

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

WEST AFRICAN MUSIC AND DANCE SPECIALIST

(On-Site - Richmond, CA)

About East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

For more than 56 years, [East Bay Center for the Performing Arts](#) has been a cultural beacon in Richmond, California, engaging children and youth with transformative, tuition-free arts



education. Our programs are designed to create safe, rigorous, supportive spaces where young people can explore and express themselves through cross-cultural performing arts—catalyzing personal growth, community connection, and social change. Every day, our work at the Center demonstrates the power of art to unite and uplift people of diverse backgrounds and create new ways of seeing the world. East Bay Center serves 4,000+ children and youth each year from communities reflective of the city's demographics: 95% of our students are youth of color, 80% come from low-income families, and 40% are English language learners. Through the active creation of original art, we emphasize social justice, and the skill,

effort, courage, and discipline needed to successfully prepare, create, and perform!

In our next 50 years, we aspire to engage thousands more youth and strengthen our role as a community hub and cultural anchor in Richmond. Despite their importance, affordable, culturally relevant, sequential musical and performing arts training opportunities for youth are scarce in Richmond. The need is clear: schools in our district face significant challenges in securing sufficient funding for the arts, and 90% of CA public schools do not meet state standards for arts education. East Bay Center fills this void through tuition-free, healing-centered performing arts programs at our main site (70+ weekly classes) and sequential arts education in 15 Richmond public schools.

The Opportunity

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts is seeking a Specialist in West African Music and Dance, specifically from Ghana. The West African Music and Dance Specialist (WAMDS) is responsible for ensuring high quality West African performing arts programming, with a focus on music and dance from Ghana, through supporting East Bay Center on and off site programs and managing curriculum across the Center. Through a combination of administrative work and teaching, the West African Music and Dance Specialist helps ensure that all Center students receive the support and training necessary to imagine and create new worlds for themselves and their communities through the performing arts.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop, document, and regularly update West African Music and Dance curriculum for main site and School Partnerships programs;



Developing Young Artists
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339 11th Street
Richmond
CA 94801-3105

eastbaycenter.org

- Coordinate West African Music and Dance performances for annual events, call & response, and special projects;
- Recruit students for main site programming through assemblies, informational sessions, and family outreach;
- Support production staff and technical crew for performances and events, including assisting with audio, lighting, and filming/recording as necessary;
- Support artistic direction and execution of core Center events as well as guest performances;
- Provide content and materials for grants and funding opportunities as appropriate;
- Support student and family communication at the main site through phone calls, emails, and registration assistance;
- Teach West African music and dance group classes at the main site (approximately 6-8 hrs per week);
- In collaboration with other faculty, lead instruction, rehearsals, and overall direction of West African Music and Dance Resident Company;
- Teach 1-2 days in School Partnerships programs;
- Teach private lessons in traditional regional instruments as requested;
- Substitute as needed

Ideal Candidate Attributes

- Passion for music and high level expertise in traditional Ghanaian music and dance
- Experience working in under-resourced communities with socio-economic, racial and culturally diverse classroom settings.
- Ability to effectively manage large groups of students.
- Experience in school assemblies and performances.
- An exhibited ability to work with children in a caring and respectful manner in order to create a joyful, caring classroom environment where instructional time includes community building, conflict resolution, skill-building, and empowering students.
- Experience working with administrative tools (word, excel).
- Maturity, humility, strong work ethic, sense of humor, collaborative nature, and a can-do attitude.
- Belief that all students can express themselves artistically and achieve at high levels.
- Strong written and verbal skills and ability to communicate to a diverse audience.

Other Requirements:

- Must successfully pass a comprehensive Criminal Background Check.
- Must be able to provide valid I-9 documents to determine proof of eligibility to work in the United States.
- A car is preferred to travel between school sites.

Benefits and Culture

This 35-40 hrs/week on-site position is based in Richmond, California, with a schedule of 9am-5:30pm, Monday through Friday (occasional evenings or weekends required). The Center believes each team member is vital to the organization's success. We serve and work in partnership with all and celebrate the diversity of our community, including people of all backgrounds, regardless of race ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious or spiritual affiliation or belief. Our staff and leadership demonstrate the ways in which our work is continually enhanced by a diversity of thought and perspectives. Our team prioritizes rest, restoration, and creativity as part of encouraging our teammates to live healthy, balanced lives. We celebrate the successes of our team and work collaboratively toward common goals in service of our shared commitment to social justice for youth in the face of systems of oppression.

We are offering an hourly rate of \$30-\$33/hr for administrative work; \$60/hr for group class teaching; and \$70/hr for Resident Company Rehearsals (equivalent to an annual salary of \$63,000-\$74,000), based on qualifications, with the potential for performance-based bonuses and increases. East Bay Center also offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Health, Dental, and Life Insurance
- Vision, Short- and Long-Term Disability
- Time Off Benefits - including Paid Sick Leave, Vacation, 12 Paid Holidays, Paid Family Leave (PFL), Bereavement Leave, Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Disability Leave and Accommodations, Reproductive Loss Leave
- Flexible work schedule
- Retirement, 4% Employer Contribution (after one year)

How to Apply: Please submit the following documents to Andrea Landin, Director of Programs: Andrea.Landin@eastbaycenter.org

- Resume and cover letter as a Word or PDF document
- A list of three professional references
- Please include in the subject line: WEST AFRICAN MUSIC AND DANCE SPECIALIST

Please note that failure to submit the required documents may disqualify you from further consideration.

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts is an Equal Opportunity Employer