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## **SUMMARY**

I am an effective teacher that exemplifies structure and discipline in the classroom, at the same time creating a fun and engaging environment for learners of all abilities. I have outstanding verbal and oral communication skills, a strong work ethic and willingness to learn new things. My experience in African drumming is a lifelong passion of mine. I enjoy pairing it with African dance as a way to bridge communities through education and cultural exchange.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Urban Gateways**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**January 2022-present**

#### **Teaching Artist**

- Worked under Urban Gateways as a Teaching Artist in schools and community events
- Collaborated with the theater department to provide a play/music called Celebration of the Lion King: The Musical
- Provided weekly lesson plans and meetings with the staff on programs and traditional rhythms for the class
- Demonstrated the basic sounds of the djembe (bass, tone, and slap) as well as the names of the dununs (songban, kenkeni, and dununba)

### **Amelia Earhart Elementary School**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**November 2021-June 2022**

#### **Drum Instructor**

- Taught twice a week to 3rd to 5 graders on the basic sounds of the djembe (bass, tone, and slap) as well as introduce them to the different names of the dununs (songban, kenkeni, and dununba)
- Explained and taught rhythms from the Mali Empire (countries such as Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal)
- Demonstrated the djembe parts and dunun parts for rhythms Kuku, Balakulandjan, Soli, and Soliwulen to 3rd through 5th grade
- Presented a recital/showcase for the student body and staff

**Walt Disney Magnet School  
Chicago, Illinois  
October 2021-June 1st 2022**

**Drum Instructor**

- Demonstrated the three basic sounds of the djembe (bass, tone, and slap) as well as the three names of the dununs (songban, kenkeni, and dununba)
- Partnership with Old Town School of Folk of Music for the school residency at Walt Disney Magnet School
- Taught Tuesdays and Wednesdays to 1st grade through 4th grade on the historical context behind West African Drumming, songs, and culture
- Presented a end of the year recital to the student body

**Sista Afya Community Mental Wellness**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**October 2021-Present**

**Drum Facilitator**

- Organize drum workshops for women to focus on self-care, healing, and wellness, while playing the djembe and dununs
- Demonstrate the basic sounds of the djembe such as bass, tone, and slap, as well as the different names of the dunun drums, such as the songban, kenkeni, and dununba
- Host drum community workshops once a month for the organization

**Friedman Place**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**November 2019**

**Drum Facilitator**

- Facilitated a drum circle for the blind and special needs
- Communicated to the blind through the sound of the drum by touching each person to get their attention
- Taught them a song from the rhythm Balakuljan and made sure each person play different instruments such as tambourines, shekere, and djembe
- Spoke clear and slowly on how to clap their hands to the beat of the drum
- Explained to them that the bass is the heartbeat of the drum by telling them to place their hand in the middle of the drum

**Old Town School of Folk Music**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**October 2018-Present**

**Substitute Drum Instructor**

- Substitute for West African Drum Instructor Michael Taylor on Wednesdays and Sundays
- Demonstrated the three sounds of the djembe (bass, tone, and slap)
- Explained the different parts of the dununs which are Songban (medium sound drum), Kenkeni (high pitched drum), and Dununba (low drum)
- Assist the students on how to fix their technique on the djembe and dununs
- Answer any questions regarding how to play each part of the rhythm on djembe and dununs
- Participates in recital showcase every eight weeks

**Chicago House Social Agency  
Chicago, Illinois**

**October 2018-December 2018**

**Drum Instructor**

- Represented Old Town School of Folk of Music for their outreach program for the West African Drumming department
- Taught rhythms Balakuljan and Soli for an after school program for students ages seven to 15
- Demonstrated the three sounds of the djembe (bass, tone, and slap)
- Explained the different parts of the dununs which are Songban (medium sound drum), Kenkeni (high pitched drum), and Dununba (low drum)
- Students learned a song from the rhythm Balakuljan

**New Rhythm Arts Center**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**June 2018-August 2022**

**Drum Instructor/Drummer Accompanist**

- Taught drum classes to all women from ages 12 and up the rhythms “Moribyassa and Sofa” from the Malinke ethnic group in Northeast Guinea
- Demonstrated the three sounds of the dununs which are the songban (medium sound drum), Kenkeni (high-pitched drum), and Dununba (low drum)
- Demonstrated the three sounds of the djembe which are bass, tone, and slap
- Performed rhythms on the djembe and dununs from West Africa at the Tribal Stomp Festival and Make Music Rogers Park Festival
- Played djembe and dununs for the West African Groove dance class every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Organized a children drums class for ages three to 12 years

**Walter Payton High School**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**April 2018-June 2018**

**Drum Instructor/Teacher Assistant**

- Taught a drum seminar workshop to freshmen and sophomores in high school students
- Assisted students on how to play djembe and dununs effectively by using the three basic sounds of the djembe and dununs
- Taught rhythms Moribyassa and Dansa from Mali and Guinea of West Africa
- Explained to the students when playing djembe there is a signal that start, stop, and change the rhythm

**Ayodele Drum & Dance Company**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**September 2014-Present**

Apprentice Performer/Lead Drummer

- Studied African cultures and traditions from the Mali Empire through African drum and dance
- Performed rhythms and songs through African drumming from Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast, and Senegal

- Teaches young women and youth ages 10 to 18 about the three basic sounds of the djembe which includes bass, tone, and slap as well as dununs (songban, kenkeni, and dundunba)
- Participate in sisterhood circles and African drum workshops
- Taught a drum workshop for women at Hamlin Park for the Jim Playlab drum and dance workshop where the women drum and sing songs of the African diaspora
- Instructed drum workshops for youth ages 10 to 18 at Sherman Park Fieldhouse every Saturday

### **Humboldt Park Summer Program**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**June 2015-August 2015**

#### **Beginner Djembe Instructor**

- Taught students ages eight and nine rhythms from Liberia and Guinea called “Funga” and “Balakulanjan”
- Taught the students the song for the rhythm “Funga”
- Gave an introduction to the students about West African drumming through rhythms, culture, and traditions
- Explained the history of the djembe and dunduns through various countries in Africa such as Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Liberia
- Participated in the recital with the student performing the rhythm Funga for end of the summer program

### **EDUCATION**

Old Town School of Folk Music  
Chicago, Illinois

September 2013

Tam Tam Mandingue Beginner Djembe Instructor

October 2014

Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois  
Bachelor of Fine Arts degree  
Major: Communication  
Minor: Theatre

December 2012