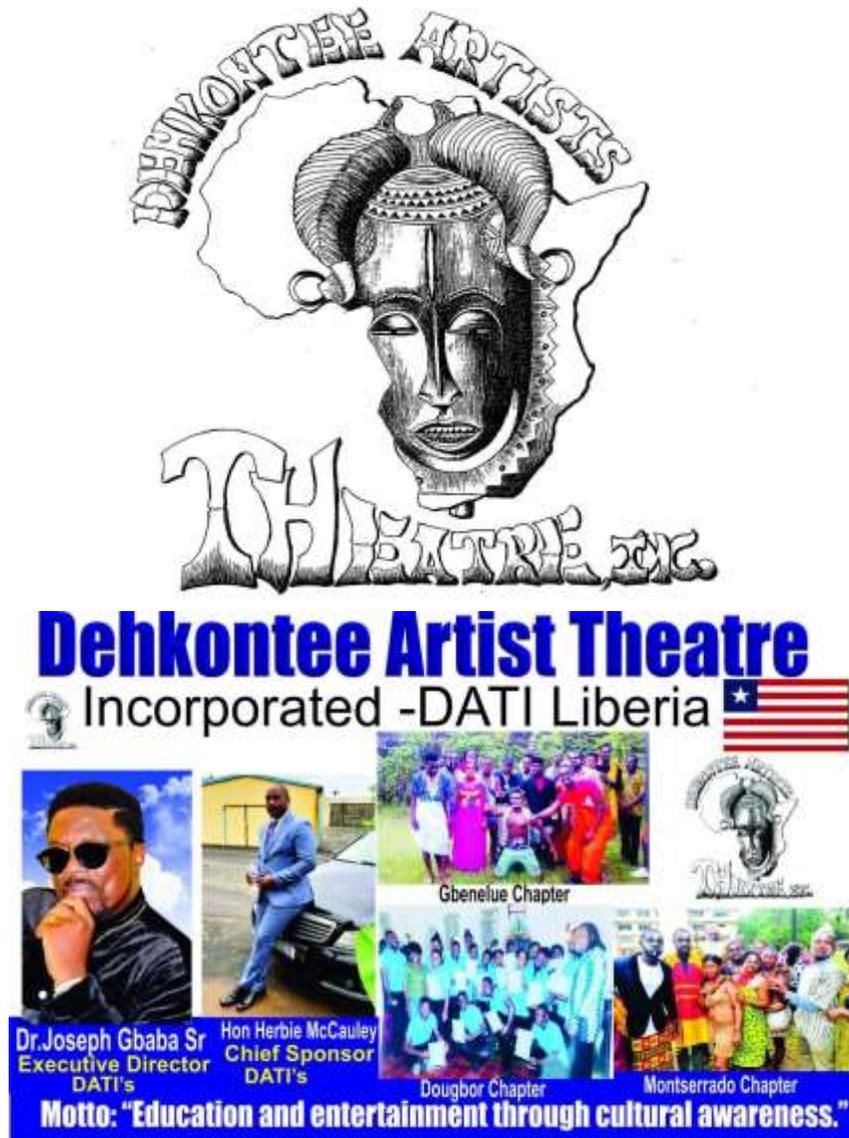


Support the Dehkontee Artists Theatre Kukatonon Peace Project in Liberia



About Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. and the DATI Kukatonon Peace Project in Liberia

The word “Dehkontee” derives from the Kwa speaking ethnic groups of Southeastern Liberia (Krahn Kru, Grebo, Bassa). It means, “There is time for everything”, while the word “kukatonon” means, “Unity” or literally, “We are one” in the Kpelle language of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea. Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. was organized at the University of Liberia (LU) by Liberian American playwright, theatre director and actor Dr. Joe Gbaba and colleagues including but not limited to Joshua Howard, Claude Langley, Kathy Lokko, Henrique Scott, Mona Bedell, Raymond Kromah, Stephen Crayton, Jr., Josephine Gibson, Christopher Diggs, Alecia Murray, Nathaniel Doe, Melvin Smith, Eugene Wilson, among others.



DATI is a 501 ©(3) nonprofit in the United States of America and it is a duly registered nonprofit in the Republic of Liberia. DATI is Liberia’s longest surviving theatre organization. It is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, and in three regions in Liberia: the Dougbor or Montserrado Chapter in Monrovia, Montserrado County, the Gbenelue or Maryland Chapter in Harper, Maryland County, and Wologizi or Lofa Chapter in Voinjama, Lofa County. DATI-Liberia has a total membership of one hundred and twenty-five Liberian college youths from various ethnic groups and universities in Liberia. They received training in peace education, conflict resolution and cultural awareness and they took oath to promote peace and reconciliation in their war-torn society.



Some members of Dougbor Chapter, Montserrado County, Liberia

The Dehkontee Artists Theatre Kukatnon Peace Project in Liberia is a performance-and-research-based peacebuilding project launched by Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) since November 2019. The philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of the project are based on the literary and philosophical works of Pan African scholars the likes of Drs. W.E.B. DuBois, Carter G. Woodson, Molefi Asante, Kwame Nkrumah and the doctoral research of Dr. Joe Gbaba entitled: “The Chiandeh Afrocentric Curriculum and Textbook Experience: Exploring Children’s Responses to an Afrocentric Curriculum.” The groundbreaking qualitative research proved that when children of color are centered in their own learning, based on a curriculum and text that reflect their culture and history, they perform well academically and holistically.



Some members of the Gbenelue Chapter in Harper, Maryland County, Liberia

The overarching goal of the DATI Kukatonon Peace Project in Liberia is to promote peace and reconciliation among survivors and victims of the Liberian Genocide through the performing and visual arts (through traditional Liberian music, dance, drama and radio and television drama series). The project also aims to provide civic education and literacy workshops to educate and entertain post-genocide Liberian citizens about their civil and constitutional rights as citizens of Africa's oldest democracy.

Annual Budgetary Estimate

The initial estimated annual budget to operate the project in Liberia is One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000USD). This amount includes the purchase of two twenty-four-seater buses at the cost of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000); two pick-ups at the cost of Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000); and an operating budget of Seventy-Four Thousand (\$74,000) for occupancy, office equipment, rental, utilities, logistics (computers, video cameras, editing equipment, stationery, office supplies, miscellaneous, etc.). Once these needed logistical supports are provided, subsequent budgets may be lower.

Breakdown of How Funds Raised Will Be Spent

DATI headquarters in the three counties will be used to carry out daily administrative operations and as youth study centers. DATI Peace Advocates/employees will provide tutorials and after school programs for elementary and high school kids, to assist them with their homework assignments, teach them peacebuilding skills and provide home economics and culinary art classes for young post-genocide Liberian females so they may learn a trade they can use to earn

earnest livelihoods for themselves. The youth study center will also provide literary classes in Liberian history and culture, traditional Liberian/African dance, music, drama and African fireside storytelling. These courses will be taught and supervised by renowned Liberian scholars and artists to help promote and preserve Liberian history/African history and culture.



DATI USA Chapter

The two twenty-four-seater buses will be used to transport Liberian college youths and DATI Peace Advocates on their national peace performance tours during the dry season beginning February 2021. They will travel to all fifteen subdivisions in Liberia to deliver peace messages and to provide basic civic education for illiterate Liberian voters who are not aware of the democratic process, and to prepare Liberian voters for general and presidential elections in 2023. One bus will be assigned to the Gbenelue Chapter to cover the Southeastern region and the other bus will be assigned to the Dougbor and Lofa Chapters to cover DATI's peacebuilding activities in Southcentral, Northern, and Western Liberia. When the Peace Advocates are not on tour, the buses will be used to transport the youths to and from school.



DATI Wologizi Chapter

The pick-ups will be used for the DATI agricultural program. Part of the funds will be used to purchase land for the DATI Agricultural program. DATI has a Farm Manager in all three chapters who hold a bachelor's or associate degree in Agriculture from various universities. The farm program will provide an opportunity for Liberian youths who are agriculture majors to put

their knowledge to use, provide employment opportunity for them, and serve as a teaching project for elementary and high school students who would like to become future farmers in Liberia so Liberia can be self-sufficient in food production in the future.

You can read more about DATI peacebuilding activities and donate to our programs financially on our official website: <https://www.dehkonteeartists theatreinc.com> and click on the “Donate” button. Your donation can also be in kind in the form of a vehicle, computers and literary materials such as books, stationery, audio/visual equipment, etc. Your donation will be tax-deductible.

You can also contact us or write a check or money order to:

Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc.
P. O. Box 143
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

You can email us at gbaba5@aol.com as well. Thank you for your support.

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