

The Kiboko Projects programs are international exchanges that use the creation of masks as a way for teens and adults to express their creativity and explore their identities. Along with the mask-making, participants from Africa, Russia, and the United States have created photo diaries with film, video, and bookmaking that speak of their hardships and dreams. The participants, by articulating their stories, whether they be of struggles with child labor and AIDS, or pride in their culture, learn to develop confidence in their voice. As the projects are exchanged between cultures, the participants also learn to listen. By exhibiting their art projects across the globe, project members are able to overcome their own senses of isolation. When they see projects from other countries, they learn about other cultures and develop new ways of seeing the world that helps to increase our tolerance for each other.