

FAME Visiting Artists

Nicholas Sironka

FAME would like to welcome back Nicholas Sironka to Fort Wayne in March 2019. Sironka will be visiting our schools teaching our children the art of Batik.

Nicholas Sironka, a self taught Maasai visual artist from Kenya, enjoys teaching the medium of Batik, which is art created with the use of hot wax and cold water fabric dye.

As a child, Sironka enjoyed drawing and painting with supportive parents who encouraged his artistic talents by buying art coloring and drawing books.

Sironka started his art career working as a freelance artist illustrating for book publishers and as a graphic artist for local magazines in Kenya. In 1993 Sironka illustrated a book called *"Mcheshi goes to the Market,"* which won the Pan African Children's Award, the Jomo Kenyatta Award in Nairobi Kenya, and the Exchange Book of Excellence in San Francisco.



In 1993 Sironka was hired by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) where he taught refugee children from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan how to portray their past traumatic experiences using art. The artwork produced by the children were made into a book titled *"One Day We Had to Run!"*

In 2000-2001, Sironka was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholar –In-Residence Award by the US Government, to come teach Batik art and Maasai Culture in Spokane, Washington and to several other states in the U.S..

Sironka has taught in many Elementary Schools, High Schools and Universities in the United States and we are pleased to have Sironka sharing his talents and culture with our students.

The Griot Drum Ensemble



The Griot Drum Ensemble is led by veteran storyteller, Khabir Shareef. The ensemble has been together since 1999 and are regular performers at The Indianapolis Children's Museum, regional festivals, libraries and community events, and anywhere that African music and storytelling are appreciated. Khabir Shareef is a storyteller, teaching artist with Arts for Learning and ArtMix of Indiana, and a three-time recipient of the Indiana Arts Commission's individual artist grant.

At the performances, students will understand the meaning of the word "griot", experience rhythms in West African music and dance, and hear stories and some of the language of West African culture. Students will hear different drum segments. Students will learn patterns, rhythms, the origins of instruments, and the stories of the culture. Students will become active participants by learning language (Swahili), dance steps, and joining into the performances.

Visiting Artists, March 11-17, 2019

Book your Visiting Artists today at info@famearts.org

For the Griot Ensemble is \$1 per student with a minimum of \$250

For Nicholas Sironka it will be a maximum of 30 students for \$250