

infungible narratives report

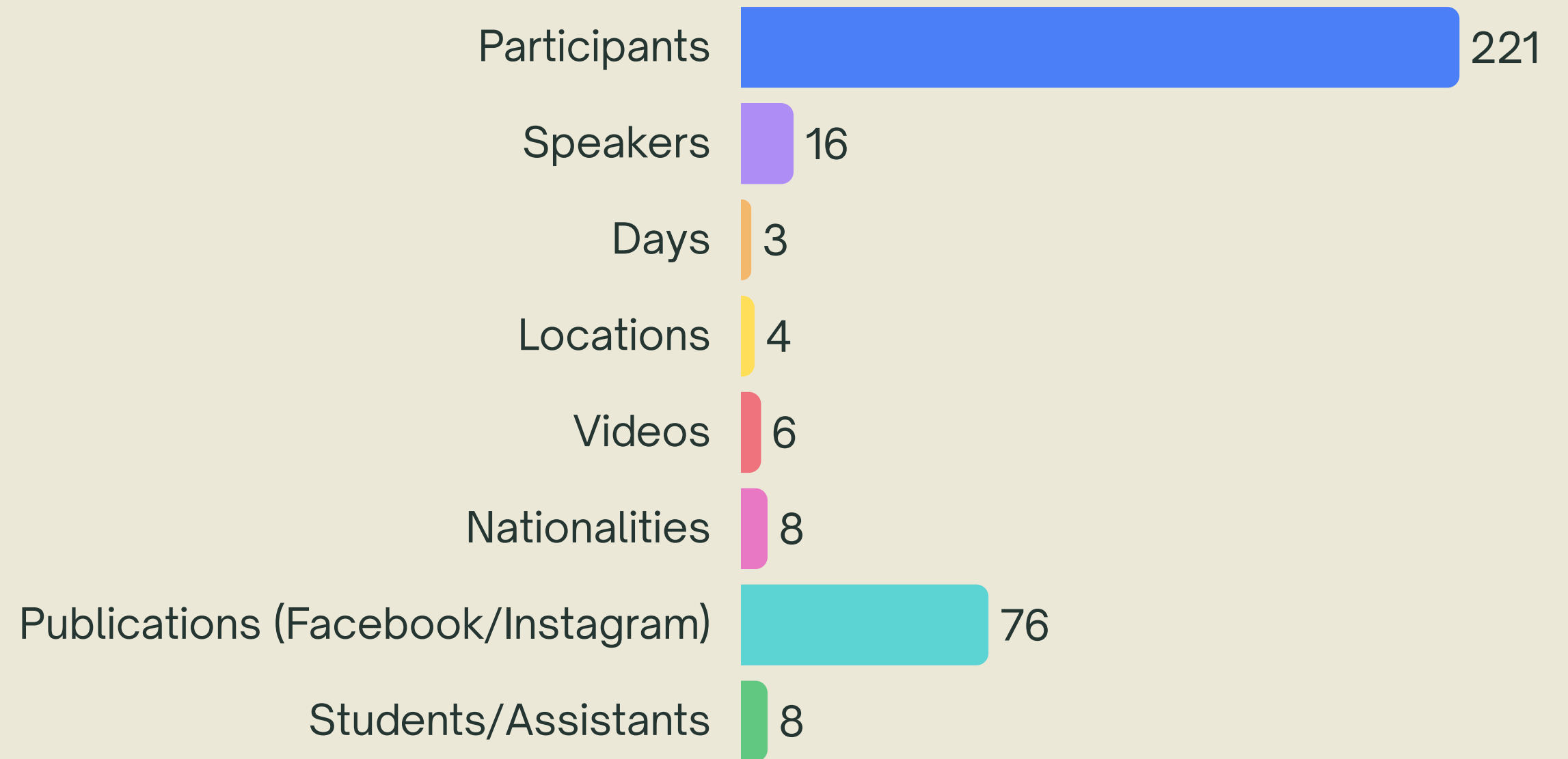
Rise 2025 Report

December 8–12, 2025 | Halifax, Nova Scotia



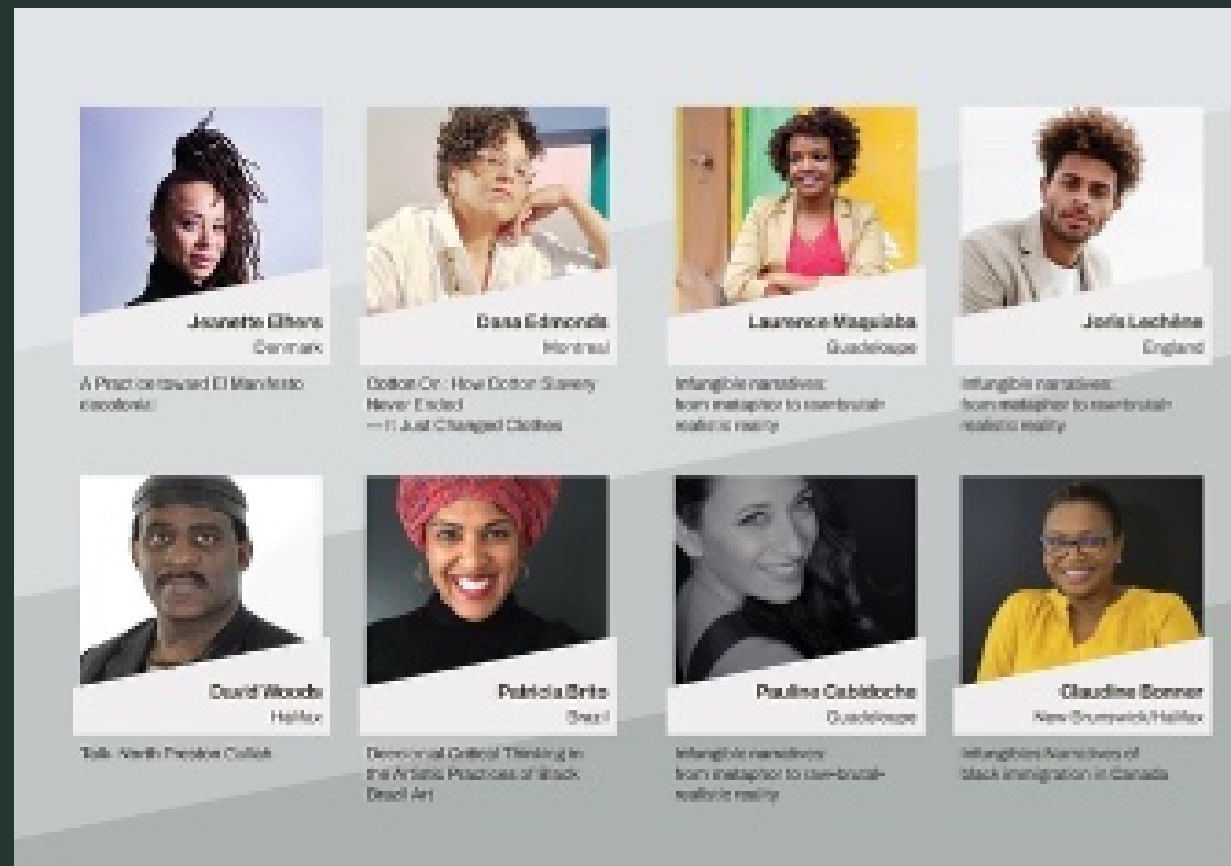


KEY NUMBERS



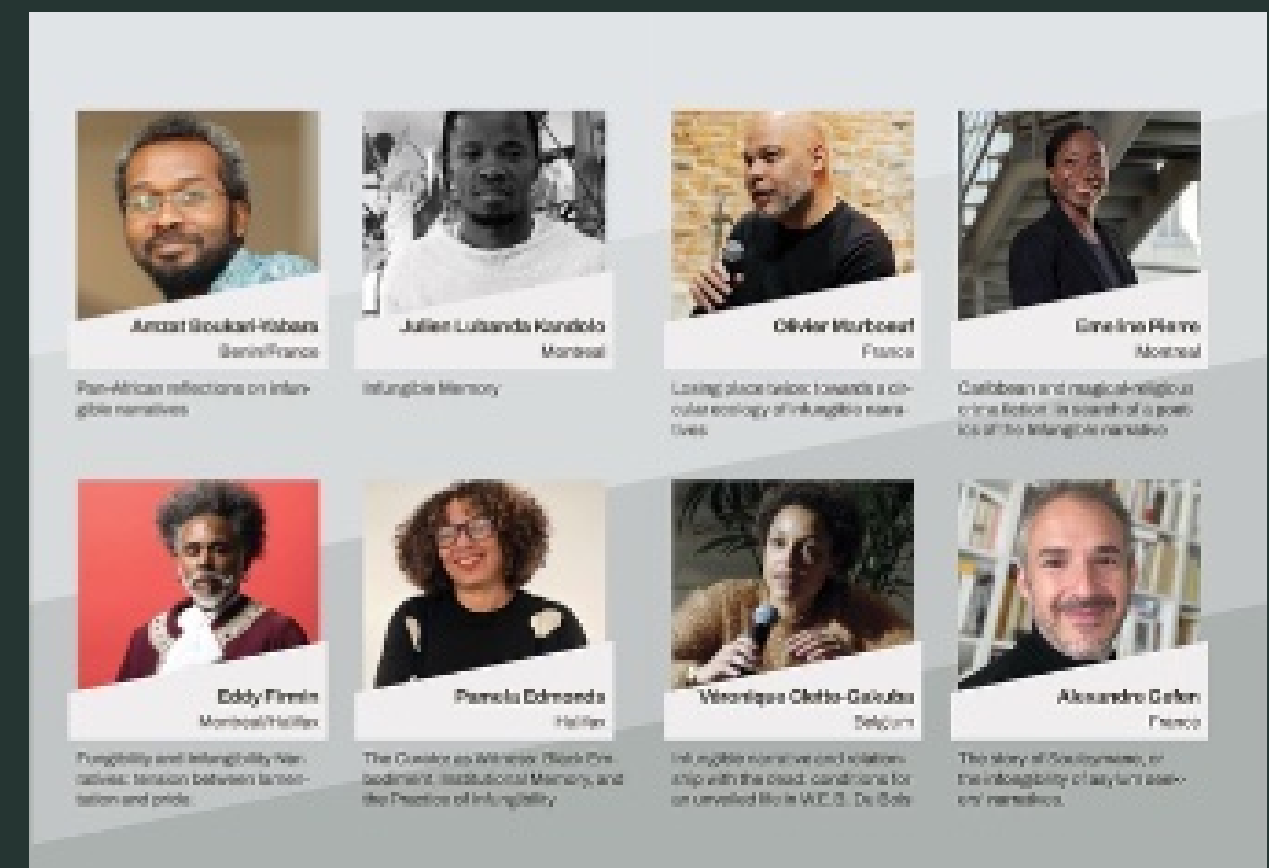
RISE SYMPOSIUM: INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES

The RISE Symposium was conceived as a space to center Black thinkers, artists, cultural workers and researchers within the Black Afro-Caribbean diaspora.



Rooted in the framework of “Infungible Narratives”, the symposium sought to create conditions where multiple Black perspectives could coexist without hierarchy, extraction, or assimilation into dominant academic norms.

The process unfolded across several phases, from the initial call to the final restitution and takedown, requiring coordinated collaboration, care-based logistics, and adaptive problem-solving.





DISSEMINATION

- Journal
- Social media (instagram/Facebook)
- Nscad connections, universities
- AGNS

TOOLS

- Material
- Software

HUMAN MEANS

- Designer
- Translators
- Videographer
- Co-curator/curator

MATERIAL MEANS

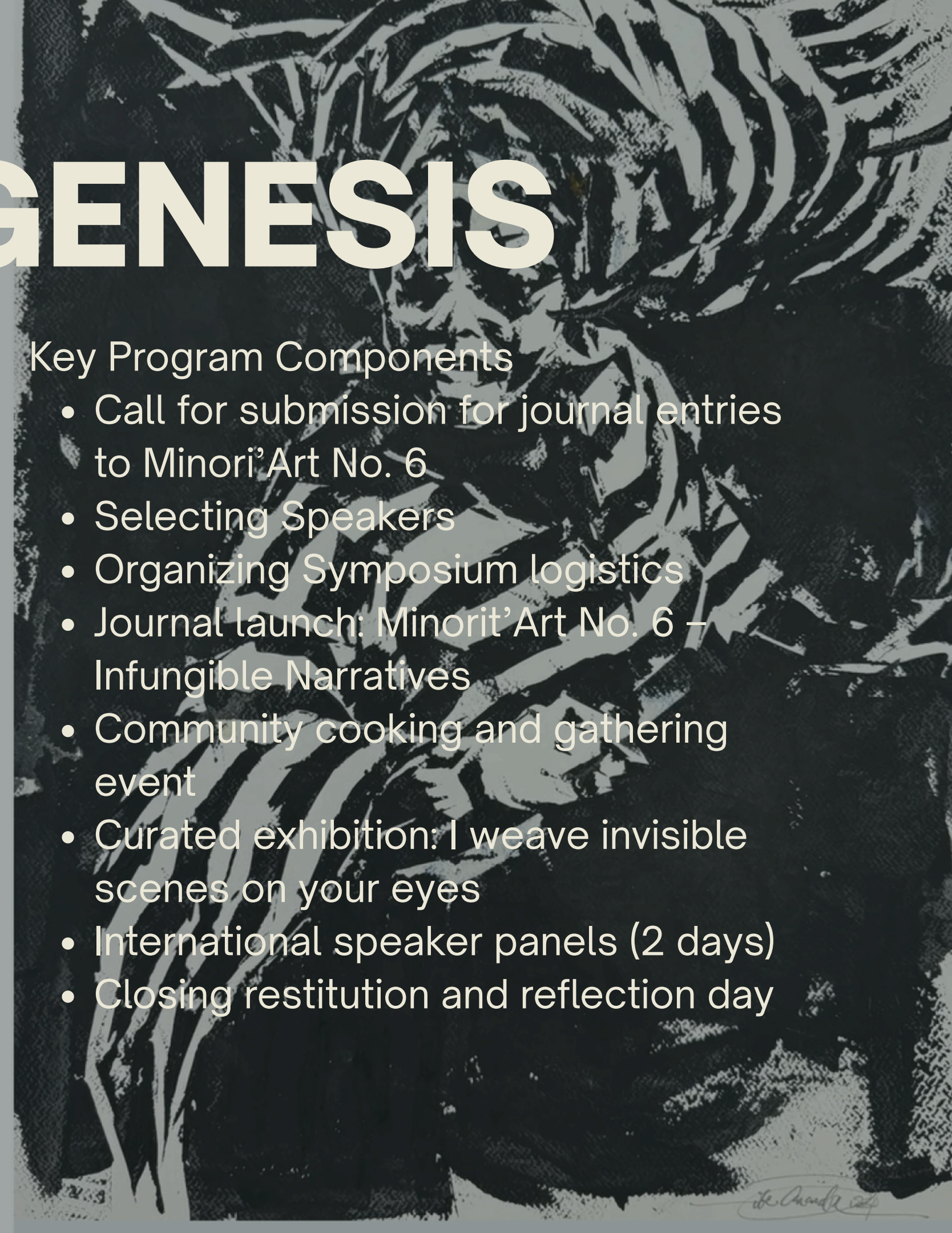
- Material
- Plane tickets
- Hotel Rooms

PROGRAM GENESIS

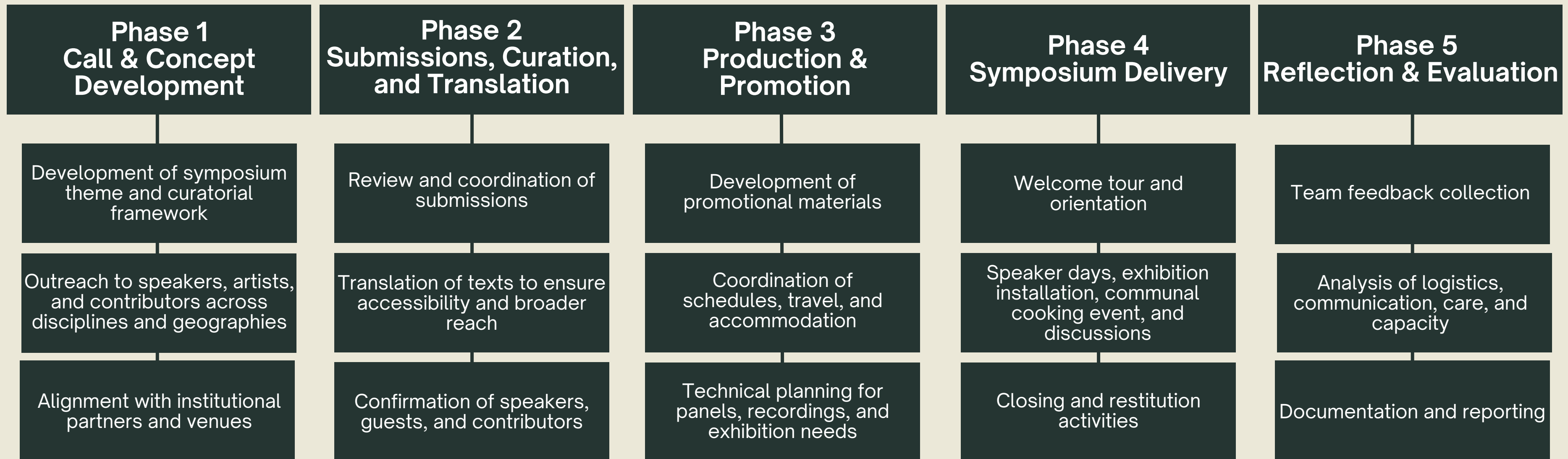
- The RISE Symposium began with an idea proposed by Eddy Firmin to create a Black-led intellectual and artistic platform.
- This vision expanded into a call for submissions for writers and researchers for the Minorit'Art journal issue on Infungible Narratives. The call received more submissions than anticipated, demonstrating strong demand for this platform.

Key Program Components

- Call for submission for journal entries to Minorit'Art No. 6
- Selecting Speakers
- Organizing Symposium logistics
- Journal launch: Minorit'Art No. 6 – Infungible Narratives
- Community cooking and gathering event
- Curated exhibition: I weave invisible scenes on your eyes
- International speaker panels (2 days)
- Closing restitution and reflection day



PROCESS TIMELINE: FROM CALL TO SYMPOSIUM



TEAM FEEDBACK



The Review committee selected contributors enthusiastically

An “honorarium for future readers should be considered in future budgets”



Logistical coordination ensured accessibility and care for all participants.



The team's works flow was best supported when each member was able to manage personal takes intentionally

Avoid last-minute pressure



Review committee requests tasks to be distributed earlier, with clearer deadlines and shared accountability, more working time



Clear communication, creating more time and space to name constraints or struggles

More rehearsals and consistent reminders

REVIEW AND PLANNING PROCESS

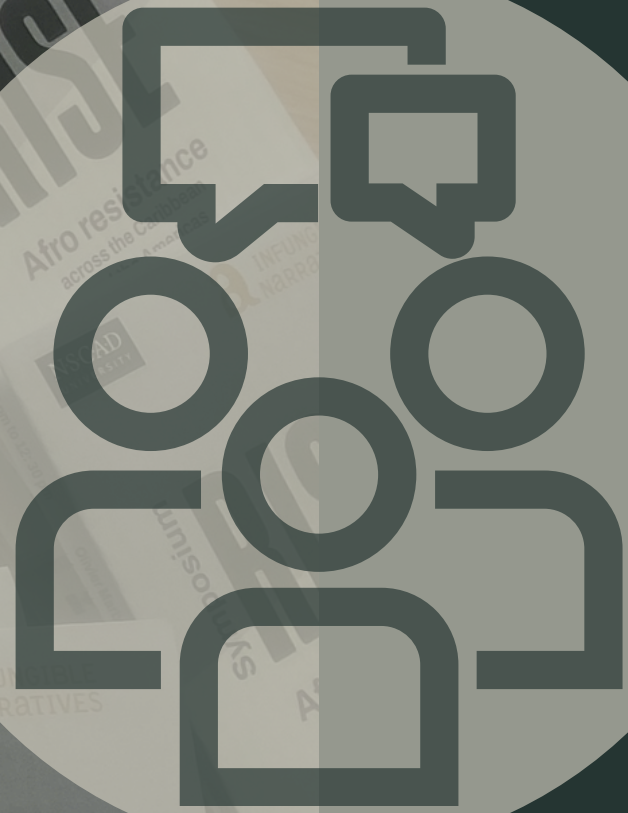


On a deeper level, the symposium affirmed something essential: “I am not alone as a Black artist.” Being in a room filled with brilliant Black minds, people who looked and spoke like me, was unmatched. The experience demonstrated that it is possible to facilitate complex conversations with differing perspectives in peace, care, and mutual respect.



Many of the Student team reflected on “the lack of access to Black academic thought within NSCAD and my broader academic worldview became more visible through this process.” Infungible narratives offers a way forward, one that invites plurality, resists extraction, and gestures toward postcolonial modes of education and knowledge-sharing.

SYMPOSIUM DELIVERY



- The symposium unfolded over two main conference days, supported by exhibition programming, community gatherings, and a closing restitution day
- Olivier Marboeuf served as Chair for this year's symposium, providing strong intellectual leadership

PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

Speaker & Guest Support Reflections:

- Supporting speakers and guests was largely experienced as meaningful and affirming:
- Strong appreciation for speakers' generosity and depth of preparation
- Communal meals fostered relationship-building and networking
- Tech support could use improvement but was manageable
- Some team members felt anxious initiating one-on-one conversations due to limited time
- Participants expressed appreciation for being in a space with like-minded thinkers and artists.
- Feedback highlighted the value of gathering in peace across diverse perspectives and noted interest in seeing a female chair in future iterations.

LEARNING AND GROWTH



Key learnings included the importance of early communication, clear logistics, and consistent reminders.



RISE was widely seen as a strong beginning, with interest in building sustainable and safe ways to continue access to resources.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE



Symposium **RISE^I**

Schedule

- Dec 9** **Exhibition and Rise Public Launching**
FAB, 1873 Granville Street 5 pm - 6 pm
- Dec 10** **Conference Day 1**
Academy Campus 2nd floor,
1649 Brunswick St, Halifax. 9.30 am - 4 pm
- Dec 11** **Conference Day 2**
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia,
1723 Hollis Street, Halifax. 9.30 am - 4 pm
- Dec 12** **Restitution and Closing**
1871 Granville Street 2 pm - 6 pm



Chaires de recherche
du Canada

Canada Research
Chairs



Symposium

RISE^I

**INFUNGIBLE
& NARRATIVES**

www.infungiblenarratives.ca

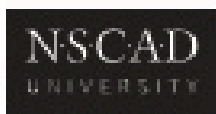
DEC 8 Not open to the public
DEC 9 Exhibition opening
Official launching

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DEC 10 Conference Day 1
Academy Campus, 9.30am - 4pm
1849 Brunswick St

DEC 11 Conference Day 2
Academy Campus, 9.30am - 4pm
1849 Brunswick St

DEC 12 Restitution & Closing
1871 Granville St., 2pm - 6pm



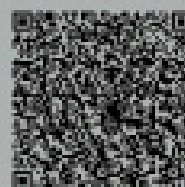
*Nkwame Kwaku, Weaving Weaves (2023).
Acrylic brooding hair, reclaimed chair.*

Afro resistance across the Caribbean and the Americas

- New Brunswick/Halifax: Claudine Bonner
- France: Amzal Boukari-Nabara
- Brazil: Patricia Brito
- Guadeloupe/England: P. Cabidoche/U. Lechêne/L. Maquiba
- Belgium: Véronique Clotte Gakuba
- Montreal: Dana Edmonds
- Halifax: Pamela Edmonds
- Denmark: Jeannette Ehlers
- Halifax/Montreal: Eddy Firmin
- France: Alexandre Gellen
- Montreal: Julien Lubanda Kandolo
- France: Olivier Marboeuf
- Montreal: Emeline Piere
- Halifax: David Woods

Registration

RiseSymposium2025.eventbrite.com



SYMPOSIUM IN PICTURES



EXHIBITION OPENING

The exhibition *I weave invisible scenes on your eyes* anchored the symposium materially and symbolically. Featuring works by international and local artists, it extended academic conversations into embodied, visual, and spatial forms.

The exhibition:

- Attracted both academic and public audiences
- Demonstrated how research can be activated through artistic practice
- Provided a platform for student engagement and curatorial learning











DAY 1: SPEAKERS SERIES

Caution Love
Oil Painting on canvas
by Dana Edmonds



INHEAD

I took a DNA test. The results
to coastal nations from
Ivory Coast,
and Togo. It
long told
memory
knowledge of
weaving.

both wonder
lives they lived
slavery, grief for
culture, ritual,
ancestors standing
forced to labor for
weaving cotton for
communities

y.







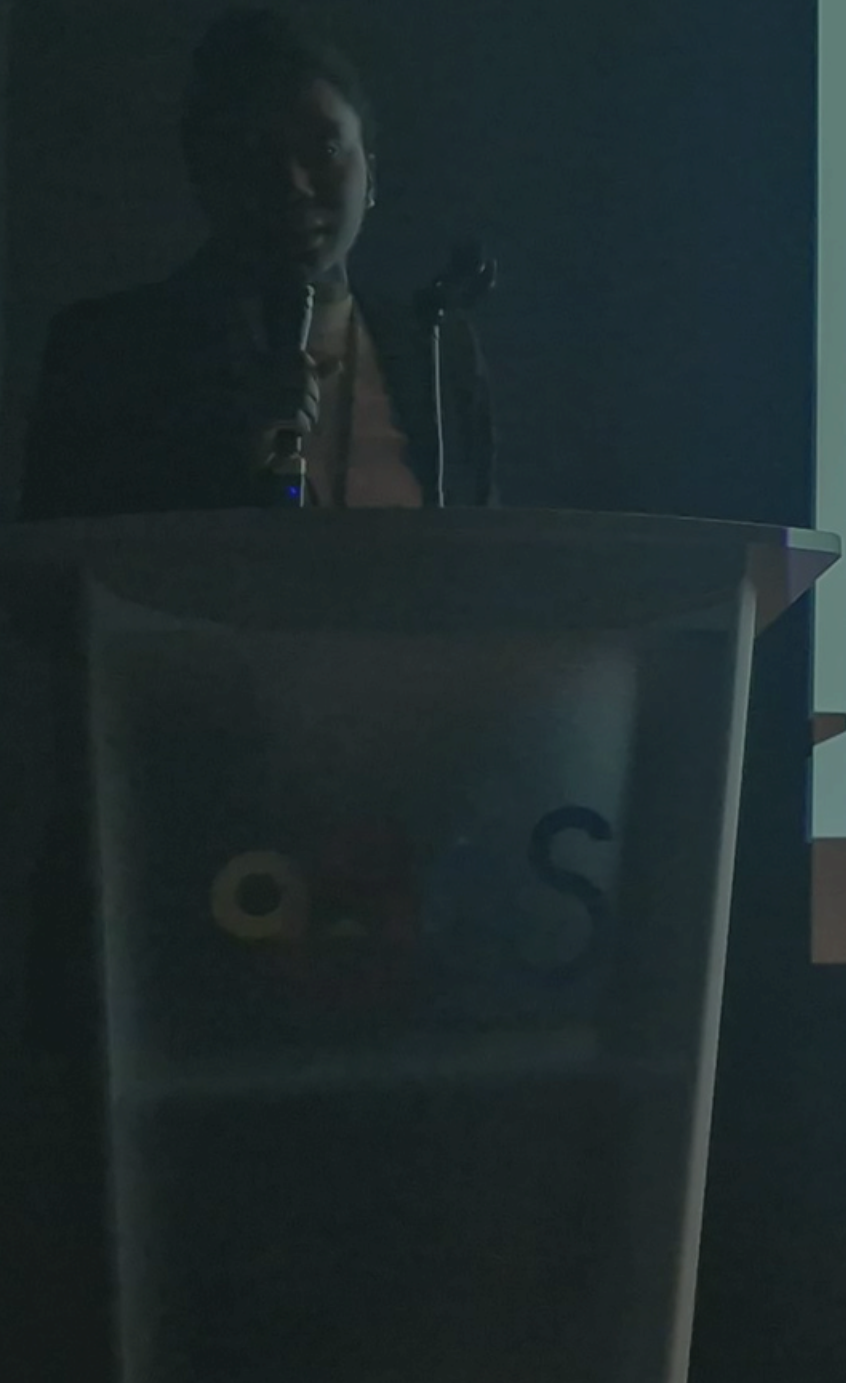


1. When crime fiction meets the magical-religious : a subversive intersection

- Caribbean re
- Quimbois, hougan, and séancièrè: ... with the ...
- ... crime fiction keeps alive a memory threatened with erasure by colonial and post-colonial attempts at homogenization



DAY 2: SPEAKERS SERIES





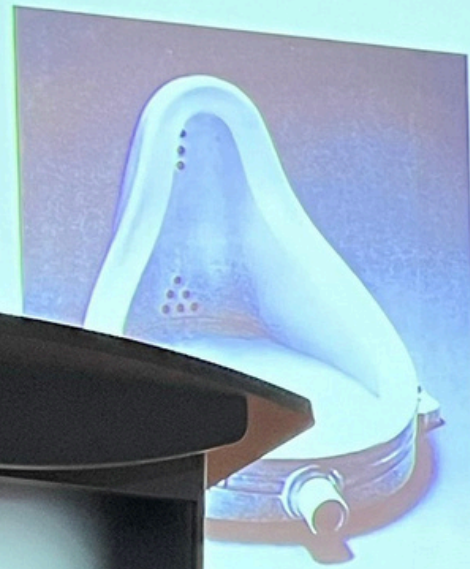
the
r David
2025

Oluseye takes the Pan-African palette and merges it with Africville's salvaged fence, creating a flag that carries both global Black history and local memory - reflecting how Black Canadian communities are pushed, pulled, and reshaped by powerful forces, yet continue to rise, return, and insist on being seen.

AGNS
ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA



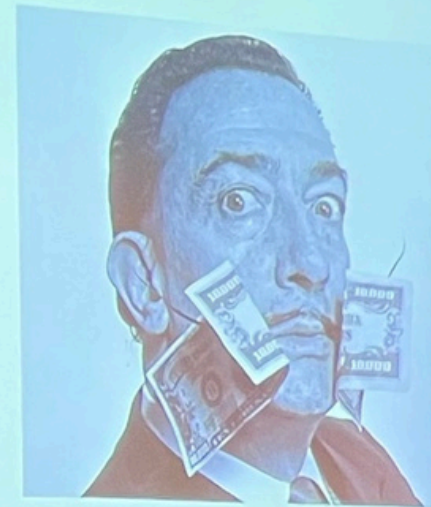
20th century



Duchamp's "Fountain"



Piero Manzoni's "Artist's Shit"



Salvador Dalí "Avida Dollars"

agns

ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA

DEC. 10 SPEAKERS



Jeannette Elhers

A Practice toward El Manifesto decolonial

Dec 10, 2025/10am - 10.30am

Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Dana Edmonds

Cotton On: How Cotton Slavery Never Ended
— It Just Changed Clothes

Dec 10, 2025/10.40am - 11.10am

Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Patricia Brito

Decolonial Critical Thinking in the Artistic Practices of
Black Brazil Art

Dec 10, 2025/12pm - 12.30pm

Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

DEC. 10 SPEAKERS (CONT.)



Symposium **RISE**^I 

Joris Lechêne
Infungible narratives:
from metaphor to raw•brutal•realistic reality

Dec 10, 2025/2pm to 2.30pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Symposium **RISE**^I 

Pauline Cabidoche
Infungible narratives:
from metaphor to raw•brutal•realistic reality

Dec 10, 2025/2pm to 2.30pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Symposium **RISE**^I 

Laurence Maquiaba
Infungible narratives:
from metaphor to raw•brutal•realistic reality

Dec 10, 2025/2pm to 2.30pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

DEC. 10 SPEAKERS (CONT.)



David Woods

Talk- North Preston Gullah

Dec 10, 2025/11.20am -11.50am

Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Claudine Bonner

Infungibles Narratives of black immigration in Canada.

Dec 10, 2025/2.40 pm to 3.10 pm

Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

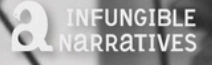



Amzat Boukari-Yabara

Pan-African reflections on infungible narratives.

Dec 10, 2025/3.20 pm to 4 pm

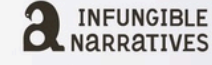
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

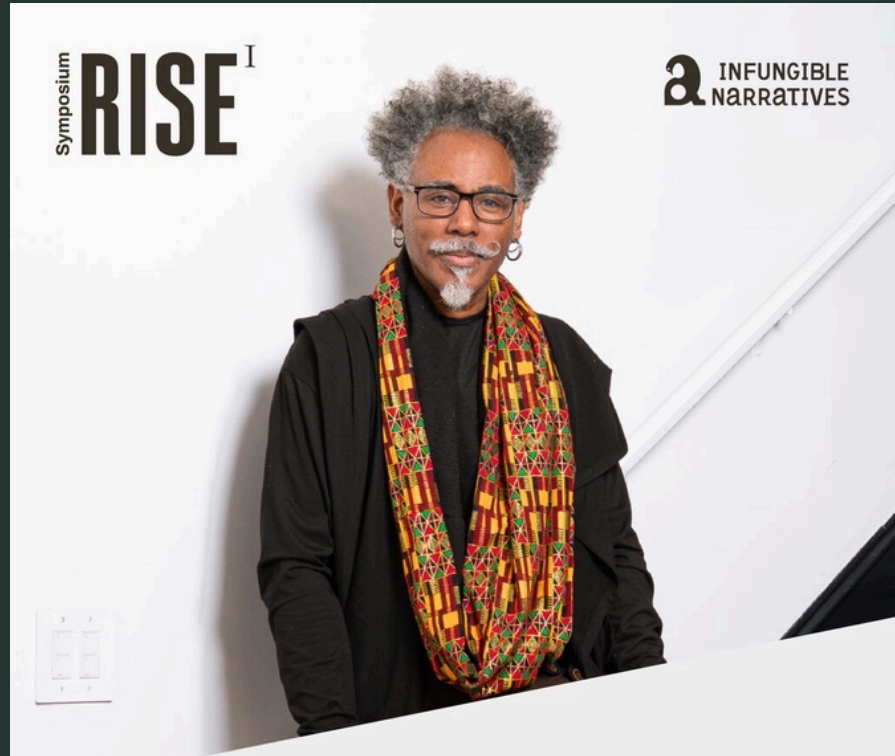
Symposium **RISE^I** 



Julien Lubanda Kandolo
Infungible Memory

Dec 11, 2025/10 am to 10:30 am
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

Symposium **RISE^I** 



Eddy Firmin
Fungibility and infungibility Narratives:
tension between lamentation and pride.

Dec 11, 2025/10.40 am to 11.10 am
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

Symposium **RISE^I** 



Olivier Marboeuf
Losing place twice: towards a circular ecology of
infungible narratives.

Dec 11, 2025/12 pm to 12.30 pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9

SPEAKERS
DEC. 12


DEC. 12 SPEAKERS (CONT.)



Symposium **RISE**^I **INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES**

Pamela Edmonds
The Curator as Witness: Black Embodiment, Institutional Memory, and the Practice of Infungibility.

Dec 11, 2025/11.20 am to 11.50 am
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Symposium **RISE**^I **INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES**

Emeline Pierre
Caribbean and magical-religious crime fiction: in search of a poetics of the Infungible narrative.

Dec 11, 2025/2 pm to 2.30 pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Symposium **RISE**^I **INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES**

Véronique Clette-Gakuba
Infungible narrative and relationship with the dead: conditions for an unveiled life in W.E.B. Du Bois.

Dec 11, 2025/2.40 pm to 3.10 pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



Symposium **RISE**^I **INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES**

Alexandre Gefen
The story of Souleymane, or the infungibility of asylum seekers' narratives.

Dec 11, 2025/3.20 pm to 3.50 pm
Academy Campus 2nd floor, 1649 Brunswick St, Halifax, NS B3J 1K9



DAY 2: COMMUNITY MEAL



Mary's African House Specials		Mary's Breakfast	
Equal Steer & Chicken	\$9.99	African Breakfast	\$5.99
Equal Steer & Beef	\$12.99	Waffles	\$5.99
Fried Turkey & Goat	\$17.99	Mushaka	\$5.99
Fried Turkey & Jollof	\$17.99		
Goat Light Soup	\$6.99		
Goat Pepper Soup	\$7.99		
Yam & Egusi	\$7.99		
Yam & Okra	\$8.99		
Okra Stew	\$6.99		
Okra Stew & Chicken	\$12.99		
Okra Stew & Beef	\$12.99		
Okra Stew & Goat	\$12.99		
Thapia Stew	\$7.99		
Red Snapper Stew	\$8.99		
Vegan Groundnut Soup	\$8.99		
Chicken Groundnut Soup	\$10.99		
Vegetable Soup	\$6.99		
Vegetable w/ Goat Soup	\$9.99		
Salty Okra & Fried Yam	\$8.99		
Lumpy Okra & Rice Soup	\$7.99		

Sides		Alcoholic Beverages	
Fufu	\$4.99	Beer	\$4.99
Moza Fufu	\$4.99	Wine	\$6.99
Garri Fufu (Hot)	\$4.99		
Banku	\$4.99		
Groundnut Yam	\$4.99		
Plantain (add \$4.00)	\$4.99		

Appetizers	
Plantain	\$5.99
Yam	\$7.99
Okra	\$5.99 or \$7 for \$9.99
Plantain Yam	\$13.99
Okra	\$13.99
Plantain	\$13.99
Hot Sauce	\$8.99

Mary's African Cuisine

URBAN PLANET



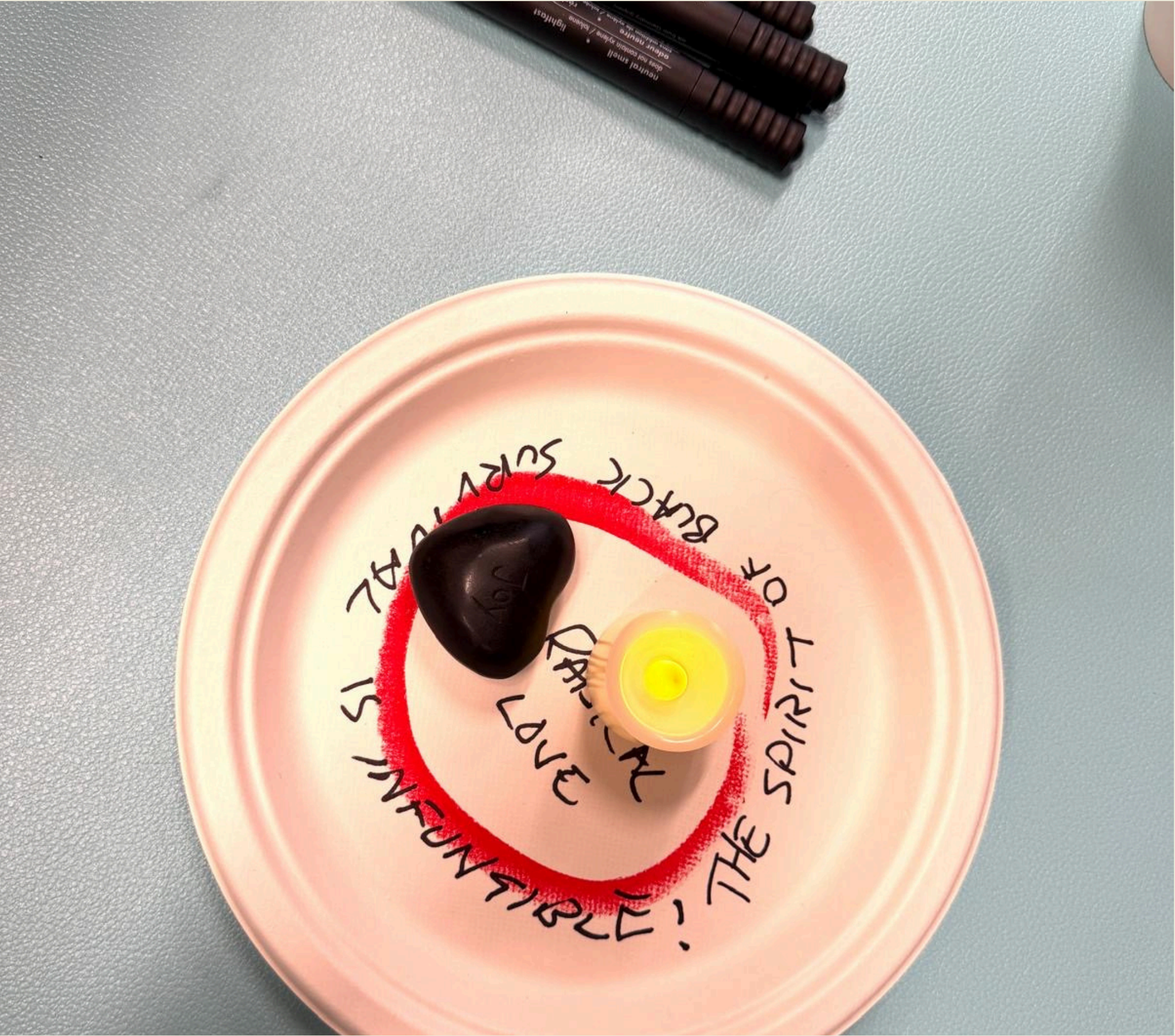
DAY 3: RESTITUTION AND CONNECTION



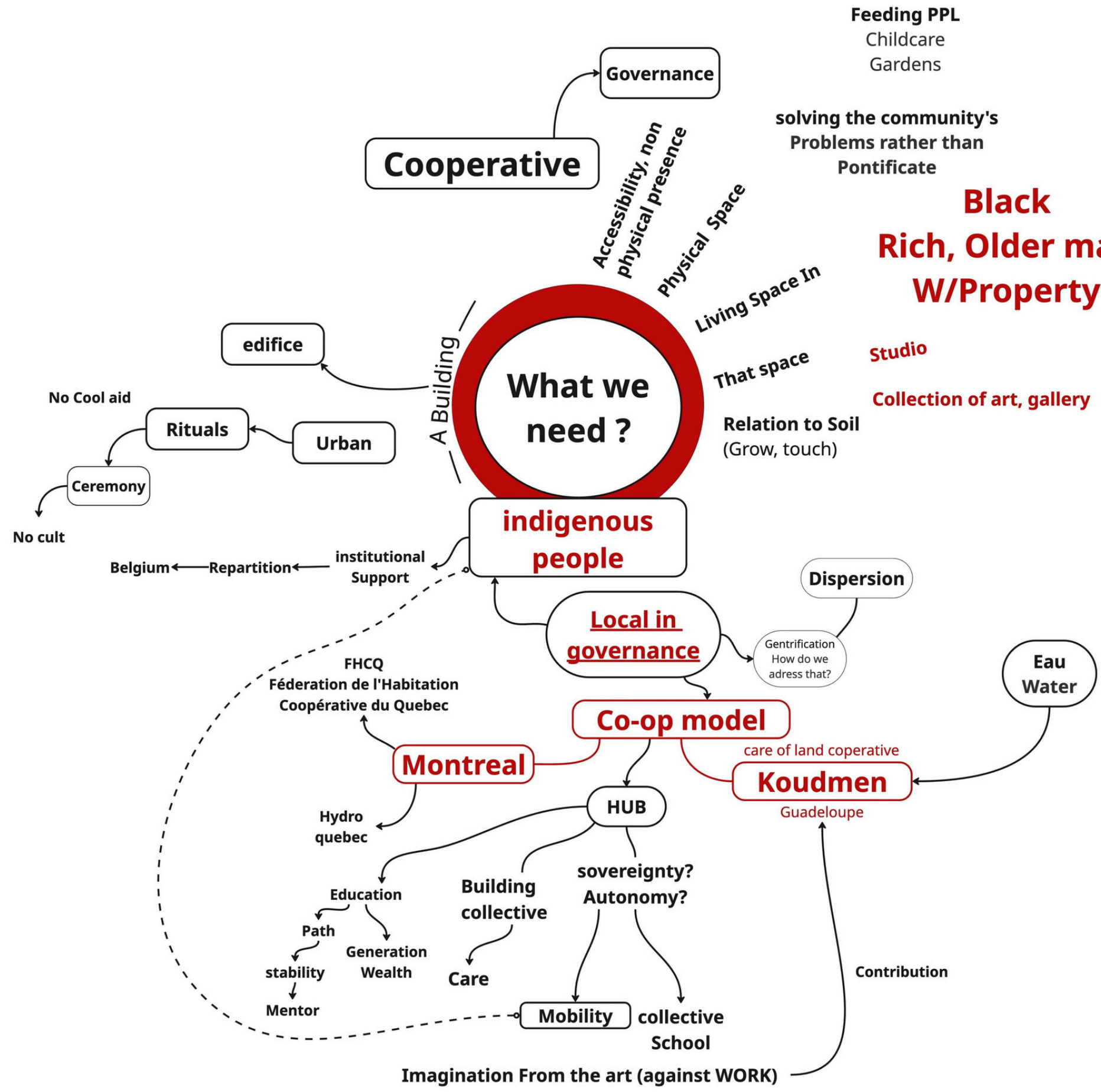








**RESEARCH-FOCUSED DAY:
RESTITUTIONS GROUPS
OF RESEARCHERS**



GROUP 2

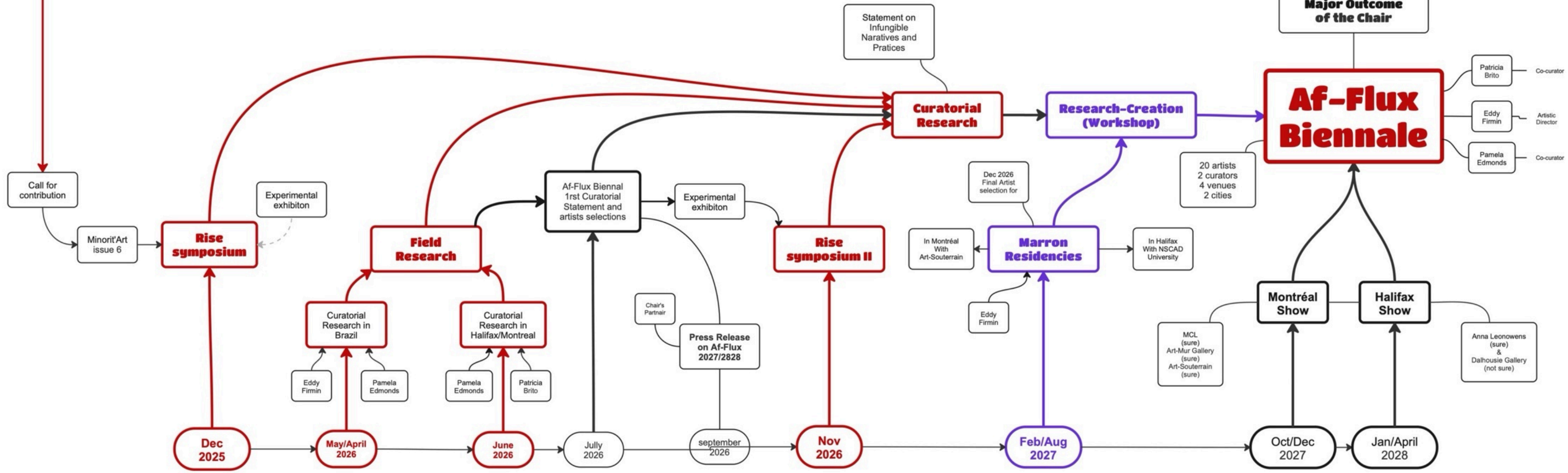
CONCLUSIONS

- The conclusion that came from the First group during the restitution was the idea of black hospitality, sou'sou'ness, sustainability, safety, care and joy
- The Second group focused on the idea of Black Indigenous centered approaches, needing to work directly with the people on the place and not people from outside. The question of accessibility care, cooperative building, healing spaces, the solution that was offered in conclusion was sou'sou'ness
- The common point of both was the idea of care within a safe space.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE NSCAD RESEARCH CHAIR AND ITS MAJOR OUTCOME

February 2025

October 2027 to April 2028



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Symposium RISE^I

INFUNGIBLE NARRATIVES

Rise is funded by:

NSCAD UNIVERSITY

*minorit***Art**

SSHRC  **CRSH**

 **Chaires de recherche du Canada**  **Canada Research Chairs**  **Canada**

**Thank you
for making Rise possible**

- Joshua Schwab-Cartas
- Solomon Nagler
- Angela Henderson
- Sobaz Benjamin
- Jacqueline Warwick
- Eddy Firmin
- Kawama Kasutu
- Myla Borden
- Ibeabuchi Ananaba
- Vos
- Prince Churchill
- Wanjiru Njoroge
- Esteban Alejandro Lobo Angulo
- Martin Kemta
- Luchan
- Kim Cain
- Tom Henderson
- Busola Osho
- Saba Blyden-Taylor