

# THE AGENCY

A hub for social innovation at UofT

Building a Community of Practice for social entrepreneurs and social innovators at the University of Toronto

## Connecting & Building Capacity

Delivering content that supports social entrepreneurship & social innovation

- Conferences
- Supporting academic programming with a social innovation lens
- Supporting incubators/accelerators
- Workshops internal/external

Building UofT brand and strengthening community of social innovators

- Individuals, clusters and their narratives
- Online through social media, website and at UofT through convenings
- External to UofT through participation, representation and partnerships, press

Supporting students

- Peer coaching and mentorship in partnership with Student Life and Colleges
- Connections for internships, jobs and career insights
- Connections for research partnerships and funding
- Opportunities for funding research, social enterprises or student initiatives

**Student voices**

I grew up amidst poverty and social injustices. At UofT I have pursued any opportunity to enrich my knowledge and aid me in alleviating the social obstacles causing peoples' suffering. Social innovation through social entrepreneurship may be the very solution needed.



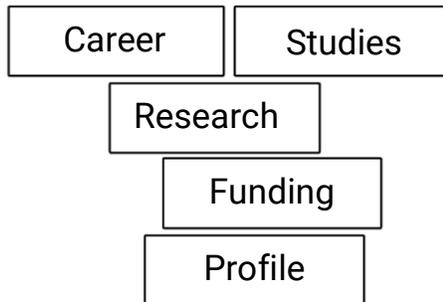
# THEAGENCY

The Agency supports students who want to contribute to improving society, by helping them explore social innovation and transforming their perspective on what's possible.

## Connections

## Capacity

Strengthening the connections within the university and between the university and external partners.



Increasing the capacity of the university to support students, faculty and staff who are/wish to explore the field of social entrepreneurship or social innovation.

# Road Map

We have begun to map social innovation at UofT and the resulting Roadmap shows over 150 offerings but no front door



### SOCIAL INNOVATION

An activity that profoundly changes social relations or interactions, deeply challenges or shifts our existing paradigms, and significantly changes resource flows within an existing social system  
(Demming, 2016, PhD OISE)



Conference: Exploring Social Innovation at UofT

# 2016-2017 Activities

This was a year to raise awareness, make connections, build momentum

We created a front door for social entrepreneurs and social innovators at the University of Toronto

## June 2016 – Conference

### Exploring Social Innovation at UofT

This exclusive event for 60 key people explored what social innovation is and could be at the University of Toronto. We brought together a select group of students, faculty members, staff and external partners of the UofT community who are or will become catalysts for individual and collective commitment to social change from UofT.

#### Major themes identified

- Student experience
- Pedagogy
- Measuring impact
- Money vs good
- Culture & capacity

Full report at <http://theagencyuoft.ca/events/>

## November 2016 – Conference

### It's Time to be Bold – Social Innovation at UofT

The first pan-university gathering around social innovation at UofT to help students navigate the social innovation landscape at UofT and outside in the world and create awareness of what individuals and organizations are doing within the field. This conference created a platform at UofT for collaboration and exchange among the 250 participants and 67 speakers.

#### Major themes identified

- Students have robust personal narratives around social innovation
- Conversations have value to students
- Experiences give knowledge context
- The pan-university approach is valuable
- There is value in engaging outsiders
- Opening UofT's doors opens possibilities for everyone

Full report at <http://theagencyuoft.ca/events/>

## March 2017 – Entrepreneurship Week at UofT

### Workshop: Doing Good and Making Money

#### Showcase: Representation among the CLAs

Our sold out workshop on Doing Good and Making Money and our representation on the show floor brought the “social” elements of entrepreneurship forward. For our workshop, experts in social innovation covered the basics and legal constructs, while three of our student social entrepreneurs shared their experience.

## January/April 2017 - Focusing on Arts & Science Undergrads, Partnership with Innis College

The Agency was engaged to run a focus group with student leaders at Innis College to identify any perceived need for guidance on social innovation among the students and provide input to the structure of a potential service to support students. This led to Innis adding Social Innovation Ambassadors to their platform of student leaders for 2017/2018.

## February/April 2017 - Partnering on Global Perspectives

Partnered with the Ontario Council for International Cooperation at their 2017 Global Citizen's Forum: Mobilizing Leadership for Global Sustainable Development, we delivered a workshop Generating Social Innovation in the Workplace and participated in the 2 day conference.

Partnered with CUSO International to bring students and recent alumni to hear from one of Africa's top business leaders Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli speak on the impact of social enterprise on the African economy.

## Representation & Building Community

- 50 meetings with internal and external partners to explore opportunities
- Road trip to Waterloo to meet with social innovation clusters at UW, WLU and Communitech
- 320 active members of UofT Social Innovation Facebook group, to exchange ideas and opportunities
- Numerous one-on-one meetings with students and recent alumni to support their careers/ventures in social innovation, mentoring and connecting with resources including funding
- Participation in a wide variety of internal and external conferences on social innovation, social entrepreneurship and related topics bringing a focus to UofT.

# 2017-2018 Activities

This year we will support more students and surface more opportunities for learning, research, jobs, funding and partnerships for UofT around social entrepreneurship and innovation.

## Partnership with Innis College

We will be co-supporting two Social Innovation (student) Ambassadors in helping them provide programming for the 1,200 students at Innis. This programming will also be shared with Trinity and Woodsworth students. For this, first of a kind, program we will be reporting to the Principal of Innis and his Student Life team, on impact metrics and learning outcomes to guide development of this initiative.

## Internal partners

We will continue to partner with faculties, departments, centres and student initiatives.

We bring guest speakers, funders, topic specialists, mentors, employers and external opportunities to these partners. Examples:

- Career Centre has a dedicated focus on careers with impact
- Entrepreneurship at UofT – with our focus on social entrepreneurship
- Massey College amplifying graduate studies in related fields
- With the African Alumni Association we will be bringing Ndidi Nwuneli to UofT to talk about social entrepreneurship

## External partners

We will continue our engagement with the external community to bring to UofT opportunities for partnership for students, faculty and the school. This involvement brings in guest speakers, recognizes leading alumni and positions UofT in this field.

## Refresh and digitise the Roadmap

Through a sponsored project we will digitize the Roadmap, allowing this valuable asset to be shared and updated as a crowd sourced platform.

## Monthly events

September

Meet up: The basics of social entrepreneurship and innovation

October::

Road Trip to the Centre for Social Innovation

Meet up: The basics of social entrepreneurship and innovation

November:

Meet up: Storytelling (experts tell their stories, exploration on how to tell your story)

Focus on Graduate Students/Massey College

Presentation: Social Entrepreneurship in Africa

December:

Meet up: Deep Dive topic

January:

Road Trip: Corporate & Consultancy

February:

Careers with Impact

Meet up: The basics

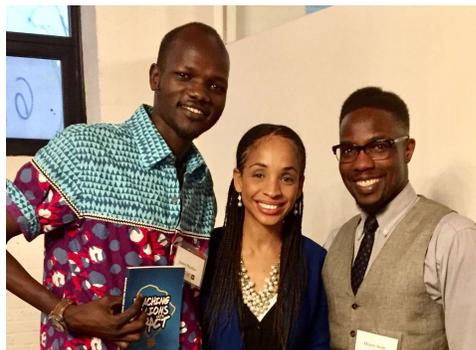
March:

Meet up: Storytelling (stories of impact)

April:

Meet up: Deep dive topic

(Calendar subject to change)



James Thuch Madhier (L) UofT student social entrepreneur and Henry Ssali (R) President UofT African Alumni Association, meet leading African social entrepreneur Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli