

KWAKU O. PAYTON

5803 Highgate Dr.

443-760-6776

E-mail: kwakupayton@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Aug 1987 **Dinizulu Center for African Culture and Research**
to *Jamaica Queens, New York*
May 1996

- Enhanced writing, comprehension, and listening skills
- Improved communication skills through cultural immersion
- Volunteered and taught at a school established for students who could not afford tuition

QUALIFICATION

Sept. 2017 **Department of Education Vendor**
to
Current

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXPERIENCE

Sept 2009 Community Board Member
to Bedford Stuyvesant
June 2019 Brooklyn, New York

- Acts as a liaison between community members and council men and women
- Assist in the decision-making process
- Organize and participate in social events for the community

Sept 1998 Campaign and Political Consultant for Street Operations and Canvassing
to City Council Office
current Brooklyn, New York

- Works directly with council men and women during campaigns
- Assemble community leaders and members to mediate problems
- Organize, promote, and support social events for council office

DRUMMING EXPERIENCE

May 2021 Young Audiences SALA Summer Program
to Teaching Artist/Musician
August 2021 Baltimore, MD

- Assist with arts infusion during literacy and math lessons
- Collaborate with classroom teacher to plan and deliver lessons and program expectations
- Communicate and partner with parents to ensure safety and student success
- Plan and produce at least one culminating performance

<i>Sept 2017 to current</i>	Alvin Ailey Arts and Education Teaching Artist/Musician New York, New York • Professionally teaches and performs the art of African dance and drumming • Rehearse all choreography • Participate in company performance and community events
<i>June 2017 to current</i>	Pure Elements African Drummer and Teaching Artist Brooklyn, New York • Professionally performs the art of African dance and drumming • Rehearse all choreography • Participate in company performance and social events
<i>May 2005 to current</i>	Devore's Dance School African Drum Musician Hollis, New York • Act as the active drummer for all African dance classes and concerts • Provide students with an environment conducive to academic study and social development
<i>Sept 2017 to current</i>	Assase Yaa Dance Theatre African Drum Teaching Artist and Musician Brooklyn, New York • Professionally performs the art of African dance and drumming • Rehearse all choreography • Participate in company performance and social events
<i>Nov 2014 to June 2015</i>	F.L. Templeton Preparatory Academy Teaching Artist Baltimore, Maryland • Act as the active Djembe drum instructor for varied ages • Provide students with an environment conducive to academic study and social development • Work in partnership with instructors and drummers to prepare and perform drum performances
<i>April 2008 to Aug 2012</i>	Family Dynamics SCO Drum Specialist Brooklyn, New York • Supervises and manages students during class instruction • Plans and executes daily lesson plans and activities about drumming and dancing • Works in collaboration with other instructors on large projects and performances
<i>July 2005 to July 2007</i>	M. Vaugh Dance School African Drummer Brooklyn, New York • Acted as the regular drummer for all African dance classes • Participated and assisted dance teachers with choreography and performances • Followed directives and assisted in maintaining order in classroom and during performances

Feb 1995 Dinizulu African Drummers, Dancers, and Singers
to African Drummer and Dancer
Nov 2005 Jamaica, New York

- Rehearsed and performed company's choreography
- Professionally taught company's choreography
- Established a positive relationship with other group dancers, singers, and drummers

MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Board
Parks and Art Committee
2009-2019

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Biographical Information for Kwaku Payton and DrumLoveDrumSoundDrumPeople

Kwaku O. Payton was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. The oldest of his household siblings, Kwaku grew up in a traditional Akan household. As an integral part of his traditional Ghanaian cultural and religious practices, drumming and dancing quickly became a daily practice for him. Heavily influenced by the Dinizulu African Dance and Drummers and Singers, as well as the teachings of Kamati Dinizulu, he worked tirelessly to master the art of drumming. Later, he would study the Guinean technique and form of the djembe including sound, posture, and stamina. Over the span of his career he has displayed his talent and shared his skill in countless performances including the annual Dance Afrika in Brooklyn, NY, university performances at Rutgers, Hofstra, LIU, Harvard, and York College, Off Broadway Shows, and has been featured on a percussion cd. He continues to believe that art changes the world one person at a time and tirelessly works to use drum culture to build unity, equality, and shared experience across diverse bodies of people and especially for young African-American youth. In 2013, he founded DrumLoveDrumSoundDrumPeople and uses the platform to produce a worldwide audience engaged in African drum culture, music, and performance. Through partnerships, workshops, and community leadership it is always his goal to express his personal creativity and music while sharing his knowledge of different cultures of the world through art and education.