



OHS Russell K. Cooper Award for Public Programming Recognizes Myseum’s “Black Railway Porters”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2020-21 Russell K. Cooper Award to Myseum of Toronto for their virtual program [“Black Railway Porters and their Historic Fight for Equality on and off the Tracks.”](#) The Russell K. Cooper Award recognizes a programming initiative that has brought greater public awareness to an aspect of Ontario’s history.

Scheduled for April, 2020, Myseum’s fifth annual Intersections Festival was to be a month-long arts and culture festival to explore intersectional perspectives of Toronto through collaborative exhibits, events, and experiences that create opportunities for dialogue and collective reflection on important civic issues. Twelve programs were selected for the festival, but due to COVID-19, certain programs and events had to be postponed. Nonetheless, Myseum pivoted quickly and effectively to deliver as much programming as they could through virtual communications.

Nadine Villasin Feldman Accepts



Despite the obvious challenges associated with adapting in-person programming for digital consumption, “Black Railway Porters and their Historic Fight for Equality on and off the Tracks” stands as an example of excellent virtual programming and an engaging exploration of an important piece of our collective history. The digital exhibit uses archival photos, media clippings, and a collection of secondary sources to offer viewers a brief background on the story of Black Railway Porters in Canada and their fight for equality. The main event of this digital exhibition is a panel discussion featuring Cecil Foster (Author, *They Call Me George*), Meagan Swaby (Playwright, *Venus’ Daughter*), and Natasha Henry (President, Ontario Black History Society).

Explore Myseum’s “Black Railway Porters” Program



OBHS President Natasha Henry remarks during the panel discussion that “there continues to be nothing in the Ontario curriculum that all students in Ontario have to learn about our 400-year presence of African peoples here in Canada.” This is an issue in public education that must be addressed, and Myseum is bringing the discussion to a wider audience while simultaneously producing their own brand of engaging educational programming on Black history in Canada.

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the Russell K. Cooper Award to Myseum of Toronto.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a not-for-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario’s history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS’s Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/> or contact the Society’s offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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