

Ride & Find

A guide to the artists, artwork and landmarks
celebrating Black legacies in Ontario

2023



**MOVING LEGACIES: Celebrating Black
innovation and resistance in Ontario**
#BHMxTTC



Ride & Find

A guide to the artists, artwork and landmarks celebrating Black legacies in Ontario.

You can use this guide to learn more about: Adeyemi “Yung Yemi” Adegbesan, Autumn Beals, Kanisha Dabreo, Danilo “Deluxo” McCallum, Meighan Morson, Komi Olaf, Quentin VerCetty and Troydel Wallace, the key Black individuals they profiled, and the spots where they left their mark.

Visit [ttc.ca](https://www.ttc.ca) to learn more about our other diversity and inclusion initiatives.



Diversity and equity are top priorities at the TTC, and we are proud to play a role in acknowledging and celebrating the many cultures that make up our city each and every day.

Visit [ttc.ca](https://www.ttc.ca) to learn more about our other diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Visit [ttc.ca/jobs](https://www.ttc.ca/jobs) to learn about the TTC's commitment to fostering a positive workplace culture with a workforce that is representative of the communities we serve.

Diversity Department

The TTC recognizes the importance of taking action to be responsive and reflective of the communities it serves, as well as to provide positive workplaces that value and support the full participation of all employees. To do so, while acknowledging a history of systemic racism and bias, the TTC is committed to implementing targeted initiatives to create an organizational culture of inclusiveness, respect and dignity that is free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. This will require “seeing differently, thinking differently, and doing work differently” (Racial Equity Tools, 2020), and the Diversity Department is here to provide leadership and guidance on how to do that.

Racial Equity Office

The Racial Equity Office (REO) is housed within the TTC’s Diversity Department. Through consultation and capacity building, the REO applies a racial equity lens to TTC policies, programs and initiatives to close opportunity gaps for Black, Indigenous and racialized communities. The REO also supports departments and business units across the TTC in promoting diversity, enhancing inclusion, and combatting racial discrimination in all its forms.

Racial equity is both an outcome and a process. “As an outcome, racial equity is achieved when race no longer determines one’s socioeconomic outcomes; when everyone has what they need to thrive, no matter where they live. As a process, racial equity is applied when those most impacted by structural racial inequity are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the institutional policies and practices that impact their lives” (Race Forward, 2021).



YUNG YEMI

@Yung.Yemi

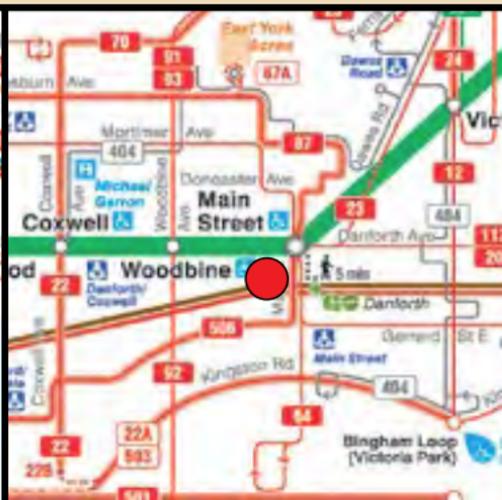
Yung Yemi is a Toronto-based multi-disciplinary artist whose practice aims to examine the intersectionality of Black identity.

Reflecting on Black culture ideologies from pre-colonial, colonial, present day and future timelines; across regions, religions, varying levels of income and political lines, Yung Yemi examines the dichotomy of the richness of Black experiences with the imposed societal homogeneity of 'Blackness'. Through his work, Yung Yemi pulls from these varying elements to create Afrofuturistic portraits that embody themes of history, fantasy, speculative futures, and spirituality.

Stanley G. Grizzle (1918–2016), CM O.Ont, a Toronto born railway porter and veteran, who, after World War 2, emerged as the leader of the Toronto chapter of the *Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters* (BSCP). He went on to commit to different activism causes for Black Canadian rights. As a civil servant he became the first Black Canadian Citizenship Judge in 1977.



Visit Stanley Grizzle Park, 21 Chisholm Ave. or the plaque at the Toronto Railway Museum, 255 Bremner Blvd. to learn more.



Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823–1893), Human rights activist, teacher, lawyer, abolitionist was one of the first Black female newspaper publishers in Canada. She founded and edited *The Provincial Freeman* around 1853. She also established a racially integrated school for Black refugees in Windsor. She played an important role in giving Black people a voice and advocating for women's rights.



Visit the plaque at 143 King St. East to learn more.





AUTUMN BEALS

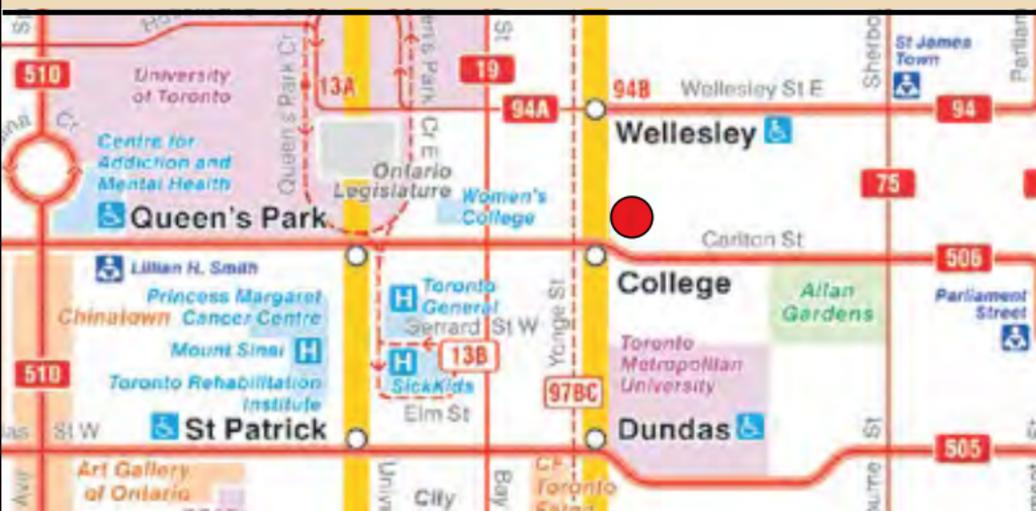
Autumn Beals is an oral historian and visual artist. She holds a BA in Honours Public History and Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality from Concordia University.

Her interests and work explore the social and cultural histories of marginalized communities in nineteenth to twentieth century North America, focusing on the intersectionality of race, sexuality and gender in these experiences. She hopes to continue engaging with the diverse and rich histories of these communities through oral, digital and visual forms of storytelling and practice.

Kathleen “Kay” Livingstone (1919–1975), organizer and social activist, broadcaster, actor, founded the *Canadian Negro Women’s Association* in 1951 and organized the first *National Congress of Black Women* in 1973. Livingstone devoted a great deal of her life and energy to social activism and organizing. Her tireless work to encourage a national discussion around the position of racialized people in society, particularly Black women, led Livingstone to coin the term visible minority in 1975.



Visit the plaque located at 475 Yonge St. to learn more.





KANISHA DABREO

@ArtisticPerceptionCa

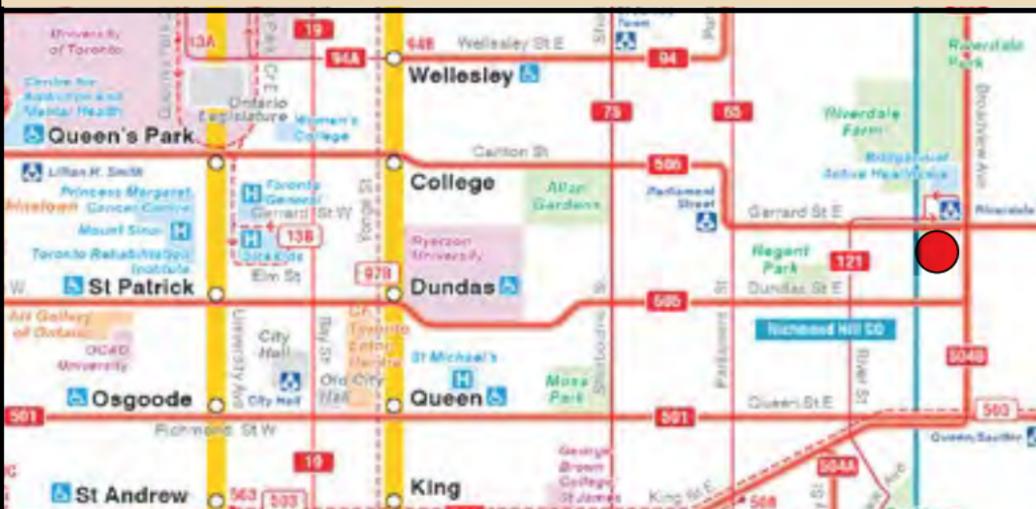
Multi-disciplinary artist and digital designer Kanisha Dabreo has been exploring her creative expression for the last five years, with a background in marketing and web development.

She is interested in the different ways to connect and inspire through visual communication. Kanisha Dabreo is one of the first artists to be a part of the AstroSankofa artist roster for the collective and works contractually as the organization's Web 3 project manager.

William Hubbard (1842–1935), was a studious cake maker that invented a commercial bakers' oven called Hubbard Portable Oven, around 1900. He quickly became known for being a great orator and became Toronto's first Black elected official, serving as alderman (1894–1903, 1913) and controller (1898–1908), and as acting mayor periodically. He campaigned to make the city's powerful Board of Control an elected body. Hubbard was also a leading figure in the push for public ownership of hydroelectric power, contributing to the establishment of the Toronto Hydro-Electric System (now Toronto Hydro).



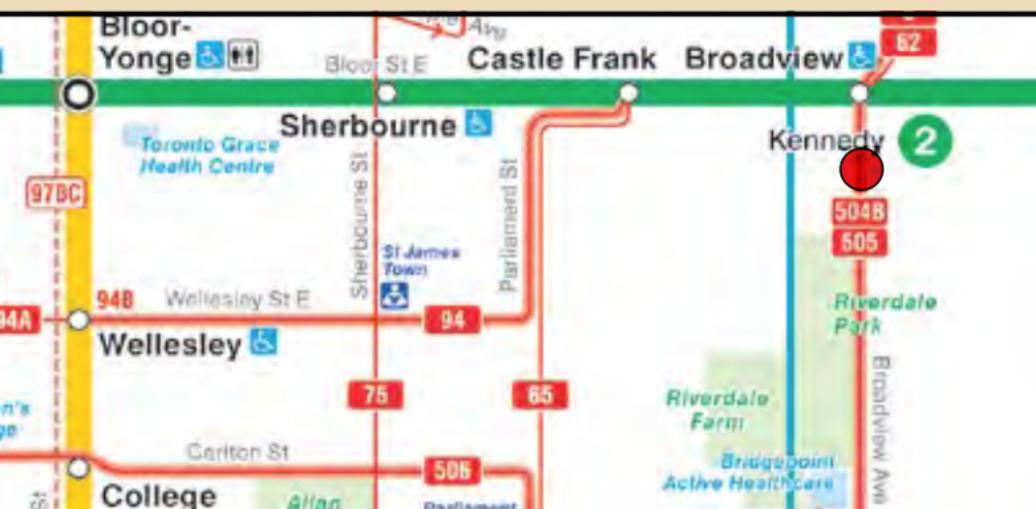
Visit Hubbard Park at 550 Gerrard St. East to learn more.



Frederick Langdon Hubbard (1878–1953), was a pioneer in public transit, he was the first Black general manager for the Toronto Street Railway from 1906 to 1921. He went on to become the first Black chair at the TTC in 1929. For several decades, he managed the *Scarborough Beach Amusement Park* and helped to modernize the beach area. Hubbard Boulevard was named in his honour for his contributions to the region.



Visit the plaque at 660 Broadview Ave. to learn more.





DANILO “DELUXO” MCCALLUM

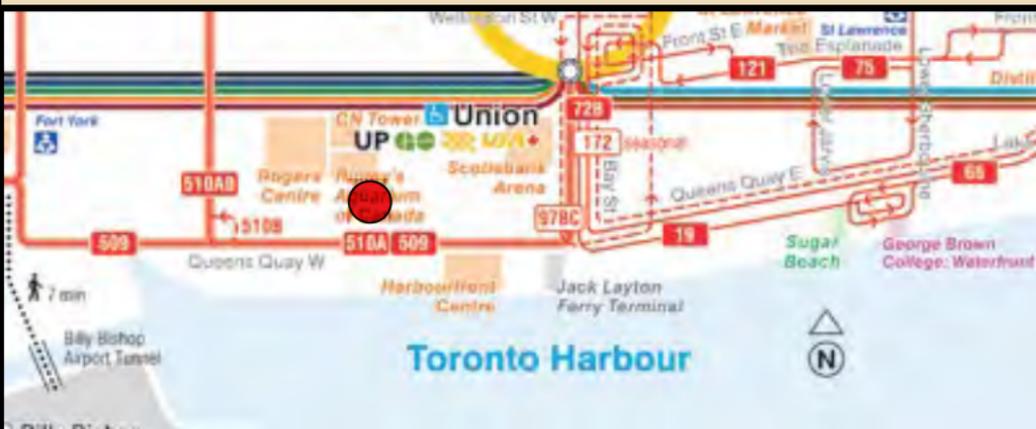
@DaniloDeluxo

Danilo “Deluxo” McCallum is an award-winning Toronto multidisciplinary artist, graphic designer, muralist and cultural curator. His creative practice explores the multiplicities of Black identity through the lens of Afrofuturism.

Elijah McCoy (1844–1929), born in Colchester, Ontario, he was a mechanic and an inventor. His most famous and successful invention (around 1872) was a self-lubricating oil cup that allowed railroad steam engines to operate without stopping the train. He also invented the portable ironing board, a lawn sprinkler and enhanced rubber heels for shoes, and had over 57 U.S. patents. In 1920, near the end of his career, he formed the *Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company*.



Visit the Toronto Railway Museum, 255 Bremner Blvd. to see a tribute and learn more.





MEIGHAN MORSON

@Emelle_Arts

Meighan Morson is a digital Afrofuturistic painter that primarily works with the human figure. Employing the use of high contrast, light and form, she creates strong, otherworldly and ethereal beings. She also writes poetry and short fiction.

Kay Blair (1954–2016), a community leader who undertook groundbreaking advocacy work for women and immigrants. She was the founder of the first *Women's Enterprise and Resource Centre*. From her early work as a counsellor at the *Emily Stowe Shelter*, Blair became Executive Director at *Community MicroSkills Development Centre* in 1988, where she served for over two decades helping to provide job skills training to women and newcomers. Kay also served multiple terms as the President of the *National Visible Minority Council on Labour Force Development*, President of the *Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)* and Chair of the Board of Governors at *Centennial College* and Board Chair of the *William Osler Health System*.



Visit Kay Blair's photo at Highfield Park, 68 Stevenson Rd. to learn more.



Reverend Mabel Adeline “Addie” Aylestock

(1909–1998), was born in Glen Allan, Ontario and from a young age became an activist and community worker. She went on to become the first Black woman to be ordained in Canada at the *British Methodist Episcopal Church* in 1951. Aylestock helped organize congregations in several communities in Ontario, as well as in Quebec and Nova Scotia.



Visit the plaque located at 23 Soho St. to learn more.





KOMI OLAF

@KomiOlaf

Komi Olaf is a visual artist, poet and architectural designer who is best known for his ability to represent, both visually and poetically, the complexities of the world and generation he finds himself within.

In recent years, Komi's art has been shaped by a cultural and artistic movement known as Afrofuturism, which explores African and African diasporic cultures in intersection with technology.

Mary and Henry Bibb (1820–1877 and 1815–1854), arrived as freedom seekers from enslavement in the United States, they fought to improve the well-being of the African Canadian community. A year after they settled in Sandwich in 1850, they founded a militant abolitionist newspaper, *Voice of the Fugitive*. Facing discrimination, they established their own schools to improve the education of Black children and adults. These achievements and their involvement in the organization of the *North American Convention of Colored Freeman* in 1851, made the Bibbs one of the colony's most influential couples of African descent.



Visit the plaque at St Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. East to learn more.





QUENTIN VERCETTY

@KeepGrowingQ

As a multi-award winning interdisciplinary creative, Quentin VerCetty is also one of the world's leading Afrofuturist a-r-tographers (artist-researcher-teacher practitioner).

Creator of the Joshua Glover Memorial Statue entitled *Stepping Forward Into History*, Toronto's first statue of a person of African descent, he is the first artist to be commissioned by *Carnegie Hall Foundation* creating their Afrofuturism festival branding. He is the founder and steward of the *Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM) Canada* and the founder and artist producer of *AstroSankofa Arts Initiatives*.

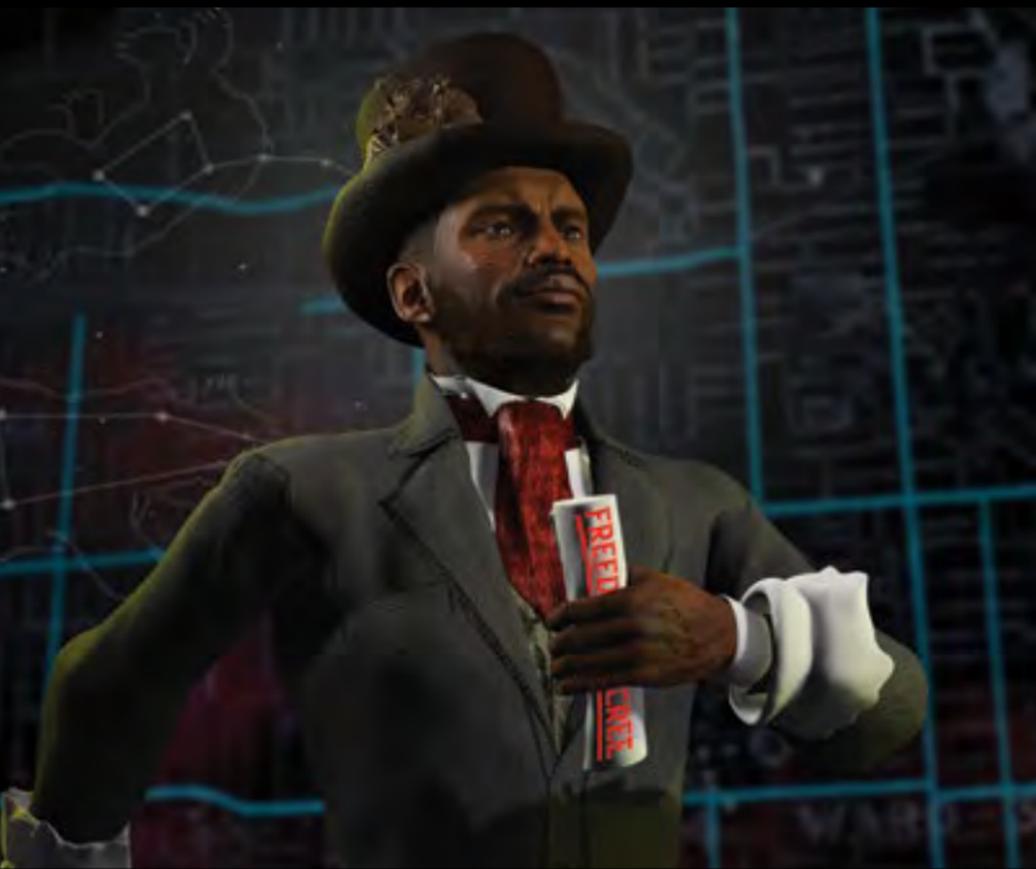
Lucie “Ruthie” and Thornton Blackburn (1803–1895 and 1812–1890), were self-emancipated former enslaved African Americans. Lucie became one of the first Black women in Toronto to own multiple plots of land. Together with her husband Thornton, they created Toronto’s first taxi cab company, called *The City* in 1837 and the main colour the was the fire engine red similar to the TTC today.



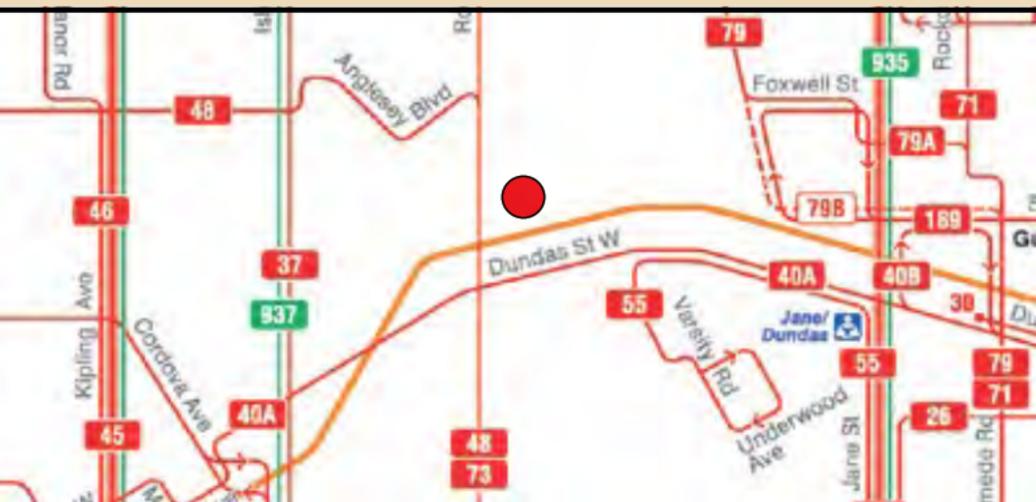
Visit David Crombie Park, 121 The Esplanade or the plaque at Inglebrook Community High School, 19 Sackville St. to learn more.



Joshua Glover was a freedom seeker who came to Canada in 1854, he quickly became a beloved community member, renowned for his landscape work and service at the Montgomery's Inn. Joshua Glover became one of the first documented Black homeowners in the area around 1860. He settled into a small house in Lambton Mills and was documented as one of 39 Black homeowners living in Etobicoke in the 1870 census.



Visit the plaque at Joshua Glover Park at 25 Ackley Hts. to learn more.





TROYDEL WALLACE

@Troy_Dell

Troydel Wallace is a Jamaican born Toronto-based digital and visual artist whose passion is fueled by his desire to inspire change and impact lives by staying true to his art style, and his mission to showcase the beauty and value of the African Community on a whole.

Troydel's drive is propelled by his conviction that he was called to be an artist through his intense fascination with the Afro Futurism art style, Afro Punk aesthetics and his Caribbean cultural influence. Troydel's gold themed art style create visual metaphors that celebrates the beauty and value in the African aesthetics, culture and its people.

Beverly Mascoll (1941–2001), was the founder of one of Canada's largest distributors of haircare and beauty products for Black women. Her hard work and determination to succeed had ripple effects that served her community through care, service, and philanthropy. In 1973, Beverly opened her first store at 870 Bathurst St., not far from where her family settled when they first arrived in Toronto from Nova Scotia. The shop became a refuge; a place Black women could access information, community, and support.



Visit the plaque at Ed and Anne Mirvish Parkette, 843 Bathurst St. to learn more.





The TTC has partnered with **AstroSankofa Arts Initiatives** and is proud to feature twelve influential Black contributors to Ontario politics, education, infrastructure and industry.

AstroSankofa Arts Initiatives explores the connection to the past, present and future through the West African concept, sankofa. The practice of this is called “*Sankofanology*”. Sankofanology is at the heart of the work of the organization as it relates to Afrofuturism, which centres stories and practices towards the healing, growth, evolution and exponential potential of people of African descent. The organization is instrumental in highlighting creatives and providing opportunities for Black artists to share their pieces within various community settings.

@Astrosankofa



#BHMxTTC

Learn more at ttc.ca/2023BHM
or scan the QR code.

