



What is AKOSIA?

Akosia facilitates creative projects for underprivileged children who have had little exposure to the limitless possibilities of their own creativity. We believe that children have all the answers, and that it is our job to ask the right questions and provide the tools that will help them create something they can be proud of. We involve creative professionals - filmmakers, musicians, writers, artists - and teachers in our projects to build an environment in which the children are guided through a creative process while being encouraged to respond to their own initiatives and ideas. The children learn a variety of skills, which enable them to express themselves creatively, build self-confidence and explore their imagination.

Last summer the Akosia team traveled to Accra, Ghana with a four-week project, which took 40 children who attended Street Academy on a creative filmmaking journey. This involved writing, set-design, costume making, acting and shooting, and culminated in a mini film festival for the children and their communities at the end of the summer. The children produced the films as independently as possible, whilst the team provided them with tools and technical skills where necessary. During the four weeks the children were provided with two meals a day.

Our Philosophy

Akosia firmly believes that all children are creative, resourceful and passionate, and providing a cultural learning environment is an integral step in a child's development. Our cultural projects encourage children to explore their creativity and imagination through experiential learning rather than being 'taught' in a conventional manner. This creates a tremendous sense of accomplishment and inner confidence that the children will carry with them.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide an engaging and safe environment where underprivileged children's natural abilities can be expressed and nurtured. We intend to provide a structured platform from which the children can develop their creativity and enable them to produce something that they can be proud of. It is our fundamental goal to broaden a child's horizon, open their eyes to the possibilities of their own creativity and collective efforts, and to aid them in giving back to their communities.

Accra and Street Academy

The Capital of Ghana is Accra, a vibrant modern city with a population of nearly 3 million. Like any major city it has its share of problems with poverty. Young children are often sent to the city to work but are regularly left without support, struggling to make ends meet. Street Academy is a non-governmental, charitable initiative that provides basic education for street children. In 1986 it was founded by Ataa Lartey, a local social worker, and registered as an NGO in 1993. The students are fed, clothed and attend daily lessons at the school. However, Street Academy is shut for the summer, which will give Akosia the time to work intensely with the students, providing daily meals and activities.

Funding

In order to run our filmmaking project in Ghana again this summer we need to raise another **£3,000.00**. This includes all production costs, two meals a day for every child, equipment, first aid materials, travel costs for day trips and any other costs that we may incur.

Please check out www.akosia.org for more details.

