



Rhode to Africa (R2A)

An Interview Series & Concert Series

Presented by



Dear Community/Business Leader,

On behalf of the **Rhode to Africa** Project, I am writing to request your support. With your help, we can make an exciting community initiative a successful and widely-enjoyed one. But what is Rhode to Africa?

Rhode to Africa (R2A) is **A Podcast Series and a Concert Series.**

The R2A Podcast Series will consist of four 30-minute audio interviews with African musicians who are living locally and regionally. The audio series will be located on the award-winning, RI-based website, www.RezaRitesRi.com. It will also be available on iTunes, which is a program widely used to access NBC, CNN, and other popular media programming. The goal is to broadcast conversations that cover topics such as community, politics, identity, spirituality, and freedom. Examples of questions include what does African music sound like in the 21st century? In the case of these artists, who are based in New England, does it reflect their communities and experiences here locally?

If the podcast series represents a chance to hear the verbal response to these questions, the R2A Concert Series offers a chance to hear the musical version. Musicians featured in the series will perform each Sunday in October at The Blackstone in Pawtucket, a music venue in the newly redesigned Hope Artiste Village Complex. The concert series will be part of the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) Freedom Festival**, a month-long set of activities organized by over 90 organizations to launch an initiative celebrating African American Heritage in RI.

Recognizing the importance of supporting this type of cultural initiative, the **Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc. (MHNA)** has agreed to join RezaRitesRi.com, The Blackstone, RICH, and several other organizations in partnering with Rhode to Africa. As a community development and social service agency, MHNA understands its role in ensuring the success of R2A. From financial contributions and gift certificates, to providing volunteers, refreshments and help spreading the word, there are many ways you too can support this important project.

Included with this correspondence is more information on R2A and a document detailing sponsorship options and corresponding rewards; our fundraising goal is \$4,500.00. We are happy to discuss additional ideas as well, and we remind you that all donations will be tax deductible as MHNA is a **501(c)3** organization. Should you like additional information or an opportunity to discuss sponsorships, please contact Project Co-Director Reza Clifton at 401-497-5246 or at rezaclif@gmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider this request. We hope that you will choose the Rhode to Africa.

Cordially,

Reza C. Clifton, Project Director
Rhode to Africa

Raymond L. Watson, Executive Director
Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Supported by organizations and partners like



RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL for the HUMANITIES

Beatbox Studio, Bashment Sounds, The Liberian Community Association of RI, www.RIFuture.org, Oasis International, The Providence Black Repertory Company, The Rhode Island Young Professionals (an auxiliary of The Urban League of Rhode Island), & RI State Representative Joseph Almeida.



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The Voices of Liberians, Cape Verdeans and other Africans in RI

There are many ways to support the Rhode to Africa Concert Series and Podcast Series:

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS¹

- Our total fundraising goal is \$4,500. Can you/your organization donate the partial or entire amount?
- Can you/your organization help with fundraising and outreach to businesses and individuals?
- Funds raised will be used to compensate performers, sound technicians, and event staff; to utilize marketing channels, like radio and newspapers; and to purchase merchandise for event giveaways.

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

- We are trying to raise an additional \$1,700 to contribute toward marketing costs. Can you/your organization donate the partial or entire amount?
- Can your organization open up a board, staff, or volunteer meeting for someone to speak on R2A?
- Can your organization dedicate a page or host a link to R2A or to one or more of the 4 audio conversations on your website?
- Can your organization advertise the Podcast Series, Concert Series, or both in a newsletter, website, event program, etc.?

PRODUCTION & PARTICIPATION

- We are trying to raise an additional \$2,400 to fairly compensate featured artists, guest artists, sound technicians and event staff. Can you/your organization donate the partial or entire amount?
- Can you/your organization select and send event volunteers for one or more weeks of the concert series?
- Can you/your organization co-host a performance night by holding a meeting or social event to correspond with one of the performance nights?
- Can you/your organization host a party or event to listen to one of the interviews? Arrangements can be made to include the R2A Project Directors and musicians for a post-listening discussion.

RAFFLES, GIFTS, AND EXTRAS

- We are trying to raise an additional \$400 for event giveaways, door prizes, etc. Can you/your organization donate the partial or entire amount?
- Can you/your organization contribute items or funds for event giveaways, raffles, and door prizes?
- Can you/your organization contribute to refreshments for one night?

Organizations supporting R2A will be thanked, rewarded & acknowledged. In what ways?²

- Acknowledgement on RezaRitesRI.com and other pre-specified marketing materials
- Acknowledgement that will be audible on one or more of the 4 podcasts.
- Invitation to participate in television and/or radio marketing of the project.
- Space at The Blackstone for distributing giveaways and organizational materials or just for members of your organization to be seated.
- Coordination of special photo opportunities, meet and greet opportunities, or events for members of your organization featuring the Project Directors and/or one or more participating artists.
- Participating in at least one of the audio podcasts as a community member and guest interviewer.

For questions or more information, contact Reza at 401-497-5246 or at rezaclif@gmail.com.

¹ All funds contributed are tax deductible, and all checks should be made payable to "Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc." For questions or more information, contact Reza at 401-497-5246 or at rezaclif@gmail.com.

² The following examples all depend on outside media coverage of the R2A Concert Series and Podcast Series; the timing of commitments and partnerships; completion of necessary paperwork; and level of support extended.

Presented & Supported by

RezaRitesRI.com, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, WRIU 90.3 FM, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Beatbox Studio, Bashment Sounds, The Liberian Community Association of RI, www.RIFuture.org, The Providence Black Repertory Company, Oasis International, & RI State Representative Joseph Almeida.