



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Zimfest Association

**ADDRESS:** 615 18th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

**CONTACT:** (206) 328-4011; [www.zimfest.org](http://www.zimfest.org)

**GENERAL GOALS:** The funds have been applied towards the general operating support of the organization.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

The funds have been applied towards the general operating support of the organization.

Funding from the Tulalip Tribes has assisted the Zimfest Association to continue its work in support of Zimbabwean culture by strengthening our operational and administrative structure and enabling us to pay the performers. We thank you for your help.



For more information regarding the specific uses of the award, see the following pages from Zimfest Association.



## **Zimbabwean Music Festival**

**[www.zimfest.org](http://www.zimfest.org)**

615 18<sup>th</sup> Ave S

Seattle, WA 98144

October 5, 2015

Marilyn Sheldon  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Recipient Report Q4 2014 14.2

Dear Marilyn and the Tulalip Tribes,

I am writing on behalf of the Zimfest Association (ZA) to thank you for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contribution, which we have applied towards the general operating support of our organization. These funds have assisted us in our mission to continue spreading the culture of Zimbabwe through the annual Zimbabwean Music Festival. The festival fulfills a dual purpose: to support the international Zimbabwean music community by providing a venue for gathering and sharing, and to foster the growth of that community by reaching out to an ever-wider audience through educational and performance initiatives.

Zimfest 2015, which took place August 14-16, celebrated the theme “Enduring Rhythms ~ Gathering in Harmony.” The festival truly demonstrated the power of African music and dance to bring people together as 360 people registered to take part and 650 attended evening concerts. In addition, an estimated 100 people dropped by daily to enjoy free afternoon concerts and our African Marketplace for a total of 1,300 people impacted. In a spirit of “everyone-can-participate,” Zimfest 2015 offered 166 hours of instruction over the course of three days. Students of all ages participated in cultural presentations and workshops ranging from basic Shona drumming to traditional dance to the ancient sounds of mbira and the effervescent marimba. Continuing Education clock hours were available for classroom teachers, a sign of Zimfest’s commitment to a long-lasting positive impact on the Northwest music community.

Zimfest attracts experts on Zimbabwean music and culture from around the world to perform and teach festival participants, and master mbira players Patience Munjeri and Vitalis Wilbert Botsa and marimba specialist Patience Musandirire came all the way from Africa this year. Other featured Zimbabwean musicians included Kurai Blessings Mubaiwa; the eclectic duo Mbira Spirit; renowned dancer Rujeko Dumbutshena and guitarist extraordinaire Zivanai Masango. Zimfest concerts gave audiences the chance to

hear and see some of the finest African music performed in North America, including the danceable polyrhythms of marimba ensembles and Afropop guitar bands as well as the mesmerizing sounds of the mbira (sample photographs are being e-mailed to you).

This year's Zimfest took place at Western Oregon University (WOU) in Monmouth, Oregon. At the time we wrote our funding request to the Tulalip Tribes, we were planning to stage the festival at the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds in Langley, Washington, but were belatedly informed that a transfer in administrative responsibility for the Fairgrounds made it unavailable to us for 2015. We were fortunate to find a willing host in Western Oregon University in enough time to be able to plan and organize a festival at the alternate site. WOU turned out to be an excellent venue for us, as the facilities were more than adequate and Conference Services staff helpful and accommodating. The "Grove," the shady outdoor area convenient to our registration area inside the student union building, was a popular location for our outdoor stage and African Marketplace.



**ZIMFEST 2015 MARKETPLACE IN THE GROVE, WOU**

A significant aim of the Zimfest Association mission is to contribute to sustainable livelihoods for visiting Zimbabwean artists. We require outside funding to pay performers, as we are committed to keeping Zimfest affordable to the general public by presenting free daytime concerts and charging low fees for workshops. Additional revenue is required to pay our part-time Festival Coordinator, who oversees Zimfest planning and organization, and guides the contributions of a large number of volunteers. A core group of eight members of the 2015 Organizing Committee began work at the beginning of the year and some 130 onsite volunteers donating more than 750 hours helped keep the festival running smoothly.

Funding from the Tulalip Tribes has assisted the Zimfest Association to continue its work in support of Zimbabwean culture by strengthening our operational and administrative structure and enabling us to pay the performers. We thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Claire Jones, Zimfest Coordinator