard Johnson Plaza by Wyndham by the Falls / Niagara Falls
 Niagara Falls Restaurants: Psalms Mediterranean Food, Continental Pancake House

03 Niagara Falls

Activities: Escape Room - Adventure Rooms
 Falls Boat Tour - Niagara City Cruises
 Andron's family home
 Hotel: Howard Johnson Plaza by Wyndham by the Falls / Niagara Falls

04 Niagara Falls to Chatham 3hr20mins drive

Activities: The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society & Black Mecca Museum
 Retro Suites Hotel
 Hotel: Comfort Inn
 Chatham Restaurants: Chilled Cork, Loaded 2 Go

05 Dresden/Buxton

Activities: Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History & Buxton National Historic Site & Museum
 Hotel: Comfort Inn

06 Chatham to Windsor 1hr15mins drive

Activities: John Freeman Walls Historic Site and Underground Railroad Museum
 Hotel: Best Western Plus - Waterfront Hotel (Amazing views)
 Windsor Restaurants: Georgia Raes, Diva's Delite Caribbean and Canadian Cuisine, The Barrel House, Thyme To-Go

07 Amherstburg

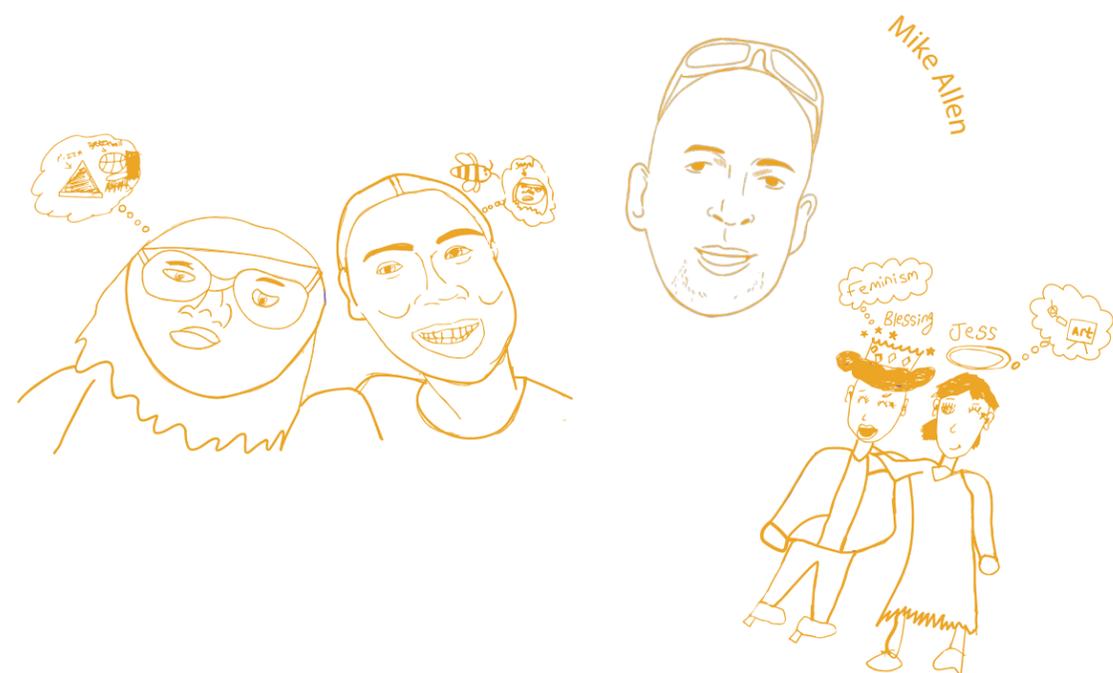
Activities: Amherstburg Freedom Museum, Sandwich Street private walking tour, First Baptist Church, The Shadd Sculpture
 Hotel: Best Western Plus - Waterfront

08 Windsor to Toronto 4hr drive

Activities: Tower of Freedom Monument
 ABC car game



"We are All Connected"

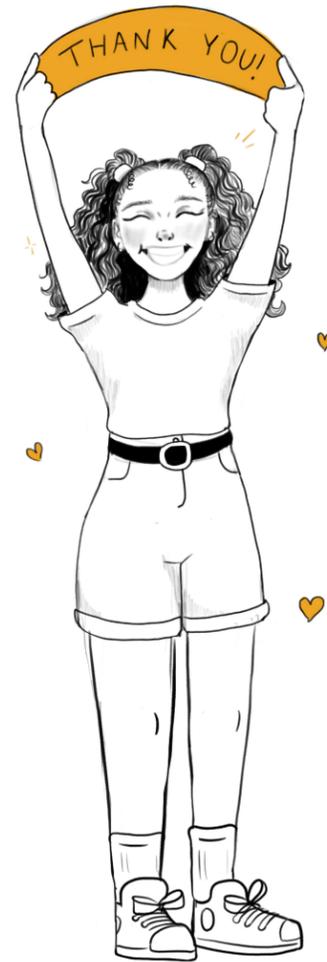


Acknowledgments

While we learned about many powerful historical figures who were pioneers for Black communities throughout our journey, we want to recognize the people who are doing the work today to preserve and perpetuate Black stories.

In honour of all the wonderful humans we met along our journey, our very own artist and program participant, Jessica Campbell, created memorialized drawings of you. She spent a long time familiarizing herself with your faces, making sure to depict your likeness and spirit in each drawing. We didn't just want to include photos of you. We wanted the images to be intentional, to show effort, patience, and care. Like you showed us. We hope you enjoy them!

- Thank you to **Nneka Allen** for being a loving mentor to us.
- Thank you **Papa Mike** a.k.a. **Mike Allen** for helping us plan and organize the trip, checking up on us, and connecting us with your people.
- Thank you to **Aileen Duncan, Mo Knaus, and Rev. Richard Dove** for all the hard work you do at the Stewart Memorial Church and sharing your stories with us.
- Thank you to **Lezlie Harper** for giving us a lesson on African-Canadian history and sharing your perspective with us.
- Thank you to our facilitators at the Black Mecca Museum, **Dorothy Wright-Wallace, Sam Meredith, Deirdre Mccorkindale, and the two sweet summer volunteers** for your support and continued work in preserving African-Canadian heritage.
- Thank you to the **lovely staff and volunteers** at the Josiah Henson Museum and the Buxton National Historic Site!
- Thank you to **Dr. Bryan** and **Anna Walls** for inspiring us and taking care of your land.
- Thank you to **Mary-Katherine Whelan, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie** and the folks at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum for being allies and doing the work.
- And of course, thank you to the beautiful and talented **Lana Talbot** for the painting and taking your time to give us a personal and local perspective of the historical and current-day Windsor area.
- HUGE shout out to **Khulud Baig** for supporting us with developing the curriculum. Could not have done it without!
- Another huge shout out to **Olivia Waterman** for helping with our social media, including spending 11 hours driving to Windsor and back, stopping along the way to get content for our promo Reel. You're a Reel one haha!



This program would not have been possible without the generosity of the **Youth Opportunities Fund, a program of the Ontario Trillium Foundation** and the government of Ontario! We're so grateful.

Much love to our communities and all the other folks and organizations out there supporting and doing the work.

Love y'all! xxx

In loving memory of Colin Henry & Veronica Dekid-Henry



"May your light surround us, may your love enfold us, may your power protect us, may your presence watch over us, wherever we are, you are there."

I'll miss you guys



Keeping the Flame
of
Freedom Alive

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN CANADA
LE CHEMIN DE FER CLANDESTIN AU CANADA

From the early 18th century until the American Civil War, settlements along the Detroit and Niagara rivers were important termini of the Underground Railroad. White and black abolitionists formed a network to help fugitives find freedom from oppression. By 1860, some 20,000 freedom-seekers reached as far as New Orleans, and secretly heading north from slave states like Kentucky and Virginia. Some returned south after the outbreak of the Civil War, but many remained, helping to forge the modern Canadian identity.

De début du XIX^e siècle à la guerre de Sécession, des villages le long des rivières Détroit et Niagara servirent de terminus au chemin de fer clandestin. Ce réseau d'abolitionnistes blancs et noirs aida les Afro-Américains à fuir l'oppression pour rejoindre la liberté. Avant, en 1860, près de 20 000 réfugiés d'esclavage atteignirent, certains d'être recueillis comme le Kentucky et la Virginie, vivants dans certains territoires vers le sud, puis beaucoup s'installèrent ici en permanence et contribuèrent à forger l'identité du Canada moderne.

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