



The Facing Project

at Mott Community College



What is the Facing Project?

The "Facing Project" is a national storytelling initiative taking place across the nation "strengthening communities through the stories of their citizens" (facingproject.com). The storytelling topic for 2017 was "Facing College", and three Michigan institutions were chosen to participate, Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, and Mott Community College.

Why Did Mott Join the Facing Project?

Our Topic: Facing College



Our Storytellers: Foreign Born Students



Our Reasons:

Foreign born students impart new perspectives that are invaluable to the college and community as a whole.

Cross-cultural communication provides a diverse social circle which is more representational of the real world.

The experiences of our foreign-born students impart knowledge on meeting the needs of our diverse learners.



Who was involved in the Project?

- ▶ Office of Experiential Learning
 - ▶ Coordinate all project components
- ▶ Student Outreach and Recruitment
 - ▶ Identify Storytellers
- ▶ Student Life
 - ▶ Video club Participants
- ▶ International Institute
 - ▶ Identify Community Partners
- ▶ Faculty from Humanities
 - ▶ Identify and coordinate authors
 - ▶ Coordinate interviews and story submissions
- ▶ Faculty from Fine and Media Arts
 - ▶ Identify and coordinate photographers, artists, videographers, and theater students
- ▶ Storytellers
 - ▶ 29 international and immigrant students representing 17 nations

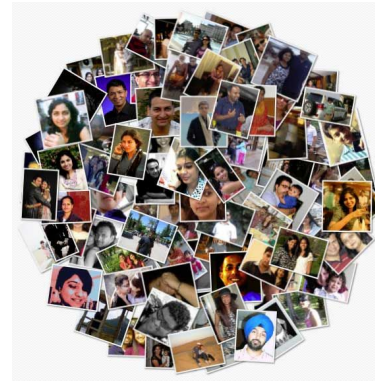


What is the Facing Project Experience?

- **Step 1:** Storytellers expressing their experiences on a topic and authors capturing those stories.



- **Step 2:** Visual expressions of the storyteller's experiences through photography and art.



- **Step 3:** Book publishing of stories, photography and art representing the storytellers.



- **Step 4:** Book Launch and Live Event with artwork, dramatic readings and video story interpretations



Information Session

- ▶ Saudia Arabia
- ▶ Syria
- ▶ Yeman
- ▶ Peru
- ▶ Egypt
- ▶ Vietnam
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ Palestine
- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Honduras
- ▶ Bangladesh
- ▶ India
- ▶ Jordan
- ▶ Mali
- ▶ South Africa
- ▶ Russia
- ▶ Sudan



Interview Sessions



- ▶ <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/0B3gg-gFHgyGfVHUtOV9OS05BbVk>
- ▶ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B3gg-gFHgyGfU0ZxUmk5akVFYzA>
- ▶

The Photographs

► Storyteller Photos



► Author Photos

“The most wonderful opportunity being in America is going to school with other girls and not worrying about anyone telling us we aren’t allowed to.”



Our Storytellers



We entered the United States as Refugees, drawn by the promise of freedom.



I believe Flint has had a positive effect on me. I feel so much safer wherever I go. I don't have to worry about being in danger when I leave the house.



"I wanted to study nursing in America where they had the highest standards in education. I believed I had the confidence to meet those standards."

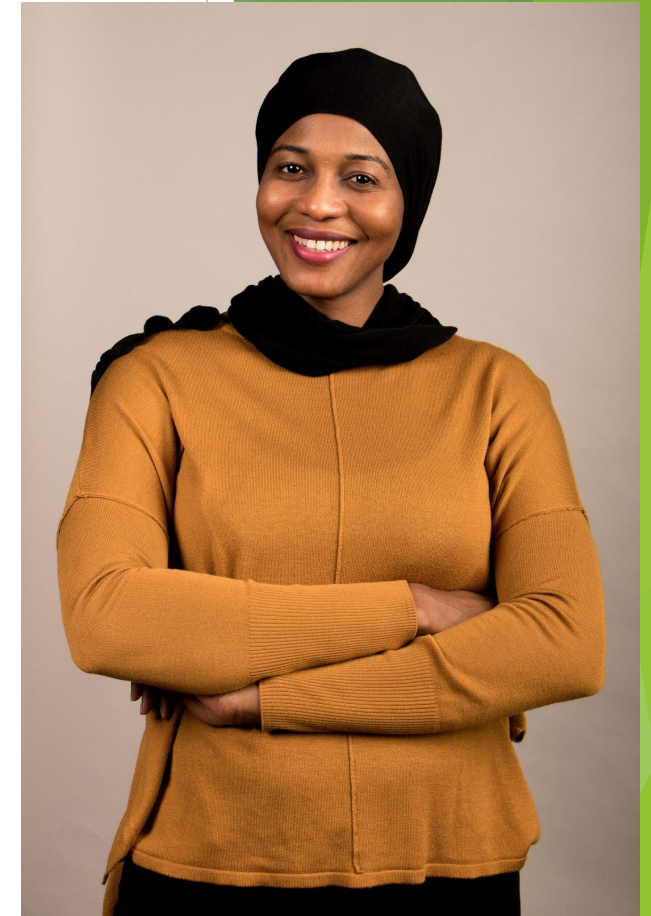
Our Storytellers



““I believe that I can change the way that many people think about Muslims.”



“My new dream now is to prove that I can reach my goals no matter what I experienced as an immigrant.”



“Sometimes people assume that I am not intelligent simply because I cannot speak my mind fluently in their language.”

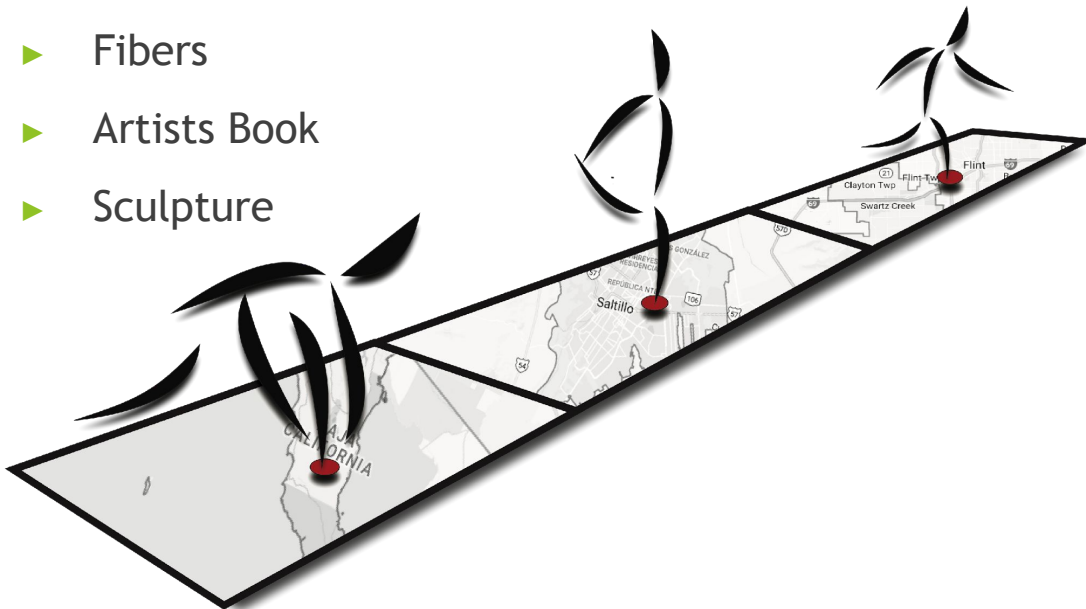
The Artwork

► Mediums

- Painting
- Digital
- Collage/Mix media
- Photography
- Pastel
- Fibers
- Artists Book
- Sculpture



“Cultural Horizons”
Nathan Brown
Digital media



“Runner’s Stride” Jack Ransom. Digital media



“Gift” Leza Tungl. Fibers and painting

The Artwork



"I am Living..." Jjenaa Hupp Andrews
Collage, handmade paper, pastels



"Pain, Love, Hesitant, Homesick, Future" Marti Miller in
collaboration with Safiyah El-Ganainy (7th grade)
Watercolor, fiber, acrylic, paint, photo transfer,
handmade paper, & ink pen.

Artwork



“Finding my place in this world”

Jjenna Hupp Andrews

Lino print, pastels, handmade paper



Macie Keller
Acrylic painting

The Book

A book of the stories and art was published



Book Launch and Live Event

- ▶ **What:** “Book Launch Live Event”
- ▶ Art and Photography Displays
- ▶ Dramatic Readings and Video Presentations
- ▶ Community Partner Information Tables
- ▶ **When:** May 11, 2017 Open Reception 5:30-6:00. Presentation begins at 6:00pm
- ▶ **Where:** RTC Auditorium
- ▶ **Faculty Facilitators:** Facing Project Team



Community Partnerships

- ▶ Arab American Heritage Council
- ▶ International Affairs Center
- ▶ Hispanic Technology Community Center
- ▶ Flint Islamic Center
- ▶ Jewish Community Services
- ▶ Flint International Friends



Filming the Facing Project



<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/0B3gg-gFHgyGfZzVaaXExYTJtUm8>