



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In 2008, the museum received \$35,000 in grant money from Fairpoint Communications, the Davis Family Foundation, and the Maine Community Foundation to support the Museum Educational Outreach Program. Museum Director Oscar Mokeme and drummers Lanssine Traoré, Godfrey Banda, and Dyland Blanchard have traveled to schools all over Northern New England. They have brought the richness of the Museum to the far reaches of our rural communities, offering an interactive and stimulating experience of an art that is alive and speaking to the values we all share.

The funds paid for travel expenses and half of the program fee allowing for equal accessibility for all schools nears and far. By June 1, the Museum had presented 74 programs in 53 schools and organizations, reaching at least 8000 participants directly. Since September, we have traveled over 6700 miles, bringing our programs to north of Baxter State Park, west to Richford, Vermont, and south into New Hampshire. Programs continue to be scheduled through the summer. **Please call to schedule a program for your organization!**

We are currently applying for more grants and appealing for individual sponsorships to reach our goal of \$70,000 for the 2009-10 school year. You can help us reach even deeper into New England, bridging cultures, and expanding awareness of African art and appreciation of cultural diversity. Make an online donation at [www.museumafricanculture.org](http://www.museumafricanculture.org).

## ART NEWS

Our contemporary gallery has been adorned in the past few months with images that evoke the open, isolated, archaic, and busy Sahel.

Thanks to Marta Morse and Carly Stewart for sharing with us works that capture the starkness and individuality of the landscapes and their inhabitants.

As winter thawed into spring, we installed "The Art of Grace," a selection of objects that reflect the notions of grace, beauty, and transformation in sub-Saharan Africa.

## FIRST FRIDAY ARTS WALK EXHIBITION OPENING JULY 3

Don't miss the new photography by Eugene Boelens, former Director of the United Nations Development Program in West and East Africa. Returning from extensive travel in West Africa, Boelens will share his story with audiences on July 24.

## "MUSICALLY SPEAKING" with Portland Symphony Orchestra

On June 6, the Portland Symphony Orchestra presented a "Musically Speaking" event at the Museum of African Culture. Maestro Robert Moody spoke about the PSO's end-of-season concert called *Sabar*, after the traditional music of Senegal. One of the PSO guest drummers, Mark Sunkett, offered instrumental drumming demonstrations and discussed Senegal's inherently musical culture. Music - as we saw - that has a timeless universality to create bridges where language creates barriers.

## AUGUST 15, 2009:

### KWENU FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

We are gearing up for our annual anniversary event to honor an institution that has celebrated, preserved, and educated on the rich and powerful arts of Africa ... for eleven years!

This year's festival will initiate the year of *Kwenu*, the Nigerian word for "unity," celebrating African arts and culture, as well as the dynamic cultural diversity of Portland.

Join us in an outdoor festival that will transform Brown Street into an African marketplace - with continuous world music on stage, dancing in the street, children's activities, and vendors offering unique crafts and mouthwatering African cuisine.

### KWENU FESTIVAL RAFFLE

We've got fantastic items in the raffle...

*All-new 26" men's bike  
Day at the salon  
Lunch on Long Island  
And more.....*

**TICKETS ON SALE JULY 1**  
Tickets available online, at the museum, or via attached order form.

Thanks to our festival sponsors:

**L.L.Bean**



City of Portland

**PowerPay**



TARGET - South Portland



## MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY 1**

Kwenu Festival raffle tickets go on sale!

**JULY 3 • 5:30 PM**

First Friday Arts Walk  
2 EXHIBITIONS OPENING  
New in the Heritage Gallery:  
*Utilitarian Pots of Sub-Saharan Africa*

New in the Contemporary Gallery:

Photography by former UN Director Eugene Boelens:  
*A Look into the Lives and Communities around the River Niger*

**JULY 10 • 6:30 PM**

Friends of Africa Event  
Ann Schunior:  
"West Africa Seen Through the Eyes of a Potter"

**JULY 17 • 6:30 PM**

"The Prince and Me"  
A film by Nigerian director Toni Nwatu

**JULY 24 • 6:30 PM**

The Artist's Story  
An evening with photographer Eugene Boelens

**AUGUST 7 • 5:30 PM**

First Friday Arts Walk  
*Utilitarian Pots of Sub-Saharan Africa*  
And photography by Eugene Boelens

**AUGUST 15 • 12-5 PM**

**Kwenu Festival**  
Live music, mouthwatering cuisine, unique crafts, children's activities, raffle, and more!!

**AUGUST 28 • 6:30 PM**

Spirit Mask Performance

## FRIENDS OF AFRICA

Friends of Africa is the bridge between the MofAC and current humanitarian projects going on in Africa. Beyond that, it brings together people interested in African culture, affairs, and development, and provides a forum for them to share ideas and experiences through exhibitions, lectures, discussions, and celebrations.

This spring, we hosted two FOA events. In March, Deb Locke's "To Timbuctou and Back: Among the Many Cultures of Mali & Burkina Faso," explored the diverse and colorful cultures of Mali and Burkina Faso through photographs and music. In May, board member Irene Honey and her husband Tim presented "Be Global," looking at opportunities and challenges of urbanization in Africa, and sharing their experience of adopting an elementary school in Soweto in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Don't miss upcoming FOA event with Ann Schunior as she shares the mastery of west African potters and their limitless artistic capabilities: from pots to shrines to houses to mosques! July 10, 6:30 PM.

You can now join the museum, make donations, and purchase raffle tickets on the museum website!

[www.museumafricanculture.org](http://www.museumafricanculture.org)



Oscar and our dedicated friends at MECA led mask-making workshops. The result: Dreams come to life!

## EBUNE PARADE

On April 5, The Museum of African Culture led the city of Portland again in welcoming the onset of spring in the traditional Ebune Parade, or Festival of the Ram. Thanks to our supporters: United Way, Maine Humanities Council, Maine Arts Commission, Artists and Craftsman Supply, and our talented friends at MECA.



The Spirit of the Ram.



Portland united in music, art, and spirit.

## ***The museum deeply grateful for the time and generosity of its volunteers:***

Caitlin Gilmet, for chairing our new fundraising committee.

Deb Locke, for her devoted administrative skills and assistance.

Alex Petropoulos, for her work on Saturdays.

Beth Helgeson, for helping repair and restore masks and costumes.

Judith McAllister, for her help in planning the Kwenu Festival.

Jubal Kessler, for his outstanding technical expertise.

## **MALIAN DJEMBES IN THE STORE!!!**

Malian kora master Toumani Diabaté recently performed in Portland with his Symmetric Orchestra. One of the group's talented musicians and drum-maker, Bakare Diabaté, left behind 8 beautifully hand-crafted djembes currently on sale at the museum.

