



## Media Invitation

### Fourth Annual Urbana

#### Party to Raise funds for Habitat for Humanity's 2009 Youth Build

**April 1, 2008, Ottawa, ON** – The fourth annual URBANA is set for April 24th, 2008 at the National Archives Library of Canada. The fundraising event organized by Dharma Developments will raise money for Habitat for Humanity's 2009 Youth Build.

This year's party features a live, perspective altering performance, *If Walls Could Talk*, with poet and author, Oni the Haitian Sensation. Oni's talent brings to life the stories of several low income working families who are living in Habitat for Humanity homes and how the opportunity to own their own homes has changed their lives.

Reception includes sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, live Latin band, cash bar and a raffle to win a Grand Prize trip courtesy of WestJet and Premiere Group Travel.

#### Event Details:

Thursday, April 24, 2008

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

National Archives Library of Canada

Tickets: \$85 available online at [www.DharmaDevelopments.com](http://www.DharmaDevelopments.com)

#### About Oni the Haitian Sensation

Oni the Haitian Sensation has been called, Canada's foremost mistress of Slam' and, 'Ottawa's poetry diva'. Her message is full of wit, wisdom and wonder and she brings her poetry to life with performances that are sultry, steamy and full of passion and energy.

Oni uses her words to empower, educate and entertain. Never shy to tackle the toughest issues, her work is inspired by her personal experience, the world around her, and her belief that she can change the world of poverty.

A citizen of the world, Oni was born in Haiti, brought up in Canada and shaped (in part) by the violent, drug infested streets of Los Angeles. Her travels through Europe and Australia have brought her international acclaim. Here in Canada, she has been a featured performer at the National Arts Centre's Fourth Stage and has been commissioned to write poetry for



the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the CBC, the Bytowne Museum and Ottawa's Winterlude Festival.

### **About Habitat for Humanity's 2009 Youth Build**

Habitat for Humanity National Capital Region (Habitat NCR) builds simple, decent, affordable homes in partnership with low-income working families, sponsors and volunteers. The goal is to promote affordable housing and home ownership with an interest-free long term mortgage as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

The 2009 build project will be the first time Habitat NCR will undertake a Youth Build. Youth build will use the talents of about 400-500 young people between the ages of 16 and 29. Under the guidance and mentorship of skilled tradespeople and seasoned volunteers, they will learn new technical and leadership skills. The goal is to promote career opportunities in building trades to help meet the demand for skilled labour.

### **About Urbana**

In its fourth year, Urbana is an annual event that raises money to prevent homelessness. When launching their land development company, Dharma Developments owners Akash and Katy Sinha decided to organize an event that would contribute to building a better community. Since then, the event has raised over \$50,000 and helped raise awareness of homelessness in Ottawa.

For more information about the event, Habitat for Humanity's 2009 Youth Build and Urbana, visit [www.dharmadevelopments.com](http://www.dharmadevelopments.com).

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