

with African American and Senegalese scholars focused on increasing their understanding of what happened on Goree Island and how those events impact on Africa and the Americas today.

The House of Slaves Museum at Goree Island is an 18th century structure that was part of a network of 28 buildings used to house African captives for the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The dark and musty cells that once were crammed with African bodies are now empty, except possibly for the spirits of those who suffered and were stolen. The House of Slaves was involved for centuries, in the capture and selling of humans and is representative of the physical, economic, and emotional oppression which is at the foundation of the insidious nature of the Trans-Atlantic slave.

**“Once the captured Africans arrived at the Atlantic, they were taken to one of the many slave forts that could be found along the coastline, where they would wait to be transported by ship to the Americas”**

In both practical and

metaphorical terms, Goree stands as a testament to the more than 20 million

Slave House and other historical sites on Goree that are part of the slavery

to create The House of Slave Museum as an institution of global significance

was conceived and championed by Boubacar Joseph Ndiaye. Mr. Ndiaye established the institution and was the lead oral presenter from 1962 until his death in 2009. Mr Ndiaye once described how the captives were treated like domesticated animals “Sometimes in the Slave House, I’d find a whole family, the father, the mother, and the child... put in different cells. The father could be led to Louisiana in America, the mother to Brazil or Cuba, and the child to Haiti or the Antilles. The separation was total.” The oral presentations provided to visitors offer an intimate and shocking portrait of the horrors of human trafficking and the destruction of African families and societies in Senegal and neighboring countries. The oral stories of Goree are offered to mostly foreign tourists and are usually conducted by official representatives



Big Goree projects coordinator Gene Adams (BCC), Fame Fadaro, Stephanie Kane, Makane Kane

Africans from diverse ethnic groups who were captured, subjugated, and forcibly traded and sent to the Americas and Europe from Africa, to feed the economic and industrial expansion of Western capitalism. *The Big Goree Project* students hope to first learn enough about the House of Slaves to inform and attract other students in Senegalese schools to join their national effort. Students visit the

narrative and social life on the island.

Since 1962, The House of Slaves Mansion Museum has operated as a historic and cultural attraction for tourists visiting Senegal from around the world. Annually, over 100,000 visitors trek to the museum, some out curiosity, some for research, and other as a pilgrimage to pay homage to ancestors lost. The vision

of the Slave House Museum or a network of self-taught community docents who retain and share the oral history of the Island and its role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, for a nominal fee.

The task of bringing 200 Senegalese young people together on this massive project falls on the shoulders of Fame Sadaro, a long time history teacher and noted