

Press Release

Harare, 12 December 2024

www.culturefund.org.zw



EUROPEAN UNION AND CULTURE FUND CONTINUES TO EMPOWER ZIMBABWEAN ARTISTS WITH 8 MORE AWARDED GRANTS FAVOURING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



The Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust, in collaboration with the European Union (EU) Delegation to Zimbabwe, is pleased to announce the awarding of grants totalling **USD \$62,589.00** to 8 more projects across the arts and culture sector. These grants, ranging from **USD \$4,000.00** to **USD \$10,000.00**, aim to empower creatives across the country's **ten provinces**.

Latest awardees are engaged in a variety of impactful projects, such as promoting an anthology of poems for the visually impaired Zimbabwean artists, enhancing literacy and accessibility of their reading material by facilitating collection and publishing in Braille. A production of a documentary film showing an intersection of human-wildlife conflict, human settlement and climate change and providing music training and recording opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Culture Fund remains committed to fostering the growth of Zimbabwe's creative economy by supporting youth, women and PwDs. Our support continues to capacitate emerging, mid-career, and established creatives and cultural operators. Funding is strategically directed towards organizations, institutions, events, and festivals that expand opportunities within the arts and culture sector. Artists International exposure continues with inter-cultural exchanges between Zimbabwean creatives other African countries and EU member states.



Since the inception of CreativeACTIONS2 in 2023, a total of **82 projects** have been supported, with an investment of **USD \$1,202,859.00**. This investment addresses critical capacity gaps, fosters innovation, supports advocacy, and facilitates the mobility of artists, cultural goods, and services, enabling them to access new markets and reach broader audiences.

In anticipation of the upcoming funding cycle in 2025, the Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust and the EU Delegation invite aspiring artists, cultural organizations, and individuals to unleash their creative potential and apply for funding through the CreativeACTIONS2 program for smaller grants by 28 February 2025. Interested applicants can access and download application forms directly from the official Culture Fund website. This unique opportunity to contribute to Zimbabwe's cultural landscape and make a lasting impact on the nation's creative fabric is now within reach.

To explore the inspiring outcomes of previously supported CreativeACTIONS2 projects, [click here](#).

For media enquiries or further information, please click the links below:

Web site:

<https://www.culturefund.org.zw/creative-actions>
<https://www.culturefund.org.zw/>

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CreativeACTIONS2 Awarded Grants

Atelier For Young Festival Managers - Donostia/ San Sebastian 2025 Spain

Founder of Ndau Arts Festival from Chipinge will be supported to participate at the esteemed international workshop in Spain. This seven-day event will bring together emerging and seasoned festival leaders, cultural activists, and creative professionals from all over the world to explore effective strategies for addressing global challenges in festival management and cultural enterprise. Representing a historically marginalized cultural community of Ndau people, the participant aims to acquire new knowledge and essential skills in event organization, creative entrepreneurship, and collaborations. International mobility experience will not only enhance management exposure for Ndau festival, but also enable expansion opportunities for local communities in Zimbabwe, fostering professional growth, cultural appreciation, and creative innovation.

GRANT: USD 4,549.00

Echoes of Tradition: Girls teaching girls

A ground-breaking initiative aimed at delivering high-quality performances for young girls in the high density communities. The activities will be predicated on a peer-to-peer learning model, with young girls aged 10 to 19. It combines arts education in traditional music and dance workshops. The mastering of instruments such as Mbira, Ngoma, Hosho, and Marimba, alongside traditional dance routines, participants will cultivate a deeper sense of cultural identity, leadership, and self-esteem. The project will foster community cohesion, culminating into a vibrant showcase event which will celebrate girl child achievements and their capable resilience in artistic creations.

GRANT: USD 8,080.00

"Voices of Resilience" - An Anthology

The "Voices of Resilience" is a transformative literary initiative that highlights creative brilliance and resilience of visually impaired Zimbabwean poets. An anthology will be written in English and Shona, and later translated into Braille.

This will be done to represent social inclusivity in Zimbabwe's cultural landscape. By amplifying the voices of marginalized artists, it will create safe spaces for self-expression, advocacy, and societal dialogue by marginalised voices. Over 100 poets, will be empowered to confront stereotypes they face through poetry. Activities will include, workshops, publishing, and distribution, of the anthology in celebrating diversity, ignite new conversations while promoting social inclusion.

GRANT: USD 4,000.00

Transformative Digital Journey

Set to revolutionize the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in Bulawayo, 15 organizations will be equipped with tools and knowledge to thrive in a digital economy. The institutions will be trained in business models, strategic planning, and online presence. This initiative aims to enhance the capacities of CCIs to drive local economic growth, create jobs, and foster inclusion. Through specialized workshops, mentorship, and hands-on training in financial literacy, export strategies, and digital innovation, trainings will empower participants to standardize operations, transition to online platforms, and unlock new revenue streams for various activities.

GRANT: USD 9,960.00

National Arts Merit Awards

The National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA) is set to enhance its 2025 edition by making strides toward inclusion and accessibility of Zimbabwe's creative sector. With a special focus on gender equity and disability inclusion, the 25th edition of NAMA will amplify female artists visibility and foster a welcoming environment for the deaf community. This transformative national event will integrate workshops, mentorship programs, and sign language interpretation for the final event, from nominations to the awards ceremony. By breaking down systemic barriers, NAMA aspires to celebrate the abundant talent, diverse artistic landscape in Zimbabwe which reflects full potential of

Zimbabwe's creative talents.

GRANT: USD 7,700.00

Empowerment Through Braille: Enhancing Literacy and Accessibility for the visually impaired

Books4All aims to revolutionize access to literature for visually impaired communities in Zimbabwe. The initiative will promote braille and audio books.

It seeks to bridge gaps in accessible literary content. Through dynamic workshops, innovative book-writing campuses, and extensive advocacy campaigns, Books4All will create new works in braille and further encourage local authors and publishers to present them in inclusive formats. The initiative empowers individuals with disabilities by fostering literacy, independence, and cultural inclusion, which makes reading an universal experience.

GRANT: USD 7,700.00

Living on the Edge: The Hwange Conflict

Highlighting tension between humans and wildlife conservation in the territories of Hwange National Park, an engaging documentary film brings to life realities of human-wildlife conflict. Voices of affected communities, conservation experts, and policymakers will be captured to give more insight. The initiative aims to foster stakeholder collaboration, promote sustainable co-existence while raising awareness on human-wildlife conflicts. The documentary will explore challenges and request for solutions. With community screenings and workshops, the film will not only educate but also empowers local stakeholders to take appropriately suggested steps toward a harmonious balance between preserving wildlife and sustaining livelihoods.

GRANT: USD 10,000.00

Music and Advocacy: Empowering PwDs through Creative Expression

This initiative aims to amplify the voices of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through music training, collaborative song writing, and public performances. It will be based in Chikomba rural district. By promoting a supportive community and raising awareness about disability rights, the project will empower participants with confidence and self-expression. It will challenge stereotypes and move on to enrich cultural dialogue, creating a lasting legacy of inclusion and artistic excellence.

GRANT: USD 9,700.00



Enabling a Culture
and Creativity Enriched
Society



Funded by
the European Union

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