



# Hosting

## AYA Educational Institute's Family-Lore Project

Families in dialogue with the past & the future

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**Afiya & Wekesa  
Madzimoyo  
Co-Directors**



## **AYA Educational Institute**

[ayaed.com/flp](http://ayaed.com/flp)

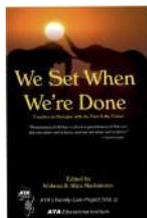


Wekesa Madzimoyo, the Co-Director of AYA, is a published author, educator and the creator of the Family-Lore Project. Years in the making, this academic, family and social healing project has been received national and international. Early on Dr. Ija Adenishi (?) and author Aza Smith, guided the students to begin appreciating their family stories and their own voices. Through *family dialogue*, students collected family proverbs, sayings, writings, stories. Through *reflection, discussion, writing and analysis* of that lore, they have grown academically while deepening their appreciation and connection to their families and Black culture. As word spread, The Association of Black Psychologist invited us to present our work. Under the guidance of Dr. Danielle Davis, professor of Education at Saint Louis University, the students were invited to present at the 2018 **National Association of Black Studies Conference (NABS)** in Atlanta, GA. Their theme: *Auto-Ethnography as an Emancipatory Research Method*. In June of 2018, AYA partnered with Debra Watkins - Founder and Executive Director of ABEN: A Black Education Network. to sponsor a student delegation to present at the 43 annual **Caribbean Studies Association**, in Cuba. That was followed by another presentation to the **African Educational Research Network AERN** Summit in Ghana, West Africa.



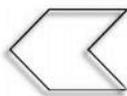
AYA Co-director, and chief administrator - Afiya Madzimoyo, and staff have nurtured and advanced the project through its five stages from collecting, reflecting, analyzing, to telling their stories, to accepting the role of “keeper of the family stories,” and ultimately to successfully publishing *We Set When We’re Done* - a compilation of student work in 2017.

## Program Guidelines



### MA'AT:

- Truth
- Justice
- Balance
- Order
- Harmony
- Righteousness
- Reciprocity



- Try on
- Ok to Disagree, Not ok to attack, shame, blame
- Practice self-focus
- Ask questions of self and others
- Practice both/and thinking
- Participate fully

National FLP Project Coordinator, Ife Madzimoyo, is your point person for success through all phases of the project from recruitment, through instruction to student and family academic and social developmental success. There are five phases of this project. It starts with youth collecting stories and gaining the family trust, then (2) sharpening their research and interviewing skills. Storytelling for critical thinking (3) is next, followed by (4) storytelling for academic and social healing. The last phase (5) is when the student becomes the Djali (griot).



## Hosting Site Requirements

- 1) Access to Black middle and high school males and females (maximum of 40 is allowed, per site)
- 2) Ability to manage a recruitment

process (templates provided)

- (3) Access to a meeting site, twice per month, for 3 hours each.
- (4) Ability to raise the \$7,000 replication fee to cover: 20 “We Set When We’re Done” books, ongoing site training and support, assistance developing your site’s FLP publication, and book publishing.
- (5) Designation of a facilitator/site coordinator and site assistant(s)
- (6) Willingness to embrace the Principles of Ma’at and the Warrior, Healer, Builder Guidelines [link]
- (7) Ability to assist students with the creation of GoFundMe (or similar) pages to raise money to attend the 2019 Family Lore Project conference
- (8) Ability to engage parents so that they can participate and support their students to achieve program objectives
- (9) Commitment to work closely with Ife Madzimoyo, FLP’s National Coordinator to ensure site progress
- (10) Willingness to participate in quarterly on-line meetings with Wekesa and Afiya Madzimoyo to discuss progress of your Family Lore Project site

## Apply Now!

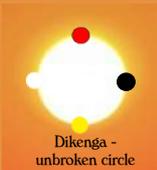
To apply to host a site before the June 30, 2018 (?), deadline and for a complete timeline of the application process, please email a request for the link to: [debrawatkins@aben4ace.org](mailto:debrawatkins@aben4ace.org). site before the June 30, 2018, deadline and for a complete timeline of the application process, please email a request for the link to: [debrawatkins@aben4ace.org](mailto:debrawatkins@aben4ace.org).

# The Family-Lore Project Site Invocation

The Family-Lore Project (FLP) is a journey of love and struggle. It is a literary, historical, cultural and - in many ways - spiritual journey. Its goal is to heal student alienation from family and culture to improve academic performance and make them more socially responsible to our families, our communities and our people - first.

At one FLP site, an old family name "Cuffe" led a high school student to discover his family's Ghanaian roots; another middle schooler was shocked to find out that her - now devout - mother had created a hip-shakin' female R&B singing group "back in the day." A mother's poem transported a student back before his birth to see his mother on stage sending a message to him. Black unity became more than a slogan when a grandmother's story revealed to yet another student how his family members successfully executed a daring plan - over five states - hiding a family member who was being pursued by racist authorities after he killed a white man in self-defense.

When students gather, reflect, discuss and write about their family stories, songs, proverbs, habits, and values, they attend and retain more. The process also can heal past and lingering academic wounds.



When students of African descent initiate dialogue with their family elders, a time portal opens. Both youth and elders travel the cultural circle of life called the Dikenga. Older tellers and youthful listeners are transformed by the dialogue between ancestors and descendants. These conversations mend broken circles and knotted relationships. They are also a portal to forgotten problem-solving options and strategies that may be useful today.

This intergenerational dialogue also helps heal identity confusion and alienation which leads to apathy, social manipulation, and even suicide. When the listeners become the tellers, the circle is unbroken.

While others lament the fabled loss of African culture, the Family-Lore Project celebrates and seeks to create a portal for it to fulfill its mission.

Help us gather middle and high school students and families to dialogue about oral and written family literature. Discussion, reflection, and analysis of this lore become a basis for their writing, critical thinking, academic motivation, and healing. We need you. Host a Family-Lore Project site in your community. Site locations limited. Apply today.

Contact Ife Madzimoyo: @ ife.madzimoyo.com | ayaed.com/flp

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