



14+ Foundation Holds Third Annual Benefit to Raise Funds to Build Schools for Children in Africa

Selldorf Architects to Design Foundation's Second School in Zambia



October 2, 2015, New York, NY – It was announced last night at a fundraising benefit for the 14+ Foundation, Inc. that Selldorf Architects will design the Mwabwindo School in Mwabwindo Village, Zambia. The school will break ground in

2016 and completion is anticipated for 2018. This will be the second education facility in Africa built by 14+ Foundation.

The benefit event raised more than \$700,000, which will be used to begin funding construction costs for Mwabwindo School, as well as put towards the expansion and operation of Chipakata Children's Academy.

14+ Foundation is a NYC-based 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2012 by Joseph Mizzi, President of Sciam Construction, and Nchimunya Wulf to develop, build and operate schools and orphanages in rural African communities. The organization and its initiatives are centered on the following core beliefs: empowering children through education; volunteerism; achieving a meaningful engagement with the communities it serves; the importance of arts-based education; and that quality design can not only inspire but make a difference. 14+ Foundation's projects are focused on rural communities where new school projects not only provide critically needed classroom space, but also serve to reduce student to teacher ratios in nearby schools.

"Nchimunya and I began 14+ Foundation to create educational projects firmly centered around volunteerism and community engagement," said co-founder Joseph Mizzi. "The belief that quality design - and the design profession - can not only inspire but make a difference is



a key part of the work we do, and Selldorf Architect's involvement strongly reinforces this. I admire Annabelle's work greatly and have the deepest respect and admiration for her, both professionally and personally."

For its first project, 14+ Foundation looked within the New York City architecture community and partnered with a group of pro-bono architects led by Susan Rodriquez from Ennead Architects, Frank Lupo, Randy Lott and structural engineer Nat Oppenhiemer, to design the Chipakata Children's Academy in Zambia, Africa, which opened in January 2015. This primary school currently serves 180 children of the Chipakata Village community and each student is provided a free education including books and uniforms. Full-time housing is provided for its teachers, who are employed directly by 14+ Foundation, along with other administrative and maintenance staff. Prior to the opening of the school, the children of this community had to walk more than 14 km (close to 9 miles) total each day back and forth from the nearest available school. The organization is currently expanding Chipakata Children's Academy.

For its second project, 14+ again looked to the NYC architecture community and is partnering with Selldorf Architects. The Mwabwindo School will provide an inspired place for learning, promote sustainable resource use, and act as an economic engine in southern Zambia. "We are thrilled to be working on the new primary school in Mwabwindo," commented Annabelle Selldorf. "It has been a catalyzing experience for the office to be able to give back through design on a project that has the potential for such a transformative impact on children."



Building Design

The building's design is inspired by the tall, singular trees on the surrounding savanna that serve as gathering spaces shaded from the sun of the Central African Plateau. A large, corrugated metal roof canopy will cover a village of mud-brick classrooms arranged around courtyards and an internal street.

In addition to the school for 175 students, the program includes a building that will provide housing for eight teachers, a community vegetable garden and playing fields.

The corrugated metal roof, designed with an aspirational scale to reflect the promise of the students, is articulated by an undulating pattern inspired by local basket weaving methods. A covered assembly space is left open to the local road, marking the entrance and welcoming students. In addition to serving as the school lunch hall it will be a resource for local civic gatherings.



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The steel structure and roof will be assembled on site by skilled labor and will be constructed first so that building can continue during the three-month rainy season. Mud-brick classrooms are comprised of handmade, locally fired bricks, and will be constructed by local masons to provide employment and training opportunity in the area. Rainwater will be collected for use in the community gardens, and solar panels will provide energy for the school and teacher's housing.

Along with support from the design community, 14+ counts several NYC based artists among its biggest fans, as Julian Schnabel, Vito Schnabel, The Bruce High Quality Foundation and Rashid Johnson have all generously supported 14+. In addition, 14+ is working with these artists to develop and implement art-based educational projects and programs including site-specific murals created with the students at both schools. Last night, Joseph Mizzi announced that Selldorf Architects' design will incorporate a mural installation which will be created on-site in Zambia by Rashid Johnson and the students of Mwabwindo School.

For more information about 14+ Foundation, please visit the website at www.14plusfoundation.org or contact:

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