Telling our Stories of Home Journal Reflection

This artifact is a journal reflection from my time at the **Telling Our Stories of Home: Exploring and Celebrating Changing African & African Diaspora communities (TOSH)** festival.

Home is a place; home is also a state of mind or being. Home can change, but also stay constant. My home has evolved throughout my life. I find home in my family, which has grown, and has brought a lot of changes in my life. Home means different things to different people. Home can be with family or a specific place or person. For some home is where they currently are and it can change constantly or in an instant.

The TOSH festival experience in some ways reminded me of home. I found home in some of the speakers and presenters. In many ways, their stories and definition of home were similar to the way I define home for myself, and I shared some similarities with some of the speakers.

They were from different parts of the world and hearing their definition of home was interesting, and it exemplified how broad home can be defined.

I also found home in some of the topics that were discussed: witchcraft, gentrification, and identity. These are topics that I find interesting and engaging. Listening to the speakers was like being at home. I’ve always identified my home as being in Sierra Leone. The TOSH experience also helped me expand on my definition of what home is and can be.
Additionally, as a educator, the TOSH festival gave me an opportunity to reflect on how my student’s define home. Do they have a physical home? Do they move from home to home? Is school home for them? What is their home?

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