KUONYESHA ART FUND CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025

Deadline for Applications: 18TH May, 2025

Image Caption: Through photography and artistic storytelling, Martin Senkubuge's IMEP2025 project challenges harmful myths about vitiligo in Uganda.

CIVFUND is an afro feminist fund that seeks to provide flexible, accessible and responsive funding for effective civic engagement of civil society in Africa. It is a non-profit entity registered in Uganda as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The CIVFUND operates as a fund of funds https://www.civsourceafrica.com/CIVFUND-1, holding and managing several social justice funds. CIVFUND is passionate about strengthening the capacity of civil society to steer change and improve the well- being of their communities. The Kuonyesha Art Fund is one of the funding streams under the CIVFUND.

About Kuonyesha Art Fund

Kuonyesha Art Fund (KAF) exists to support and celebrate art and artists in all their diversity in Africa. Kuonyesha promotes and supports the professional development of the arts in a way that enhances the arts' meaningful critical influence and participation of art and artists in the issues shaping society and public life in Africa today. Kuonyesha is currently supporting artists in 10 African countries; Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Cameroon, Rwanda, Namibia, Sudan.

The Kuonyesha Art Fund is hosted and managed by CivFund; an Afro-feminist fund based in Uganda serving Africa. The fund is guided by a distinguished 7-member Advisory Committee comprising renowned artists, cultural practitioners, and art enthusiasts, namely Dr. Maureen Muwanga, Owek. Nuwa Wamala Nnyanzi, Maureen Kalungi, Emily Drani, Ernest Bazanye, Kenneth Kimuli (Pablo), Jimmy Spire Ssentongo.

"Kuonyesha," a Swahili word meaning "to show," perfectly captures the fund's mission to elevate, highlight, and celebrate the arts across Africa. Since its inception in 2019, the Kuonyesha Art Fund has supported over 150 art projects across Africa, involving over 3000 individual artists across a wide range of artistic disciplines in visual, literary and performing arts. 85% of the grants are dedicated to women and persons with disabilities (PWDs). In addition to the grant, Kuonyesha Art Fund offers 100% capacity strengthening and grants plus support to all its partners.

Expanding Kuonyesha's reach across Africa fosters a richer exchange of ideas, promotes a space for collaboration among artists from diverse backgrounds, and ensures a holistic representation of African art. By supporting artists from various African countries, the Kuonyesha Art Fund is building a stronger, interconnected arts community, capable of addressing the myriad challenges facing the arts and Africa today.

Overall goal: To support, promote and celebrate art and artists in their diversity in Africa.

Eligibility and Selection criteria:

a) The winning artists are selected based on; originality, feasibility, the quality of their work, technique prowess, conceptual and thematic engagement, honest reasoning, and rationale of the submitted ideas/ artists' works /art projects in their chosen Arts field.

b) Projects that critically address/reflect on urgent socio – political issues/ a relevant topic in society.

c) Projects that seek to build relations with new or broader audiences within the African discourse.

d) Projects that develop new collaborative ways of working with communities, activists, scientists and the like.

e) Projects that bring art to new spaces.

Who may apply?

a) The grant award is open to all artists of all ages living and working on the Africa continent; minors may be required to be accompanied and guided by an adult. **Female artists and artists who are Persons with Disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.**

b) Individual artists who are established and have demonstrated ability to influence communities through their art. They will most likely have a track record and be able to demonstrate ability to manage funds/resources responsibly.

c) Artists that have potential to do more with their art; they may have some ideas and/or even made an initial investment in their art project but are unable to proceed because of limited resources. The Fund will serve as a 'push fund' for such artists.

d) New and/or emerging artists who may not have much exposure or are trying new ideas and require investment to enable them further to explore and show case their work.

e) Artists that require support to enhance the quality of their work for instance through additional research, technical art training, provision of equipment, as well as exposure.

f) Only artists who are living in and/or citizens or have been granted permanent residence in any country in Africa may apply.

g) All grant award winners are required to take up the grant awards as per the dates mentioned in the entry details or call of the application year.

What artists' works/art projects may be entered:

The Art Fund acknowledges that there are numerous types of the Arts in Africa, and therefore, the fund will focus on the broader clusters of Visual, Performing and Literary arts further expounded into the following categories:

1. Visual Arts (e.g. Painting, sculpture, weaving, woodcut printing, Crafts etc.)

2. Fashion and product design

3. Literature (including publishing)

4. Audio-Visual (Graphics & Animation, New Media)

5. Dance & Music

6. Theatre

7. Film and Photography

8. Folklore/Spoken word

9. Arts research

10. Multi-disciplinary projects

11. Exhibitions/Publications/Arts dissemination

12. And other performing artists

Image Caption: Elvis Elasu's project, MBIKKULO, is a multi-disciplinary dance theatre production using art to transform Mbikko from a hub of crime and prostitution into a space of talent and positive youth engagement.

Entries:

1. Applications from across Africa may be submitted through the online digital process on https://CIVFUND.smartsimple.com

2. For Artists in Uganda upcountry who may have no access to internet: physical written applications may be delivered to selected regional Art centers to be communicated within your region.

3. All art forms/ all artistic expressions, artistic research may be submitted.

4. All fields in the proposal form should be completed/ answered when submitting the entry upon which the artist will receive confirmation.

5. Entries may be made in the designated digital form or in the form of video/audio. The application may be accompanied by between 3-10 images/video clips for each entry showcasing the portfolio of artworks.

6. Video entry Applications are acceptable; with full narration explanations of the intended artists' artworks/ art projects/idea (not more than 3 minutes long).

7. The selection will take place based on the entered artworks submission/applications details as submitted by the applicant artist.

No physical original artworks maybe submitted at the application stage, only photos/digital copies of the artworks/ art projects.

Guidelines for submission for all categories

1. An artist or group should only submit one application.

2. Each entry may consist of photos/softcopy of artworks/a body of artwork, with a minimum of three and a maximum of ten artworks/video/audio samples.

3. All artists' works/art projects should be uploaded onto the online platform or images attached to the proposal submitted OR a hardcopy application with attached photos submitted to a selected art center for artists that have no access to computer/internet.

4. Only original (ownership) artworks/art projects photos should be entered.

5. Entries in any medium (video and or text application) will be accepted: artists should attach a concept note, visual artists to attach works' imagery portfolio alongside application/concept note, Performing/ motion artists to send in video excerpts/trailers of their films, plays, dance pieces, writers and poets to send in draft manuscripts, playwrights to send in draft scripts, filmmakers to submit samples of their works, musicians to send in audios demos of their works.

6. **NO APPLICATION FEES are to be charged by anyone; the application is completely free of charge.**

How to Apply

To apply, please go to https://CIVFUND.smartsimple.com and follow the prompts. The deadline for applications is 11TH May 2025

Should you require support or further understanding of the application process, please send your inquiry through

https://CIVFUND.smartsimple.com

or Call Ednah: + 256 (0) 777818781

Image Caption: Dinnah Chuwa's Girls with Puppets empowers Tanzanian women by bridging traditional and new-age puppetry.