



13 Brown Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Phone:

(207) 871-7188

Email:

africart@museumafricanculture.org

Web:

www.museumafricanculture.org

OFFICERS & BOARD

Oscar O. Mokeme
Director

Gail Ederly, RN
President

Thomas K. Morgan
Vice President

Jimmy Kloczko
Treasurer

Rev. Brenda Tubby Chandler
Secretary

Adesina Lawal
Katie Pulsifer Martin
Carly Stewart

ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. and Mrs Chinua Achebe
Arthur Aleshire
Aimée Bessire, PhD
HRH Chief P.C. Ezenwa
Perkins Foss, PhD
Judy Ellis Glickman
Christopher Lee, PhD
Judith McAllister
Marta Morse
Sir C.C. Okafor
Simon Ottenberg, PhD
Erin Saveall, RN

A 501(c)(3) Organization

Dear Principal,

In partnership with Fairpoint Communications and The Davis Family Foundation, the Museum of African Culture is pleased to present an educational program that explores the power of African art objects in shaping the communities they serve. This program will introduce students to a diverse body of art, which communicates, instructs, and illustrates the customs and beliefs of the groups that created them. The objective is to introduce young people to the cultural richness of the African continent and help them to develop greater acceptance of those from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The program is available both at our museum and in the classroom. The program generally consists of three components:

- A display of African masks and objects
- A discussion of selected objects focusing on:
 - their significance in ritual, entertainment, family relations, gender roles, etc.
 - their function as instruments of communication
 - their meaning in a global context and their significance to our own experience in 21st-century America
- A traditional masquerade that offers a rare firsthand experience of the masked figure in motion

Your school also has the option of expanding into your art, music and physical education departments with a mask-making workshop, African drumming or dance class. These workshops engage students physically and offer an incredible opportunity for experiential learning. We are always willing to tailor the program to fit your needs and enrich your own curriculum.

Oscar Mokeme, founder and director of the Museum of African Culture, heads the education program. Born and raised in south-eastern Nigeria, he inherited the knowledge and responsibilities of priest and healer in the Igbo culture. Particularly gifted in translating into western terms the African concepts embodied in the mask, he exposes the complex and dynamic role of art in African societies.

For the first time ever, we have been able to dramatically reduce program costs for educators. Thanks to an extremely generous grant from **Fairpoint Communications** this summer, and a recent grant from **The Davis Family Foundation**, travel expenses and half of program fees are covered. **You, the participant, pay only half the cost of the program fee!** This means, for example, that a two-hour program valued at \$300 (plus travel expenses) costs you just \$150.

We encourage you to refer to the enclosed brochure for additional information regarding program options and rates. If you are interested in exploring this truly unique program, please contact the museum at (207) 871-7188 or at africart@museumafricanculture.org.

Sincerely,

Gail Ederly
President of the Board