

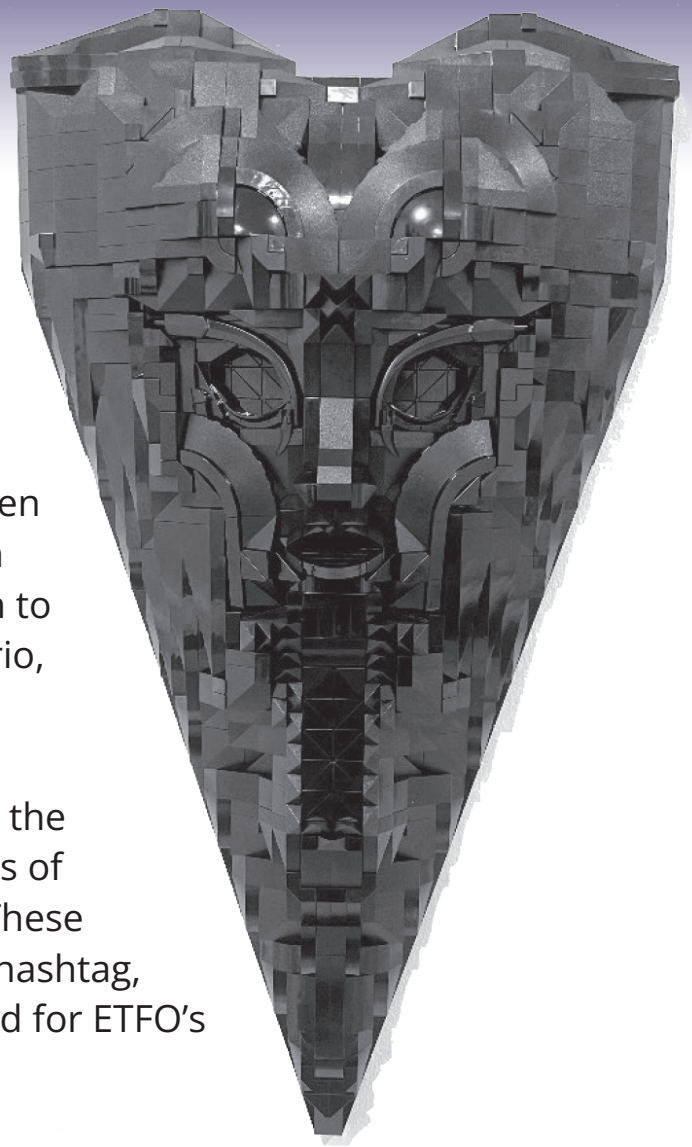
2025 Black History Month Poster

How it was made

For this year's poster, ETFO staff reached out to Ghanaian Canadian artist **Ekow Nimako** to create a visual for ETFO learners and educators. A mask was chosen as the ideal sculpture for the project, with **Ada Kelly Whitney**, the first Black person to teach at a publicly funded school in Ontario, as the main inspiration.

Using black LEGO pieces, Nimako created the intricate mask, which incorporates themes of Black culture, history, and Afrofuturism. These themes also inspired the poster title and hashtag, which appear in French (BHM was selected for ETFO's French poster this year).

A graphic artist was enlisted to add a background with colour and images that reinforce the concept of Afrofuturism. The result is a powerful, student-friendly design:



MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS 2025: ADA

1: First Black person to teach in the Ontario school system

112: Years since Ada broke the colour barrier in public education

6,500: Pieces of LEGO used to create the mask

A **map** of Greater Essex in 1913 when Ada broke the colour barrier

Thousands of years: African tradition of honouring heroes and trailblazers through mask carving

Infinity: Scope of the galaxy and what Afrofuturism represents

4: Jobs in which Ada and her husband challenged colour barriers (teaching in Windsor & Toronto; publishing newspapers in Toronto & Upstate New York)

*While we celebrate Ada's achievement, informal Black educators taught in community for countless years, leading to Ada's opportunity to break down barriers. Many Black educators have followed, but we look forward to there being even more in the future.

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