



Overview Prospectus

The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples

March 2008

VISION

A Short, inspiring statement of underlying purpose

A catalyst for spotlighting the global stories of people of African descent and exploring their relevance to the development of harmonious, multicultural communities and to the reduction of social and economic injustices.

MISSION

Our overarching intentions to move us towards the accomplishment of our vision

The Tubman Institute is a research and community outreach facility focusing on the varied experiences of people of African descent, which has as its aim an informed, active citizenry and progressive public policy that relies on the dissemination of research knowledge to stimulate community interventions and interactions.

Our Research Efforts include a commitment to world-class research that involves the collection, creation, storing and sharing of the human stories of African peoples whose amazing ability to survive oppression and hardship has helped to transform the cultures of the contemporary world. Our research agenda:

- is related to the global migrations of African peoples, including the history and impact of slavery and its inhumane oppression (from the 15th century to the present) and the continuing legacy of racism that inhibits true multi-cultural tolerance and exchange.
- addresses all aspects of the experiences of people of African descent in the global Diaspora—from history to social actions—from politics to poetry—from education to music and dance
- documents the similarities and differences in the experiences of peoples of African descent, whether in Africa or in the worldwide Diaspora that includes black communities in Canada

Our Efforts to Mobilize Knowledge for Social Action involves us in a range of specific projects and special events aimed at nurturing harmonious cross cultural relations and reducing social and economic injustices, as well as expanding the base of public knowledge. These events include:

- Providing access to the human stories and performances of peoples of African descent that reveal profiles of interesting historical and modern day role models for use by community workers, teachers, and policy makers
- offering expertise to assist social action initiatives organized by others (ex: a workshop to mobilize support for ending modern day slavery; OR a legal case addressing reparations for slavery in the 18th century)

Our Role as a Social Innovator involves us in the development (within York University, the York Region and the Greater Toronto area and beyond to other parts of Ontario, Canada and throughout the world) of networks that model best practices for helping diverse stakeholders to collaborate and innovate to address complex social challenges

<p>MANTRA Brief Statement that outlines the focus for all our efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support Historical and Cultural Memory Working under the assumption that everyone deserves to know their own history and the stories that comprise that history and to have enough awareness to contribute to community and dialogues. ▪ Confronting Slavery Articulating the harsh realities and impact of historical and modern-day slavery throughout the world and inspiring global efforts to end slavery now and seek reparation and reconciliation for slavery and the racialized legacies of slavery ▪ Strengthen Informed Citizenship Drawing on the varied stories (social, political, cultural and educational) of the migration of peoples of African descent and the impact of their journeys in order to nurture peaceful, prosperous, collaborative, multicultural communities as a foundation for informed citizenship in the 21st Century.
<p>VALUES The values shaping the Institute's Operating Principles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passion for Social Equity and Economic Justice ▪ Bring a global perspective to local issues ▪ Excellence and Integrity ▪ Respect for Diversity ▪ Seeing the sense in having a sense of humour ▪ Collaboration ▪ Agile Learning ▪ Entrepreneurial Innovation ▪ Leadership for Social Action
<p>KEY PROGRAM AREAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Engage in World-Class Research: Capturing and collecting the stories. ❖ Develop Leading Edge Digital Archives and Support Endangered Archives: Organizing and sharing the stories. ❖ Mobilize and Share Knowledge: Sharing the stories widely through special events in the University and in the community, as well as by promoting the use of the knowledge documented as a result of the research effort. ❖ The Power of Expressive Culture and the Contribution of the Performing Arts: Celebrating the essence of the stories. ❖ Model Entrepreneurial, Collaborative, Innovative Leadership to Support Social Innovations: Developing systems (processes, tools and specialized resources) for helping to create internal and external networks for unleashing collaborative organizational innovations which utilize learnings from the stories.