



share the arts inspire change

Prospective Board Member package

Our Vision

A world in which art and culture have meaning, are the inspiration for emerging human potential, and are the impetus for peace.

Our Mission

Engaging in multicultural partnerships and artistic collaborations, we achieve dynamic exchanges of knowledge and inspire contribution to community initiatives.

Our Values

We respect cultural diversity

We value arts

We honor community

We acknowledge the relationship of the environment to human experience.

What elevates Matoto is our **cultural deepening** through the **Arts**.

People here in BC who have not been to Guinea still feel a **strong connection** to our projects and the people in Guinea, through **drumming and dance**, the cultural arts of Guinea (through our sister organisation, MoonDance).

As current ED Lynn Weaver puts it, "Learning dance & music from other cultures involves an inherent **respect** for the people of that culture".

Another distinction from organisations doing similar work in Africa is that we **celebrate the gifts** that Guinea has to offer to the World.

It is not a paternalistic sort of philanthropy based on all the *ills that plague* Africa, but rather a building of **international community** through invitation.



A brief look at the foundations and future of Matoto:

Our **Founding Board** Members were all also “MoonDancers”. **It was our existing ties to West Africa and to Guinea that initiated Matoto.**

Erin Dale – Chair; Juliana Wigmore - Co-Chair; Amalia Coloussi - Secretary
Rebecca Wagner – Treasurer; Erin Brulé – Marketing; Byron Weaver - Corporate Liaison; Lynn Weaver – board member

Elections to the Board occur annually our AGM (October/November).

Project funds with thanks to our **Lead Sponsor: XE.com** (NB: other sponsorship opportunities exist), and through fundraising, specifically: our **annual Gala** (in conjunction with the AGM), and the **10 Days event** (with thanks to our brilliant marketing director, we raised over \$10,000 in 10 Days!)

Past events have included an Art Show, a cultural performance, cross-cultural forums with Guinean guests, and cross-cultural training.

Projects include: sun oven pilot project, local arts bursary program (launched Oct 2010). These are in addition to our main project: **The Kubian School**

Now that the school is complete (opened October 2011!), **our goals** are to assist in its longevity through teachers’ salaries, student bursaries, books, and other school supplies, funds for older students to continue beyond Kubian, partnerships and intern programs with other local/international NGOs.



What we look for in a Board Member:

☺ **Enthusiasm & dedication!**

This is a volunteer board, and is currently a “working board”. Our expansion goals are modest in terms of having staff. In an ideal scenario, there would be a paid Executive Director, Bookkeeper, and Volunteer Coordinator.

Beyond that our vision is not of a huge organization. We wish to maintain close ties to our roots.

- ☺ Commitment to the Values and Vision of Matoto.
- ☺ Board Members must be Matoto members in good standing (\$10 annually).

What Board Members obtain from Serving:

☺ Director & Officer Liability Insurance

Matoto pays for half of this mandatory insurance. Each Board member contributes roughly \$50 (more or less depending on the number of Board Members, as the insurance is a flat rate of \$600 annually)

☺ Matoto aims to provide ~ \$50 per Board Member annually for relevant training. For example, training in fundraising, leadership, non-profit management, etc. to encourage Board Members to hone their skills.

☺ Cultural learning and Board experience.

“All the children in Kubian will know Canada, and will remember - remember that black or not, Muslim or not, African or not, that we are all brothers and sisters, and all the World is One. This school is for the Village, but it is also for Peace.”

- Alya Gigla Sylla, Field Director of Kubian School Project in Guinea





Appendix A: Constitution

1. The name of the Society is *Matoto Multicultural Arts Society*.
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (a). * Artistic & Educational:
 - To support Arts and Culture in the local community, promoting health, wellbeing and community.
 - To use Music and Dance to inspire and educate.These include supporting the activities of:
 - MoonDance Dynamic Arts School cultural/dance educational projects
 - MoonDance performance troupe cultural/dance educational projects
 - (b). * Humanitarian & Charitable:
 - SunOvens: solar ovens for families in Guinea (http://sunoven.com/saving_lives.asp)
 - Kubian School Project, Guinea
 - Reforestation Initiatives in Guinea
 - (c). * Fundraising:
 - To raise funds for the above purposes.

By request: Current By-Laws
Portfolio Working Groups (POGs)