

# The African Artist Initiative: Promoting Cross-Cultural Acceptance

## Supplementary Materials

This is the *Supplementary Material* for our Interactive Qualifying Project and was completed through the Worcester Community Project Center. This project was completed in collaboration with Crocodile River Music.

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## **Abstract**

Refugee and immigrant awareness is a worldwide issue mirrored in the United States. Crocodile River Music performs concerts in schools and the community to educate New England about African culture, while also offering a cultural ambassador program to assist young African refugees. The goal of this project was to provide a platform for African refugees and immigrants to share their stories and to inspire and empower the refugee and immigrant community of Worcester. In addition, our intent was to provide a resource for Crocodile River Music to promote awareness and acceptance of African culture in the region.

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# Appendix A: Interview Questions

- 1) Music Interview: Issa
  - a) What role does music play in your culture back home in Mali?
  - b) What role does music play in your personal life?
  - c) Could you tell us more about the djembe?
    - i) How is it made?
    - ii) Could you tell us more about the different sounds, tones, and beats?
    - iii) Could you tell us the meaning of djembe in your native language?
  - d) Where do you get inspiration from when drumming?
  - e) Could you play us a song and explain the meaning behind it?
- 2) Music Interview: Antoinette
  - a) What role does music/dance play in your culture at home in Tanzania?
  - b) What role does music/dance play in your personal life?
  - c) Could you tell us more about your musical and/or dance background?
  - d) What traditional, ceremonial, other types/styles of dance and music can you perform?
  - e) What motivates you to perform/dance/sing?
  - f) Where do you draw inspiration from when dancing?
  - g) Could you show us an example of a traditional dance routine and explain the meaning behind it?
- 3) Life/Transition to America Interview: Both
  - a) How was your life back home? (Describe everyday life, struggles, etc.)
    - i) How did that affect you personally?
  - b) What made you decide to leave your home country and come to the United States?
  - c) What was the process of coming to the United States like? How did that affect you personally?
  - d) Do you have family here or did you leave them at home?
  - e) What adjustments did you have to make when coming to the United States?
  - f) Were there any adjustments that were more difficult than others? Easier?
  - g) How has your life changed since coming to the United States? Better? Worse?
  - h) What do you define as success in your home country?
  - i) Is this any different than what you think success is in the United States?
  - j) Did you see yourself as successful back home?
  - k) Do you see yourself as successful here in the United States?
  - l) What did you do to achieve this level of success in your home country?
  - m) What did you do to achieve this level of success in the United States?
  - n) Do you have any words of advice or tips for other refugees and immigrants coming to the United States?

# Appendix B: Index of Contacts

This index details the contact information for each of the organizations and people we contacted throughout the duration of this project.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Refugee and Immigrant Organizations</b>			
2	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number #1</b>	<b>Phone Number #2</b>
3	African Community Education (ACE)	info@acechildren.org	(508)-459-2284	
4	<i>Kwame Bidi (ACE) - Director</i>	kbidi@acechildren.org		
5	Refugee Artisans of Worcester (RAW)	refugee.artisans@gmail.com		
6	<i>Ellen Ferrante (RAW) - Director</i>	refugee.artisans@gmail.com	(617)-510-5308	
7	Refugee & Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)	riac@riacboston.org	(508)-926-7557	
8	<i>Christine M. Brehany (RIAC) - Preferred Communities Director</i>	cbrehany@riacboston.org	(508)-756-7557	(508)-395-1808
9	<i>Claud Amani (RIAC) - Head Contact for African Refugee Community</i>	amaniclaudes@gmail.com	774-578-2327	
10				
11	<b>Possible Interview Targets</b>			
12	David Boa	direction.solidarty@gmail.com	(508)-579-6749	
13	Vincent Opieno		(774)-708-5617	
14	Tereza Ngendahoruri		(774)-578-0753	
15				
16	The italicized names are all great resources with multiple contacts in the African refugee and immigrant community			
17				

## Appendix C: Interview Summaries

### 1. Interview Summary - Issa

Issa is a masterful and world renowned djembe player from Mali. After learning to play the djembe at a young age, Issa joined a band as an adult and toured the world. His first concert in the United States was in Seattle, Washington, after which Issa decided to move to the United States with his family. In 2001, Issa met with Zach Combs and decided to help found Crocodile River Music. Since coming to the United States, Issa has released an album that was nominated for a Grammy, continued to perform with and help Crocodile River Music grow, and most importantly to him, he has helped keep Mali's culture alive for his children.

### 2. Interview Summary - Antoinette

Antoinette is an incredibly talented dancer from Tanzania. After moving between different refugee camps in Africa, Antoinette eventually landed in the United States. Antoinette grew up in the local Worcester school system. Working with Crocodile River Music, Antoinette has been able to both perform and lead dance lessons. In the future, Antoinette hopes to spread her passion for dance and music by opening a dance studio with lessons that cater to disadvantaged and special needs people in the community.

# Appendix D: Website prototype

508-792-ARTS (2787)



## AFRICAN ARTIST INITIATIVE

This page was built with the help of Crocodile River Music and aims to serve as a tool to unite people through their shared backgrounds and origins. While we will highlight the different successes of various people, we also want to keep in mind what makes us all human. We hope this website will bring hope and attention to the plight of refugees in Worcester and around the world.



### ISSA

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### ANTOINETTE

Antoinette is an incredibly talented dancer from Tanzania. After moving between different refugee camps in Africa, Antoinette eventually landed in the United States. Antoinette grew up in the local Worcester school system. Working with Crocodile River Music, Antoinette has been able to both perform and lead dance lessons. In the future, Antoinette hopes to spread her passion for dance and music by opening a dance studio with lessons that cater to disadvantaged and special needs people in the community.

## Appendix E: SWOT Analysis

The following is our SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis for each of the recommendations we provided to our sponsor.

### Recommendation 1: Interview Training

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves interview skills</li> <li>• Increases professionalism of interviews</li> <li>• Interview flows smoothly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time Consuming</li> <li>• Cost of professional training</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct more personal and detailed interviews</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

### Recommendation 2: Two Separate Interviews

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps distinguish different topics</li> <li>• Each interview is more in depth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More footage to edit</li> <li>• Time consuming</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can focus on individual artistic talents</li> <li>• More accessible to viewers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

### Recommendation 3: Create a Documentary with Footage

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary can contain music audio</li> <li>• Conveys personality more than photograph</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time Consuming</li> <li>• Cost of professional editing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing/Promotion</li> <li>• Expand Community Outreach</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liability</li> </ul>

Recommendation 4: Maintain Good Relationship with Organizations

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finding more people to interview</li> <li>● Build solid business relationships</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Help people who are transitioning to America</li> <li>● Meet new candidates to interview for African Artist Initiative</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>

Recommendation 5: Another WPI IQP Team

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● More direction for their project</li> <li>● Able to build on our framework</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Less passionate about the project</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expand scope of project</li> <li>● Better video skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>