



July 15, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

Our organization recently enjoyed working with percussionist Dan Egger-Belandria. He came to DAVA to lead a drum building workshop with our youth artists, ages 11-14. The class was part of *Project SafeCircle*, a program encouraging youth to use arts as alternatives to violence. Young artists made their own drums out of 5 gallon water bottles, and played them for the community.

Dan spoke to our young artists about the powerful connection between humans and instruments. He discussed the origins of drumming, and taught DAVA drummers to strike the drumhead in different ways to achieve different sounds. Everyone also sang and danced to the polyrhythms.

When the drums were complete, we held a community drum circle. Neighbors heard the music we were making and came in to join us. Eventually, we had drummers of all ages playing together and building community through music. Dan also invited us to play his cowbells and rattles, and these instruments enriched the experience even further.

Overall, both the workshops and the community event were a successful because of the enthusiasm generated by Dan's leadership. He was professional, friendly, and excellent with all of the participants. His efforts would be an asset to any program and we hope to work with him at DAVA in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca Clark'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Clark
Program Coordinator
Project SafeCircle