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Joakim Lartey – Director of Training

Joakim Lartey was born in Ghana, West Africa. He graduated from Vassar College with a degree in Biological Sciences. He studied Ethnomusicology and Jazz at The Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, NY. At The Astor Home for Children he worked for 13 years as a youth advocate, and artist-in-residence as well as a crisis counselor and assistant to the principal for 5 years. Mr. Lartey was a staff trainer for 10 years in the Astor Organization. He is a certified trainer in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (Cornell University College of Human Ecology) and has received training from both the Life Space Crisis Intervention Institute (Nick Long), and The National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA).

Mr. Lartey is currently the Training Coordinator for The New York State Center for School Safety, a New York State clearinghouse on safe schools and communities. He is also a musician/storyteller and has toured and performed with Natalie Merchant, Jack DeJohnette, Artie Traum, John Hall, Jay Ungar, Mollie Mason, Baba Olatunji among others.

Mr. Lartey advises schools, communities and parents on issues related to school and community safety, crisis intervention, classroom management and de-escalation, youth culture, the arts in education and community building.