

2010 Arts & Crafts Workshop Series

How to Make a Shakere Workshops

On April 13th and 14th, students from the Ward 7/8 neighborhoods met at Ferebee Hope Recreation Center to learn how to twist rope and make patterns with beads to make an African instrument called a Shakere (pronounced Shake-ah-ray). R.E.'s after-school arts and crafts workshops were taught by Babe Eric Lewis, Percussionist and Drum Teacher at Tree of Life Public Charter School. He explained that the "Shakere" is a handheld percussion instrument made from a hollowed out gourd, covered with beads or seeds. The beaded area rests in the palm of one hand while the other hand twists the gourd, making a swishing sound.

The students enjoyed learning from Baba Eric and making music with their Shakere. It was an exciting activity with multiple students working on only two gourds and music being played in the background to pass the time by more quickly on such as large project. As a result, the students learned how to better communicate with each other in order to complete the bead pattern of the Shakere correctly.



