

January 12, 2010

Dr. Michael Huff  
Director - African American Health Disparity Project  
1255 Post Street, Suite 495  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Dr. Huff:

AfroSolo Theatre Company respectfully requests \$940 from the African American Health Disparity Project to support the pre-production, development and planning of the Young Artists for Peace! performance of the 17th annual AfroSolo Arts Festival. The theme of the festival is *United in Peace: Artists, Clergy, Statesmen and Community*. The funds will be used to conduct four focus groups with at least eight African American youths, between the ages of 13 and 24.

The groups will be led by AfroSolo's artistic director and founder Thomas Robert Simpson and held in different areas of San Francisco. They will answer questions related to peace, such as: How do you define peace? Who do I need to make peace with? Who needs to make peace with me? How do I go about making peace? What responsibility does each of us have towards promoting peace? What would our community be like if we had peace?

The overall purpose of the focus groups is to gather information and get feedback on hosting an event that is safe, fun, informative, entertaining and uplifting. Unfortunately, anytime inner city youth gather, there is a potential for violence. By including youth in all aspects of planning and hosting the performance, we hope to mitigate this potential. Respect is a major issue for our youth. By convening the groups, soliciting their input, providing them with a stipend for their time and feedback, we hope to build trust and a "buy" into the event that will help insure its success.

Information collected from the focus groups will be used to plan, design and implement the final performance of Young Artists for Peace! taking place in August 2010 at the African American Art & Culture Complex in San Francisco.

The AfroSolo Arts Festival is critically acclaimed as a premier producer of Bay Area African American solo artists. *United In Peace...* taking place between August 1 and October 15, will be a multi-discipline event using the arts as a vehicle to harness the power of peace through performances, the visual arts, symposia and other events that explore such issues as race, civil rights, dilemmas facing youth, the health needs of our people and others.

The development of *Young Artists for Peace* will take place in three stages:

1. The focus groups will assist in designing an event that meets the needs of the youth
2. Where needed, we will assist youth finding workshops to develop their work
3. The final performance will take place as a gala event showcasing their talent and work

The goals of the focus groups include:

1. Develop ground rules for bringing youth from different areas of the city together in a safe environment.
2. Determine the best structure for the event
3. Ascertain young peoples interest in such an event
4. Promote the over all festival

**Time lines for the groups**

We will recruit and hold the groups in February and March of 2010. We will select the participating artists by May and hold workshops to develop the works in June and July for the August performance.

**How funds will be used**

Youth stipends:	8 (participants) x 4 (groups) x \$20	=	\$640
Administration:	4 hrs (4 focus groups at 1 hour each)		
	+ 8 hrs (prep and adm) X		
	\$25 (per hour)	=	\$300
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$940</b>

As in years past, the Festival will continue to feature a range of artistic programming. The programming will include our traditional events, many of which are offered free of charge to the general public. The tentative schedule includes:

- *Free Jazz Concert in Yerba Buena Gardens: Concert for Peace.* This will be Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m;
- *Black Voices Performance Series: [TITLE TBA?];* August 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>;
- *Visual Arts Exhibit* at the San Francisco Main Library; held August 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Opening Reception for *Visual Arts Exhibit*; August 1<sup>st</sup>;
- *Day of Peace in San Francisco*; August 8<sup>th</sup>;
- *AfroSolo Multi-Cultural Gala For Peace*, Herbst Theater ([tentative] site of the signing of the United Nations treaty), August 8<sup>th</sup>;
- *United in Health: Artists, Healthcare Workers and Community*, Health Fair at Ella Hill Hutch Community Center; August 14<sup>th</sup>;
- *Youth Performance for Peace: [Young Artist For Peace];* in August (date TBA); and,
- *Symposium: The Arts as a Tool For Peace* featuring professors from the California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Stanford University and/or UC Berkeley; at the African American Art & Culture Complex, August (date TBA).

**AFROSOLO ARTS FESTIVAL 2010**

***UNITED IN PEACE: ARTISTS, CLERGY, STATESMAN AND COMMUNITY***

Through its groundbreaking 17<sup>th</sup> *Annual AfroSolo Arts Festival: United In Peace: Artists, Clergy, Statesman and Community*, AfroSolo unites with others to promote peace in our community. We endeavor to inspire and encourage others to do the same. *United in Peace...* symbolizes the universality of the desire for peace and harnesses the transformative power of the arts to communicate the important and urgent message of working together to achieve our goal of a community *United in Peace*.

**Sincerely,**

**Thomas Robert Simpson**

**Artistic Director**