

Project: Beyond the African Institute

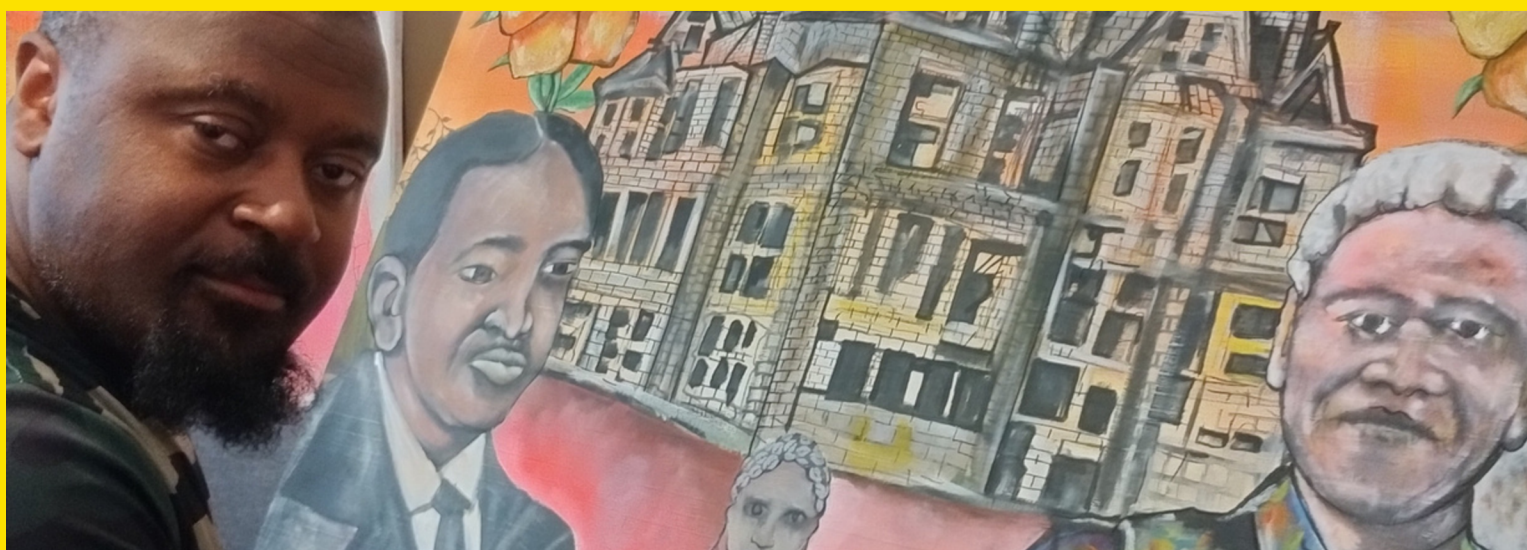


The **Beyond the African Institute** project explored the link between Colwyn Bay's Congo House / African Institute and Nelson Mandela. A former student of the Institute named Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu went on to become a founder of the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. There, he became a mentor to Nelson Mandela.

Cameroonian artist and speaker Mfikela Jean Samuel was commissioned to create an artwork illuminating the link between the Institute and Mandela. This painting, titled 'Bridging continents: The African Institute of Colwyn Bay and Mandela's teacher' is now in the Conwy Museum Service collection. Students from Ysgol Pen y Bryn and Ysgol Bod Alaw in Colwyn Bay visited Conwy Culture Centre to create murals inspired by the painting and learn the history behind this important local story.

"The painting to me is a creative exploration and reminder of the legacy of Congo House in general and the connection between Congo House and the freedom fighter Nelson Mandela in particular. It related much to my interest and gave me a chance to contribute a little to a community (North Wales) that I now call home"

– **Mfikela Jean Samuel**



Created during 2024, with contributions from Conwy Museum Service, Conwy Archives, and artist Mfikela Jean Samuel.