



Our Core Beliefs

Discovering Amistad was founded on the premise that every human life is a story, and that every story deserves to be told. Our mission is to share the enduring legacy of a group of African adults and children forcibly taken from their homes in West Africa, who were shipped across the Atlantic to be sold into slavery in Cuba, who fought for their liberty on their slave ship and regained their freedom before the US Supreme Court. This is the story of the Amistad.

What makes this story unique is the fact that although it occurred almost 200 years ago the lessons it teaches are still incredibly relevant in today's world: lessons of resilience, hope, and perseverance. At this same time, it is important to elevate the stories of other individuals and groups who have worked for racial and social justice, both in our nation's past and in the present.

Discovering Amistad has always and will continue to be in the forefront of teaching students of all ages about the rich, diverse cultures that have existed in the United States since its beginnings. We also want to encourage a greater awareness of the social, political, and economic inequalities that existed in America's past and persist today. We facilitate difficult conversations about America's historical experience and their present-day legacies. In so doing, we seek to create spaces where diverse voices can be part of those conversations.

Understanding the history of and reasons for persistent racial injustice, inequities, and inequalities are central to the work of Discovering Amistad. To these ends, we offer workshops for both K-12 students and adults that focus on evidence-based discussion and open dialogue. We build on connecting events and individuals of the past with events and trends in the present day. When facilitating discussions about these issues we seek to ensure that everyone involved comes away with a better understanding of themselves and of each other.