

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO:	UTSC Campus Affairs Committee
SPONSOR: CONTACT INFO:	Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer 416-287-7108, andrew.arifuzzaman@utoronto.ca
PRESENTER: CONTACT INFO:	Kimberley Tull, Director, Community & Learning Partnerships & Access Pathways, 416-208-2797, kim.tull@utoronto.ca Melanie Blackman, Community Partnerships Team Lead 416-287-7687, m.blackman@utoronto.ca
DATE:	April 24, 2023 for May 10, 2023
AGENDA ITEM:	4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement, 2023

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Sections 5.1 and 5.9 of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee *Terms of Reference* states that the Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including relations with the campus’s external community.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

- 1. UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 10, 2023)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

HIGHLIGHTS:

This past year we have dreamed big. We have built bridges, mapped out what purposeful collaboration looks like, and defied gravity in the classroom, community and beyond.

In this year’s annual report, we highlight endeavours from 2022 that have grounded our vision in *Reflection*, explore engagement and action in *Inspiration*, and envision what collaborative dreaming looks like when brought to fruition in *Aspiration*.

When we dream together, we spark new ways of doing things. We juxtapose traditional knowledge with innovative ways of thinking. We learn from one another, expand the narrative, and humbly emerge with a greater sense of understanding and gratitude for one another.

This year we also co-developed a partnership and engagement framework and resource guide. Meant to be a model of reflection— both for internal partners within the University of Toronto Scarborough and external stakeholders—the framework comprises a visual map and resource guide to empower partners to build a strategy for sustainable and reciprocal relationships. Entailing three fundamental stages: building a foundation, engagement, and revisit, rethink and evolve, the framework pulls from strategic direction 4.1 of the University's Strategic Plan to exemplify the fluidity and interconnectedness of meaningful partnerships. Further broken down into eight stages: values, understanding, self-determination, shared interests, coordination, collaboration, collective action, and revisit, rethink and evolve—partners can map themselves along any point in the map, and move forward, backwards, or participate in multiple stages at once.

We hope you see yourself reflected in this work—from the weighable measures of impact, to the less tangible—but equally transformative—hallmarks of accomplishment: relationships made, trust formed, and respect shared.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement, 2023 (PDF and plain text)

Link to Report: [Collaborative Dreaming Annual Report - Online Version \(canva.com\)](#)



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

COLLABORATIVE DREAMING



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



TOGETHER,
WE CAN INSPIRE
DREAMS THAT
GENERATE
INCLUSIVE AND
EQUITABLE
OUTCOMES

- WISDOM TETTEY,
VICE-PRESIDENT, U OF T
& PRINCIPAL, U OF T SCARBOROUGH

INTRODUCTION

- WELCOME -

We are connected by one common thread: the dreams that inspire us all.

This past year we've dreamed big. We've built bridges, mapped out what purposeful collaboration looks like, and defied gravity in the classroom, community and beyond.

When we dream together, we spark new ways of doing things. We juxtapose traditional knowledge with innovative ways of thinking. We learn from each other, expand the narrative, and humbly emerge with a greater sense of understanding and gratitude for one another.

Dreams open our minds to endless possibilities and dare us to think, "What if?" They prompt us to learn from unconventional wisdom, visualize beyond limitations, and make space for fluidity.



In this year's annual report, we highlight endeavours from 2022 that have grounded our vision in [Reflection](#), explore engagement and action in [Inspiration](#), and envision what collaborative dreaming looks like when brought to fruition in [Aspiration](#).

This is an invitation to be inspired by the dreams that unfold in these pages: the art from students, partners, and alumni; the affirmations from beacons of light in the community; and the stories of transformational impact.

Here's to collaborative dreaming.

On the front cover: Students from Modern Day Griot Project 3.0 are pictured at U of T Scarborough. From left to right: Joshua Spencer, Djigbonde Daniella Djaigbe, Lauraine Ramazani Buledi.



REFLECTION

artwork

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Reflection—a core principle of the artist's practice that has been instrumental to the ways in which we choose to express ourselves creatively and how we show up in the world on a day-to-day basis.

ARTIST BIO

Anthony Gebrehiwot (TonyxTones) is an award-winning visual artist, photographer and community leader whose creative lens re-envisioned photography as an ongoing dialogue of social change between subject and society.

A self-taught artist and photographer, Gebrehiwot founded XvXy-photo in 2014 focusing on studio portraiture. To date, he has worked with several notable brands such as Nike, Royal Bank of Canada, Vice Canada, Absolute, Hudson Bay, The City of Toronto and LinkedIn to name a few. His work has been featured in over thirty local and international publications such as the Star, the Globe and Mail, PAPER Magazine, Elle UK and Yahoo Lifestyle.



*Digital composition
art by Anthony
Gebrehiwot*




REFLECTION

From the language we use, to the structure of class curricula, it is our ambition to foster a spirit of ongoing reflection and elevation that is rooted in anti-colonial practices. By challenging the status quo, we will promote a culture of leadership that is transparent, inclusive, and transformational—and as a result, advance the priorities of our strategic plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*.

Reflection is the key to honouring the wisdom and lived experiences of those around us, and embedding those learnings into purposeful frameworks that support our community.

Our success has been made possible by the opportunity given to us by our Indigenous hosts to operate on their territory, and we cherish our continuing partnerships with these communities.





“WE DO THIS WORK
NOT BECAUSE IT IS A
FEEL-GOOD THING TO
DO, BUT FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE. THIS
WORK IS ROOTED IN
HUMAN RIGHTS.”

– KIMBERLEY TULL
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND LEARNING
PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCESS PATHWAYS

⋮ In the photo: Nobellum Innovator Program participants
gather to hear presentations. Photo by Mellissa Prince.



HOMECOMING 2022

- REFLECTION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

U of T Scarborough left its indelible stamp on campus life when it brought the community together for the launch of Homecoming this past fall.

As the first large-scale event since the pandemic—Homecoming was a fitting welcome back to campus for all who call U of T Scarborough home.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

More than 5,000 people attended Homecoming—and the festivities did not disappoint. The all-day event featured a range of family-friendly activities that embodied the Scarborough spirit: from live music, to a farmers' market, Ferris wheel, food trucks, movie screenings, science experiments, and Indigenous bead-making demonstrations. Community partners also had the chance to showcase their organizations and interact with students, staff, and faculty.

5000+

IN ATTENDANCE

40+

ACTIVITIES

720,000+

DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Homecoming has ignited a new tradition at U of T Scarborough: the uniting of people from all walks of life. A day dedicated to promoting social well-being, belonging, and vitality in our communities, Homecoming will continue to shine a light on our transformative impact and honour the many voices who make up Scarborough.

Mark your calendars—Homecoming 2023 is slated to take place on September 23, 2023.



4.1 PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- REFLECTION -



BUILDING A FOUNDATION

As our local, national, and global networks have evolved, so have the ways in which we connect with our partners in meaningful ways. Over 10 years ago, U of T Scarborough co-developed a partnership framework with the community in Kingston Galloway-Orton (KGO). This dialogue resulted in the formulation of a comprehensive and dynamic partnership engagement approach to better guide and ground the University's strategic partnerships.

The framework provides a holistic and anti-colonial approach to the ways in which we engage with our community.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Intentional process is the vehicle that transports us into the future. Meant to be a model of reflection—both for internal partners within the University of Toronto Scarborough and external stakeholders—the framework comprises a visual map and resource guide to empower partners with building a strategy for sustainable and reciprocal relationships.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION (CONTINUED)

Entailing three fundamental stages: building a foundation; engagement; and revisit, rethink and evolve, the framework pulls from strategic direction 4.1 of the University's Strategic Plan to exemplify the fluidity and interconnectedness of meaningful partnerships.

Further broken down into eight stages: values, understanding, self-determination, shared interests, coordination, collaboration, collective action, and revisit, rethink and evolve—partners can map themselves along any point in the map, and move forward, backwards, or participate in multiple stages at once.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Whether it be embarking on joint research projects, co-designing a program in the community, or applying for grants, the framework calls on us to align our partnerships in more conscientious ways and share the spaces designed to support the community.

It is our aim to break down silos and encourage cross-collaboration, campus-wide and beyond. The framework will be embedded throughout U of T Scarborough's administration processes. It will be utilized for accountability measures and capacity-building opportunities through education modules, drop-in sessions, and events.



In the photo: Nobellum Innovator Program participants network with each other. From left to right: Chukwnonso Nwawolo, Malcolm Wright, Kathryn Lawrence, Feyisayo Enuiyin, Angelica Blake. Photo by Ren Thomas.

This unique and impactful reciprocal-learning partnership approach has tremendous potential for transformational change, producing profound implications for community and university work across the country and globe.

PUBLICLY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION (PESI)

- REFLECTION -



In the photos: UTSC faculty, staff, and community members map out what a more collaborative publicly-engaged research and scholarship model could look like.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Honouring the multiplicity of voices that make up U of T Scarborough is fundamental to our collective success. Whether it is tackling social issues with community partners or collecting qualitative data, today's global challenges require that we change how the university engages with the public and the kinds of relationships we build in the practice of research.

Publicly Engaged Scholarship and Innovation (PESI) enhances the interconnectedness of the university and the public, engaging with diverse stakeholders to co-produce socially impactful knowledge.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Over the past year, U of T Scarborough has converged with local and global advisory members to critically analyze interdisciplinary engagement, non-traditional ways of learning, and research opportunities.



ACHIEVEMENTS FROM PESI

- The Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation (OVPRI) undertook a review of existing publicly engaged scholarship policies, supports, and opportunities to strengthen publicly engaged scholarship at U of T Scarborough and guide progress towards achieving the strategic priorities outlined in the University's Inspiring Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan.
- Produced the *Publicly Engaged Scholarship & Innovation: Towards Inclusive Excellence in Research* Working Paper in June 2022, which brought relevant external and internal voices to the forefront of this review.
- Hosted a forum, co-designed with external partners, in November 2022 to review and discuss recommendations, prioritize and specify an action for Publicly Engaged Scholarship & Innovation with internal and external partners.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

PESI is consciously expanding the cycle of knowledge production and the aspirations and practice of research impact. By cementing reciprocal relationships with stakeholders outside of the university, we are co-producing a more resilient framework. As we continue to rewrite the goals, audience, and metrics of research impact, we aim to establish U of T Scarborough as a center of excellence for research partnerships and knowledge translation.

"Participating in PESI allowed me to bring my experience in community development, challenging researchers to intentionally engage and consider how research benefits community."

- Howard Moriah, Director of Operations,
Boys and Girls Club East Scarborough

"The PESI process was collaborative, refreshing, and ensured community partners and community experiences were a central part of scholarship and research. As an advisory member and facilitator, it was encouraging to see the passion for publicly engaged scholarship from all parties involved. We hope to continue to be engaged in this groundbreaking work and influence other academic institutions to follow UTSC's leadership"

- Samya Hasan, Executive Director, The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS WITH TEQ-LIP

- REFLECTION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

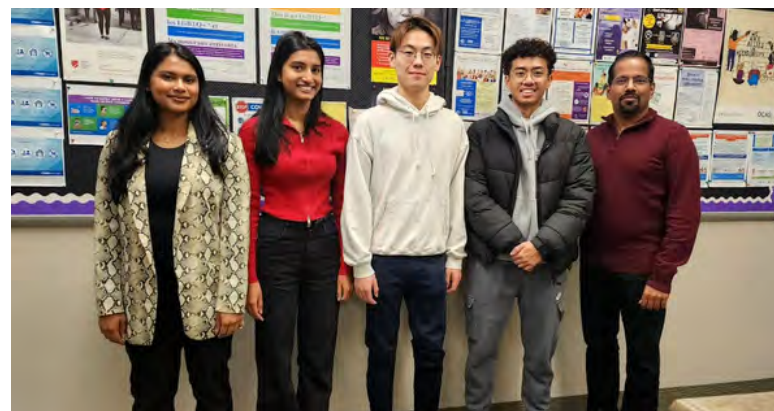
The Eastern GTA is extremely diverse, made up of a manifold of stories, lived experiences and needs. The region's rich cultural mosaic is a reminder that representation is key when it comes to developing inclusive environments.

U of T Scarborough has partnered with Toronto East Quadrant Local Immigration Partnership (TEQ-LIP) to establish an inclusive and welcoming network that supports newcomers in the city. Through placement opportunities at local non-profit organizations and social service agencies in Scarborough, under the direction of Professor Susannah Bunce, students from City Studies and Human Geography courses at U of T Scarborough learn about community-based planning and development, all while being an accessible and responsive aid to those in need within their neighbourhoods.



"Without community voices, there is no identification of needs, solutions, or areas to focus research on. Collaborative scholarship is grounded in the lived experiences of community voices. Community voices is the qualitative data that provides the foundation and direction for collaborative scholarship."

- Azreen Sikder, TEQ-LIP Officer, Warden Woods Community Centre



⋮ In the photo: UTSC students participate in TEQ-LIP Action Groups to support local community organizations.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

U of T Scarborough students leveraged their community networks and skills in online and offline outreach to engage community members. The students were plugged into action groups at TEQ-LIP alongside volunteers and community workers and were involved in leading info sessions, surveying, postering populated areas, and liaising directly with clients. They supported TEQ-LIP's Health Group with the research and organization of an environmental scan for resource development and supported qualitative research with an *Access to Information Group*.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Students play an integral role in bringing tailored and intentional support to the community as trusted sources of information gatherers and interpreters in their communities. U of T Scarborough and TEQ-LIP will continue to offer more placement opportunities for students to engage in outreach and research with partner agencies. Together, we will identify opportunities of partnership to host community events, collaborate on new iterations of the *Health and Wellbeing Action Group*, and participate in further community-based planning.

"Leading a Service Delivery Improvement project in partnership with UTSC has led to a valuable crossover of experience and knowledge between students and alumni, and community agencies, newcomers and residents by sharing and applying relevant lived experience context to a research framework."

- Isobel Goddard, SNSC Partnership Lead, Catholic Crosscultural Services



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED:

- Access Alliance
- AIDS Committee of Toronto
- Agincourt Community Services Association
- Catholic CrossCultural Services
- Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- Community Family Services Ontario
- Connecting Women with Scarborough Services
- Hong Fook Mental Health Association
- Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
- Scarborough Health Network
- Tropicana Community Services

BASKETBALL & SOCCER PROGRAMMING WITH PARENTS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION

- REFLECTION -



• In the photo: Students enjoy weekly basketball sessions with UTSC coaches at TPASC.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

This past summer, U of T Scarborough teamed up with **Parents Engaged in Education** to provide underserved youth from diverse backgrounds barrier-free access to quality, team-based sports programming. With world-class athletic facilities and professional coaching from student-athletes, the collaboration gave 48 young people and parents a chance to connect as a community over soccer and basketball games in a safe, welcoming environment.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

With the support of U of T Scarborough coaches, the youth had the opportunity to better their physical and mental health, while parents had the opportunity to socialize—a much needed outlet for families who were isolated during the pandemic.

While cost can often be a barrier in enabling youth to access afterschool sports, the partnership provided families with engaging, free weekly sessions at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC) and Morningside Athletic Fields, as well as full uniforms so youth felt as equipped as any other child who plays on a team.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

We are proponents that giving kids the opportunity to access sports is essential for their physical and mental wellbeing and development. It is a chance to nurture their team-building skills, make friends, and connect with their local community—enabling them to be an active participant in positive social change.

Parents Engaged in Education hopes to receive funding again this year from Jumpstart to continue to offer expanded sports programming for youth.

CURRICULUM REVIEW

- REFLECTION -

Proactively refining processes for how knowledge is shared is U of T Scarborough is at the apex of inclusive excellence. The U of T Scarborough Campus Curriculum Review was launched in the Fall of 2020 as a priority named in our strategic plan. Collectively led by a Working Circle made up of faculty, staff, students, and community members, the review focuses on centering Indigenous and Black knowledge systems, prioritizing racialized perspectives and intercultural contexts, and taking an intersectional approach to learning.



In the photo: UTSC faculty and staff meet for a Sunrise Ceremony to discuss embedding Indigenous knowledge in class curricula. Pictured standing is Vice-Principal Academic & Dean William Gough. Photo by Nancy Masocco.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS WORK INCLUDE:

- The Working Circle's report and 56 recommended actions were released in the spring of 2022.
- The Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence Fund was launched, supporting work on campus as well as collaborative initiatives that bridge the campus and the broader community.
- The long-term iteration of the Working Circle was launched in the Fall of 2022 to support the implementation of the recommended actions.
- The Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence Forum was launched, providing an informal space for cross-departmental mentorship and learning.
- Dedicated educational developer hires in anti-racist pedagogies and universal design for learning were established in the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- A resource hub to support faculty and staff learning has been launched online in spring 2023.
- Throughout 2023 and 2024, Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) funding will provide grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible projects that focus on sharing Indigenous knowledges, Black knowledges, racialized perspectives, and international and intercultural perspectives.



REFLECTION *affirmation*

"We rest and reflect on learnings of the past to inform the next part of our cycle: our collective future.

We are not bound by history, instead we are aware of the histories we do not want to repeat.

We honour the resistance and efforts of those who came before us by carrying their learnings and dreams with us into a new future."

- SAHAR VERMEZYARI,
DIRECTOR, EAST SCARBOROUGH STOREFRONT



QUESTION ON REFLECTION

HOW CAN WE USE
REFLECTION TO
ENSURE THAT
EVERYONE IN OUR
COMMUNITY FEELS
HEARD AND VALUED,
AND THAT DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES ARE
RESPECTED?





INSPIRATION

artwork

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Untitled speaks to botany, astrology and the interconnectedness of all living things. By connecting to the creation stories of our land, Johnston believes we can be inspired by the world around us, be fully present, and work in a space of humility, respect and honour.

ARTIST BIO

Nyle Johnston's spirit name is Wiishkoonseh Miigizi'enh, which means Whistling White-Headed Eagle. He grew up in Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and apprenticed with Storytellers since his youth. Sources of his artistic inspiration include woodland painters, Storytellers and the traditions of his Indigenous culture.

A painter, muralist, sculptor, traditional storyteller, and traditional helper, Johnston uses his gift of storytelling to connect his peoples' stories of love and healing with the broader world and offer support to a range of community organizations. The importance of Storytelling is an important and ancient art and is at the crux of Johnston's artistic career. Johnston currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, and is a contributing member to the Indigenous & Canadian collection at the AGO. He is represented by Highness Global Inc.



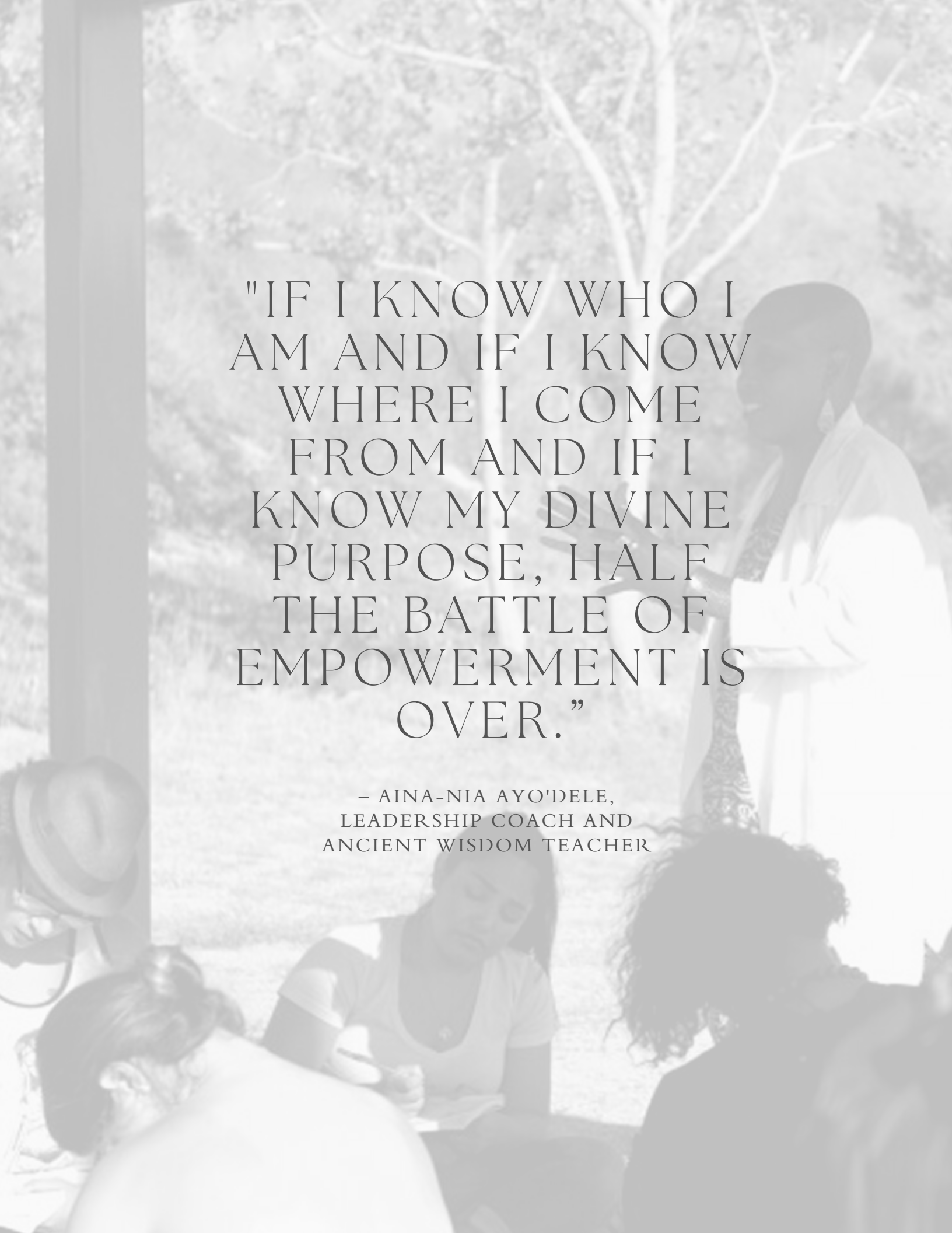
*Acrylic, ink and
aerosol painting on
canvas by Nyle
Miigizi Johnston*



INSPIRATION

Inspiration is at the core of our collective identity at U of T Scarborough. It speaks to the importance of being fully present, showing up even when there is not an ask on the table, and operating from a place of humility, respect, and honour.

U of T Scarborough's non-traditional take on learning and exploration redefines what it means to be an anchor institution. From experiential learning to community engagement, inspiration is the pulse and creativity behind our dreams. It allows us to be immersed in learning through intergenerational connections and leads us into meaningful partnerships that advance our mission.



"IF I KNOW WHO I
AM AND IF I KNOW
WHERE I COME
FROM AND IF I
KNOW MY DIVINE
PURPOSE, HALF
THE BATTLE OF
EMPOWERMENT IS
OVER."

– AINA-NIA AYO'DELE,
LEADERSHIP COACH AND
ANCIENT WISDOM TEACHER

SOUNDLIFE SCARBOROUGH

- INSPIRATION -



BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Amidst the lecture halls and offices of U of T Scarborough's Arts & Administration Building is a dynamic space where students, staff, faculty, and the community can come together to enjoy the art of music-making.

An exciting extension of experiential learning at the university, Soundlife Scarborough is a centre for collaboration that brings together local and global musicians to lead engaging, hands-on programming for the community.



ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Soundlife Scarborough is a living embodiment of cross-cultural collaboration. Participants of all skill levels can attend a range of free music-making sessions. Over the lunch hour, students, staff, and community members can take a break from the classroom or office for weekly Ukulele and Drumming sessions. In the evenings, participants of all ages enjoy Brazilian Maracatu with Juno-nominated master percussionist Aline Morales. The space also invites community leaders from various backgrounds to host public lectures and workshops.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

With participants in attendance ranging from eight to 80 years old, Soundlife Scarborough is a beautiful demonstration of our diverse community network in action.

Soundlife Scarborough aims to remove existing barriers and create accessible pathways for all who wish to participate. Its projects foster healthy communities through participatory music-making; support community partnerships and community-engaged research excellence grounded in the principle of reciprocity; and inspire students in developing creative, flexible, and participatory approaches to music-making as a lifelong practice.

RECOVERY COLLEGE

- INSPIRATION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

U of T Scarborough has teamed up with Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences to launch Recovery College, a unique hub aimed at providing a safe space for students to explore topics of mental health and well-being.

Intentionally designed to bring a sense of grounding and companionship for participants through open discussions, Recovery College invites peers with lived experiences of navigating wellness together to co-design and deliver courses that support one another along the post-secondary experience.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

The Recovery College model was brought to the U of T Scarborough campus in the summer of 2021 and has since run 17 courses both in-person and remotely. The initiative aims to help students discover practical ways to manage stress and overcome challenges through sharing stories and lessons of hope, identity, and empowerment.



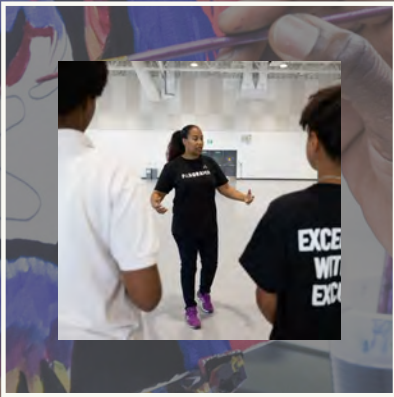
REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

The wellness of our students is integral to fostering a community of empathy and belonging at U of T Scarborough. As Recovery College grows and receives feedback from participants, it aims to provide more in-person channels for students to connect in a safe and judgement-free space. The program is also currently exploring options to offer courses for international students.

"I genuinely feel more confident with the personal skills I've been able to develop during these courses. I am in a much better position to navigate the complexities of life".

- Hamila Bensalam, student at U of T Scarborough

EMBEDDING AFRICAN-CENTERED KNOWLEDGES



inspiration



“WHEN WE ARE ABLE
TO TELL OUR OWN
STORIES AND SHARE
OUR OWN STORIES,
WE CAN HUMANIZE
THE BLACK
EXPERIENCE.”

– SHELENE DRAKES-TULL,
SESSIONAL LECTURER, U OF T SCARBOROUGH
& FOUNDER OF SWEET LIME COMMUNICATIONS

MODERN DAY GRIOT PROJECT

- INSPIRATION -



In the photo: Students in the Modern Day Griot Project class engage in a group discussion.

Establishing its roots in Africentric principles, Modern Day Griot Project is inspiring students to be light-bearers in the world that reflect the wholeness, strength, and humility of Black identities.

With an aim of decolonizing the classroom through candid discussions, Modern Day Griot Project recently launched as a Health and Society fourth-year course at U of T Scarborough. Open to both Black-identifying students and non-Black learners, students can earn academic credit while adding their voices to this important conversation.

"I'm delighted that the Modern-Day Griot Project has provided the opportunity for me to 'storytell' in ways through the Nguzo Saba and an Afrocentric worldview."

- Henry Khamonde
4th year student at U of T Scarborough

TRANSITIONAL YEAR PROGRAM @ UTSC

- INSPIRATION -



TYP@UTSC Embedding Africentric Knowledges was launched at U of T Scarborough with the goal of establishing an authentic understanding of Black and Indigenous histories and further developing the capacity to support the achievement of participants' goals. Over the course of seven months, the administrative team at the Transitional Year Program at U of T Scarborough worked with Aina-Nia Ayo'dele, a leadership coach and ancient wisdom teacher, to engage in African Indigenous-based learning circles interspersed with one-on-one coaching sessions.

"Each session left me feeling uplifted, rewarded and hopeful for my personal and the collective future."

- Mariam Aslam, Student Success Research Analyst, Office of the Registrar, U of T Scarborough

• In the photo: TYP@UTSC Embedding
• Africentric Knowledges teacher Aina-Nia
• Ayo'dele makes a presentation.

COMMUNITY IS

- INSPIRATION -



..... In the photo: Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor is
..... pictured in a classroom.

Rooted in open, intentional conversations that explore action-based steps for reciprocal connections, *Community Is!* brings together community members, partners, faculty, and staff to challenge existing power structures and build a deeper sense of purpose in the University's community partnerships.

Community Is - Black & Indigenous Solidarity welcomed ancient wisdom teacher Aina-Nia Ayo'dele, and Indigenous ceremonial leader, traditional teacher, and healer Kahontakwas Diane Longboat for a discussion on liberation, allyship and the power of collective healing for Black and Indigenous communities.

We also welcomed Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor, Associate Vice-President, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism at the University of Waterloo for a *Community Is!* session on practical ways to combat anti-Racism and anti-Black racism.

100 STRONG ACADEMY

- INSPIRATION -

100 Strong Academy is a summer program designed to mobilize and equip Black boys with the tools necessary to achieve their maximum potential in education and social engagement, developed and led by community partner 100 Strong Foundation.

This past summer marked the first time the University of Toronto hosted the Strong Academy Summer Program across all three of its campuses. The curriculum focuses on the holistic learner by marrying concepts of academic theory and experiential learning in conjunction with real-world experiences.



In the photo: 100 Strong Academy participant Caleb Smith wants to be an engineer and study at U of T Scarborough. Photo by Ruilin Yuan.

"When I think of what 100 has done for me, I think leadership to new beginnings. The program has had great impact on me as a young man. It taught me to focus and my goals, take initiative and to always give back to community."

- Adam Elmi, class of 2018 graduate and current 100 Strong mentor





INSPIRATION

affirmation

"When we open ourselves up to receive knowledge from those around us, we form strong connections and get inspired.

We, as humans, cannot truly be experts of all. We must keep ourselves open and receptive to what others can teach us all our lives to even come close.

We often search for inspiration on the internet from strangers when we can look at those around us for unique perspectives and new ways of thinking."

-MAHIRA KHAN, UTSC ALUMNA





QUESTION ON INSPIRATION

HOW CAN I
MAINTAIN A SENSE
OF GRATITUDE
FOR THE PEOPLE,
PLACES, AND
THINGS THAT
INSPIRE ME IN
LIFE?



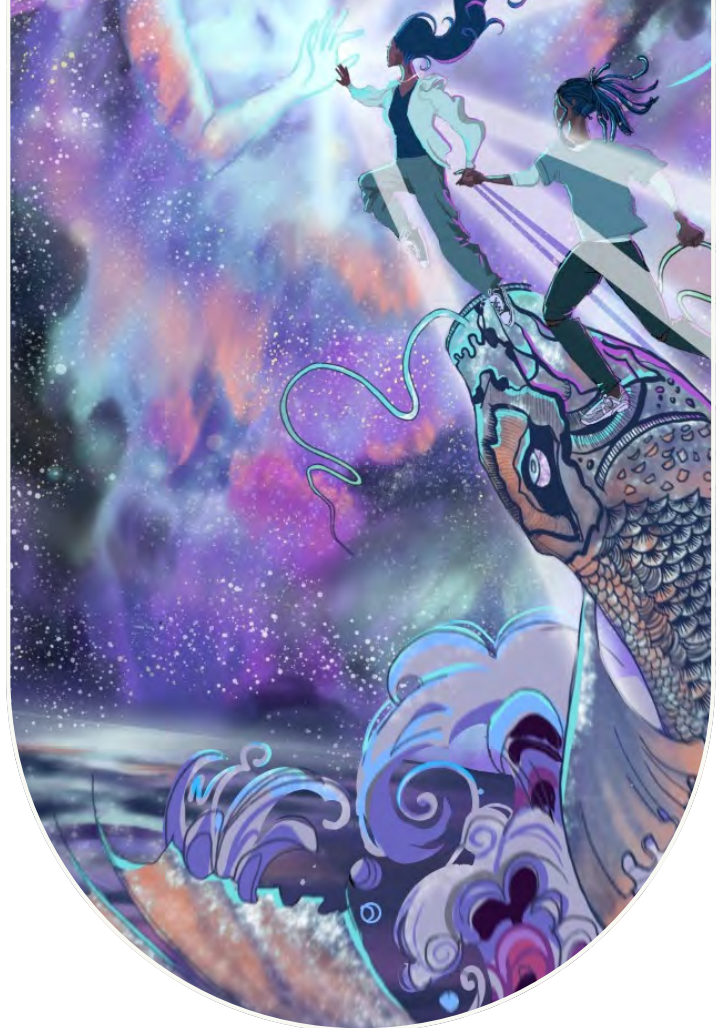
ASPIRATION

artwork

ARTIST STATEMENT:

In this piece, a vast sea reaches far into the horizon, above it is a galaxy scene, made even brighter with the contact it makes with the dreamers featured in the center. The sea and the stars can both feel intimidating and looming, but when viewed with a different lens, are full of life and possibility. A large koi fish lifts the dreamers to their destination, a symbol of power, imagination, and versatility - tools we use to reach higher.

The koi is also almost an exact replica of another art piece I created just before entering UTSC as a student, over four years later, it has come to represent a culmination of the dreams I have shared with my friends, family, fellow academics, and myself. Finally, one of the dreamers reaches out to touch a figure made of stars, a dream of the future, community, family, and healing. I hope that when you look at this piece, you feel a sense of adventure and possibility.



Digital art composition by Estrella Márquez

ARTIST BIO

Estrella Márquez is a recent UTSC graduate (International Development, City Studies, Sociocultural Anthropology). While her education is strictly academic, art has been a vital part of her life. She hopes to combine her interest in the arts with her passion for social development and equity in order to encourage expression and healing. Her work with Community Partnerships & Engagement department showed her this was possible in an academic environment; the department was consistently—including for this very report—looking for ways to encourage creativity.



ASPIRATION

Empowered by the energy of our dynamic community, we boldly pursue excellence for the betterment of all who call U of T Scarborough home. As we lead new frontiers in academics, research, and community engagement, we aim to become a model of collective success both nationally and globally—built upon the visionary spirit of our students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

“THERE ARE DIFFERENT
NATURES OF OUR
RELATIONSHIPS, BUT
RECIPROCITY IS THE
COMMON THREAD.”

– ANDREW ARIFUZZAMAN,
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
U OF T SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND INTEGRATED HEALTH (SAMIH)

- ASPIRATION -



BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Scarborough is a vibrant, diverse region—but it is also rapidly growing and faces a critical shortfall of family physicians, nurse practitioners and specialists, as well as aging health-care facilities.

Thankfully, we are one step closer to making accessible, inclusive, and compassionate healthcare the standard for the Eastern GTA with a new medical academy on the horizon: the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH).

Slated to launch in 2024, the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) at the University of Toronto Scarborough will provide an inclusive hub for education and strengthen connections among healthcare providers in the region.

1,520 STUDENTS
INSTRUCTED PER YEAR

\$67-89 MILLION
INJECTED INTO REGIONAL
ECONOMY



ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Uniting U of T Scarborough with U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, local hospitals, and community-based organizations, SAMIH will help to fill a critical gap in Ontario's medical system by training the next generation of health care professionals in the Eastern GTA and addressing the health needs of the region's nearly 1.3 million residents.

Most recently, an unprecedented \$75-million donation from Orlando Corporation was gifted towards strengthening the ability of the Eastern GTA to provide world-class care for the community and train future health-care professionals. Of that amount, \$25-million will be invested in SAMIH and \$50 million will go towards meeting the urgent priorities of Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) Birchmount Hospital.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

SAMIH will be the first medical academy in the Eastern GTA. It will train the next generation of health professionals, foster innovative scholarly activity, and provide much-needed health and economic benefits to the region.

Once operational, SAMIH will graduate up to 30 physicians, 30 physician assistants, 30 nurse practitioners, 40 physical therapists and 300 life sciences undergraduates per year. It will also include an expanded life sciences program on campus and a nurse-practitioner-led clinic as part of its training program—the only one of its kind in Canada.

"Establishing the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) at UTSC will create a hub for training and strengthening connections between students and the communities they inhabit. Scarborough Health Network (SHN) is in full support of this proposal which will have a long lasting, positive impact on meeting the future health of our residents."

BLACK HEALTH EQUITY LAB

- ASPIRATION -



• In the photo: Notisha Massaquoi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Society at U of T Scarborough, is the director of The Black Health Equity Lab (BHEL).



BUILDING A FOUNDATION

U of T Scarborough is the home to a new lab designed to tackle health disparities faced by the Black community in Toronto. The Black Health Equity Lab (BHEL) is an essential development for the province that brings a community-rooted lens to the forefront of primary health care. Collaborating with Black communities to address equitable access to healthcare, the BHEL aims to bolster the healthcare ecosystem in Scarborough and address the critical needs of its residents.

Directed by Notisha Massaquoi, an Assistant Professor in Health Education and Promotion with the Department of Health and Society, the Black Health Equity Lab will go beyond research to include designing solutions to address health disparities and includes a partnership with Scarborough's **TAIBU Community Health Centre**.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

The lab recently launched its first research project, *The Nguvu Program*, which means power or strength in Swahili. The BHEL will work with TAIBU to develop a case management HIV program for the Black community in Scarborough in the hopes of reducing transmission rates and improving health outcomes through early detection, treatment and support. It is the very first clinical program specifically for Black people living with HIV in Ontario.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Engaging students in community engagement initiatives to collaboratively address the healthcare issues that Black communities are experiencing remains a prime focus for the lab: "I'm very much focused on it being community-based and collaborative. I want students to get real-life experience working with Black communities to develop solutions for the problems that we're having in terms of our poor health outcomes," shares Massaquoi.



In the photo: Liben Gebremikael, Executive Director, TAIBU CHC delivers a presentation at the Act Now! Conference.

"TAIBU is appreciative of the continued engagement with the University of Toronto Scarborough. Since our relationship started with the great Community Partnerships & Engagement team several years ago, we have experienced increased collaboration that has now culminated into an important partnership with the Black Health Equity Lab led by Dr Notisha Massaquoi. The HIV Intensive Care Management research project will address a significant barrier that members of the Black communities experience in accessing timely and culturally appropriate care and services. TAIBU is honored to be a partner."

- Liben Gebremikael, Executive Director,
TAIBU Community Health Centre

MAAT CENTRE WITH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB EAST SCARBOROUGH

- ASPIRATION -

The newly launched Mentoring, Academic, Art, Technology (MAAT) Youth Innovation & Cultural Centre at Boys and Girls Club East Scarborough is a space mandated to nurture the infinite potential of Black, Indigenous, and racialized youth ages 13 -29.

Last year, MAAT Youth Centre opened its doors, and it is now offering employment training, programs in the arts, and out-of-school opportunities in the form of academic support, leadership training, mentorship, and S.T.E.M. programs. These programs help youth acquire new skills, explore passions, develop employability skills, and apply knowledge to gain real work experience—all in a safe space with positive mentorship.



In the photo: A youth participant sits across from an instructor at the MAAT Centre to practise for an interview.

"Localized culturally safe, competent, and focused youth development services and programs have expanded opportunities for BIPOC youth to successfully navigate the journey towards thriving futures."

- Utcha Sawyers, Executive Director,
Boys and Girls Club East Scarborough



ACCOUNTING AUDIT WITH TORONTO AKA

- ASPIRATION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Driven by the desire to build scholarship and make a tangible difference in the world, we are proud to have collaborated with Alpha Alpha Delta Omega Sorority, the Toronto chapter of globally recognized sisterhood Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), to coordinate an external financial audit with students in U of T Scarborough's MAccFin program—North America's Only Master of Accounting and Finance.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Under the supervision of Professor Lisa Harvey, MAccFin students conducted a review of Toronto AKA's financial statements, reports and policies. They presented their findings alongside recommendations that will help the chapter establish a solid financial foundation.

This initiative provided students with a hands-on, real-world example of the type of auditing work they will be engaged in when they begin their careers in Accounting and Finance. In turn, their contributions will ultimately enable the sorority to grow and have an even greater impact on the community in the years to come.



"The support and guidance we received from the MAccFin students and faculty helped us to lay a solid financial foundation that we'll be able to build on in the years ahead."

- Janine Clark,
Member, Alpha Alpha Delta Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Having a solid financial foundation, accurate reporting, and sound financial policies will help Toronto AKA to ensure its ability to sustain operations. It also helps the chapter to have the information it needs in order to qualify for grants, and eventually scale its impact across the communities it serves.

We hope to continue an ongoing relationship with Toronto AKA and U of T Scarborough's MAccFin program, where students gain a real-world learning experience, and the chapter benefits from the students' accounting expertise.

FEDERATION OF BLACK CANADIANS

- ASPIRATION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

U of T Scarborough and the Federation of Black Canadians (FBC) have partnered to support the next generation of Black entrepreneurs in Canada. The initiative is part of a \$1.3-million investment announced by the federal government to enhance services that support and mentor young Black entrepreneurs.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

The investment, which was made possible through the Black Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) Ecosystem Fund, will champion Black ingenuity by providing access to funding, research, and mentorship opportunities for Black entrepreneurs. It will enable FBC to provide tools and resources to 170 Black youth entrepreneurs in Toronto, Montreal, and Edmonton.

The FBC will collaborate with U of T Scarborough, The BRIDGE and U of T's Black Founders Network to research and conduct surveys in Black communities across Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec. Their goal is to determine the needs, obstacles and structural challenges faced by Black youth entrepreneurs. The findings will help create new initiatives, such as a four-month long entrepreneurial program focused on business planning, finance, risk management, legislation and commercialization all aimed at supporting the success of Black entrepreneurs.



■ In the photo from left to right: FBC Executive Director Chris Thompson, Emcee Ebone, Minister Filomena Tassi, and Wisdom Tettye gather for the investment announcement. Photo by Dylan Toombs.

“Through our partnership with U of T Scarborough, The BRIDGE, and the Black Founders Network, participants will gain access to passionate facilitators and mentors, as well as a greater understanding of what it means to be an entrepreneur and what goes into developing a business.”

- Chris Thompson, Executive Director,
Federation of Black Canadians

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

The BRIDGE will also partner with FBC to support the creation of a 12-month mentorship program that offers one-on-one support from leaders in the Black community aimed at building professional networks and expanding social capital. Topics will include managing stress, debt, technology, brand and business development, and mental wellness.

\$1.3 MILLION
RAISED

170 YOUTH
TO BE SUPPORTED

SCARBOROUGH SHOOTING STARS

- ASPIRATION -

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

The Scarborough Shooting Stars' (SSS) inaugural season began on May 26, 2022. With their home games hosted at the Toronto Pan Sports Centre (TPASC), a great sense of attention to and for our campus—as well as the broader Scarborough community—was cultivated on the court.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

This sense of Scarborough pride was amplified at SSS' Home Opener on June 4, 2022, where we saw faces like Drake, J. Cole, players from Toronto Raptors and Toronto Blue Jays, and SSS co-founders Niko Carino and Sam Ibrahim.

Invitations to local community partners—such as All Stars Outreach (Mornelle Court), Toronto Community Housing's Violence Reduction Team (Danzig), Parents Engaged in Education, Pamoja Institute and Strong Academy—ensured we had a stadium full of Scarborough's leading change makers and residents. This opportunity was funded by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean's Office, the Health & Wellness Centre, and the Athletics & Recreation Centre in the Office of Student Experience (OSEW).

Building on this excitement, on July 28, 2022, we partnered with SSS and the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) to host "UTSC Student Leadership Day", which brought 250 student leaders to seat a U of T Scarborough-only section at the final home game.



REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

Post-season, our relationship with SSS, spearheaded by Neel Joshi, Dean, Office of Student Experience and Wellbeing, continued to grow. SSS apparel became available at the UTSC Bookstore; student-athletes were invited to model their apparel in a photo shoot; and SSS co-founder Sam Ibrahim collaborated with SCSU and OSEW to create an arcade space at the lower level of the Student Centre.

Looking forward, there will be a dedicated U of T Scarborough section for Season 2 and new activations in the works.

OUT OF MANY, ONE

- ASPIRATION -



BUILDING A FOUNDATION

The University of Toronto Scarborough has partnered with Nobellum Enterprise and The Ubuntu Creative Arts Project (UCAP) to create *Out of Many, One*, an art installation located in The BRIDGE Finance & Data Lab in the Instructional Centre. The project seeks to create a sense of belonging for students, staff, faculty, and community members who access The BRIDGE, including Nobellum's cohorts of Black businesses, innovators, and founders.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

In celebration of the Nobellum True Blue Accelerator Fund, launched in 2022, *Out of Many, One* seeks to bring together the voices of our communities together to inform the campus' commitment to inclusion as reflected in academic learning spaces in the fields of finance, S.T.E.M and entrepreneurship.



"This mural itself is a symbol of a larger idea of collaboration and partnership. It is the fruit of relationships that were fostered before and during its creation. It has caught the attention of many stakeholders and led to a larger conversation on what inclusive excellence should look and feel like. My hope is that it will be a stepping stone to encouraging greater and deeper relationships with diverse community partners, faculty and students."

- Kathryn Lawrence, Co-Founder and Brand Director, Nobellum Enterprise; Founder, The Ubuntu Creative Arts Project



ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION (CONTINUED)

Many of the collaborators in *Out of Many, One* are from equity-deserving communities and face systemic barriers to entry and success in S.T.E.M. and business fields. This endeavour serves to intentionally bring community voice into the fabric of the University of Toronto Scarborough through art, mentorship, intentional community engagement, reflection, and learning.

The project centers community voices who have co-created the project framework, art concept, selection of the jury, and the series of events that followed the artist selection, to celebrate, educate, and elevate Black knowledges and praxis in pedagogical spaces in business and Management.

REVISIT, RETHINK & EVOLVE

This art activation, revealed on April 29, 2023, will inspire not only the students who use the space every day, but community members who step foot into the Instructional Centre. The hope is that this project, in conjunction with the wider Nobellum and U of T Scarborough partnership, can be studied and from there, a framework developed that can be used as a toolkit for community partnerships that can be shared with other institutions and implemented in similar community relationships.

"I appreciate that this process has been community-driven and I believe it celebrates a collective of opinions from some of the most artistic minds in our community."

- Aubin Cooper, Founder and CEO of Soundwav.io, (Nobellum 2022 Innovator)



ASPIRATION *affirmation*

"In Canada, we have a marvellous opportunity—perhaps a duty—to build a society which acknowledges and incorporates the shared values and aspirations of our multicultural society.

We aspire to foster the dreams of the current generation and build a solid future for future generations.

In sharing the values and traditions of our ancestors, we honour each other's cultures and kindle hope for a brighter future together."

- AMADOU KIENOU, TRADITIONAL DRUMMER
& COMMUNITY LEADER



QUESTION ON ASPIRATION

WHO AND WHAT ARE
THE PEOPLE AND
EXPERIENCES THAT
HAVE INSPIRED MY
ASPIRATIONS, AND
HOW CAN I STAY
CONNECTED TO
THEM?



DREAMS

artwork

ARTIST STATEMENT:

A reflection of how the pathway to dreams stems from education and collaboration. Roots in our community, reflected by the white trillium, extend branches to the farthest corners of the galaxy.

ARTIST BIO

Maria Raveendran is a portrait painter, fashion fanatic, TEDx speaker, and resident physician based in Toronto.

An alumna of the University of Toronto Scarborough's Human Biology and Psychology program and current resident physician in Family Medicine at the University of Toronto, Maria has a passion for finding ways to connect science and art. She explores various life concepts through oil painting, sculpting, digital collages, and fashion illustrations. She has given a TEDx talk on the power of fashion and hosted a virtual exhibition exploring the soul-body connection through portrait painting. Maria is also a classically trained pianist, violinist, and ballet dancer. She runs a blog about her creative endeavours and more often than not, her creative fails.

When she's not working on her art, Maria is an avid solo traveller, a Diet Coke connoisseur, and a frequent fixture at smoothie bowl cafes.



*16" x 20" Oil and
acrylic on canvas by
Maria Raveendran*



CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we paint a galaxy inspired by the vibrant hues of our diverse campus, we etch the mark of our collective commitment to inclusive excellence in history's pages.

We hope you have seen yourself reflected in these success stories—from the weighable measures of impact, to the less tangible—but equally transformative—hallmarks of accomplishment: relationships made, trust formed, and respect shared. As we foster interdisciplinary engagement across the university and with the wider community, we are fostering an ecosystem where all our identities are valued, seen and celebrated.

When we do the inner self-work that dreaming requires, we can co-create a future where everyone can flourish. Because, after all, advancing our communities starts from within.

REFLECTION | INSPIRATION | ASPIRATION

COLLABORATIVE DREAMING

VISION BOARD STICKERS



MAP OUT YOUR DREAMS WITH THESE CUSTOM STICKERS
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INSPIRATION

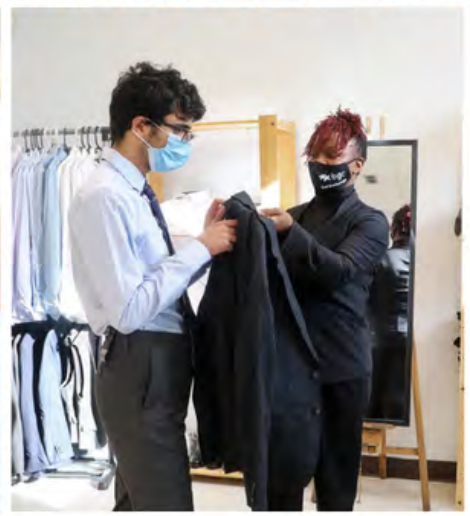


COLLABORATIVE DREAMING





REFLECTION



ASPIRATION



DEFY
GRAVITY

