

# Charles Ahovissi

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Objective: To teach people about African cultures through engaging African dance/drumming residencies and performances.

## Career Highlights:

- 2013: Faculty Member, Health Sciences – Multicultural and Community Affairs, (MACA) Creighton University
- 2012: National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Awardee at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama
- 2012: Heritage Award from the Nebraska Governor's Arts Awards
- 2011: "Participated in the Kennedy Center's Artists as Educators Seminar, Anatomy of a Lesson: Designing Instruction
- 2010: "Participated in the Kennedy Center's Artists as Educators Seminar, Laying a Foundation: Defining Arts Integration."
- 2009: Selected for a John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Program, "Planning Effective Arts- Integrated Residencies for Students"
- 2009: Colombia, South America Tour (Culture Exchange) with Gansango Dance Company from Seattle, Washington
- 2008-2009: Selected for ArtsREACH Teaching Artist Programs through University of Nebraska Lincoln. Supported by Nebraskans for the Arts, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Lied Center for Performance Arts.
- Middle Schools Learning Center Initiative (Collective for Youth) 2008 - present residencies through The City of Omaha and Omaha Public Schools.
- October 2007: La Calabasse in Seattle Arts Museum. Dynamic and refined sold-out performances of traditional and contemporary African dance and music presented by Gansango's multicultural group of local and international dancers and musicians. Traditional costumes and live instrumentation.

- Professional Teaching and Performing Artist through the Nebraska and Iowa Arts Councils at sites across both states.

#### Experience:

Charles began his dancing career in 1984 when he joined the National Ballet Company of Benin, West Africa. He left the National Ballet in 1987 and joined the Super Anges Dance Troop that toured extensively throughout the world performing and teaching traditional African dance and music.

In 2000, Charles relocated to the United States. Since moving to Omaha, Charles has taught and performed at many schools and organizations as a Nebraska and Iowa Arts Council teaching artist. He has also conducted on-going public classes in dance and drumming in connection with the Moving Company at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

In 2006, he co-founded the non-profit, African Culture Connection to be able to reach more schools and organizations in and around Nebraska and Iowa.

#### Education:

Associate's Degree in Arts & Liberal Arts, Metropolitan Community College

#### Travel Experience

Belgium, China, Colombia, England, France, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, and throughout the United States

#### Languages

English, French, Fon, Mina, Goun, and Yoruba

#### References

- Anne Alston & Deborah Bunting: Nebraska Arts Council. Tel: 402-595-2122
- Dawn Oropeza: Iowa Arts Council, Arts Education/Community Programs Coordinator. Tel: 515-281 5773
- Angela R. Fisher: Omaha Public Schools Arts Supervisor. Tel: 402-557-2535
- Josie Metal Corbin: Dance professor at University of Nebraska Omaha. Tel: 402-554-3239
- Nancy Eugene-Wedin: ArtsREACH Project Director. Tel: 402-472-4707