



KDU

KRIO DESCENDANTS UNION

UK & Ireland

OUR HERITAGE . OUR CULTURE . OUR LEGACY

KDU UKI Untold Stories Project

Khadiru Mahdi



Untold Stories of London's Unique, Historical Links to the Krio People of Sierra Leone

- ▶ Thanks to the Mayor of London's £5,000 Test & Nurture grant to improve diversity in the public realm.
- ▶ We will tell the inspiring story of the Krio presence in London, tracing the timeline from the abolition of slavery and the 'Black Poor' of London who were shipped to the 'Province of Freedom' in Sierra Leone to their descendants who made significant positive impact in Sierra Leone and London.
- ▶ The 'Krio' people (Krios) are direct descendants of various African-American, African and Caribbean previously enslaved and free people who British abolitionists resettled in Freetown from 1787 onwards.

London's Unique, Historical Links to the Krio People of Sierra Leone



- ▶ These disparate band of people established a vibrant community with a common language and culture and were central to the development of the first major British Colony in Africa.
- ▶ Subsequently, over the years, many of their descendants came to London and made their mark, a story which is the focus of this project.
- ▶ Our plan is for a visual representation of their story by creating a striking mural complemented by related narrative.
- ▶ Our ambition is for this unique story to be more widely known by being taught in schools and becoming integral to the historical canon of London.

Celebrating Krio Personalities



- ▶ We will celebrate several personalities including:
- ▶ 1) Africanus Horton 1835–1883. Surgeon, Scientist, soldier, political thinker (who first wrote about sickle cell disease in 1874 long before its Western discovery in 1910)
- ▶ 2) Dr Davidson Nicol, 1924-1994. Physician, academic, writer, poet (who was first to analyse the breakdown of insulin in the human body, a breakthrough for the treatment of diabetes.
- ▶ 3) Adesanya Kwamina Hyde, 1915 -1993 (who was in the RAF and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Bravery)
- ▶ 4) Constance Cummins-John, 1918 - 2000. An educationist and politician. The first woman in Africa to join a municipal council and the first woman to serve as Mayor of Freetown in 1966.
- ▶ 5) Dr Irene Ighodaro, 1916 -1995. The first West African woman doctor in Britain.

Delivering the Project

The Project Team



- ▶ Jesse Hamelberg
 - ▶ Kayode Robbin-Coker
 - ▶ Lawrence Lusanie
 - ▶ Khadiru Mahdi
 - ▶ Ellen Samuels (Chair of Trustees)
 - ▶ Abdul Thomas
 - ▶ Iyamide Thomas
 - ▶ Sam Walker
- ▶ A mix of experience and expertise including senior management in local government, education and charities.
 - ▶ Range of specialisms & skills including heritage, curating exhibitions, project and financial management.
 - ▶ Overseen by KDU UKI Trustees
 - ▶ Supported by KDU UKI Volunteers
 - ▶ External advisors to lead workshops and provide specialist advice and support.

Taking the project forward

Activities



Activities will include:

- ❖ Public consultation and workshops
- ❖ Locating the building for the mural
- ❖ Gaining local authority permission
- ❖ Embedding inclusion and accessibility
- ❖ Preparing fact sheets & educational resources.

Consultation and Inclusion



Consultation

- ▶ **Surveys**
- ▶ **Workshops**
- ▶ **Focus Groups**
- ▶ Targeted at other African-Caribbean and white communities, young and old, through community centres, schools, youth groups and other places where people meet.
- ▶ We will draw from these people to form a representative **Community Reference Group** which will inform and advise on decision making.

Inclusion

- ▶ Spread the word and promote various activities through social and print media.
- ▶ A mural is a visual piece. We will get specialist advice on how to make the project accessible for blind and partially sighted people.
- ▶ Accessible venues for workshops and focus groups.
- ▶ Interpreters, induction loop according to need.

Mural



- ▶ The people we are celebrating had relationships with various London boroughs. Our research and consultation will help us explore the options of the borough in which to locate the mural.
- ▶ We plan to create a striking mural complemented by related narrative.
- ▶ We will work with the Local Authority for their support, advice and permissions regarding everything to do with murals, including engaging with the property owner.
- ▶ We will seek specialist support for accessibility, IT and creative media.
- ▶ Project Brief and tender documents to recruit the mural design team. Selection will be based on who best meets our brief, track record, ability to engage with the community, meeting deadlines, working methods and value for money.

Timeline & Indicative Milestones

April 2023 - February 2024



Date	Activity
22.04.23	Public Launch and Consultation
June 23	Workshop 1 and analysis
July 23	Focus Groups, including inclusion & accessibility
April - July 23	Explore options and decide the location for the mural and engage with the landowner and local authority for permission for the installation.
April -July 23	Develop social media and online presence including a dedicated Untold Stories Project page on our website
Sept. 23	Workshop 2 and analysis
Nov. 23	Workshop 3 and analysis
Sept. 23- Jan 24	Complete analysis, reviews and decisions on the final project design and indicative cost of the mural installation.
Sept.23 - Dec.23	Gain mural permissions from landowner and Local Authority.
Feb. 2024	Final Project Report approved by KDU UKI Trustees and submitted to the Mayor's Grants Team.



Phase 1

The consultative and planning stage

- ▶ The ultimate goal is to commission and realise the mural in a prominent location in London.
- ▶ This first stage is to finalise the concept through consultation, identify the location for the mural and obtain planning permission.
- ▶ Successful implementation of Phase 1 would stand us in good stead to obtain additional funding for the installation of the mural.



KDU

KRIO DESCENDANTS UNION

UK & Ireland

OUR HERITAGE . OUR CULTURE . OUR LEGACY

Thank You