

African Folklife Celebration

\$1485 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - April, 2019

By Heidi Alina

Drummer and Logo Ligi representative

On April 12, 2019, in the spirit of Alex "Tink" Wilson's passion for creating events that enliven people, broaden their view of life, and "make life glow," Logo Ligi hosted a celebratory evening of African food, music and dance at St. John's Episcopal Church, at 1419 Pine Street, Boulder.

Grant funds were used to cover the cost of catering, space rental, sound amplification, promotion and a small portion of the musician fees. Total expenses came to \$1419. Income from ticket sales was \$786, with approximately 60 people attending (primarily college students, but a wide range of ages overall). Along with the grant, total income was \$2271 which, after expenses, left \$852 to pay Logo Ligi and the musicians. Though our income from ticket sales was considerably less than expected, we were still able to pay our musicians at least a nominal fee. In the future we would find volunteers in the community to cook so we could better compensate our musicians.



Our audience was very enthusiastic and we received high accolades from participants commenting on how professional, inspiring, fun and energizing our performance was. The atmosphere was enhanced by the beautiful marketplace of African goods displayed in the front entryway. Audience members enjoyed the food and enthusiastically participated in dancing, clapping, call and response games, and singing. Following are comments from two participants:



"Logo Ligi did a spectacular job of not only sharing African folklife and culture with the Boulder community, but also demonstrating the power and joyfulness of ritual and folklife of all kinds. I was reminded of the magic that can happen when I dig into my own roots, to the things that connect me to others. The performers were incredibly entertaining and engaging. They had the audience smiling, laughing, and up out of their seats dancing. The crowd was literally moved by the music and inspired by the dances performed. The room

was aglow with people delighting in themselves and each other, brought together by delicious food, enlivening music, and soul-shaking dance. The event was an authentic and enriching experience I hope to enjoy again soon." *Elizabeth O. from Boulder, CO*

"I thoroughly enjoyed the African Folklife Celebration by the Logo Ligi drummers and dancers. The program was well designed, with drumming numbers interspersed with singing and a variety of dances. I found the performance highly professional and well-staged by the beautifully costumed musicians and dancers. Maputo Mensah (leader of the group) introduced each number, giving interesting background, telling us something of the history, mythology, and culture of the people originating the music and dances. He was extremely good at engaging the audience, and at one point the entire audience was on their feet enthusiastically joining in a dance. The atmosphere throughout was exhilarating. Adding to the festive folk atmosphere was the buffet of delicious African dishes and a fair of artisans vending very high quality African handcrafts. All in all a very satisfying, fun and educational evening." *Linna W.M. of St. Lambert, Quebec*



Here is a link to photos from the event: [Photos - Logo Ligi's African Folklife Celebration](#)

Logo Ligi is tremendously grateful to The Alex Wilson Legacy Fund for their support of this endeavor which allowed us to share the magic and joy of African music and culture with the Boulder Community.

