

## Social Action

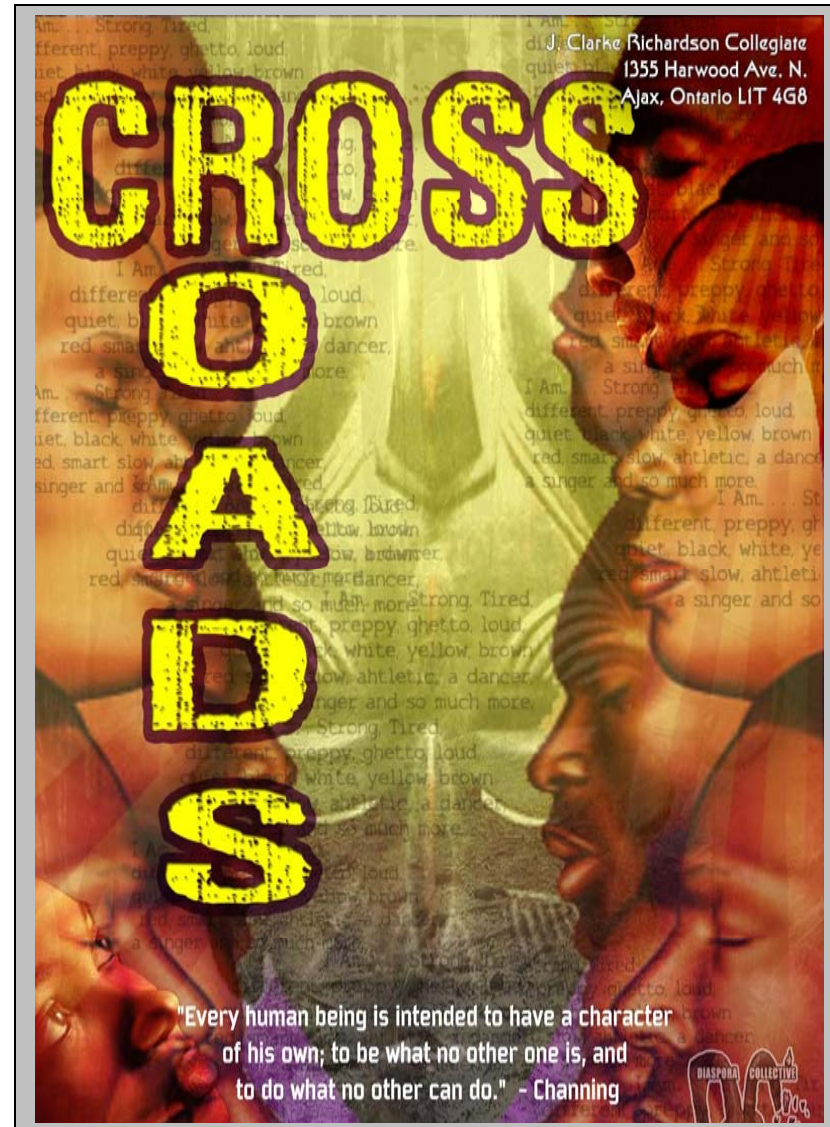
# Social Change through the Arts ...

### About the program ...

The Diaspora Collective Leadership Initiatives are a series of student-run team building and leadership activities which focus on developing secondary students' ability to express their ideas through original theatrical productions. Recently the Diaspora students produced *Crossroads*, a play focused on local issues, that was shared with the wider school community including elementary feeder schools. The production promoted social change skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, resource development and networking. Another area of focus was relationship building among volunteers, peers, staff and parents. A series of arts-based workshops focusing on positive identity, social change and student mentorship are also being developed for further sharing.

### Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students developed their critical thinking and literacy skills with expanded prospects for leadership.
- Student engagement increased as they were inspired by interaction with hip hop musicians and artists from the community.
- Parent and staff engagement was enhanced through several community outreach initiatives, including an appreciation ceremony that celebrated student success.
- Through working together, students increased their understanding and acceptance of the many cultures within the school and individual perspectives were expanded as cultural experiences were shared. School culture also improved as a sense of unity developed among the students.



### To find out more, contact ...

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