

## **Drum Power Presents Intergenerational Day of Drum and Dance, July 29, 2023**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Yorel Lashley, [lashley@wisc.edu](mailto:lashley@wisc.edu), (917-834-5792)

Media photos available by request

Madison, Wisconsin – Drum Power announces its second annual Intergenerational Day of Drum and Dance, with community drum and dance classes, taught by master artists, that are open to all ages and abilities. The celebration will take place July 29, 2023, from 1 - 7:30 p.m. at Madison Youth Arts Center (MYArts), 1055 E. Mifflin Street. Individual class cost is \$18 and a full day pass for all activities is \$60. Classes are free for youth participants of Drum Power Summer Arts Camp, July 17-28. Registration is available on the [Drum Power website](#).

Nationally and internationally renowned instructors will offer classes including:

- West African Drumming with Yorel Lashley and Mandjou Mara at 1pm - 2:15pm
- Afro-Brazilian Drumming with Tom Ross and Special Guests at 2:30pm - 3:45pm
- Brazilian Dance with Quenia Ribeiro at 4pm - 5:30pm
- West African Dance with Assane Konte at 6pm - 7:30pm

“This event culminates two weeks of instruction and community with Madison youth,” says Drum Power Director, Yorel Lashley. “We proudly give back to the broader community with a rare opportunity to learn from internationally renowned artists.”

Jessica Courtier, MYArts Director of Community Partnerships adds, "MYArts is very excited to be the site for the Drum Power Intergenerational Day of Drum and Dance. This event brings together truly world-class instructors in a friendly, community-oriented atmosphere. We expect this will be an event filled with joy and learning."

Drum Power is a youth leadership program in which young people learn traditional West African, Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian drumming and their cultural and historical significance. Youth also build self-esteem and life skills, focusing on discipline, community and leadership. These life skills are the foundational pillars of the Drum Power program. Drum Power Summer Arts Camp is currently in its second week of instruction with 80 youth across Madison participating.

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Drum Power  
[drumpower.com](http://drumpower.com)

**Assane Konte** is one of the original founders of Washington D.C.'s *KanKouran West African Dance Company*, an organization that he founded in 1983 with his childhood friend and master drummer, Abdou Kounta. Since then, Konte has dedicated his career to preserving and sharing Africa's rich culture through dance and music. Konte presently serves on the faculty at Howard University.

**Quenia Ribeiro** is a dancer, choreographer, and dance instructor from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With over 25 years of experience in the field, Ribeiro has performed Samba and Afro-Brazilian Dance in Greece, Martinique, Portugal, Brazil, and throughout the United States. Currently, Ribeiro choreographs and directs her own Dance Company, *Grupo Ribeiro* and teaches at Ailey Extension in New York City.

**Mandjou Mara**, native of Guinea, is a griot (singer), engaging performer, and skilled instructor of West African drum. Mandjou moved to Madison, WI in 2008 and created his new drum and dance ensemble Limanya, as well as Kikeh Mato, his Afro-Pop group. Now that he has settled in Madison, he is excited to continue sharing his knowledge of Guinean music and tradition.

**Yorel Lashley** is the Director of Arts in the Office of Professional Learning and Community Education at UW–Madison's School of Education and Director of Student Empowerment for the Center for Arts Education and Social and Emotional Learning. He is a developmental psychologist interested in self-efficacy and social-emotional learning in arts, academic and integrated environments as well as the Founder/Director of Drum Power.

**Thomas Ross** is well versed as a marimbist, solo percussionist, orchestral percussionist, and Brazilian percussionist. Thomas is currently the Musical Director and President of The Handphibians Inc., a community based Samba School in Madison, Wisconsin, and is co-founder of Grupo Balança, an ensemble dedicated to performing Brazilian Samba and Pagode. He has studied numerous styles of Afro-Brazilian music in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador do Bahia, Brazil.