

EXHIBITION: A TWO-WAY JOURNEY – AFRICANS, CULTURE AND THE DIASPORA

In recognition of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank (ACIJ/JMB) opened an exhibition, A Two-Way Journey – Africans, Culture and the Diaspora, on February 14, 2020. The exhibition was launched in the ACIJ/JMB Library on February 18, 2020. Dr Enrique Okenve, Lecturer, Department of History and Archaeology, University of the West Indies, Mona, was Guest Speaker at the launch.

The exhibition explored the horrors of the Middle Passage and moved beyond the Atlantic to show the transforming power of the African culture in the Diaspora and the return of the reinterpreted culture and “New World” ideologies to the motherland.

The exhibition was divided into three sections, with the first section examining the conditions endured by enslaved Africans on the journey from Africa to the Americas – the Middle Passage. Section two focused on African cultural retentions in the Diaspora, and section three was an introduction to the impact of Western Blacks on Africa and the response of the motherland to her lost children.

The exhibition brought together art, technology, artefacts, and other objects for a stimulatingly, emotional journey through time and geographic spaces. It was a bid to demonstrate that, despite the cultural transformation that has taken place as a result of the African presence in the Americas, the Diaspora has also had the power to influence certain developments in Africa. The exhibition closed in March 2020.



Students from Ascot Primary School admire the wine bottles on display at the exhibition which were excavated in Port Royal.