



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: THETHA JIKELELE - "Communication Across Borders" **Name:** Tara Ascitutto

Other Team Members:

Program: Oakland Program

Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

Location Visited: South Africa

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: I traveled to South Africa to build on a cross-cultural understanding project with South African youth who are involved in an organization which serves youth communities impacted by HIV and AIDS. I have been collaborating with FXB (Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud) for the past four years in the capacity of facilitating cultural understanding projects through letter writing, art and video exchanges. Going to South Africa gave me the opportunity to personally meet and connect with the youth whom we've been corresponding with over the years, as well as further developing our project. We spent time engaging in compassionate dialogue about community issues, creating community art, sharing ideas and developing a digital story-telling medium for our future exchanges. Through this collaboration we named our newly developed cultural understanding project, Thetha Jikelele, a Sotho phrase meaning "communication all over."

Career Impact: *Broadened my world view

*Heart and mind opening travel experience and connections

*Heightened my understanding of South African history and the social, economic and political contexts of the post-Apartheid era

*Allowed me to work directly with the youth and coordinators of FXB, whom my students and I have been corresponding with for several years

*Provided the opportunity to build on our cross-cultural understanding project

*Challenged and inspired me to fundraise for resources to provide more access to technology for FXB youth

Classroom/Community Impact:*Fostering of compassion, cultural understanding and empathy for my students

*Heightened awareness about HIV/AIDS in South Africa, as well as in our local community

*Understanding of South African culture and history/legacy of Apartheid

*Development of skills in oral history research, script writing, digital photography and storytelling

*Documented oral history and community issues for families and school community

Open Response: *Development of a digital story telling project which will be presented to students' families before sending to South Africa

*Curricular unit on South African history/legacy of Apartheid

*Sharing of elaborate travelogue with colleagues and students: <http://mamaafrica-taraasciutto.blogspot.com/>

Quote: "Working with the youth in South Africa strengthened my commitment to create classroom projects that foster cultural understanding and compassionate dialogue."

Photos:



YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S FXB AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



FXB YOUTH READING OAKLAND HIGH STUDENT LETTERS

FXB YOUTH WITH 510 SKATESHOP DECK

BRIDGING BORDERS THROUGH ART - COLLAGE PROJECT ABOUT WOMEN



COLLAGE PROJECT

COLLABORATE COLLAGE - "A WOMAN'S SOUL"

MANDELA HOUSE



APARTHEID MUSEUM