Culture Fund

CULTURE FUND

Enabling a Culture and Creativity Enriched Society

Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust

November Newsletter 2024

The Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust is a unique organization working within African communities and serving as an active social transformation agent through investments in innovative and sustainable creative sector capacities. The Culture Fund is registered in Zimbabwe as a not- for-profit Trust.

New Culture Fund Executive Director

In 2024, there was a transition in leadership of the Culture Fund, Rachel Lioga, long serving Head of Finance & Administration was appointed Executive Director. Rachel is a governance and finance professional with experience in both corporate and not for profit sectors. She carries Culture Fund missional DNA and brings strong leadership for the next chapter in the growth and impact of the organisation. Rachel succeeds Farai Mpfunya, who retired to embark on a fresh adventure in the realms of culture, the arts, and development. The institution has positioned itself as a leading enabler and provider of technical and financial support to the arts and culture sectors in Zimbabwe and the African region. Our efforts must not only, contribute to a positive broader developmental aspiration, but should continue to positively impact communities, the arts, cultural and creative ecosystem in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Rachel Lioga, Culture Fund's Executive Director

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Creative ACTIONs2

Funded by the European Union

CreativeACTIONs 2 funded by the European Union was officially launched in February 2023. The project continues to give grants to cultural practitioners, programmes, and projects in Zimbabwe. CreativeACTIONs 2 facilitated capacity building, promoted innovation, and supported national policies. It aims to support the arts and culture sector to meaningfully contribute to national development processes. CreativeACTIONs 2, has a special focus targeting youth, women, and People with Disabilities (PwDs).

THE BIG PICTURE: 2023-2024

74 Projects granted **USD 1,140,270** to October 2024

All **10 provinces** of Zimbabwe benefit

Support extended to **35 districts**

4 mobility grants awarded to artists who traveled to Uganda, Germany, Greece and Portugal

10 minority culture groups supported in showcasing their artistic expressions – Tsoro-tso, BaTonga, The Shangaan (Xangana, Changana), Maungwe, Hwesa, Manyika, VaHera, VaNyamazha, Manyika and Ndau Tribe

17 projects supported with tools and state of the art equipment to enhance their technical craftsmanship

178 schools supported in arts education programmes

6 institutions for People With Disabilities (PWD) funded

10 exhibitions successfully hosted

13 festivals successfully held

3 national and **1** provincial awards ceremonies celebrated

35 digital-based productions televised

110 artists received awards in respect of their artistic excellence

CreativeACTIONs-2: Women in Focus

Financial support extended to several projects, amplified women from small and big institutions in Zimbabwe. Women used a diversified range of professional skillsets highlighting significant roles females play towards shaping creative industries growth trajectory. The creative sector has a lot to learn and should embrace this empowering and ambitious development. The governance of the arts cannot be achieved without effective involvement of female participation.

Musawenkosi Nyoni - Eveline High School Intellectual Property Club Patron

Anita Makoni - Deaf Arts National Culture Entertainment (DANCE), Accountant

Alisha Machumi: - Young Female Cinematographer, Project Manager

Lisa. T Sidambe – Researcher and Policy Advocate , Coordinator

Rosemary Zhira - Deaf Arts National Culture Entertainment (DANCE) Chairperson

Keziah Ndlovu – Mazikhelela Craft Club Chairperson

Mildred Moyo - Phenomenal Lighting and Power Solutions, Managing Director

Angela E.L. Maduro: - Researcher, Advocate & Cultural Entrepreneur

Rashiwe Chipurunyenye - Project Assistant Chipawo Trust

Chimwemwe Chipidza -Zimbabwean – Africa Monologue Finalist

Brenda Dzangare - Writer and Arts Educator Trainer

Maria Vera Chisvo - Arts, Events & Digital X Program Lead: Magamba

Charity Dipa – Accountant: Simba Arts

Kumbirai Chikonye - Ziya Cultural Arts Trust, Projects Manager

Rumbidzai Katedza - Film maker

Esther Sadock - Culture Warriors Edutainment Trust -Head of Programmes

Maginess Ndlovu - Maggies' Unique Designs, Founder & Director

Racheal Voko Ncube - Self Employed Content Creator

Tanyaradzwa Debrah Man'oro – Podcast & Radio Personality

Siza Mukwedini - Matamba Film Labs Trust, Founder

Tsitsi Dangarembga - Arts & Culture Doyen- Institute of Creative Arts Progress in Africa (ICAPA) Trust

Chenai Tazowaweyi - Programs Officer, Bindura Arts Festival Foundation (BAFF)

Dr Chipo Chuma - Project Lead, Trash to TraFashion

Progress Moyo - Zwoluga Media Founder/ Chief Executive Officer

Kudakwashe Makuzwa - Matamba Film Labs Trust: Co-founder and Operations Director

Anotida Nicole Tazowaweyi - Finance officer, Bindura Arts Festival Foundation (BAFF)

Tariro Karipache - Danica Studios, Administration and Finance

CreativeACTIONs 2 support continues to strengthen women in leadership positions within the arts and culture sector. There has been considerable professional growth with women assuming competitive positions and roles within the creative ecosystem.

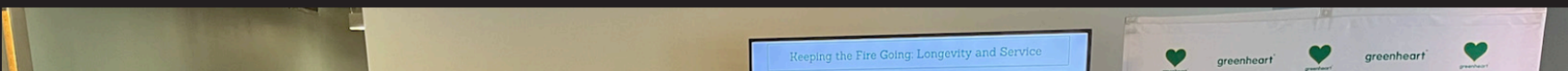
Female minds continue to push forward the creative sector challenging stereotypes that affect their carrier paths. Supported initiatives for women continue to pave way for other women while finding safe spaces where they co- exist with male creatives.

Celebrating women successes in the Arts and Culture Sector

Chimwemwe Chipidza, supported with a mobility grant scooped the 1st runner up prize in Uganda – for the Africa Monologue – after competing with 9 other young creative minds from 10 African countries.

Mildred Moyo (lighting bae) – Phenomenal Lighting & Power solution successfully hosted the 2nd edition of the Phenomenal Lighting Festival fully funded under CreativeACTIONs 2. Mildred is a leading Zimbabwean female technician and lighting designer who continues to motivate, mentor and train young people in lighting design. She is amongst a few lighting technicians in the arts and culture sector having graduated with a Master's degree from Rose Bruford College, UK, in Light in Performance. The festival was testament to the capacity she has of challenging stereotypes and societal attitudes that still exist in several communities.

Angela Maduro, recently challenged male dominance by venturing into new offerings of training in cultural entrepreneurship to 28 males from Masvingo by a young female. She used her project to expand opportunities existing elsewhere cross Zimbabwe's boarders for the attendees. Maduro was invited on a cultural exchange in USA through the US – Embassy Fellowship which strengthened her sphere of influence in relevant programming. She participated as the first Zimbabwean to be hosted at the Greenheart Exchange alongside over ten countries that included: Greece, Ghana, Philippines, Pakistan, USA, Vietnam, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, China, Costa Rica, and Brazil.



In her own words:

> In October 2023, before the completion of my CreativeACTIONs2 project, which aimed at transforming the livelihoods of men and boys affected by toxic masculine norms through cultural entrepreneurship, I got an invitation to pitch that project at the Hurricane Island Centre of Leadership in the United States. In September 2024, while I was on my Greenheart Exchange Summer Working Travel programme, I also got selected as one of the speakers at the United States Department of State in Washington DC where I pitched the CreativeACTIONs2 project on how it improved my community and on how I promoted gender equality and how I have empowered creatives in my community through CreativeACTIONs2 grant.
>
> These visits were important as they provided valuable hands-on experience in international collaboration, fostering personal growth through exposure. These visits also impacted my CAs2 project through international partnerships and enhancing project visibility and credibility globally. I also got more insights on how I could implement the second phase of the same project..

New destinations and market access were created with CreativeACTIONs 2 support

The effects of COVID-19 decimated the livelihoods of most creatives. Some artists were finding it difficult to recover from the effects. CreativeACTIONs 2 supported to revive some groups including those in the rural communities., CreativeACTIONs2 facilitated the movement of cultural goods and services to various destinations. Several artists were beginning to reap benefits from their products and services. This included artists who were able to travel to other destinations to share ideas, engage and network.

Some of the destinations where Zimbabwean products

and knowledge were exported to.

Spain

Germany

United Kingdom

Botswana

Uganda

Zambia

South Africa

Australia

Zimbabwean products were competitive in the international market creating attractive opportunities for women largely in the rural provinces of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe Deaf Launches New Content for PwD Communities

[Hon Deputy Ministry – Emily Jesaya, Deputy Director – Ms Charity Manuhwa] from the Ministry of Recreation, Sport, Arts and Culture poses for a photo with Deaf Media Team

Institutions supporting disabled communities were not left behind. They demonstrated their competencies in new digital media creating content relevant for other disabled communities. Honorable Deputy minister for Recreation, Sport, Arts and Culture - Emily Jesaya was guest of honour when visual content for People With Disabilities (PwDs) was launched by Zimbabwe Deaf. Content was created in support of the official Sign Language in preparation to supporting deaf learners.

Danica Studios

Danica Studios, based in Vic-Falls worked intensely to transform their livelihoods.

Danica Studios worked with several local artists and established a new client base for their digital activities. Their institution was transformed, and their living standards enhanced. They are to service a specific market in Vic Falls and the Mat-North district.

The Culture Fund Board Chairperson, Mrs Nellie Tiago Jinjika, European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe Ambassador, H. E. Jobst Von Kirchmann, with the Honourable Minister of Recreation, Sports, Arts and Culture – Honorable Kirsty Coventry and artists representative, Ammara Brown (from right to left).

UNESCO – Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Culture Fund is Implementing Partner (IP) for UNESCO – Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) on - Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Basic Education in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The initiative is being piloted in two SADC countries - Namibia and Zimbabwe. ICH is also referred to as living heritage. The project includes supporting the transmission of knowledge on living heritage in schools, enhancing dialogue between communities and policymakers, and providing inclusive education while promoting creativity and innovation. The goal was to develop a methodology and assessment framework for integrating living heritage into education systems, establish policy dialogue mechanisms, empower teachers with the skills and resources to deliver lessons related to ICH and indigenous knowledge systems, and inspire learners to appreciate and safeguard living heritage.

24 participating schools were drawn from three provinces of Zimbabwe – Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Manicaland and four regions of Namibia – Kharas, Omaheke, Kunene and Zambezi. There was significant research and developmental interface between respective ministries of education, Curriculum Development and Technical Services Department (CDTSD). The Curriculum Development Unit representatives, UNESCO -ROSA, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) consultants were engaged to support this initiative which is promoting safeguarding measures of ICH in schools. Both Namibia and Zimbabwe have ratified the 2003 Convention.

Participating schools from the two SADC countries have started school specific projects. Each of the participating schools were awarded funding of USD2,000.00 to implement a project of their choice promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). UNESCO extended an invitation to the participating school to join a UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) which connects close to 10,000 schools in 181 national networks.

Under CreativeACTIONs 2, events were supported giving seasoned and upcoming artist an opportunity to excel. Over 7 million audiences were reached across platforms enhancing creatives brands, artists and their skills.

NATIONAL ARTS MERIT AWARDS

BULAWAYO ARTS AWARDS

SHOKO FESTIVAL

EXHIBITION SPACES

Spaces for exhibitions and spaces of proximity were opened, with various artforms increasingly utilizing these spaces to showcase their artistic expressions and connect with business in growing the knowledge economy and penetrate new markets. The European Union Delegation (EUD), partner for CreativeACTIONs 2 facilitated such interactions. Regional integration of art forms and business, political strategy and culture have remained key towards strengthening the cultural relevance of Zimbabwe's arts and cultural landscape.

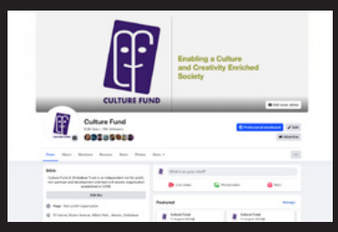
Tsungirirai Tsikira - Deaf Arts National Culture Entertainment (DANCE) Project Manager

Deaf Arts' presence in CreativeACTIONs was not merely about performances; it was an emblem of unity, diversity, growth, and empowerment through art.

> "Our journey showcased the immense potential of inclusivity and the transformative power of the arts on a global stage"

Find out more about Culture Fund's work

Visit our Website



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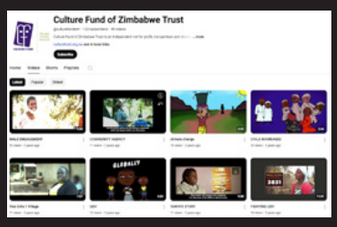

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on the work we are doing in support of the Creative Sector

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