

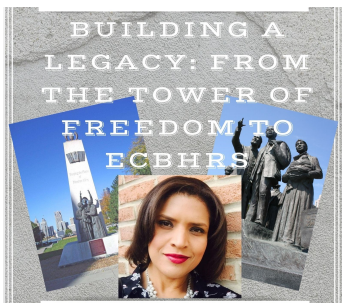


## Stories

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**Freedom  
Achiever  
Spotlight:  
Willow Key**



**Building a  
Legacy: From the  
Tower of  
Freedom to  
ECBHRS**



**Congratulations  
Dennis Smith!**

## About Us

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The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

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**October 2021**



## Freedom Achiever Spotlight: Willow Key

**Name:** Willow Key

**Age:** 25 years

**School and Field of Study:** University of Windsor. Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Starting the Master of Arts program with a thesis that will focus on Black farmers in Southwestern Ontario.

**Hometown:** Toronto, ON

**Parents:** Adrian Key and Leslie Lloyd-Key



*The Talking Drum wanted to speak to Willow about her paper "Adoption Policy within Postwar Canada: Combating Racism through the adoption of Non-White Children" that won the University of Windsor History Department's 2021 Best Fourth Year Paper Award.*

**Question:** Why did you select the topic of adoption for your paper?

**Answer:** I wanted to explore the creation of the Open Door Society in Montreal (1959) and their interracial adoption program that educated white Canadian families on the possibilities of adopting non-white children (specifically Black children in Montreal and Toronto). The Open Door Society campaign was one of the main reasons why white families adopted Black children. Canadians saw themselves as morally superior to the US and their racist policies and attitudes.

**Question:** Tell us about your podcast and the inspiration behind it?

**Answer:** I created The Black Power Podcast in 2020 because I wanted to focus on the Black Power era of the 1960's. I soon realized that there was a lack of content about Black History in general so I decided to expand. Topics of my podcasts include Marie Laveau and Healthcare and the Black community.

**Question:** What lessons have you learned from doing the podcast?

**Answer:** I do it for myself because I enjoy doing it and want to share the information. Hopefully it helps others and provides an opportunity to learn more.

### The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

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## Freedom Achiever Spotlight: Willow Key



Willow during the taping of a Podcast

**Question:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**Answer:** I enjoy reading. I have a small business making history related bookmarks which I sell on Etsy. Right now, I'm also working on a research project called "We Were Here". The project's focus is the McDougall street corridor where there was a large Black community before 1960. The City of Windsor demolished the area and we are trying to piece together the history and stories of the families

and community impacted.

**Question:** If you could have a conversation with one historical Black figure, who would it be and what would you want to talk about?

**Answer:** Zora Neale Hurston. She was the first Black female anthropologist in the United States. She traveled across the US (early 1900's). I'd like to know what it was like traveling in the South as a Black woman. What made her want to study voodoo? She carried a pistol with her so I'm sure she could handle herself. She was fearless and not concerned about what others thought of her.

You can learn more on Willow's Instagram page [@thecurlyhairedacademic](https://www.instagram.com/thecurlyhairedacademic) . The Black Power Podcast can be viewed here - [https://open.spotify.com/show/5y8Y69j4Kyw1tgdZVx6ll4?si=I45BHcLSVyhOiQ8iHOfkQ&dl\\_branch=1](https://open.spotify.com/show/5y8Y69j4Kyw1tgdZVx6ll4?si=I45BHcLSVyhOiQ8iHOfkQ&dl_branch=1)

Willow also gave a presentation titled "Black Children and Interracial Adoption Policy in Canada" as part of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum's Facebook Live Black History Series. It can be viewed on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom/videos/303996634742947> OR our website <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/events-fb-live/>

## Do You Have Something To Share?



Attention Supporters! Do you have an upcoming event or a Black History related writeup or photographs that you would like us to share in the *Talking Drum*? We're here to help! Please submit event posters and/or Black History related articles & photos to [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org) All submissions must be sent by the 25th day of the month.

Note: Submission does not guarantee publication in the *Talking Drum*.

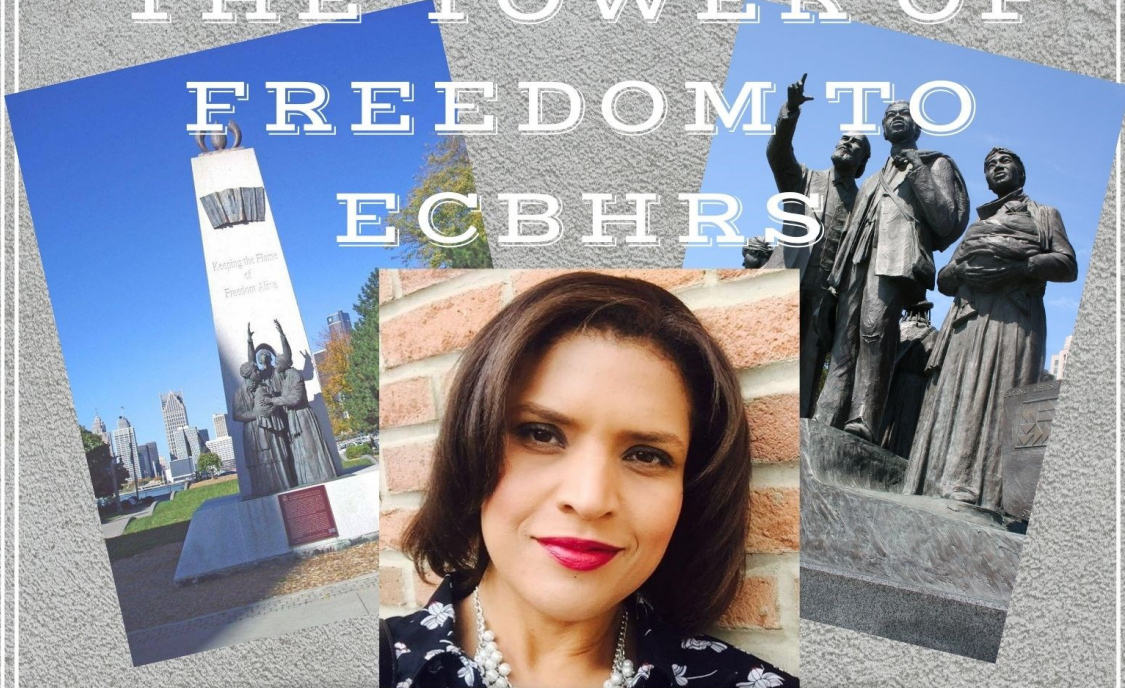




## Building A Legacy: From the Tower of Freedom to ECBHRS

AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM HOSTS

# BUILDING A LEGACY: FROM THE TOWER OF FREEDOM TO ECBHRS



A PRESENTATION BY ESSEX COUNTY  
BLACK HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY  
PRESIDENT, IRENE MOORE DAVIS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH AT 2PM  
LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE  
[/AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM/](https://www.facebook.com/AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM/)



AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM



## Congratulations to Dennis Smith!



Artist Dennis Smith's *Covid Line-ups* was awarded second place in the WFCU 2020 Art Composition and took second place in the 2021 Paint Ontario Art Exhibition and Sale.

Judge's comment: "Covid Line-ups" by Dennis Smith of LaSalle "It is a painting depicting the times we have been living in by a socially distanced line up, Canadian in feeling with its patient people. Perfectly framed with individual well-conceived portraits framed together to form the line and giving the feeling of being alone, together."

### Artist statement about Covid Line-ups

Art awaits a response as it awakens and releases one's memories. It's those shared memories or combined encounters that unite us. Oft times it is the imagery that transports us to another place and time, or art will stop us long enough to appreciate the simple things in life. Covid Line-ups was created in response to record our current climate of restrictions, fear, social and physical division.

As an artist, I understand that from the beginning mankind has documented and encompassed a philosophy for living through the creative dialogue of art. Most of my paintings are narratives around the subjects of music, local landscapes, and lately historical chapters in our history, this painting is one of the latter. It has been said by many who have viewed my work that my paintings convey a sense of serenity that draws them in and allows them to connect emotionally and uncover their own story within it. I wanted the viewer to connect in a different way, not with the aesthetics of the image but with the unsettling message of detachment, isolation, and apprehension that it was meant to evoke.





## Check out our Giftshop!



We've added new items to our online giftshop! There is a great selection of books for kids and adults, games, and postcards, plus AFM merchandise like t-shirts, bag tags, pens, mugs and masks. To view our gift shop, click

<https://amherstburg-freedom-museum.myshopify.com/>

## A Call for Board Directors & Fundraising Committee Members



Attention Community Members! Are you looking for a great way to give back to your community? We have a great opportunity for you! The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is looking to take on more Board Directors and/or those interested in being on our Fundraising Committee. **To apply, contact** [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

## Thank You Charitable Gaming Windsor and Paradise Gaming



Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Charitable Gaming Windsor** and **Paradise Gaming Centre** for their continued support. Throughout the years, they have helped us keep the Museum open and running, and allowed for us to continue to offer our programming throughout the pandemic. Thank you!

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