This past summer, the speakers organized and lead an NEH Summer Institute on "Arts of Survival: Recasting Lives in African Cities," focusing on contemporary urban culture and arts in Accra, Lagos, Nairobi, New Orleans and Port-au-Prince, characterized by shared African roots and distinctive landscapes, histories and tragedies. They were two of five institute leaders who together selected twenty-one faculty and three graduate student participants from across the U.S., representing an impressively smart and diverse group with expertise across many fields. In this presentation, they will share their organizational, intellectual and emotional experience of this unique event that proved to be lively and enriching as well as contentious and provocative.

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