

## LUTSF COVERING LETTER

### **LIVE Brazil/Afro Reggae Professional Dance Development Plan**

Shaping the future of dance in Liverpool/Northwest – Afro Brazilian Dance Intensive Programme

**Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

**Place:** Rio and Bahia in Brazil

**How far the purpose of your project was achieved;**

**Highlights of travels;**

1. Training and sharing skills with AfroReggae teachers and students
2. Gaining a deeper understanding of how art can have a huge impact on community life.
3. Attending Ile aye and Olodum concerts in Bahia.

**Suggestions which could help future Awardees;**

- Be clear about what you want to achieve and how what you gain will build on your practice in the UK
- Be sure to keep in touch with contacts in your country of choice, as a return visit or exchange will probably be part of your future plans

**How I have shared and will continue to share information with others;**

**Dance Delivery of Afro-Brazilian Class:**

- @ The Black-e, Liverpool. October 2012, February 2014 with Live Afro-Brazilian Drumming Group
- Shrewsbury Youth Centre, North Liverpool, October –November 2012
- Youth Consultation with Holyrode, Clifford Special Educational Needs School, Helena Project for 13-19 year olds, with continuation of weekly sessions. January 2013- present.

**Dance performances:**

- Movema with Sibikwa South African Youth Orchestra, as part of AfroVibes @ the Black-e for Black History Month



- Movema @ Black Achievers Awards, St. Georges hall, Liverpool



- Movema and Sambabeat (Youth Afro-Brazilian @ Culture Food Feast, Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool



#### Future sharing's:

- January- March 2013: Consultations with 3 community organisations using tools, and art forms from Brazil
- February 2013: Training and delivery of carnival dance in preparation for Africa Oye (June) and Carnival (July and August)

#### LUTSF: Report

##### Description:

We arrived in Rio on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, where we wasted no time at all, once we had reached the bed and breakfast "Carmen e Fernando" in Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro, our minibus was outside to pick us up to make our way to visiting AfroReggae based in the Vigario Geral favela ( a slum area).

Grupo Cultural AfroReggae set their first centre up in 1993, in response and desire to counteract the violent drug industry and police oppression with art that young people and the community could relate to. The centre that we visited is now a historical landmark with structured facilities within the community, providing quality programmes and initiatives recognized by the city of Rio de Janeiro.

##### Activities engaged in:

- Professional Afro-Brazilian Folkloric dance in Rio and Bahia with Charles Nelson, Master teacher



- Drumming workshops to understand the connection and relation to different dance styles: samba, folkloric dance forms (each Orisha (God/goddess) having a different rhythm and focus.





- Amazing to see Makala's training in various style of movement choreographed into a piece with live musicians and electronic sounds!
- We shared our culture and skills via teaching 3 classes in Bollywood, Caribbean and Flamenco dance:

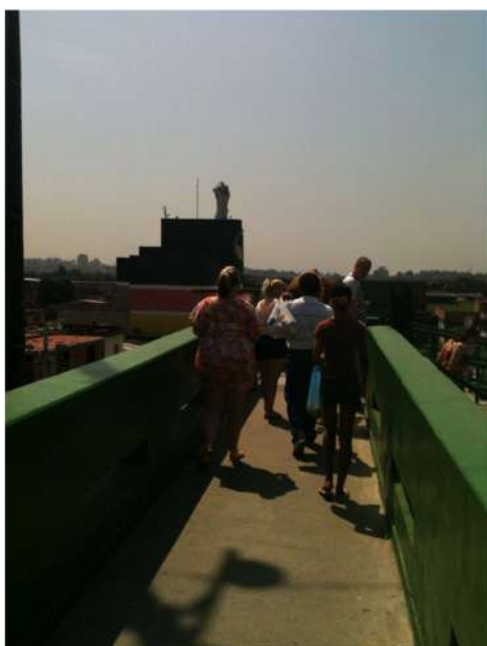


### Learning more about Afro Reggae: Visiting the Head Office

It was interesting to see the journey of Afro Reggae and how the organisation has reached out to so many people locally and internationally.



### Visiting Vigario Geral & Afro Reggae



It was a surprise to see the magnitude of the arts venue within the Favela setting



Having outdoor as well as indoor space allowed the activities to be accessed by more people

## Nos do Morro at Vidigal favela



These young female drummer/dancer/actors were such an inspiration and showed us how commitment, focus and passion surpass restrictions such as money, background or gender.

We shared skills, attended a dance and drumming workshop which ended in a mass jam.



Surrounded by art and culture in Rio



### Samba Pagode in Rio

Live music enjoyed by people from different



backgrounds.

**Movema recapping an Afro Dance routine taught by Charlie Nelson**



Movema and SambaBeat (youth Afro-Brazilian Drummers) played with some steps, that were incorporated into the collaboration performance in October 2012. Photo as above.

**Dance, Music and cultural activities in Salvador**

**Young Drummers rehearsing in the streets**



**Capoeira group running a night roda. Training and busking**





### **Professional Dance and drumming shows:**

#### **Ile Aye and Oludum gigs**

It was so wonderful to see the drummers, singers and dancers all incorporated into these show, where each part is important and has it's own identity and feature moments.

The crowds attend gigs like this to be part of the action and as a night out, not as in UK where usually we attend theatre as a spectator.

The atmosphere was full of energy and happiness. Without having to speak to people we joined in with a group of locals dancing.



#### **Local dance**

We were welcomed to a friend's family BBQ where music and dancing were as important as eating, drinking and chatting. There were 3-4 generations all socializing together.



**Similar to Afro Reggae, Ballet Folklorica run an outreach programme to support & provide opportunity for local talent. This group 'FabOlous' comprises 3 young gay men who are empowered to express themselves by the project.**

**Outcomes:**

**Outcomes of the trip:**

- Increased knowledge of Afro-Brazilian dance forms – afro-Brazilian i.e. orixas, samba, and Candomble, history, culture, traditions and religious links.
- Development as a Caribbean/world dance artist, teacher, leader
- Provided and increased awareness of Afro-Brazilian dance forms in the Liverpool and the North West.
- Visiting Tutor at Edgehill University teaching Afro-Brazilian dance to degree dance students.
- Creation of curriculum of Afro-Brazilian /Brazilian dance, to ensure teaching and sharing of information maintains the integrity and quality assurance of Brazilian Dance.
- Taught Afro-dance at Chester Batizado – February 2013.
- Material gained, part of choreography that was part of UK Afrovides Festival, Black history Month, with plans to continue development this year, pending funding.
- Increased understanding of how best to work with hard to reach young people and communities.
- Brazilian links for future exchange trips and involvement in World Cup, Olympic, Carnival celebrations in Brazil and Liverpool.

**Recommendations/ next steps:**

- Continue to fund raise for LIVE Brazil activities, outreach and exchange trips
- Currently delivering weekly outreach sessions to an all girls group
- Planned consultations to get schools on board
- Part of 3 key Liverpool events: Africa Oye, Brouhaha, and Threshold festival
- Part of ADAD Bloom festival – Liverpool
- Planned trip to Bahia, Brazil in February 2014 to be part of carnival
- Collaboration with other art forms as part of LIVE Brazil: Drumming, Capoeira, costume design and DJing.
- Part of the steering group for the new Liverpool based festival for Young People to be launched in 2014.
- Awaiting funding decision for professional cross arts collaboration to build on developments learned in Brazil.