



## **Lubuto Library Project Event Information**

Lubuto Library Project, Inc. is celebrating National Library Week by hosting a special event in recognition of the recent opening of the Benning Neighborhood Library. Benning Neighborhood Library is the second of five new libraries that will be opened east of the Anacostia River during 2010 and 2011.

The highlight of the event will be a reading by Danny Glover, world renowned actor and humanitarian, and Lubuto founding Advisory Board member Mulenga Kapwepwe, Chairperson of the National Arts Council of Zambia, of Martin's Big Words, an award-winning children's book about Martin Luther King, Jr. The program will also feature a film of the children at the Lubuto Library in Lusaka, Zambia interpreting Martin's Big Words in various media.

James Early, Director of Cultural Heritage Policy at the Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies at the Smithsonian Institution, will introduce Mr. Glover and Ms. Kapwepwe. Two local middle school classes have been invited to attend. There will be a Q&A session for the children and the press with Mr. Glover, Ms. Kapwepwe and Jane Kinney Meyers, the founder and president of Lubuto Library Project, following the program.

"We are delighted to be hosting this special event at the beautiful new Benning Neighborhood Library," said Ms. Meyers. "This is one of several libraries scheduled to be opened in underserved areas of Washington D.C. and we recognize a strong parallel with Lubuto's efforts to create libraries and offer cultural and educational programs to vulnerable children and youth in sub-Saharan Africa. We believe it is a fitting tribute that such well-known and respected community leaders, Danny Glover and Mulenga Kapwepwe, participate in this celebration. Both Danny and Mulenga have used their professional success to help improve the conditions of others around the world who struggle and have been long standing supporters of educational efforts in Africa."

"We are also very excited to premier our recently completed film, 'Our Time to Bring Change,' depicting Lubuto Library children interpreting Martin's Big Words in theater, dance, song and art. The joint narration of Martin's Big Words is a bridge that connects the children we serve in Africa with children in the U.S., using the story and words of Martin Luther King, Jr. to inspire and change lives," concluded Ms. Meyers.

Danny Glover is an actor, producer and humanitarian. He has worked in movies, on the stage and on television for more than 25 years. As one of the top character actors working in cinema today, his film credits include "Places in the Heart," "Witness," "The Color Purple," and the blockbuster "Lethal Weapon" movies, as well as smaller independent features, some of which he produced. Mr. Glover is also known for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with particular emphasis on advocacy for economic justice, health care and education programs in the U.S. and Africa. Mr. Glover has been an ambassador for the United Nations Development Program since 1998. He currently serves as Chairman of TransAfrica Forum, a non-profit, non-governmental organization focused on the economic and political effects of American foreign policy on Africa and among the children of the African Diaspora in the Caribbean Basin and Latin America.

Mulenga Kapwepwe is a prominent spokesperson for Africa's cultures and traditions, as well as its vulnerable children and youth. She currently serves as policy advisor in Zambia's Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development. She is also the Chairperson of the National Arts Council and serves on the Advisory Board of the Lubuto Library Project. Ms. Kapwepwe is an award-winning playwright and author, well known for works such as Heart of the Cyclone and the epic musical drama Chiti Mu Luba, among others. She edited and wrote sections of the 2009 compendium Ceremony! Celebrating Zambia's Cultural

Heritage. In addition to her writing, Ms Kapwepwe has produced and hosted weekly phone-in radio programs for Lusaka's Radio Phoenix and television programs for the Zambia Broadcasting Company, covering a range of social and economic issues in Zambia.

James Early has served in various positions at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. since 1984, including Assistant Provost for Education and Cultural Programs, Assistant Secretary for Education and Public Service, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Service. Prior to that, Mr. Early was a humanist administrator at the National Endowment for the Humanities; a producer, writer and host of "Ten Minutes Left," a weekly radio segment of cultural, educational and political interviews and commentary at WHUR FM radio at Howard University; and Research Associate for Programs and Documentation at the Howard University Institute for Arts and Humanities. A long-time advocate of cultural diversity and equity issues, Mr. Early has a B.A. in Spanish from Morehouse College and was a Ford Foundation Fellow Ph.D. student in Latin American and Caribbean History at Howard University.

## **ABOUT LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT**

Founded in 2005, Lubuto Library Project opened its first library at the Fountain of Hope Drop-In Centre in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007. Its second library at Ngwerere School in Lusaka, funded by Dow Jones & Company, is currently under construction and will officially open in September 2010.

The Lubuto Library Project, Inc. ([www.Lubuto.org](http://www.Lubuto.org)) is an innovative development organization. In cooperation with governments, it creates opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction through libraries and related educational, cultural and community programs. Its mission is to enrich the lives of street children, orphans and other vulnerable and out-of-school children and youth in sub-Saharan Africa. The organization constructs beautiful, indigenously-styled open-access libraries stocked with a comprehensive collection of well-chosen books. These libraries serve as safe havens and are the center for Lubuto's programs, which offer discovery and joy through reading, music, art, drama, computers and other activities. Lubuto also connects North American and European volunteers and students with their African peers through community service.

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