

MACK TO AFRICA

**10 Girls...
West Oakland...**

To the Continent and Back!



SOUTH AFRICA

- 10 girls
- McClymonds High School
- 7 mentors
- 2 week journey
- We visited:
 - Johannesburg, South Africa
 - Pretoria, South Africa
 - Mpumalanga, South Africa
 - Durban, South Africa



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Why did you take your students to South Africa?

- We went to South Africa in the end of July, and came back the first week of August.
- It was important to take young, Black girls to South Africa because regardless of the images and stories told to make them feel inferior, they need to know that they matter.
- I wanted them to experience the world outside of West Oakland, to give them a lens that many people in their community sometimes do not know is possible.
- We took this trip because I need them to know their history and to know that they are beautiful and divinely perfect in this world.

SOUTH AFRICA

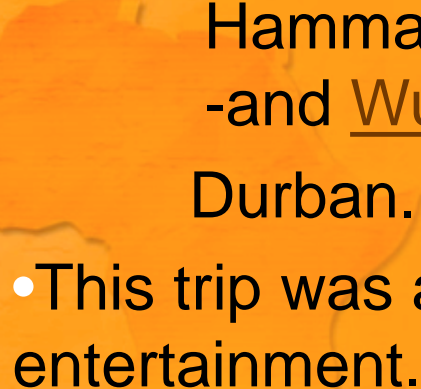
What exactly did you do out there?

During our trip, we visited:

- Johannesburg, Pretoria, Mpumalanga, and Durban, South Africa
- We did a bunch of exciting activities
- The fun activities included:
 - Visiting Kruger National Park for safari
 - Going to Lion's Park
 - Going to the beach
 - Going to a water park
 - And went to the State Theater to see the musical Marikana

SOUTH AFRICA

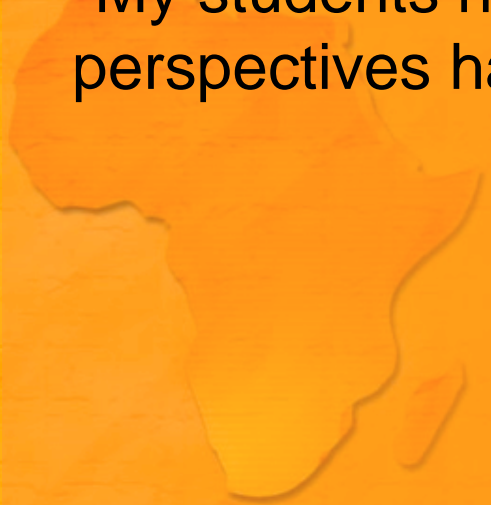
What exactly did you do out there?

- We also visited several schools and community centers
 - This included:
 - Naledi Secondary in Soweto
 - LEAP School in Pretoria
 - - Paul Modjadji's "Dare to Dream" art program in Hammanskraal
 - and Wushwini Arts, Culture and Heritage Centre in Durban.
 - This trip was a cultural exchange; field with education and entertainment.
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How did it affect your students?

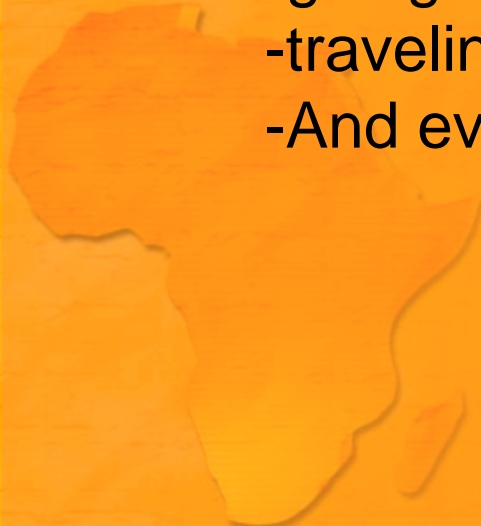
- Traveling is and extremely powerful experience for anyone.
- It is especially powerful for young Black girls from the inner city.
- Traveling teaches you so many lessons, but most of all, it teaches you about yourself.
- My students have been stretched, challenged, and their perspectives have been broadened.



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How did it affect your students?

- The greatest impact it had on my students is the fact that they are imagining things for themselves that they weren't before.
- These young ladies are talking about:
 - Studying abroad
 - going back to live in South Africa
 - traveling to other countries
 - And even marrying someone from the continent.



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What activity was most transformative?

- The most transformative experience was the naming ceremony that we had.
- Our hosts, Napo Masheane and Debra Leshika of Village Gossip Productions that's based out of Johannesburg, organized a naming ceremony for the members of our group.
- The ceremony took place at Wushwini Arts, Culture and Heritage Centre in Durban.
- It was night time, under the stars, and each member was given a South African name, Sesotho or Zulu, that denoted their personalities and character traits.
- My students not only embraced their names, but they often use them now.

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Are you taking a group from MACK to South Africa in 2016?

- Yes!
- We will be taking a different group of youth and mentors to South Africa in December 2016.
- It is my desire to make this a regular thing, and not only to go there for cultural exchange, but to bring a different South African team here every year.



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Some Pictures



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**Thank you to Council Woman
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