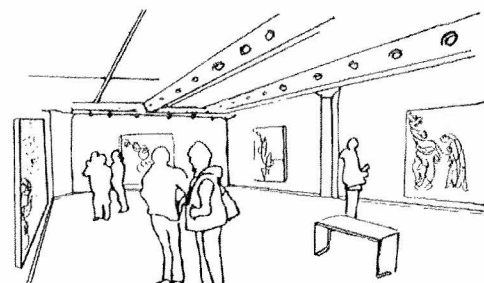




## Nia Centre for the Arts



The word “Nia” comes from the Arabic and Swahili word meaning purpose or intent.

Nia Centre for the Arts is a community space focused on supporting the holistic advancement of Afro-Diasporic young people

### Vision

Nia Centre for the Arts aspires to be a collaborative Arts Centre that represents Afro-Diasporic arts and culture both locally and internationally, while working with young people through art to foster social change.

**Nia Centre for the Arts** is committed to providing young people with the tools to successfully overcome social barriers to success, such as racism, sexism, systemic oppression, poverty and violence, by:

- Designing programming and engaging in collaborations that directly address the barriers marginalized Afro-Diasporic young people face.
- Facilitating the personal and social development of youth through arts and culture by housing community arts organizations that work with our core demographic.
- Partnering with existing organizations to ensure the holistic delivery of programs as to facilitate the emergence of healthy social and cultural identities and skills.

**Programming Components:** Nia Centre for the Arts serves Afro-Diasporic young people of between the ages of 16-29, through community programming, core programs and partnership programming. By providing positive and meaningful opportunities for youth to develop their identities and skills, Nia Centre for the Arts benefits not only our young people but also society at large. By helping young people find their purpose, we contribute to the development of positive and productive citizens.

→ **Who:** Nia Centre currently consists of a steering committee, staff and a collective of artists, partners and supporters across Toronto.

→ **Why:** Our purpose is to engage Afro-Diasporic youth in culturally relevant, healthy and holistic identity development through artistic training and arts engagement.

→ **What:** We are seeking an 8,000-10,000 sq. ft. multi-disciplinary venue to house a number of arts-based organizations and Nia's own programming activities.



→ **Where:** We are seeking a location in or close to one of the Toronto's 13 underserved communities. We are specifically interested in a central Toronto location that will allow us to serve more than one community.

→ **When:** Our goal is to have an active facility by spring of 2013.

