

B.A.G.s.

Balasi Talent Organization is a registered community based organization and recognized as an arts and education leader within kibera. Founded in 2009, its mission is to transform lives and communities through creative avenues such as dance, music, performance and Creative Arts.

Balasi Arts Gems has been in existence for over 11 years, we celebrate the journey. Balasi Arts Gem was fully registered as a CBO in kibera as BALASI TALENT ORGANIZATION, with a bigger capacity to reach to the most vulnerable and those in need by offering mentorship, tutor and nurture different talents within the kibera slums as well as countrywide.

Balasi Talent Organization uses dance as a springboard for youths in kibera to improve their academic performance by identifying their capabilities and talents and utilizing this effectively.

BALASI'S DREAM philosophy is threefold:

- We believe in dance – that dance has the power to transcend barriers and transform lives
- We believe in equal access – All youth are capable of living healthy, productive, meaningful lives, and deserve equal opportunities, support and services regardless of socio-economic status.
- We believe in taking care of the whole child – the physical, mental, emotional and creative.

Through our B.A.Gs DREAM program, we seek to break the cycle and help children and youth fulfill their full potential.

Our program model (Theory of Change) is like a wheel with multiple spokes: Dance education is at the center, and it is surrounded by critical academic and family service supports. We provide a physically and emotionally safe environment, help students build positive long-term relationships, expose them to new experiences, opportunities, talents and set high expectations for individual responsibility.

The B.A.G.s DREAM Program will have Dance, Film, Photography, Environmental Management and Computers studies.

DREAM is open to solidify strategic partnership with different organization with likeminded agendas. We are dedicated to using different forms of art to nurture talent while improving the education for the children by fundraising through their performance's and exhibitions to enable us cater for their fees, sanitary towels, inner garments etc for both boys and the girls..

We currently partner with YMCA kibera who have offered us free space to work with our children who are numbering 200 with majority of the children drawn from different kibera schools.

Each year we bring together children from the communities to put together dances and theater performance to raise awareness of the issues affecting lives of the people living in the slums.



It also gives them a platform to express themselves and have voice to tell their personal stories as well as showcase their talents.

Balasi as an organization has a work force of 10 office administrative assistants, who work part time and some on volunteer basis. In our board, we have 5 patrons who support with management and on international relations. We have over 200 kids within the slums of kibera and we also run a dance program at Huruma children's home.

Balasi has since its inception been lucky to get support from:

-Okapi Finance

This organization donated:

- Over 100 Ballet Dance outfits,
- Donated 60000ksh to buy school uniforms and shoes for 20 students to do a small video with our girls and boys dubbed -Okapi swap.
- Donated 25000ksh to our 2018 second inter schools ddance concert.

-Kibera Ballet

- Where we brought kids from both organizations to a performance dubbed VOICES OF KIBRA in 2018.

- MDM dancewear from Australia

- Received a donation of dance outfit and over 150 dance shoes from.

- Jenny Zondag in Netherlands

- Received over 70 dance outfits and men dance shoes. She also donates 100 dollars monthly to Balasi.

- Christian organization- 50 dollars

- Received a water dispenser for kid's usage during dance practice and meeting from a volunteer.

- Denis Magero -Receives a weekly donation of bananas and snacks that were consumed by the kids after rehearsals to refresh them as they go home.

- Enchanting Africa - Received 5 computer desktops from

- Receives free working and rehearsal space from YMCA kibera.



A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Balasi art gems purely focuses on creating an artistic, economic and social awareness to empower slum communities by raising foundations for the younger generations within the city and its environs. It aims at achieving its objectives through targeting the common child and enabling the community to effectively utilize the resources available, for development and improvement of the living standards of the slum community.

It is with this background that we propose a method to mitigate some of the problems that course lack of progressive development and that stop the needed and expected growth in the lives of our kids in the slum areas.

This proposal is focused on meeting the main objective which includes;

1. We believe in taking care of the whole child- by creating foundations that focus on the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and creative aspects for their future.
2. We believe in Dance- to create a safe atmosphere for them to learn, discover and nurture their talents as we avail needed materials to meet their goals with the tool Dance since it has the power to transcend barriers and transform lives.
3. We believe in equal access- to help them focus on their dreams and pursue them without hindrances since all children are capable of living healthy, productive and meaningful lives and deserve equal opportunities, support and services regardless of their social-economic status.



Expected output

Balasi therefore expects to achieve the following outputs;

- Providing the kids in the slums with proper Dance lessons.
- Provide solutions to their lack of attending school thus exposing them to safe environment and ideas.
- Provide avenues to expose the talents and highlight the issues affecting them. We expect that we shall keep the kids in their schools.
- Identifying the talents of more kids, giving them a safe place to nurture and express themselves.
- Create a second home for them to become what they dream as provide the needed facilities and support.
- Game changer in the lives of kids in the slum



B. BACKGROUND

Balasi Art Gems is a dance and theater company that began in 2009. It is now registered as a community based organization [CBO]-Balasi Talent Organization. It aims at improving dance and art in Kenya and the East African region at large. The company is also registered with the Government of Kenya under the Ministry of Sports, culture and Social Services.

Balasi's main focus is in slums where we have a strong commitment in reaching out and giving back to the community, by visiting various slums and selecting talented and underprivileged kids, training them and giving them a platform to express themselves and showcase their talents, through dance and art. Through our interventions, social community problems such as, exposure to drugs, teenage pregnancies and negative peer pressure have been reduced. They are taught life skills like social cohesion, behavioral change and the importance of consistency and resilience as we create a good foundation for what they might need in the future. We are currently working with kids from Kibera, Kayole Dandora and Huruma.



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1. Vision

Raising foundations for generations through the Dance and arts as well as provide life skills through computer training, film and photography.

2. Mission

Help the young to meet their goals and destinies as they move perfectly in the life's rhythms.

INTERVENTIONS

We would like to pick the weak and most vulnerable who don't have a voice, and give them a voice by training them in:

- . Leadership skills
- . Computer literacy
- . SDGs
- . Menstruation hygiene

Among others, just to show them that their future is possible.

Studies have shown that 60 percent of today's jobs require at least a formal education or education in particular talent or carrier one would like to pursue.

Students who do not finish primary school face grim statistics: primary school dropouts are more likely to live in poverty, become incarcerated, rely on welfare, and have children who drop out of primary school. Through our expanded fund for school programs, we seek to break the dropout cycle and help the kids fulfill their full potential.

Our approach has been extraordinarily and well-received in the slum areas.

In 2017, Balasi art held a first dance concert and was dubbed **SPACE** that saw over 200 kids in attendance from eight schools who created and defined their spaces in movement and music.

In 2017 December we received a donation for the kids from Giselle Mwepu the CEO of **Okapi finance** who bought over 50 kid's professional dance outfits, tights, shorts, leotards and t-shirts to enable them look and feel good as they continue with their dance lessons.

In July 2017 we had guests and dancers from the US **Brave & Beautiful missions**, who visited the three schools we teach; they danced and taught the kids in kibera during their Brave and Beautiful tour.



In February 2018 we had guest and dance teachers from Holland who taught and shared their time, bought food and gave dance clothes with books and pens to over 100 kids for two weeks.

In July 2018 we had our second dance concert dubbed **MOVING PERFECTLY** whose aim was go beyond the norms of Ballet or other form of Dance techniques but create a language through dance that allows the identity of every individual to come out clearly and be able to tell own story their own way, and in that create what is a perfect move both from the soul and the body.

We worked on a documentary shooting on 25th of Oct 2018 in kibera grounds, this was an initiative by two groups whose main aim was to transform the lives of kids living in the slums through Art. We took it to bring to the world the positive side of the Kibera slum by bringing together 120 kids that dance Ballet in kibera. The purpose for this was to create a performance that shows the joy, happiness, empathy and strengths of living in the slum. **THE VOICE** was staged at kamkunji grounds in kibera. We brought the brighter side of kibera by putting a ballet show to an open audience of parents, students, neighbors, politicians, friends. At the end of this 25 of Balasi kids were offered scholarships for the year 2019.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this project will be the young underprivileged boys and girls living in the slums. The project focuses on main stream cases of lack and the need to mitigate through Dance and Art.

