

Afia Walking Tree, M.Ed.

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

28-year seasoned African Percussionist, Singer, Composer, Recording and Performing Artist
25-year experienced innovative Transformational Cultural Arts Educator and Trainer
20-year motivational Directorial and Supervisory college, non-profit, and corporate leadership
15-year freelance Landscape Gardener, Certified Permaculturist, Homestead Farmer
Exceptional Non-Violent Communication (NVC), Re-evaluation Counseling (RC), Diversity Training, Leadership, Movement Organizing, and Reconciliation Strategist
Culturally Relevant Motivational Speaking, Writing, Coaching, and Diplomacy
Long-standing International touring across North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia
African Earth Based Shamanic Practitioner

CHRONOLOGICAL EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Education

June 2017 **SoulFlower Farm**, Reclaiming Origins of Traditional Sustainability, CA
72-hr Permaculture Certification
December 2004 **Completed High Priestess** Coronation of Ajuba Drum Legacy: Ajuba Drum Lineage
July 2003 **Re-Evaluation Counseling** Fundamentals Course Completion, CA
May 1994 **Bank Street College of Education**, NYC, Masters in Special Education
Distinctive Masters Thesis & Portfolio "Multiple Intelligences of 'At-Risk' Adolescents"
May 1990 **Vassar College**, NY, Bachelor of Arts, Focus: *Psychology, Africana & Women's Studies*
1986-1987 **LaGuardia Community College**, NY, NY, Dean's List, *Accounting and Liberal Arts*
1978-1985 **Holy Childhood High School**, Jamaica, West Indies

Employment

2015 - 2017 *Cultural Arts Instructor*, Acta Non-Verba Urban Youth Farm, Oakland, CA
2015 - 2017 *Cultural Arts Instructor*, Ruby Bridges School Summer School, Alameda CA
2007 - 2018 *Instructor*, Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, Oakland, CA
2014 - Present *Founder, Instructor*, Rhythms of the Earth Permaculture & Nutrition Course
2007 - Present *Founder, Gardener*, Walking Tree Essentials Permaculture, CA, GA, JA
1996 - Present *Founder, Executive Director*, Independent Contractor, Spirit Drumz, CA, GA, JA
2001 - 2006 *Founder, Cultural Arts Coordinator*, Underground Drum Sanctuary, Oakland, CA
2001 - 2011 *Orchestra Director, Team Co-Leader*, Sistahs Steppin' In Pride, Oakland, CA
1995 - 1998 *Residential Manager, Cultural Competency Trainer*, University CA at Santa Cruz
1990 - 1999 *Program Coordinator, Instructor*, Bank Street College of Education, NY NY
1987 - 1990 *Assistant to Dean of Students*, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

CORE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING & DIRECTORIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Innovative Instruction and Transpersonal Consulting

Developed, branded, lead *Raise Yuh Voice: Women in Solidarity for a Violence-Free Jamaica*, received national attention on radio, television, internet, inspired embodied framework for gender justice and solidarity

Drumming arts interdisciplinary curricula, programs, consulting targeting "Special Needs", disenfranchised communities, sustained behavioral, emotional, physical improvements, 25+ years, 1,000+ people yearly
Development of "Black Feminism: A New Pedagogy" course taught at Vassar College in 1990, began the legacy of Black Feminism courses in colleges all over the US

“Transformative Leadership: Exploring Our Diversities” and “Consensus Communication Practices” improved ethical racial justice awareness, and retention, 15 years in 200+ organizations, 3,000+ served

Management, Supervision, and Program Coordination

Founder/Executive Director of **Spirit Drumz** performing arts education organization, received international recognition in public radio, TV, print media, internet for 25 years

Founder/Director of **The Underground Drum Sanctuary Institute**, impacted 15,000+ people, over 8 years

Inclusive cultural competency strategies resulting in sustained student retention

Recognized for leading-edge residential life/student affairs training for 8 Colleges

Established exceptional recruiting and candidate selection matrices; improved hiring and retention

Designed and implemented dynamic policies, compliance procedures, assessment metrics, admissions applications, orientation handbooks, texts, training modules

Enforced inclusive management infrastructure and supervised diverse youth/adult teams

Successfully produced marketing campaigns for performances, tours, programs, departments, workshops

Coordinated accessible and engaging productions, programs, auditions, and rehearsals

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & PORTFOLIOS: (Partial List)

California Institute for Integral Studies, Guest Lecturer: *The Healing Ecstasy of Sound* 2010 to '17

Bioneers Conference, *The Role of Women in the Environmental Movement*, 2016

African Women and The Drum, Holy Names University, 2013, 2014

BayAreaRising VDay Ending Violence Against Women Performance, 2012 to Present

AAPCHO, Asian Pacific Health Organization, *Gender Dynamics*, 2003

MOVEMENT ORGANIZING & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS (Partial List)

Women of Color Healing Retreat for Movement Leaders, Discovery Bay, Jamaica, 2016-18

Tambourine Army Solidarity March, Kingston, Jamaica, March 2017 to Present

Raise Yuh Voice in collaboration with One Billion Rising, Jamaica 2016 to Present

One Billion Rising, Bay Area Rising, Core Coordinator, 2012 - Present

Women Drummers International, Board Member, Advisory Member 2008 to Present

RECOGNITION, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS (Partial List)

Echo Valley Farm Grantee, Drum Mobile Permaculture Project, 2015 - 17 \$39,000

One Billion Rising VDay Grantee for Raise Yuh Voice Jamaica VDay, \$5,000, 2016-17

Oakland Cultural Arts Funding Grantee, \$4,500 in 2002; \$4999 in 2017

Cultural Ambassador, Community Fundraising, Drum Arts Study, Guinea & Ghana, W.A., 2005

RADIO & TELEVISION INTERVIEWS (Partial List)

Black Sauna Radio, Interview with Tambourine Army, Jamaica, December 2017

CVM at Sunrise TV, *Raise Yuh Voice One Billion Rising* Interview, Jamaica, February 2017

Irie FM Radio, *Raise Yuh Voice One Billion Rising* Interview, Jamaica, January 2016

NewsTalk 93FM Radio, Your Health Matters with Maati Hetheru, Jamaica, 2016

NPR Broadcast by Lonny Shavelson *The Underground Drum Sanctuary and Harriet Tubman*, 2004

Bay Area Business Women's News *The Underground Drum Sanctuary in East Oakland*, Spring 2003

COURSES, SEMINARS, ASSEMBLIES, & TRAININGS (Partial List)

Trainer/Facilitator, Cultural Ambassador, and Director of African Diasporic drum, dance, and village cultural musical events. Sample List of Courses: *Embodied Healing through African Diasporic Percussion and Movement*; *Women & The Drum: A Cultural Exploration of Folkloric Music*; *The Power of Drumming: Activating Life in Elders with Alzheimer's & Dementia*; US, Canada, London, Poland, Jamaica, Guinea and Ghana

Presented courses at (Partial List of Institutions):

Village Song School, 2017- Present
Edna Manley School for the Performing Arts, Master Classes, 2015, 2016
Sophia University, Spring 2013; Fall 2013; 2014
Holy Names University, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013; Fall 2013
California Institute of Integral Studies, 2011, 2012; 2013; 2015; 2016; 2018
UC Santa Cruz: Porter, Stevenson, Merrill, Oakes, College Eight, Cowell, 2000 - 02

SHORT COURSES/ SEMINARS

Developed, branded percussion/performing arts curricula: "FunDRUMentals" "Drumming in the Wild" "Drum-Talk-Story, "Drum Our Souls Free" "Black Powah Drum Medicine" for all ages, activating multiple intelligences, boosting community inclusivity, and inspiring leaders across the US, 20+ years

Drum-Talk-Story Multidisciplinary Instruction (Partial list)

Meadows Livingstone School, 2014 - Present
Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, Winter 2013, Spring 2014
West African Drum and Dance Course, Rhythmix 2010
Children's Learning Center, School for Children with Special Needs 2010, 2011

FunDRUMentals and Drum Our Souls Free Intensives (Partial list)

Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, 2014 - 2017
Hope House for Women Recovering from Institutionalized Imprisonment, 2011
California Alliance of Women, 2008 - 2014
Center for the Divine Feminine at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 2008
Women Drummers International, Born to Drum Camp, 2007 - Present
Ontario Women's Drum Camp, Canada, 2005 - Present
NIA Gathering, California; 1997- 2011
Vassar College, Liberty Partnerships Program Summer Academy, 1999; 2013

ORIGINAL SOLO & COLLABORATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Bioneers Conference, Marin CA 2010 to 2017
Gay Games VII Chicago: Soldier's Field and Wrigley Field, 2006
Jennifer Berezan Concerts, 2003 to 2006; 2017
Z. Budapest & the Goddess 3000 Festival, 2003, 2004
San Francisco War Memorial, Opened for Percussion de Guinea Masters, 2003

SPIRIT DRUMZ UPRISING ENSEMBLE TOURS (Partial List)

Ontario Women's Drum Camp, 2013-2018
San Francisco World Percussion Arts Festival, 2010
Amazones Women Master Drummers Troupe of Guinea, 2007 - 2008
Pele Juju World Beat Rock Band, Fall 2006
Skin on Skin Drum 'n Dance Troupe, 1997 - 2004
Michigan Women's Music Festival, Summer 2003 - 2005

PERFORMANCE THEATER: (Partial List)

Piñata Dance Collective - Dancer, Choreographer Liz Boubion, 2011 to 2015
Skin Songs: Women on the Drum, Dance Brigade, Dance Mission Theater, 2008
Brown Gals Rising, Manhattan Class Company, 1994
Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Audre Lorde Women's Poetry Center, 1991

AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDINGS & PUBLICATIONS (featuring or written by artist)

Grace and Fierceness: Afia Walking Tree Drummer and Priestess, by Zemaya Martinez, 2011
Soul Affirmationz, recorded 2000; re-mastered 2003, 2010, 2011, 2017 (over 3000 copies sold)
I Am The Drum Journal of Daily Affirmationz, 2005, 2008, 2010
Life in Afraka Documentary Film, October 2005
Transformative Leadership Training Resource Guide, 2003
How Drumz Came from Africa Children's Book (English & Spanish), 2001
Spirit Drumz: Affirming Community Spirit through Percussion & Ritual, 1998
In Da House: Multicultural Theme Housing Oakes College, documentary, 1995
Souls A' Gathered CD by Ase Drumming Circle, New York; 1994

MUSICAL & ARTISTIC TRAINING BACKGROUND: (Partial List)

Partial List of Teachers, Coaches, and Mentors

Mamady Keita, Abdulai Diakete, Babatunde Olatunji, Marjorie Whyllie, Alice Walker, Carolyn Brandy, Chief Nana Brakatu Brempong III, Debbie McGee, Edwina Tyler, Linda Thomas, Jones, Jules Stept, Lamine Bangoura, Lamine Dibo Camara, Mabiba Baegne, Penny Livingstone, Master Alex Feng

Genres and Instrumentation of Traditional and Contemporary Musicianship

West African, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Haitian, Afro-Brazilian, nature-based, body percussion

PERMACULTURE LANDSCAPE GARDENING CONSULTATION & COURSES (Partial List)

Established robust private residential urban, suburban and rural clients, 2002 - Present
Reclaiming Origins of Traditional Sustainability, Permaculture Course, 2017
Indigenous Wisdom & Permaculture Skills Convergence, Pine Ridge Reservation, 2017
Regenerative Design Institute, 2012- 2017
Green Valley Eco-Village CSA Farm, 2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES, ENDORSEMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Taitu Heron, Kingston, Jamaica, UN Women Community Strategist, Women's Rights Activist
Marjorie Whyllie, Kingston, Jamaica, Jamaica Cultural Ethnography, Percussionist, Pianist, Elder
Eve Ensler, New York City, Activist, Writer, Playwright, Founder VDay OneBillionRising Movement
Arisika Razak, Oakland, CA, CIIS Women's Spirituality Chair; Community Elder, Dancer, Activist
Alice Walker, Mendocino, CA Writer, Activist
Jules Stept, Berkeley, CA, Luminary Coach and friend

Linked-in Online Featured Skills, Endorsements & Recommendations

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/afia-walking-tree-m-ed-89aab817/>