

# Matoto

multicultural arts society

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Juliana Wignmore photos

## 2010 Annual Report

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



## Board Members

2010:

Juliana Wigmore - Chair  
Erin Dale - Co-Chair  
Amalia Coloussi - Secretary  
Byron Weaver – Treasurer  
Erin Brulé - Marketing  
Lynn Weaver – board member

## Volunteers:

Lynn Weaver - Executive Director  
our "working Board"  
Sheryl Townsend  
Kirsten Putu Hunter  
Jennie Stevens  
Mohamed & Marielle Duranteau

## Funding:

Lead Sponsor - XE.com  
Gold Sponsor - available  
Silver Sponsor -available



A very special THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and funders who contribute so much to our success. Without the talents and dedication of our Board, volunteers, and members, we would not be able to realise our vision of a world in which art & culture have meaning, and are the impetus for Peace.





“Wonouli”



## Wonouli!

In Susu, the language of our friends and community in Guinea, the word “Wonouli” means at least two things. It is a greeting, and it also means “thank you”.

2010 has been an exciting year for Matoto. There are so many people to thank, and so many reasons to be thankful, and I extend my greetings and welcome to you as you read our Annual Report.

The board of directors of Matoto was thrilled with the overwhelming support for the Ten Days event, which saw us reach and exceed our fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the school in Kubian, Guinea. As the photos on the Matoto website ([www.Matoto.org](http://www.Matoto.org)) can attest, there has been enormous progress over the last year, and everyone involved awaits the completion of this project with excitement.

This year we updated our logo, and increased our outreach efforts through the creation and distribution of a monthly electronic newsletter, which shares stories, events, and the ups and downs of the organization with Matoto members and supporters.

We also created, printed, and distributed one hundred 2010 Matoto calendars, and we are on our second printing of Matoto greeting cards, both of which offer a beautiful and gentle reminder of the work that we do, and of our community in Guinea. We are especially grateful for the use of photographs captured by M'mhawa Tamara Phillips, Erin Houldsworth, & Ken Tupper during their time in Guinea, which makes these projects possible.

We continued to work to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our multicultural community through the participation in a cross-cultural communication workshop organized by Matoto. Board and community members were encouraged to challenge our assumptions and ideas about culture, resulting in individual personal growth, as well as growth within the organization. Thanks to Moussa Magassa from Hille-Magassa and Associates for facilitating the workshop, and for his continued support of Matoto.

We are also grateful to our Guinean friends, teachers and community here in Canada and the United States (as well as their families) who have supported us at our first and second annual Forums on Multiculturalism. Manimou Camara, N'nato Camara, Aboubacar Camara, and Mohamed Duranteau continue to inspire us, help us facilitate and build relationships internationally, and share their knowledge with us. Wonouali wonouali!!

I think that the integrity with which we've made it through challenging and changing times this year has really highlighted the growth occurring within Matoto. Although Lynn & Gigla both worked tirelessly to arrange for Ballet Saamato to travel to Canada from Guinea for a cultural exchange, it was sadly not meant to be this year. While we were all disappointed, we recognize, and are grateful for, the overflowing support of our communities and networks that went into attempting (and almost succeeding) to turn this dream into a reality.



This year also marked the end of **Keyké Faré**, the performance troupe of MoonDance Dynamic Arts School, whose support we gratefully acknowledge through their donations to Matoto of revenues earned from live performances for which they were paid. Thank you to Lynn and Byron Weaver; Josh, Krista, Doug, Taylor, and Daniel Nachtigal; Rebecca Wagner; Heather Flemming; Monika Cieslack; Jenny Storey; M'mhawa Tamara Phillips; Nika Stafford; Colin Lang; Pan Parkin; Liz Frazer; Pete Sperling; Mohammed and Marielle Duranteau; Nikko Snow; and Laura Carleton.

Lastly, I give thanks to all the Matoto members, volunteers, and supporters, and especially to my fellow board members who work so tirelessly to make this organization thrive and who continue to inspire and challenge me with their vivacity. Lynn, Byron, Amalia, Erin D., and Erin B., as well as past and new board members - I have learned so much from you & am so grateful to you all. Wonouali.

As I step down from the position of Chair of Matoto, I look back with pride at all that we have accomplished and gratitude for all that we have learned, and look forward to the future with confidence that this organization will continue to grow and succeed in new ways and attract, as it has from the beginning, people with open hearts and minds who are working (and playing) together to change the world for the better.

Wonouali to you all!  
Sincerely,

Juliana Wigmore  
Chair, 2010  
Founding Board Member 2008



Please see below for highlights this year for our three main program areas.



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# Humanitarian & Charitable:

## Kubian School Project

School Building Progress

The School is still in progress at the time of this writing, and is nearing completion.

Mohamed Duranteau, our Guinean-liaison, is in Guinea currently (Dec 2010). M. Duranteau plans to travel to Kubian to see the school, and bring new footage and photos home for the Matoto membership.

**December 2010**



A view of the school with the trees around it.



Matoto's field rep. in Guinea, Gigla Sylla, addresses a group of village children outside the school.

# Arts & Multiculturalism:

## New! Local Arts Bursary

Matoto now offers an Arts bursary program, with no restrictions on genre or level (professional or recreational). For example:

- A student or potential student who seeks assistance in attending classes
- A member artist (professional or otherwise) of an Arts Council or similar
- An intercultural organization (member or group) under-taking an arts-based project

Individuals may receive up to \$300 to be used to further their education / expression through an approved organization. **Priority is given to those projects/pursuits that further the vision of Matoto**, of arts being the impetus for peace, through revealing human potential. For more information about the program requirements, including application instructions, [read our information sheet](#) (PDF)

## Fundraising:

Our major fundraising highlight was the 10 Days event.

We raised over \$10,000 in 10 Days.

This brilliant fundraiser (thanks, Erin B) saw 10 team captains leading teams of 10 who would each find 10 people to give them 10 dollars within 10 days. With really very little effort, people were able to see their contribution grow over a very short time. From one's small contribution of \$10, it joined forces with other's small contributions to have a **very big impact**.



We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of XE.com as Lead Sponsor.



We also have deep gratitude for our partnership with MoonDance Dynamic Arts School. This relationship provides Matoto with a network of donors, supporters, members, and volunteers who wish to "give back" to Guineans for the benefits of the cultural sharing that takes place. Through the Arts of West Africa we in Canada are given a sense of local and global Community, wellness, expression, fitness, and connection to the rhythms of life. This connection between cultures and the understanding it invites, are the key to Matoto's success!

## From the Treasurer:

I'd like to start by thanking Rebecca Wagner, for her work in the past as the founding treasurer for Matoto. I would also like to thank Sheryl Townsend. Sheryl has not only assisted Rebecca and I with the logistics of keeping up with the treasury duties, but she has (thankfully) come forward to offer her expertise, sound judgment and impeccable record-keeping skills as the new Treasurer (as voted by the board) for Matoto.

### Summing up 2010

#### **Funds Raised**

- 10 Days Event - over \$13,500!!
- Calendars - \$825;
- General Donations -\$600;
- Sponsorship funds from XE.com - \$2000

**Total Funds Raised - \$16, 9250.00**

#### **Costs of Building the Kubian School:**

- \$3100 (including funds transfer fees)

#### **Current balance:**

- \$10,500.00 (As of the Matoto AGM October 10th, 2010)

**All Matoto accounts are in good standing with no dept.**

I offer my most heartfelt gratitude to XE.com's management and generous employees for their support. It's nice to know you see the same vision.

Byron Weaver



## From the Director:



The tenacity and dedication of the Guineans involved in the Kubian project is so inspiring. Despite political upheaval, through-the-roof gas prices, and other twists and turns, the school is nearing completion.

It is with deep respect, admiration, and hope that we look to 2011 and opening the school! Thanks to the generosity of our supporters in Canada, we are confidently drafting a sustain system for the school, to ensure its longevity. Special thanks also to Mohamed Duranteau for filling the important role of cultural liaison, bridging cultures and communities.

We are excited to have launched our Arts Bursary program. Supporting arts locally helps further our vision of arts as the impetus for peace, and for emerging human potential.

*Peace.*  
Lynn Weaver