Heritage Diversity Initiative

Telling Toronto’s Stories

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About Heritage Toronto

Heritage Toronto is a charitable organization and agency of the City that works with the citizens of Toronto to, educate, and promote a greater appreciation for our city's rich heritage. Through partnerships with local community groups and volunteers, Heritage Toronto works to heighten awareness of our shared history by providing city-wide programs and services.

Programs include neighbourhood tours, the annual Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture, a heritage plaques and markers program, participation in Doors Open Toronto and Building Storeys, our photography exhibition.

Mission

Heritage Toronto celebrates, interprets, and educates for our cultural, architectural, archaeological and natural heritage.

Vision

The recognized voice for heritage in Toronto.
Heritage Toronto has begun work on its new Heritage Diversity initiative to expand the range of organizations that will work together to document the history of Toronto. The Heritage Diversity initiative aims to make sure that the broad story of the city's past incorporates the full diversity of its cultural communities and to gather and share the knowledge and best practices of organizations from across Toronto's heritage and cultural communities.

**Being inspired**
- *Connecting stories and ideas with artefacts* Toronto Museum Project.ca
- *Our Toronto publication* to largest language groups in Toronto
Hiring a person who is from a diverse cultural community to lead the project

Who sent ya?

People will believe the organization is really interested in diversity when they hire people to work for the organization or at least to work on outreach initiatives.
Heritage Diversity

Making sure the project benefits the communities as well as your organization. People do not want to feel used.

*Build in an initial consultation/conversation with the community*

*What they are interested in getting from the process?*
Engaging others in the Heritage sector

The Diverse cultural community members will want access to your network

Diverse cultural organizations are often the keepers of their communities' stories and are thus "heritage associations"
Building on the initiative over time

Be sincere, be curious, ask questions about what they would like to see happen next

Look for areas that are their best practices that you can learn from

Make it clear that we are not smarter, we have just had access to more resources and support

They can smell a fake coming from a mile away
Heritage Diversity
Integration into our ongoing programming
Heritage Tours Program
Lectures
Heritage Awards

Online Presentation
- **Heritage Diversity Interviews**: Youth members from the communities and organizations researched and wrote heritage stories for each community appearing in their respective languages online.
Building ongoing programming partnerships year round