

Beatrice Tarr tells her Story as a Cultural Dancer and Cosmetologist

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I was born in Grand Bassa County on May 9, 1984. In 2005 I moved to Monrovia to seek educational opportunity. I currently live in Soniwein and **I am a member of Kick for Your Future (KFYF) Cultural Team.** During my primary education, I got interested in dancing culture but could not continue practices with the school cultural-team because I left the school due to financial problems.

Fortunately for me, in 2009 I joined the KFYF Soniwein cultural-troop where I began an intense practice with my friends. After a period of practice and participation in community outreaches and cultural festivals, I was admired by many people in my community. **In 2010, the Liberia Unity to Cultivate National Artist (LUCNA) saw me during a community outreach where I was performing a cultural dance.**

After few days, some staff member of LUCNA visited my house and requested that I join their cultural team. Essentially I rejected their request on ground that, it could have created a problem for me especially as an active member of the KFYF cultural-team. **However, I later realized that it was necessary that I join LUCNA because it would have brought good feedback to the project.**

I am thankful to the KFYF youth project that has developed my cultural talents of which LUCNA saw me and requested that I join them. I have participated in local exchange programs and cultural performances in the various counties of Liberia for local and international organizations as well as the United Nations Missions in Liberia (UNMIL) on issues such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and rape. Additionally, **in 2012 I travelled to Sierra Leone with a local Artist named Ma Kolu who asked me to participate in a cultural event.**



I am currently doing cosmetology under the KFYF apprenticeship/skill training project while earning my livelihood as a career cultural dancer. **When I started dancing culture, family and friends ostracize me on ground that cultural dance was not a good venture especially for women because it will made me vulnerable, which I later realized was not true.** Therefore, I want to encourage my colleagues to take serious whatever opportunity they have because that could be a one time chance in their life. I am also asking Cooperaxion to continue to fund this program.

Many young people have their talents hidden and those talents can only be developed, if a project such as the KFYF continues to exist in our communities.