



Big Goree Project Students

tortured until broken.

Stephanie Kane, the Director of the Senegalese American Bilingual School (SABS), the lead institution in the eight-school coalition believes that it is very important for the students to understand the raw depravity of what happened at the House of Slaves “Children are not going to compromise the horror of what happened towards any political agenda. They will respond and seek truthful answers,” said Kane. She sees this openness and honesty within the youth as the key to establishing broad support for the House of Slaves. “Our aim is to bring together diverse thought and action partners to advance the cause of increasing local and global support for the Slave House. We want to create effective learning curricula for local and global educators and learners that offer new strategies for exploring the Slave House in the classroom, on the Internet, and on field trips”.

The actions of the Big Goree Project have already begun to attract the interest and support of those outside of Senegal. Students and faculty at The

City University of New York’s Bronx Community College (BCC) created a photographic exhibit that replicated the House of Slave on their campus. “Over 500

people came to see ‘Spirits Whispering in the Dark,’ our interactive photographic presentation on the Goree Island Slave House,” said Nick Fenderson, a student at BCC who has traveled to Senegal and visited Goree Island. Other BCC students are conducting research, developing a virtual museum app, and developing a business plan for a possible museum souvenir shop at the House of Slaves. “We’ve collaborated with SABS and other groups in Senegal for more than 15 years and the Big Goree Project is a wonderful way of connecting students and educators in the U.S. and Africa globally,” said Gene Adams the director of Collaborative Education at BCC.

The Big Goree Project’s Senegalese students and their American counterparts may never totally close the understanding and communication rip caused by the horrors of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, however, the enthusiasm and commitment they demonstrate as active participants in efforts to share the story of the Goree Island House of Slaves and the humanity of its victims may be a lesson for us all to emulate and embrace.



House of Slaves Door of no Return