

# Robert Bangiola

Art and Ambition Coexist

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Contact: Robert Bangiola  
Telephone: 917.617.7932  
Email: rbangiola@yahoo.com  
Website: www.bangiola.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ROBERT BANGIOLA RECEIVES CULTURAL ENVOY APPOINTMENT**

Bangiola Working with Kenya's Trust for African Rock Art to Develop Original Merchandise

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New York based art manager Robert Bangiola will be making his third visit to the continent of Africa in October 2008 to work with Kenya's Trust for African Rock Art (TARA). Bangiola will be developing TARA's creation of original books and merchandise, the promotion of cultural tourism to Kenya, and the on-going sales of TARA's growing digital archive of over 50,000 rock art images. Bangiola's six years in international education and many years as an art professional secured him this opportunity to conceive new products and develop a sustainable business model for the organization.

Established as an NGO in Kenya in 1997, TARA has the mission of preserving and promoting Africa's rock art heritage. The non-profit, also a registered 501©3 in the USA, was founded by photographer David Coulson with the support of paleontologist Mary Leakey to create a visual archive of Africa's rapidly disappearing rock art, share their archive of images with the world community, and to preserve existing rock art sites across the African continent. TARA is working with both the Abasuba Community Museum, one of the first community museums in Kenya, and the National Museums of Kenya to promote rock art tourism and in the development of a new museum and community center. The creation of locally inspired merchandise is essential for this project's long-term sustainability.

The US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through its Cultural Programs Division, is sponsoring Bangiola's trip to Kenya as a Cultural Envoy. With an emphasis on international cultural exchange, the Cultural Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports the arts and humanities in the US and around the world by regularly offering grants to US non-profit organizations and to individual cultural representatives. Bangiola's involvement with TARA will continue the Cultural Programs Division's commitment to international education and cultural diplomacy abroad.

**Robert Bangiola** has worked across many disciplines in the arts as an arts manager, creative director, fundraiser, and cultural envoy. His experience in developing special art and community projects both domestically and abroad has taken him around the world: completing projects appearing in major American cities, as well as Shanghai, Kenya, Osaka, London, Tokyo, and Toronto. Based in New York City, Bangiola's positions have included; Deputy Director of Materials for the Arts for the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; Project Manager at Disney for the theater production of the *Lion King*; and Managing Director of Music at the Anthology, where he served as Board Member with composer Phillip Glass. An avid member of the arts community, Bangiola has worked with such well-known artists as Louise Bourgeois, Jim Dine, Roy Lichtenstein, and Kiki Smith with the creation and promotion of their artworks. Bangiola holds a degree in Political Science and English from Gettysburg College, located in Pennsylvania.

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If you would like more information on Robert Bangiola, this project, or any of the organizations discussed in this Press Release, please contact Danny Orendorff at (415) 336-4156 or Dan.Orendorff@Gmail.com