



KAMAN  
+  
ERLAND

UBUNTU PROJECT  
the Johnson House - Historic Germantown, PA

Summer 2010

EKE  
LLC



# ubuntu | oǒ'boǒntoō |

UBUNTU - an ancient African ethical principle meaning "humanity towards others." An age old term for humanness - for caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of creation - UBUNTU is an ideal that promotes cooperation between individuals, cultures and nations. Widely promoted by leaders like Nelson Mandela, the UBUNTU implies that "we are stronger together than we are apart", in harmony with the motto of the United States, "E Pluribus Unum", or "Out of many, One."

UBUNTU PROJECT is an ongoing project in Germantown serving as a mashup of history, arts, and cultural education "focused upon the importance of working and walking together to achieve freedom."



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## UBUNTU PROJECT - Footprints to Freedom

is a history, arts and culture education program “focused upon the importance of working and walking together to achieve freedom.”

Building trust is a key ingredient to demonstrate humanity towards others. If we expect to maintain and sustain a viable community trust must be consistently built to fuel the social changes that has historically defined Germantown and Philadelphia. Without trust, communities stand to distance themselves from the elements which formed the basis to understand, except and embrace differences which often lead to meaningful positive change. Without meaningful change there can be no meaningful progress...an element required to build a healthy community. Beginning as a pilot summer camp program in July 2010 in a partnership was formed between the Johnson House, and the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust to implement WORKING & WALKING TOGETHER, “a program focused upon the importance of working and walking together to achieve freedom” . This fascinating adventure aimed to help children to understand the value and challenges of working and walking together to achieve FREEDOM AND HOPE in Historic and modern-day Germantown. The joint tour begins at the historic Germantown Mennonite Church building where students will learn more about the weaving trade of the original settlers through hands on activities that show how Europeans worked together to survive. The second phase takes place at the Johnson House Historic Site, an historic stop on the Underground Railroad, where children hear and experience a TRUST WALK and help to construct a MEMORIAL with Philadelphia based artists Joel Erland and Kate Kaman in collaboration with Cornelia Swinson, executive director of the Johnson House. The UBUNTU PROJECT will become a permanent garden sculpture which will help the next generation understand the secrets of freedom seekers and the diverse group of European-American as well as free and enslaved Blacks who assisted them on their long and dangerous journey to self-emancipation.

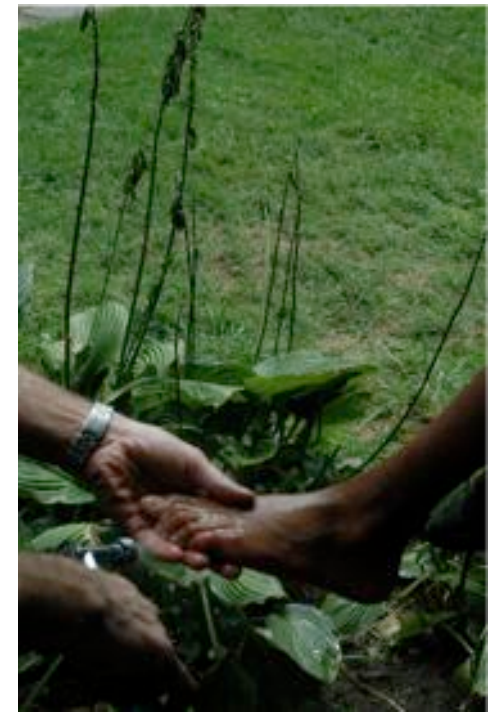
This fascinating education adventure aims to help participants to understand the value and challenges of working and walking together to achieve FREEDOM AND HOPE in Historic and modern-day Germantown; focusing on history in order to train men and women who will someday lead change in the future.

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## John Johnson House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 40°2′36″N 75°10′52″W﻿ / ﻿40.04333°N 75.18111°W﻿ / 40.04333; -75.18111

The **John Johnson House** (also known as the **Johnson House**) is a National Historic Landmark in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, significant for its role in the antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad. It is located at 6306 Germantown Avenue and is a contributing property of the Colonial Germantown Historic District, which is also a National Historic Landmark. It is operated today as a museum open to the public.

### History

[\[edit\]](#)

Philadelphia, especially its Germantown section, was a center of the 19th-century American movement to abolish slavery, and the Johnson House was one of the key sites of that movement. Between 1770 and 1908, the house was the residence of five generations of the Johnson family.

The third generation was active in the Underground Railroad during the 1850s. Along with their respective spouses, Rowland, Israel, Eliwood, Sarah, and Elizabeth Johnson were members of abolitionist groups such as the American Anti-Slavery Society and the Germantown Freedman's Aid Association. Through their associations with these groups, the brothers and sisters became involved in the Underground Railroad and used their home, along with the nearby homes of relatives, to harbor fugitive slaves on their journeys to freedom. The Johnson House is a representative station on the Underground Railroad, and the Johnsons were among the leading abolitionists of their generation.

The house, then one of the largest in Germantown (then a suburb of Philadelphia), was built between 1765 and 1768 by Jacob Norr for Dick Jansen, who owned the ground on which nearby Upsala was built. Jansen had it built for his son John Johnson, Sr.



**Location:** 6306 Germantown Avenue  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

**Coordinates:** 40°2′36″N 75°10′52″W﻿ / ﻿40.04333°N 75.18111°W﻿ / 40.04333; -75.18111

**Area:** < 1-acre (4,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Built/Founded:** 1768

**Architect:** Jacob Norr

**Architectural style(s):** Colonial Georgian

**Governing body:** Johnson House Historic Site, Inc.

**Added to NRHP:** 1972

**NRHP Reference#:** 72001162



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# ErlandKaman

The collaborative work of Kate Kaman and Joel Erland encompasses large-scale environmental artworks as well as interactive sculpture. Their work includes site specific atrium sculpture, decorative surfaces of public spaces and experimental artwork, often incorporating new media. Working on projects from Los Angeles to New York under the name EKE (Erland Kaman Endeavors), the partners have designed and personally built architecturally oriented artworks for civic and corporate clients such as universities, municipalities, developers and major transportation hubs.

Erland and Kaman enjoy exhibiting artworks in museums and galleries nationally and internationally. They are experienced in design, fabrication, and installation of major turn-key public art pieces that require the coordinated efforts of architects, engineers, and skilled craftspeople. Kaman and Erland choose to work together, often in combination with other artists, because they prefer their artworks to be collaborative, dialogical and relational. Their handling of environmentally themed sculptures in bronze, steel, and plastics have won numerous national and international awards.

Kaman is a visual artist and metal smith, and she studied painting under Elizabeth Osborne and sculpture under Jody Pinto at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and landscape architecture under James Corner at the University of Pennsylvania.

Erland is an industrial designer and cement mason, and his background includes cultural anthropology and industrial design from European Nazarene College, Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and chemistry from Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego.

Erland and Kaman have both worked real world apprenticeships to a wide range of inventors, imagineers, artists and fabricators. Today they run their own sustainable sculpture design and fabrication firm based in Mount Airy, PA, bringing green jobs back to the United States. The partners first collaborated in 2005, and since that time have completed more than 30 major works for clients including cities, universities, churches, synagogues, property developers, and many other private and civic customers.

selected client list:  
The District of Columbia  
City of Philadelphia, PA  
City of Baltimore, MD  
City of Bellevue, WA  
City of Roanoke, VA  
City of Bowie, MD  
Port of San Diego, CA  
Miami Beach Botanical Gardens  
The Franklin Institute  
MPG Properties  
Philadelphia Flower Show  
Sherman Properties  
Maguire Properties  
Dover Downs  
The Johnson House  
Pittsburgh Glass Center  
Temple University  
University of Pennsylvania  
Thor Equities  
Temple Beth Elohim  
Walt Disney Corporation  
ABC News  
Starwood Resorts  
Peachtree & Ward  
Westin Hotels  
CBop Photography  
Sherman Properties  
SEPTA  
PEX

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