

UK/Kenya
Season 2025

Culture Grows Symposium 2025: Heritage in the Digital Age

Wednesday 23 - Saturday 26 July, 2025

National Museums of Kenya | Virtual



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Welcome Note

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Culture Grows Symposium. From 23 to 26 July 2025, we gather beneath Nairobi's skies—and across screens worldwide—to explore "Heritage in the Digital Age." Hosted at the National Museums of Kenya and streaming online, this hybrid symposium is one of the flagship moments of the UK/KE Season that's bringing together diverse voices from the Global South, the UK and beyond. Over four days, artists, technologists, educators, researchers and cultural entrepreneurs will convene to discuss what our relationship with our heritage and digital cultures could.

At its core, the objectives of the UK/KE Season are to Connect, Celebrate and Inspire. The Culture Grows Symposium brings that ambition to life, offering a vibrant forum where practitioners and audiences can exchange ideas, forge new collaborations and deepen connections that span continents and disciplines.

Building on the Season's focus on innovation, youth voice, cultural heritage and climate change, the Culture Grows Symposium examines how practitioners are using creative technologies and indigenous knowledge to address pressing global challenges. By bringing together a rich tapestry of perspectives and probing our relationship with technology and indigenous knowledge, we continue to articulate how heritage remains a living, evolving force—one that connects generations, crosses borders and drives sustainable development.

This year, we're bringing together practitioners from sixteen countries, including Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, UK, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, the Netherlands, Nepal, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Pakistan and Vietnam. We have curated a rich programme of engaging panels, immersive VR experiences, performances and installations, dynamic showcases and meaningful networking sessions. From discussions on artificial intelligence and ethical frameworks, to explorations of community-driven digitisation and policy solutions for inclusive growth, every session is designed to spark conversation and connection. As you review the full schedule, we encourage you to register for the events that resonate most with your interests—whether you're joining us in person or tuning in virtually.

This symposium is the culmination of months of careful planning, collaboration and creative curation. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all partners and contributors whose dedication has brought this programme to life. Your work—across archives, universities, tech labs, studios and grassroots organisations—lays the foundation for conversations we will have this week. It is your passion and expertise that fuel the evolution of our arts, culture, heritage and education landscapes.

Our work in Heritage at the British Council gets to the heart of who we have been and who we could be. By working with communities, supporting innovative projects and building networks, we collaboratively unlock new opportunities for social and economic benefit. Over the next four days, you will witness how indigenous knowledge, contemporary creativity and digital technology intertwine to tackle global challenges—from climate resilience to youth empowerment.

To engage with/ learn more about our work in the Arts and the UK/KE Season, follow us on Instagram @eastfricaarts and or use/ follow the hashtags #culturegrows #culturegrows2025 #UKKenyaSeason2025

Thank you for joining us.

Sandra Chege

Head of Arts Kenya and Director, UK/KE Season 2025



Day One - Wednesday 23 July 2025 Pre-Symposium Events



**11:00 AM -
1:00 PM**

Session 1

People Behind the Platforms: How Digital Tools Connect Youth to Cultural Heritage

Twitter Space: @ke_British

Michael Murungi

Government Affairs & Public Policy Lead, Google (KE)

Junniah Wamaita

Project Coordinator, EAMAN - Eastern African Museum of Art Nairobi (KE)

Mercy Ndegwa

Director Public Policy, East & Horn of Africa (KE)

Joy K Nduto

Founder & CEO, Attitude Media Ltd (KE)

Moderator

Prof. Kimani Njogu

Executive Director, Twaweza Communications (KE)

**2:00 PM -
3:15 PM**

Session 2

Identity and Diaspora in the Digital World

The session examines identity-building through VR, diaspora networks, and online memory-making. It will include a case study presentations + VR demo.

(Online event – registration required for all sessions)

Michael Makembe

Multi-instrumentalist (RW),

Amy Curl

Music Industry Specialist (AUS)

Kenneth Dachi

Multi Cultural Affairs Advisor, (AUS & KE)

Moderator

Lisa Oduor

Singer-songwriter and producer (KE)

**6:30 PM -
9:00 PM**

Evening Performance

The Mall, Roof Top, Westlands

(Un-person)

Lisa Oduor

Kenyan singer-songwriter and producer

Michael Makembe

Rwandan musician, multi-instrumentalist, producer, beat-maker (Australian High Commission Project)

WD Abbo & Band

Interactive Sudanese Music Performance



Day Two - Thursday 24 July 2025

Symposium Events



10:00 AM - Arrival and Registration
10:30 AM

Screening of Film Trailers - Santuri tapes

Hybrid Event

11:00 AM - Session 3
11:15 AM Opening Remarks

Hybrid Event

Prof. Kimani Njogu

Linguist and cultural scholar – Executive Director,
Twaweza Communications (KE)

Ruth Mackenzie CBE

Director of Arts, British Council (UK)

H.E. Neil Wigan OBE

UK High Commissioner to Kenya, British High
Commission (KE)

PS Ummi Bashir

State Department for Culture, the Arts & Heritage;
Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services in the
Republic of Kenya

11:15 AM - Session 4
11:40 AM Keynote Speech

How do digital technologies provide
opportunities for preservation and sharing
of cultural heritage?

Which challenges do they create for
communities and heritage sector?

Hybrid Event

Dr. Caroline Mose

Cultural scholar (PhD SOAS, University of London)

11:40 AM - Session 5
12:30 PM AI Meets Culture: Who's controlling
the story?

How is AI changing the way we experience
and protect our culture? How do we
manage the future of digital tech from
Africa?

Hybrid Event

Vulane Mthembu

Technologist, artist multi-hyphenate, KwaZulu Natal
Society of Arts, South Africa (SA)

Gideon Ngaruiya

Graduate student, Turin University, Italy

Brian Afande

Co-founder & CEO BlackRhino VR (KE)

Preston Adie

Global Head of Data, ENGIE Energy Access (Data
Scientist and Storyteller) (UK)

Moderator

Aremu Anuoluwapo

Computational Linguist & Cognitive Scientist (NGR)





**12:30 PM -
1:00 PM**

Conversation about Asian-African Heritage

12:45 – 01:00pm Informal networking

Hybrid Event

Jameel Verjee

Founder & CEO of CityBlue Hotels (KE), a member of The Diar Group (UK/UAE)

Moderator

Mukami Kowino

Deputy Country Director British Council, Kenya

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM LUNCH

**2:00 PM -
3:00 PM**

Session 6

Clicks for Culture: How Communities are Taking Over the Feed

This panel looks at how digital tools are being used to protect, preserve, and amplify Indigenous knowledge.

It will spotlight community-led initiatives, explore ethical questions, and highlight efforts to ensure local voices are visible, respected, and safeguarded in the digital age.

Hybrid Event

Mutanu Kyanya

Programme Outreach and partnerships lead, Africa Digital Heritage (KE)

Julius Mutuku Muindi

Director at Akamba Cultural Centre (KE)

Nic Wang'ondu

Director of Scrip-tease (VR experience of Fort Jesus) (KE)

Gilmore Qhawe Khumalo

Founder of I wear my Culture, (ZIM)

Moderator

Stephanie Grant

Director Cultural Protection Fund, British Council (UK)

**3:10 PM -
4:10 PM**

Session 7

Digital platforms and the future of cultural memory that are curated by people

How are communities digitising their heritage while making a living online?

Hybrid Event

Beth Achista

Music Executive, The Orchard Music (KE)

Barbra Babweteera

Executive Director, CCFU (UG)

Fadil Elobeid

Director of Programmes, The Africa Centre (UK)

Dr. Quin E. Awuor

Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics, USIU-Africa (KE)

Moderator

Dr. Njabulo Chipangura

Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology, National University of Ireland (UK)

**4:15 PM -
5:25 PM**

Session 8

'Dear Museum...Let's talk'

A fireside chat

In-person

Ngaire Blankenberg

Founding Director- Institute for Creative Repair and Creative Repair Studio – 'Flipping Museums' (SA)

Emmaus Kimani

Kenyan poet, artist and curator (KE)

Adam Yawe

3D artist, curator and product designer (KE)



**4:10 PM -
5:10 PM**

Session 9

Hashtags & Heritage Storytelling in the Age of Social Media

Social media as a medium of cultural storytelling • Online communities preserving traditional practices • Digital platforms for language preservation

From viral trends challenges rooted in tradition to online campaigns preserving endangered languages, this session highlights how youth and communities are using social platforms to keep cultural expressions alive.

Online Event

Jim Joel

Artist Curator, (UG)

Rosemary Bell

Head of Production, Scriptease. (KE)

Eddie Hatitye

Executive Director, Music in Africa, (SA)

Moderator

Caroline Ngorobi

Founder, Jukwaa Arts (KE)

Day Three - Friday 25 July 2025

**10:00 AM -
10:30 AM**

Arrival and Registration

**10:30 AM -
10:45 AM**

Screening of short films and trailers

**10:45 AM -
11:45 AM**

Session 10

How Can Digital Culture Drive Real Change

The Session will discuss how policies can be developed for digital innovation to support creative industries and cultural heritage conservation while ensuring ethical and equitable access to technology, promote restitution of cultural artefacts, decolonize historical narratives, and address impacts of climate change. Session will be aligned to the MODIACULT declaration.

Hybrid Event

Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta

Programme Specialist, Social and human Sciences, UNESCO (KE)

Ian Thomas

Head of Insights Global, Arts, British Council (UK)

Dr. Miriam W. Oiro Omolo

Associate Director, Strathmore Institute of Public Policy and Governance (SIPPG) Strathmore University (KE)

Moderator

David Waweru

Member, EU/UNESCO Expert Facility on the Governance of Culture (KE)




10:45 AM - Session 11
11:45 AM
Culture & Code – Who Owns our Stories in the digital age?

As more cultural content goes digital, questions of ownership, representation, and ethical use become urgent. This session explores how communities protect their stories, knowledge, and creations online. Legal expert panel and resource sharing session

Hybrid Event
Sharon Wata

Deputy Executive Director - Legal & Technical Affairs at Kenya Copyright Board KECOBO, (KE)

Angela Mwandanda

National Coordinator, Recording Industry of Kenya (RIKE) (KE)

Liz Lenjo

Chairperson, Copyright Tribunal (KE)

Moderator

Michael Burgess

Producer UK/Kenya Season at the Africa Centre (UK)

12:00 PM - Session 12
1:00 PM
Global Ties, Local Vibes: How Community Projects and Culture Bring Us Together

The session will explore how international cooperation can support community-driven grassroots projects and contribute to the revitalization of intangible traditions and inspire new generations.

Hybrid Event
Kimani Wa Wanjiru

Braid Fund grantee (KE)

Dr. Nguyen c T ng

Director of the Centre, Community Heritage (Vietnam)

Omar Lali

Bajuni Cultural Heritage Project, Shungwaya Welfare Association (KE)

Binti Gurung

Natural Roots, (Nepal)

Rebecca Lorins

Likikiri Collective (South Sudan)

Moderator
Skinder Hundal MBE

Joint CEO Aakash Odedra Co (Former, Globals Director of Arts British Council) (UK)

01:00– 02:00pm LUNCH (DJ set (WiWa – Kirinyaga's finest))
2:00 PM - Session 13
3:00 PM
Experience sharing on Digitizing Heritage
Hybrid Event
Wanjiru Koinange

Restorer of libraries & Co-founder, The Book Bunk (KE)

Chao Tayiana Maina

Kenyan historian and Founder, African Digital Heritage (KE)

3:15 PM - Session 14
3:45 PM
Presentations on decolonising AI Content screening
Hybrid Event



**3:55 PM -
4:55 PM**

Session 15

Rebuilding the Past with Emerging Tech

Dive into cutting-edge technologies that are transforming how we engage with heritage. From AI reconstructions of destroyed monuments to AR tours of historical sites, discover how tech is bringing the past to life.

Hybrid Event

Vulane Mthembu

Technologist, artist multi-hyphenate (SA)

Prof. Vukosi Marivate

Computer Science, University of Pretoria (SA)

**5:00 PM -
9:00 PM**

Night at the Museum

Evening Gig (DJ Line-up and performers to be announced soon)

Day Four - Saturday, 26 July 2025

**11:00 AM -
12:15 PM**

Session 16

Bridging the Gap – Policies that invest in Culture and Innovation

Policy experts, cultural leaders, and youth advocates discuss the regulatory frameworks needed to protect indigenous knowledge, foster digital inclusion, and support cultural heritage through tech innovation.

Online Event

Dr. Benjamin Komolo

Practising lawyer, Dr. Komolo Advocates (KE)
(Commonwealth Alumni)

Peter 'Pages' Bwire

Founder of Kitale Film Week (KE) (Chevening Alumni)

Raphael Chikukwa

Director National Gallery (ZIM)

Moderator

Anne Gitonga

Senior Policy Analyst, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) (KE)

Speakers, Guest List and Event Team





Aremu Anuoluwapo

Computational Linguist & Cognitive Scientist (NGR)

Moderator for Session 5

Aremu is a computational linguist leading large-scale linguistic data creation and operations. He builds cross-sector partnerships for inclusive language technologies, prioritising ethical data governance, cultural aware AI model development advocacy, and responsible use of language data in AI.

He is actively contributing to the future of shaping inclusive language technology for all. Aremu bridges the technical, operational, and cultural dimensions of AI, with a specialisation in low-resource and African languages. His expertise spans annotation pipelines, speech technology, linguistic ontology, translation, and multilingual data strategy.



Beth Achitsa

Music Executive, The Orchard Music (KE)

Speaker in Session 7

Beth Achitsa is a music executive currently heading The Orchard's East Africa office. She is a Creative cultural industry professional with experience in organizing music conferences, film festivals and managing creative /cultural projects.



Chao Tayiana Maina

Kenyan historian and Founder, African Digital Heritage (KE)

Speaker in Session 13

Chao Tayiana Maina is a Kenyan historian and digital heritage specialist whose work lies at the crossroads of memory, technology, and public engagement. With a background in computer science and a focus on heritage studies, she is deeply invested in uncovering African histories and building the digital infrastructure necessary for their preservation and accessibility. She is the founder of African Digital Heritage, and co-founder of both the Museum of British Colonialism and the Open Restitution Africa initiative.



David Waweru

Member, EU/UNESCO Expert Facility on the Governance of Culture (KE)

Moderator for Session 10

David Waweru is a publisher with over two decades of experience shaping Africa's creative and knowledge economies. In 2024, he was inducted into the Kenya Publishers Hall of Fame, honoured for his leadership in the industry and his commitment to advancing book development, reading culture, and the global commercialisation of African stories.

A published author and passionate storyteller, David writes extensively on leadership, education, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property—bridging practice and policy with a distinctive blend of narrative insight and strategic thinking. He also serves as Adjunct Executive Coach at the Strathmore Business School.

He is currently pursuing doctoral research on how digital technologies—such as streaming, blockchain, and AI—are reshaping intellectual property (IP) management and value appropriation by creators of artistic works in Africa, with a focus on the music industry. David serves as a consultant to UNESCO and is a member of the EU/UNESCO Expert Facility on the Governance of Culture. He is deeply committed to building ecosystems that enable African creators to thrive locally and compete globally.



Fadil Elobeid

Director of Programmes, The Africa Centre

Speaker in Session 7

Fadil is the Director of Programmes at The Africa Centre, where he oversees strategic delivery across the Centre's activities, including the UK-Kenya Season of Culture, the Beyond Berlin project and others. He is also responsible for coordinating marketing & communications, community engagement, and partnership development. He has previously worked at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa at LSE, Africa Research Institute, Royal African Society and SOAS, University of London. He is a graduate of SOAS & Sciences Po Paris, and is currently undertaking a part-time MSc in Empires, Colonialism & Globalisation at LSE.





Dr. Caroline Mose

*Cultural scholar (PhD SOAS,
University of London)*

Keynote speaker in Session 4

A cultural scholar, researcher, writer, academic and public intellectual, Caroline Mose holds a Master of Science from Oxford University and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Her publications include a chapter in the ground-breaking *Native Tongues: The African Hip-hop Reader*, alongside other publications in various journals, books and newspapers. She is an avid researcher, and has most recently published, in 2024, on the Kenyan GenZ protests and online communities.

Alongside, Caroline is also part of the Editorial Board of *Jahazi Journal of Arts, Culture and Performance* since 2020. She is a governance and cultural studies expert, giving her views on various media on the intersections between politics, gender, and culture. She has published various articles in leading regional newspapers, including *The Nation* and *The Elephant*. She is also a creative writer, having contributed a chapter to the anthology *Nairobi Noir* in 2020, and published short stories of the speculative genre in *Lolwe* as well as *Unstamatic Magazine*, both in 2022. Her short story *Jaba*, published in *Lolwe*, was shortlisted for the Caine Prize 2023. She is currently querying for her first novel, an excavation of what she calls *Old Afrika* in the speculative fiction genre.

She has worked as a market researcher across seven African countries, a faculty member at a Kenyan University, and a programme director for a non-profit supporting African women researchers; and is currently transitioning back towards supporting young girls and women gain meaningful education to live meaningful lives within the wider culture.



Michael Burgess

*Producer UK/Kenya Season at the
Africa Centre (UK)*

Moderator for Session 11

Michael Burgess, a former senior diplomat, has been instrumental in programme and business development, event production, curation, and advisory roles for key Africa-focused organizations across the UK and Europe. His extensive work includes involvement with the London Pan-African & Reparation Conference 2025 (a precursor to the 9th PAC), UNESCO, Rolling Stone Africa, The Africa Centre, the Royal African Society, and various fashion and arts institutions like Tate Museums and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Currently, Michael serves as the High Level Events Programming Manager for the Royal African Society, the UK's largest and longest-running Africa-focused charity. He is also the Founder and Director of Creative Resilience International (CRI), a highly regarded social enterprise specializing in concept development and production that empowers creatives from Black and underrepresented communities.

Michael's affiliations extend to the Mayor of London's Africa in London Committee and as a Trustee for Sustainable Impact Makers International in New York City. A certified coach and mentor, he has launched programmes for institutions including Africa Fashion Week London and the University of Northampton. He is the creative advisor for international fashion icon ALPHADI and Creative Director for the African Fashion Awards.

His recent accomplishments include being a Senior Producer for International Africa Day celebrations with UNESCO and WIPO, a consultant for the V&A's "Africa Fashion" exhibition, and curating the Royal African Society's 120th Anniversary Gala. He also co-produced Grace Jones' *Meltdown Festival*.

Most recently, Michael co-founded *Dhaa Botswana*, a platform in partnership with the Botswana government to boost the country's creative industries. Michael's core passion is to empower others.





Dr. Benjamin Komolo

*Practising lawyer, Dr. Komolo
Advocates (KE) (Commonwealth
Alumni)*

Speaker in Session 16

Dr. Komolo is a practising lawyer and academic/researcher based out of Nairobi, Kenya, and the Official Ombudsperson for Amnesty International, Kenya Chapter (2024-27).

He is also a Member of Tax Appeals Tribunal, where he adjudicates cases on tax law and administration; and Chairs the Tribunal's Committee on Trainings, Capacity Building & Resource Mobilisation & Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Egerton University. He also serves as Visiting Lecturer at Strathmore Law School, where he designed and taught the first LL.M Unit on Public Private Partnerships (in Africa) (PPP) in Kenya. He also supervised over 12 LL.M theses in the areas of PPP, Human Rights, Environmental Law, Law of the Sea, International Trade Law, and Natural Resources amongst other fields. He is the immediate former Principal Lecturer at the Kenya School of Law, where he designed and taught CPD courses on PPP,

Intellectual Property; Human Rights, Public Policy and Legislative Drafting, Dispute Resolution, Devolution and Public Finance amongst others. He served as the Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Comparative Constitutional Law (AJCCL) (2020-22).

He is a Member of the Global Young Academy (GYA) and Africa Science Leadership Fellow, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He has also been a Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Law, KU Leuven, Belgium (2020/21); Resident Fellow, Harvard Law School, USA (2018/19); Doctoral Fellow, World Trade Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland (2014); Swire Scholar, University of Hong Kong, China, (2011-15); and Commonwealth Scholar, University of Kent, UK (2009/10).

He holds Postdoc in Laws (Harvard Law School), PhD in Laws (University of Hong Kong), Master of Laws (University of Kent, UK) and LL.B (Moi University Kenya)



Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue

*Programme Specialist, Social and
human Sciences, UNESCO (KE)*

Speaker in Session 10

Mr Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue holds a Postgraduate degree in human rights and humanitarian laws, including specialized Certificates in gender-based violence prevention and redress mechanisms, human rights and humanitarian action.

He started his professional career in 2003 in Cameroon, where he occupied different functions and capacities in as various fields as social inclusion, human rights protection and humanitarian interventions.

He joined UNESCO in December 2007, as Associate Expert at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris, supporting programmes related to Culture of Peace, the Slave Route, the General History of Africa, Intercultural dialogue, among others.

From December 2016, he moved to the Field Offices network as Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences at the UNESCO Regional Office for Western Africa based in Abuja, Nigeria, and since May 2020, he occupies the function of Unit Head and Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences at the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, coordinating a regional portfolio for 13 countries on as various workstreams as disability inclusion, gender equality, fight against discrimination, human rights and intercultural dialogue, academic freedom and safety of scientists, meaningful youth engagement, and sports for development and peace.

He also spearheads the deployment in the region of the UNESCO's Programme on Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology, under which he oversees the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, with the piloting of the Readiness Assessment Methodology in countries such as Comoros, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania Somalia and Uganda.

Mr Ngandeu is a true believer of UNESCO's mandate and commitment to build peace in the minds of women and men through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.





Dr. Njabulo Chipangura

Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology, National University of Ireland (UK)

Moderator for Session 7

Dr. Njabulo Chipangura is based at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth where he is an Assistant Professor of African Anthropology with a special interest in museum anthropology. He was appointed to this role in February 2025 and until recently was the Curator of Anthropology/Living Cultures at Manchester Museum, University of Manchester (2022-2025). He graduated with a Ph.D in Anthropology from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in 2020.

He is interested in looking at the empirical ways by which museum practices can be decolonised by undoing earlier ways of knowledge production particularly African collections and their representations in ethnographic museum in the Global North. Previously he worked for the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe as Curator of Archaeology for 11 years (2009 -2020) and was based at Mutare Museum, Eastern Zimbabwe. He has published several research papers that look at ongoing debates around the coloniality of museums and associated knowledge production and representation practices, to imagine a decolonised museum in Africa.

Some of his selected publications have appeared in high impact factor journals such as: African Arts (MIT Press), Museum Worlds (Berghahn), Museum Anthropology (Wiley), Museum International (Taylor and Francis), Curator: The Museum Journal (Wiley), Museum Management & Curatorship (Taylor and Francis) and Museums and Social Issues (Taylor and Francis). His first book entitled Museums as Agents for Social Change: Collaborative Programmes at the Mutare Museum was published by Routledge in 2021.

He has a forthcoming book (co-written) which is going to be published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) later this year called Race, Genetics, History: new practices, new approaches. In addition he is currently working on a co-edited volume entitled The Museologies of Africa: Rethinking African Museums, Community Inclusion, Living Cultures and Decolonisation which will be published by Routledge in 2026. He sits on the editorial board of Museum International a widely read journal on museum practices and theory which is published by Routledge in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and is also a managing editor on Museums and Society published by University of Leicester Open Journals.



Eddie Hatitye

Executive Director, Music in Africa, (SA)

Speaker in Session 9

Eddie Hatitye is the Founding Executive Director at Music In Africa Foundation | Founding Director ACCES music market | Founder InterArts Funding | ex Head Of Content Music Industry Online | Social Entrepreneur & Record producer.

A visionary and strategic thinker, Eddie is deeply committed to the growth of Africa's creative economy.

Driven by this passion he aspires to be at the forefront of shaping impactful programmes that drive innovation and growth in Africa's cultural and creative industries (CCIs). In addition to running the Music In Africa Foundation, Eddie has conceptualised and led transformative projects in various areas, including media, research, artist mobility, continental funding programmes, social enterprise development, talent discovery, intellectual property management, music markets, festival production, and policy advocacy. Currently,

Eddie is leading two key CCI research projects for the World Bank Group in Mozambique and Senegal, and he is a lead music consultant in the latest research project by the African Development Bank, which aims to unlock the full economic potential of African creative industries.



Adam Yawe

3D artist, curator and product designer (KE) - Speaker in Session 8

Adam Yawe is an object storyteller living and working in Nairobi, Kenya. His practice traverses the mediums of street photography, 2D graphics, 3D modeling, 3D printing, product design, print publications and exhibition making.

In his work he seeks out reference objects in the urban environment, acknowledges the role they play in the present, connects them to the past and reimagines them for the future. His interests lie in telling stories and building archives, aiming to light a spark in the audience that changes their relationship with these objects and ultimately the city.





Elizabeth Lenjo

Chairperson, Copyright Tribunal (KE)

Speaker in Session 11

Elizabeth (Liz) Lenjo is the Founder and Managing Consultant of MyIP Legal Studio. She specializes in Intellectual Property, Entertainment, Media, and Fashion Law. Liz is the Chairperson of the Copyright Tribunal, appointed by the Chief Justice of Kenya. The Copyright Tribunal determines copyright disputes.

She is an adjunct faculty member at the Strathmore University Law School where she teaches Media and Entertainment Law. Liz is also a tutor with CopyrightX by HarvardX- Kenya, which is under the GoDown Arts Center. She is a volunteer with the Kenya Bureau of Standards as the Chairperson of the Intellectual Property Technical Committee.

Liz has been recognized for her efforts in the legal field and is a nominee of the prestigious Business Daily Top 40 under 40 Women 2018. Liz is recognized as one of the Shining Lights, 2021 by WIPRDiversity, a listing of "the best and brightest Influential Women in IP globally". She has also been recently recognized as one of the Top 25 Women in Digital - Kenya for her IP advocacy in the online space.

In 2022, Liz was recognized by WIPRDiversity as a Beacon of Light for being persistent and indomitable in making the IP profession more inclusive. Her consultancy has also been feted for Most Adaptive Use of Technology by the inaugural D.E.A.R Awards 2022 by Kayana, which celebrates women in business in Kenya. Liz was also feted as IP Lawyer of the Year 2022 by the Africa Legal Innovation Awards. She has also been feted as one of the Top 100 Women in Intellectual Property 2025, Women's World IP Ranking, and World Trademark Review 1000 in 2024 and 2025, Bronze award.



Gilmore Tee

Founder of I wear my Culture, (ZIM)

Speaker in Session 6

Popularly known as Gilmore Tee, Gilmore Qhawe Khumalo is an award-winning Media Practitioner, Curator, Researcher, Cultural Manager and Creative Entrepreneur. He is the Founder & Creative Director of Paper Bag Africa, a content creation, management and public relations establishment headquartered in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

He is also the Founder & Curator of The PiChani, a PAN African lifestyle and cross networking platform that integrates young achievers and leaders from different sectors of influence over an evening of food, exhibitions and networking. Gilmore has Curated and Led projects for institutions such as the UNESCO, British Embassy, MTV Staying Alive Foundation, European Union, British Council, Alliance Francaise, the National Gallery in Bulawayo, US Embassy and many more. He has over 2 decades of working in the creative industry, initiating projects that give a voice, build bridges and promote sustainability through skills & knowledge exchange.

He is a contributing writer for Cond Nasts', GQ Magazine and Glamour Magazine, South Africa. Previously, Gilmore worked as a Radio Host & Producer for South Africa's - Cliff Central, Hosted & Co-Produced award nominated PAN-African television show, Thatha Wena, which aired on ZBC TV. Gilmore has Hosted live televised sub-events for National Arts Merit Awards, Zimbabwe Music Awards, Bulawayo Arts Awards and South African Menswear Week, amongst many. He is a Mandela Washington Fellow, a Board Member with Culture Fund Zimbabwe, Bulawayo Polytechnic Applied Art & Design School and Former Vice President of the Alliance Francaise Board.

Gilmore is the brains behind #iWearMyCultureZW, a project which he wrote down in 2017 and later initiated with supporting partners in 2022, leading to a production of a now award-winning documentary, internationally acclaimed fashion film and now this lookbook. Through his undeniable outstanding contribution to the creative industry, he has been acknowledged by Forbes Africa 30 under 30, GQ Best Dressed Men 2020 and US State Department. In all he does, he strongly believes in creating a global, sustainable creative industry.





Jim Joel Nyakaana

Artist Curator, (UG)

Speaker in Session 9

Jim Joel is a Ugandan artist, researcher, and founder of Page 4, an ongoing archival and artistic research project exploring cinematic and architectural histories in East Africa. Beginning with Kampala's defunct cinemas, Page 4 examines how film spaces—many built in the 1960s by British and Indian communities—shaped civic life and influenced urban form. The project is expanding across the region.

Jim's interdisciplinary work bridges photography, walking methodologies, oral histories, music, and both personal and institutional archives to interrogate colonial-structured records and activate the city as a living, participatory archive. He curates a growing collection of photographs documenting former cinema spaces and the films they showcased, drawn from institutional collections.

His public walks function as tools of historical inquiry, civic engagement, and co-curation. These are supported by digital platforms—especially Instagram and a website—that serve as annotation tools and open-access exhibition spaces. Through hashtags, collaborations, and audiovisual content, Jim uses social media to reach broader publics and invite collective authorship of memory.

Recent interventions include Chai and Cinema (2025), held at Emin Pasha during the Uganda Museum Fair, exploring tea culture and cinemas as political and cultural spaces. His work has been exhibited and presented in Uganda (KLA Art Festival, 2024 & 2021; Uganda Museum, 2023), South Africa (Kampala Road Unveiled, 2024), the UK (Akalimu, 2022), Germany (Streetware X Mivumba, 2021), and Rwanda (Kigali Photo Festival, 2019). He has co-authored photobooks with the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda and CiviSource, and contributed to The Walrus magazine in Canada.



Junniah Wamaitha

Project Coordinator, EAMAN - Eastern African Museum of Art Nairobi (KE) -

Speaker in Session 1

Junniah Wamaitha is a dynamic Project Coordinator with a distinctive background that bridges different forms within the arts and culture sector. Known for her ability to harmonize creativity with analytical precision, she has led multidisciplinary teams on pioneering projects, including some cutting-edge digital art initiatives. With strong experience in cultural project management, Junniah consistently delivers impactful exhibitions and cultural events that reflect both innovation and thoughtful execution.

The Eastern African Museum of Art – Nairobi (EAMAN) is a world-class cultural institution dedicated to the collection, preservation, research, and presentation of the artistic heritage of Eastern Africa. Guided by a vision to advance scholarship and deepen public engagement with the region's artistic traditions, EAMAN aspires to elevate the visibility, understanding, and global appreciation of Eastern African art. Through its curatorial excellence and educational initiatives, the museum serves as a dynamic platform for celebrating the depth, diversity, and genius of Eastern African creativity.



Ruth Mackenzie

Ruth Mackenzie - Director of Arts, British Council (UK)

Speaker in Session 3 (Opening Remarks)

Ruth joins the British Council from her previous role as Program Director, Arts Culture & Creative Industries Policy for the Government of South Australia.

Ruth began her career in various theatre positions and at Arts Council England before taking on senior roles including Head of Strategic Planning at South Bank Centre, Executive Director of Nottingham Playhouse and Director of Scottish Opera.

She has also served as Special and Expert Adviser for DCMS, Co-Artistic Director at Chichester Festival Theatre and General Director of Manchester International Festival.

Ruth gained national recognition as the Director of the London 2012 Festival, the Cultural Olympiad linked to the Olympic & Paralympic Games. In acknowledgment of her contribution to the Games, her appointed OBE from 1995 was elevated to CBE.





Mukami Kowino

Deputy Country Director British Council, Kenya

Moderator for Conversation about Asian-African Heritage

Mukami Kowino is an advocate with vast experience in development cooperation and human development work. She has in depth technical knowledge, practical experience, and strategic insights in the dynamics of human rights, public policy, gender equity and leadership.

She is a community change agent for women, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalised communities supporting to boost their capabilities in employing their full potential and pursuing income generating activities anchored on inclusivity and community progress.

Mukami is currently the Deputy Country Director at British Council Kenya, leading the Programmes portfolio on Arts and Culture, Education and English.



Mutanu Kyanya

Programme Outreach and partnerships lead, Africa Digital Heritage (KE)

Speaker in Session 6

Mutanu Kyanya is a digital heritage practitioner whose work blends community, culture, and technology. As Head of Programs at African Digital Heritage, she leads projects that center African voices in the preservation and sharing of history. She is the lead researcher and strategist for the Skills for Culture program, which explores how digital tools can support cultural work for practitioners working from national to community level. With a background in Community Development and Computer Science, she is passionate about creating inclusive digital spaces that reflect local knowledge and lived realities.



Julius Mutuku Muindi

Director at Akamba Cultural Centre (KE)

Speaker in Session 6

My work preserves vital Kamba heritage—architecture, rituals, language, and ecological wisdom—a cultural treasure benefiting locals, researchers, and tourists

My centre is a model for community-rooted heritage conservation, integrating natural regeneration with living history

I prioritized environmental restoration, refusing to clear the land and allowing natural tree regrowth. Have rebuilt huts around live trees, echoing ancestral architectural designs

The centre serves as a living classroom: hosting researchers from Kenyan and international universities, ornithologists, school groups, conferences, and even film crews

Am originally a teacher by training and left high school teaching after 10 years and joined the INGO world taking an early retirement in 2024 to focus on my Cultural Heritage Dream.

My museum houses a rich collection of tangible and intangible heritage: Kamba drums, honey storage gourds, traditional utensils, arrow poison, snuff holders, and wooden record-keeping boards (ika), among many others.

I have a collection of over 5000 items of cultural significance.





Raphael Chikukwa

Director National Gallery (ZIM)

Speaker in Session 16

National Gallery of Zimbabwe Executive Director's Profile – Raphael Chikukwa. Born in Zimbabwe and worked mainly as an independent curator for the past ten years before joining the National Gallery of Zimbabwe mid 2010 as its Chief Curator of Contemporary Art and also its Deputy Director. Now just been promoted as the Executive Director of the National gallery of Zimbabwe. Chikukwa is the founding Curator of the Zimbabwe Pavilion curator at the 54th Venice Biennale 2011 and just curated After Shock: Re Imagining life after Cyclone Idai 2020. He seats on so many jury committees that include

High Line Plinth in New York 2020, DAAD in Germany, Delfina Foundation London UK, Pinchuk Art Prize, and was a jury member for the Dakar Biennale 2018.

He also curated other edition of the Zimbabwe Pavilion from 2013, 2015, 2017, the current 2019 Zimbabwe Pavilion at the 58th La Biennale di Venezia 2019. Chikukwa was a panel for the Art Basel Hong Kong 2019 and also a jury member for the Dakar Biennale 2018 in Senegal. He has also contributed in a number of Publications that includes , a newly published African Art Reframed: Reflections and Dialogue on Museum Culture by University of Illinois Press USA, Mowonero: Insights in Zimbabwean Contemporary Art, Zimbabwe Pavilion Catalogues (Seeing Ourselves 2011, Dudziro 2013, Pixels of Ubuntu/Unhu 2015, Deconstructing Boundaries 2017 and Soko Risina Musoro – A Tale Without a Head 2019) Kaboo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility Exhibition 2016 etc. His qualifications and international experience earned this position at the national institution, which he hopes to change the visual arts landscape of Zimbabwe.

Chikukwa was awarded the 2006 - 2007 Chevening Scholar now holds an MA Curating Contemporary Design from Kingston University London. The 2nd Johannesburg Biennale in 1997 provided an impetus to Raphael's curatorial career after working as a volunteer guide for the Biennale. He later moved to his home country Zimbabwe as a process of relocation to his motherland. Chikukwa is a founding stuff member of the PUMA funded Creative Africa Network as an editor and advisor of the project from 2008 – 2009. Recently he was among seven Curators from Africa attending the Tate Modern Symposium "Curating Africa where he presented a paper on his curatorial practice. In 2008, Chikukwa represented Africa at the 2008 Art Basel Miami Conversations in the United States of America. The American Centre Foundation also awarded Raphael a curatorial research grant in 2006 – 2007 and he travelled in West Africa for his curatorial research.



Rebecca Lorins

Likikiri Collective (South Sudan)

Speaker in Session 12

Rebecca Lorins is a lifelong educator, passionate about connecting academia, popular education and community initiatives. She is a co-founder of Likikiri Collective, a multimedia arts and education organization that uses the arts and humanities, cultural heritage and creativity to work with communities on social issues, based in Juba, South Sudan.

She is also an assistant professor teaching in the areas of literature, media and cultural studies at the University of Juba.



Vulane Mthembu

Technologist, artist multi-hyphenate, KwaZulu Natal Society of Arts, South Africa (SA)

Speaker in Sessions 5 and 15

Vulane Mthembu is the founder of /divide by zero research, a new media disruptor exploring the intersections of art, technology, and society. He currently serves as Gamebox Curator and Innovation Officer for the Goethe-Institut Sub-Saharan Africa. A former Vice President of the KwaZulu-Natal Society of the Arts, Vulane is a creative technologist and multi-hyphenate artist, with a strong commitment to open data, digital equity, and worker cooperative models.



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