

Post Project evaluation

Thanks to the Urbana Arts Grant we were able to form a group called *Costas*, performing Colombian and Ecuadorian music, which otherwise would not be heard in Urbana. The group played three free concerts between October 2012 and March 2013. We also gave in-school presentations of this music, giving children the opportunity to learn about and try making the music of rural, coastal Colombia and Ecuador. This opportunity for practical experience of music-making was extended to the broader public in free percussion and dance workshops. We were able to ensure commitment and consistency by paying musicians and workshop leaders for their performance and teaching time, as well as sound engineers, audio-visual documenters of the process. The funding also allowed us to hire the Channing Murray foundation for the workshops and one of the performances mentioned.

The impact of this process for those participating was four-fold. It allowed us to develop our musical skills in the performance of the little-explored genres from Colombia and Ecuador; it also gave us experience in teaching and leading workshops related to this music; it allowed us to expand the musical group to include artists who would create audio-visual documents of the events; finally it developed our socio-musical and organizational skills in forming contacts, arranging promoting and producing the events. The people involved as musicians have learned new rhythms, developed new techniques, increased repertoire, and for some members, performed for the first time in public. We were able to create a level platform on which complete newcomers and professional musicians developed, rehearsed and performed together, receiving the same fair pay for their work. By involving audio-visual documenters in the group, we were able to develop together approaches that have left us with the material to produce high quality audio-visual records of the events (these will be edited on a voluntary basis).

For the community we provided free events that all could attend - young and old, able-bodied and disabled, with all levels of musical skills, for both listeners and active participants in music-making and dance. Feedback was positive especially from residents and students, the Latino community, the children and teachers whom we visited at Wiley and Martin Luther King schools and dancers and especially percussionists who were previously involved in local African music and dance groups, who have had less opportunities to make music since the departure of Bolakada Conde.

Event	Location	Date	Attendees	Participants	Collaborators
Performance	Urbana Free Library	10. 21. 2012	58	9	1
Class Presentation	Wiley School	12. 12. 2012	120 children	3	1
Performance	Spurlock Museum	02. 24. 2013	116	12	3
Class Presentation	ML King School	02. 20. 2013	60 Children	3	1
Workshops	Channing Murray	03. 13. 2013	28	3	2
Performance	"	"	47	9	
Total			329	12	7

Documentation



Photo 1: Andy Miller and Jud Wellington with Cara Maurizi at Wiley Elementary (Ian Middleton)



Photo 2: Jud Wellington Ian Middleton, Andy Miller and children of Wiley Elementary (Cara Maurizi)