

# In The Spirit of Afua Kouyaté

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## ***Biography of Afua Kouyaté***

Afua is a Graduate of Antioch University Seattle, receiving her Academic Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. Afua's inspiration and concentration is in Cultural Arts Leadership, Emphasizing Therapeutic Engagement. Her diversity in training with Cultural arts historians, masters and teachers from Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Liberia, NYC, Seattle, Congo, Trinidad-Tobago, California, and Guinea allows her to create and choreograph African movements that spring from her magical ability to stimulate, excite and flow with the rhythms of the drums. The success of this is utterly African!

Afua has recently Co-founded a new Cultural Arts Development that is based in Southeast Seattle, Named Kouyaté Arts. Kouyaté Arts is an intriguing and amazing experience of the arts, music, dance, culture and life of the people of Guinea, West Africa. Afua oversees management, choreography and artistic leadership.

For the past 30 years, Afua has been an integral part of keeping cultural arts and entertainment vibrant in the Pacific Northwest and abroad. As Adefua's Executive Director, Afua is dedicated to the community and viewed as a leader of cultural arts. In 1986 she co-founded the Adefua African Music & Dance Company, an intergenerational performance company that provides cultural entertainment to the general public. Adefua is known nationally for their gregarious rhythms rooted in African tribal and European court dances presenting traditional West African music, dancing and song.

While working as a Wraparound Facilitator for Therapeutic Health Services, the beat therapeutic engagement was the beat of her drum as a common thread across all cultures, which helped individuals embrace and appreciate culture through education, performance and healing.

Afua was a devoted and licensed foster parent for 19 years and is also known throughout the Pacific Northwest as Mama Afua for the love, care and blessings she has bestowed amongst many young people and families with her nurturing ways.

In 2000 she became a Washington State Certified therapeutic counselor and in 2002 she received her Certificate of Achievement in Teacher Education. These educational achievements allow her to offer a vessel for every k-12 grade student to experience Africa and utilize edutainment through music, song and dance.

Throughout it all, Afua's main strength comes from her loving family. Her husband, Aboubacar, two daughters; Chisula and Nailah, and her son, Kwame are established and respected performers nationally in the African arts community. The excitement of performing with her family is what keeps Afua healthy, active and connected to today's generation. She has taught at numerous schools over the years and each learning season ends with a public performance allowing the students a chance to experience celebration.

The drum beats....the music rolls and the dance flows! Awaken your spirit and experience Planet Afua. The planet where African music and dance magically stimulates excites and soothes your soul, while maintaining a unique quality that is pure African culture.