

Drum Power Presents Intergenerational Community Day of Drum and Dance, August 3, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7/26/24

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Photos available by request

Madison, Wisconsin – Drum Power announces its third annual Intergenerational Community Arts Celebration, with drum and dance classes for all ages and abilities, taught by master artists. The celebration will take place August 3, 2024, from 1 to 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 the 2024 Drum Power Summer Arts Camp, July 22-August 2. 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 from 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Afro-Brazilian Drumming with the Handphibians from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.
- Brazilian Dance with Quenia Ribeiro from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- West African Dance with Idy Ciss from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

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

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 just finished its first week of instruction with 75 youth across Madison participating.

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Idy Ciss, a native of Senegal, West Africa, is known worldwide as a dancer, choreographer, singer, and arts consultant/educator of traditional African Folklore. Idy teaches for several arts organizations including Muntu Dance Theater (Chicago), Old Town School of Folk Music, Catalyst Charter School, Alyo's Children's Dance Theater, and more. Idy boasts awards including The Black Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in dance, The African American Arts Alliance Award for Best Choreography, and Artist of the Year Award from Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago.

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, Wisconsin, 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.