

September 29, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the funding application submitted by the Afro-Latin Project (ALP) to the Iowa Arts Council (IAC). In my capacity as Associate Professor of Percussion at the University of Northern Iowa I have had the opportunity to work with many members of the ALP and to observe their performances. My background in studying, performing and teaching the music and dance from West Africa gives me an authentic perspective from which to view the work of the ALP.

It is my unqualified belief that goals such as those of the ALP (as stated in their abstract) are essential to the future of an educated and peaceful world. The music and dance of the ALP are representative of the cultures of several Latin American countries. By sharing these parts of the various cultures Iowans will have the opportunity to learn and communicate with Latin Americans in a common language. The more positive experiences Iowa citizens have the better they will be able to understand and accept citizens from other cultures.

There is no question in my mind as to the validity and effectiveness of the ALP. As stated above I have performed on many occasions with the musicians from the group and have witnessed their performances. The ALP presents authentic and convincing performances that will educate and inspire the Iowa public. I whole-heartedly support the ALP application!

Sincerely,

Randy A. Hogancamp
Associate Professor of Percussion
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA