

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ART FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



ARTIZEN AMBASSADOR ROUNDTABLE 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

"Organizing the 3rd
International
Conference on Art
for Social
Transformation"



TAI
TEACHING ARTIST INSTITUTE



ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY REPORT

In preparation for the 3rd International Conference on Art for Social Transformation - ARTIZEN 2019 Kampala, Uganda November 8th – 9th 2019, Teaching Artist Institute held roundtable discussions and town hall-style meetings of stakeholders across sector focused on connecting art culture to sustainable development in Uganda. In the cities of Kampala and Jinja, regional meetings were co-hosted in partnership with the Uganda based FEMwrite Uganda Women Writers Association and Babuvuka Foundation in December 2018 and April 2019.

PARTNERS



The Uganda Women Writers Association - FEMRITE is an indigenous, non-governmental, non-profit making women's organization publishing, training and promoting writers. It was officially launched on 3rd May 1996. Some of these Writers have received national and international recognition becoming one of the success stories among women's writing groups in Africa. FEMRITE will provide technical assistance and ongoing consultation for conference community engagement efforts.



Babuvuka Foundation is an organization committed to restoring hope and healing in communities. We use music and the arts to connect youth and empower them to become peace building community builders. We believe through using music and the arts we can transform and unify diverse communities.



Teaching Artist Institute (TAI) is a socially engaged arts/cultural advocacy and training organization that plays an important role in the promotion of the art for social transformation and development of platforms focused on cross-sector/cultural community engagement and sustainable development.

As Curator of the ARTIZEN 2019, TAI provides conference philosophical vision and inspiration. This year TAI has trained seven Teaching Artist from Ghana, USA, Gambia, Uganda, Liberia, France and Nigeria to facilitate workshops and panel discussions in preparation for ARTIZEN 2019 conference



The planning and production of these meetings was also supported by members of this year's delegation of local Ugandan ARTIZEN 2019 Ambassadors. This group is comprised of approximately 40 Ugandan leaders representing nonprofit organizations, government agencies and foundations, as well as independent teaching artists, who participated in the round table discussion that focused on unearthing Uganda's Symbolic Landscape, cultural narrative, and opportunities to further integrate Art culture into the local environment.

The following document shares the combined notes on central themes that surfaced during the conversations which have resulted in the five topics being explored during this year's conference.

For notes specific to each city, contact Kelly Hoff, Contact@taitours.org Key issues identified by meeting participants included:

ARTIZEN 2019 ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

- Art & Culturally-Centered Youth Leadership Development Education Opportunity and Voice
- Automobile Design and Art Technology in Uganda
- Artist, Mental Health and Culturally Defined Mental Illness
- Language Cultural Preservation and the Decade of Return
- Interfaith Dialogue Around Shifting the African Women Narrative of Uganda in the Education Sector



ART & CULTURALLY-CENTERED YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY AND VOICE

ARTIZEN 2019 | 04

HINDERANCES

(PROBLEMS)

- Conservatism (Socio Cultural)
- The Orphans Group (Artistic Mentorship)
- Artistic Mentorship
- Societal Perceptions - Mindset
- Low Self-Esteem (Pushes Artist into such vile)
- School Stopped because of finances
- Shortage of Support
- Shyness
- Peers

CREATIVITY IDEAS

- Mindset
- Resources
- Esteem
- Peers, Family, Society
- Idea Conceptualization
- Actualization
- Resources (Written Twice)

SOLUTIONS

CATEGORIES OF YOUTH IN SOCIETY

- Corporate Youth
- Faith Family Backgrounds
- Hustle Groups
- Middle Class Youth
- Lower Class Youth
 - Low self Esteem
 - Study Youth at the home level
 - Low Consciousness



AUTOMOBILE DESIGN AND ART TECHNOLOGICAL IN UGANDA

Symbolic Landscape Study

Status Quo of Technology Development
in the Automobile Industry

Mostly Buy Secondhand Cars
Assemble Small Automobiles
Moving toward manufacturing

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Perceptions

Taxation is high

Pollution

OPPORTUNITIES

Large Market base

Virgin Market

Infrastructure Development

SOLUTION PLAN

STEP 1 – 10 YEARS

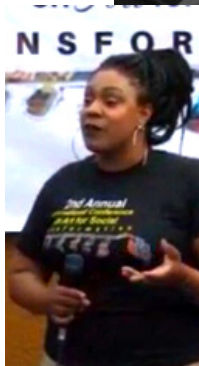
- Vocational Training in schools
- Mass Transport Bus and Trains
- Infrastructure for the modern Automobile
- Car Conversion

STEP 2 – 10 YEARS

- Manufacturing Personal Cars
- Financing Plans
- Agricultural Automobiles

STEP 3 – 10 YEARS

- Convertible Car – Cars as Home or Office
- Self-Energy Generating Cars



ARTIST, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CULTURALLY DEFINING MENTAL ILLNESS

ARTIZEN 2019 | 06

Symbolic Landscape Study

People are lonely, depressed, Mental Health is no such thing, social media makes it worst, we don't talk about it, elders believe there is no such thing as depression, Artist suffer most because of expectations, ridicule, not taken seriously.

Why is it important for Artist to have a conversation about Mental Health? Should artist lead conversations about mental health?



DISCUSSION

- As creatives we have high chances of being affected by mental conditions
- As artist we can have our depressing moments a artistic way for fellow artists or those that follow us to find solutions to their own mental issues
- Because its not apparent issue mental illness (because you can't see it) unless its at a severe stage
- As artist we are still in a position to reflect the reality to society
- Ex - Artist like Jackie Chandinu sharing their stories helped people with the same conditions to pick up themselves
- As Artist we have the mind to self-evaluate ourselves, to discover mental issues sensitize the communities using the talents that we have
- As artist we have access to various platforms and audiences where we can address issues about mental health
- "If we can't address such, why are we exist and prolific"
- As Artist we express ourselves and tell others our stories and the stories of other people. One of the causes of mental health is silence and not hearing a space or voice to share one's challenges.
- In that way as artist we inspire those that emulate us to have their challenges and experienced

- As Artist we have the power to imagine a perfect and inclusive as well as integrated world with army & everyone can fit & feel loved and cared for.
- As creatives, we are often seen as "mental" judged or prejudiced by society and our role is to bring out the creatives in us and contribute to society. In that way we are able to artistically address issues of those that are struggling in the mental health or have been judged by society
- As Artist we are natural listeners and thinkers "so if we go through or grasp mental slavery/health we are able to create an appealing way of addressing mental health issues.
- As Artist its important to address mental health because this is something that is often times concealed behind doors/wardrobes. It takes one depressed person for you to realize that you are suffering from depression.

“As artist we have the power to embrace who we are and to change the negative things () us. If as artist we can use our 6th chakra to innerstand who we are, we can also share that with others

SOLUTIONS

- Public Service announcements
- Using art specifically to demonstrate types

LANGUAGE, CULTURAL PRESERVATION, AND THE DECADE OF RETURN

ARTIZEN 2019 | 07

Symbolic Landscape Study

Language as Cultural Preservation in Uganda

Resource – "What Language Does for Us"

- Identity definition
- Sense of Belonging
- Connects us to our past/cultural memory
- Our local languages give us oppressors
- Community & Social Cohesion
- Language for Posterity
 1. Self-Loathing
 2. Distortion and Four
 3. History

DEFICITS (CHALLENGES)

- Our Children knows no local language
- Generations are disconnected
- Proficiency in English is limited

SOLUTIONS

- National Language (No National Language)
- Development of Local Languages
- Production of Materials
- Create our own productions
- Speak Local Languages to Children

PLAYERS

- Government
- Family
- Artist/ Cultural Institutions
- Schools



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INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AROUND SHIFTING THE AFRICAN WOMEN NARRATIVE OF UGANDA IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Symbolic Landscape Study

Language as Cultural Preservation in Uganda

- Families discouraging pursuit of advance education
- Ushered into careers based on looks
- “Not being taken seriously” professionally or personally
- Negative Media Portrayals perpetuating inferiority
- Poor mental health and identity crisis
- Lack of sisterhood

DEFICITS (CHALLENGES)

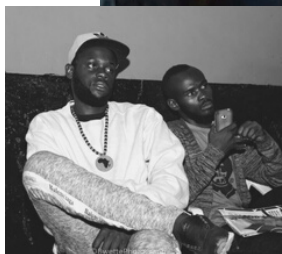
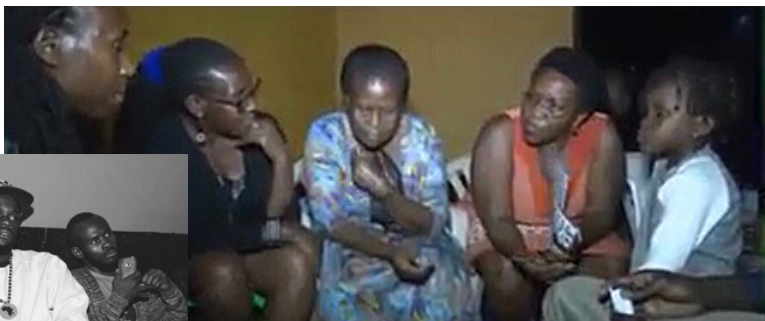
- The Role of Culture and Religion in Women's Education
- Politics around Women Choice
- Sexuality
- Ageism

SOLUTIONS

- “No more Cinderella” – Add diversity to the Children's Stories about women and girls in Media/Film, Literary Arts, and Music
- Identify religious based stories of empowered women
- Development of sisterhoods to encourage
- Create platform for women Speakers Bureau

PLAYERS

- Religious Institutions and Religious based school leaders
- Government - owns 1% of local Schools (Perhaps model school and African Women centered curriculum can be created)
- Families of origin
- African centered Women leaders and organizations
- Artist/ Cultural Institutions
- Ministry of Gender and education





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MEETING WITH KHARIM NTAMBI, PEOPLE POWER UGANDA

APRIL 02, 2019

Problem

- Uganda Joseph Kony Lord is Resistance Army
- 1988 - 2004
- As far up Kitgum Gulu, Apac, Lira,

Needs

- Functional Education Life Skills
- Psycho Social Support

Potential Actors

- War Child Holland
- Conflict Resolution by Youth Uganda CRY Uganda – Conduct Youth Peace Camps
- Luga Flow
- UNFPA – International Conference on Population and Development www.unfpa.org Ms. Patricia Akulo
- Femme Forte – Advocacy for women inclusion and empowerment- girl child education and women specific policy- Ms. Isabela Akiteng - Caring Hearts Uganda

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

MEETING WITH ON-GROUND PARTNERS BUVUBAKA FOUNDATION AND FEMRITE

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Problem

- Engaging Partners across Sector
- Engaging Artist across medium

Needs

- Funding Funding Funding

Potential Actors

- Ministry of Culture, Tourism
- Local Universities
- Entebbe Animal Refuge



*see you at
the conference*

NOVEMBER 2019

8th-9th

KAMPALA, UGANDA

PRE-CONFERENCE

5th-7th

YOUTH FOCUS

