



TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE CULTURAL CENTER (TLCC) | PROJECT

Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center (TLCC) will serve as a holding space for Haitian-based programs, partners, and communities that for many years, have had to operate in silos or disjointedly. The establishment of a central cultural hub will allow the Haitian culture and people of Boston to flourish and all Bostonians stand to benefit. Programs and events will celebrate Haitian culture and have an educational component that invites multi-generational and cultural communities to learn and celebrate Haitian culture. The following illustrate anticipated events and services that will operate in and through TLCC.

Boston North End Area:

We will host and serve as a visitor center in the North End area, that offers an experience to LoveJoy residents and visitors. We will have a personalized experience and give visitors a reason to be in the space. First impressions matter, and that is why a staff member will greet and usher whoever walks through the door. We hope to use this visitor space to also engage with our partners, local small businesses and organizations.

Author talks and lectures:

We will host author talks and lectures, where writers and scholars have a space to share their ideas and promote their art with the community. TLCC will make sure the selections are adequate and reflect our mission, while also ensuring diversity of thought and inclusive partnership. Sessions can be offered in different languages to serve the various demographics we serve.

Haitian Art and Painting Programing

We will offer adult and youth-focused classes on Haitian art and painting. Given Haitian Americans United Inc. (H.A.U.)'s strong affiliation with the Haitian-American Artists Assembly of Massachusetts (HAAM), TLCC will identify partners to create and deliver classes on traditional Haitian crafts such as painting, pottery, and sculpture. Furthermore, we plan to equip the space with the proper set up for gallery display and exhibits. We will thoughtfully design the gallery appendage with consideration for the featured industrial-style ceilings. Adding easels and display boxes can create a pleasant space for events and everyday display – to add decor, improve mood in the space, and encourage sales.

Library:

We plan to hold a cultural library focused on Haitian print and digital materials, books, resources, and music. Our ideal partner will help us digitize our existing collection to be available online, while we work to increase the diversity and strength of our collection. TLCC will build a strong sense of community among ethnic writers, many of whom often do not have the platform to expose their work.

Café:

We will include a café to add accommodation to the space, which includes two fully accessible restrooms with signage. Coffee and tea consumption and production are a special part of Haitian culture; the theme



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and menu will reflect the Afrocentric tastes of the cultures associated with TLCC, while also uplifting businesses that specialize in these products. This adds value to the residential complex amenities, where 157 residential units can easily access our products. Adding seating and free WI-FI access during the daytime make it an ideal space for coworking and meetings. To maximize service in the summer, we will propose a glass window that opens to allow faster service, while letting customers enjoy the outdoor space.

Additional Events:

We will make space for cultural events, including Haitian theater, music, and performances. The space features high ceilings for an attractive space for dance and fashion events with reasonable seating for 20+ guests. Partners may charge for their events, a percentage will be agreed upon and remain with TLCC. Below are a list of events:

- Haitian, Caribbean, and Latin dance classes
- Haitian theater:
 - Reminiscent of artists like “Languichatte Debordus”, Mr. Theodore Beaubrun, the king of Haitian comedy, LoveJoy will foster laughter as a means of healing and education for attendees.
- Language classes in Haitian-Creole, French, English to speakers of other languages (ESOL).
- Youth programming and activities in partnership with local organizations

TLCC understands the 2000sqft space cannot support all these events at once, therefore certain events and functions will occur on specific days throughout the week.

Conclusion

Establishing the events and amenities outlined above will enable TLCC to preserve its cultural identity and celebrate its past, present, and future. Furthermore, it will provide Bostonians and visitors a chance to enrich themselves in the beauty of Haiti’s diversity while learning about the North End community.

Word Count: 727