

Karamoja Final Artists 2021

Profiles:



Loupa Pius


KUONYESHA
Art Fund



- **NAME:** LOUPA PIUS
- **INTERESTS:** Photography.
- **ARTIST BIO:** Laupa was born in 1989 and has got a degree in agriculture. His career in photography began in 2014, and in 2016 he shot his first cultural event in Karamoja. His images can be seen in the Kaabong cultural event in 2018 magazine which he produced.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Documentation of the Karamojong pastoralists communities in a photographic series will highlight their importance again to Ugandan citizenry.” _ Loupa Pius
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes the photobook will be a photographic visual aid for future researchers, educationists, and the rest of the world about the Karamoja pastoralists communities. In addition, he hopes it will show off their unique ethos, customs, traditions, and environments. He sees the photobook as a powerful resource for researchers and tourists who seek to know more about the Karamoja culture.
- **PROJECT:** His project involves producing a pastoralist Photo Book that showcases Pastoralists / Livestock keeping communities in Karamoja. The photo book will provide a scenerist perspective of the Karamoja landscape, people, livelihoods, and wild environment. These have not been documented since the end of the colonial error in Uganda. The pastoral Photo book will depict some of the critical social, environmental, economic, and political roles of women, children, men, youth in the pastoral communities in northern Uganda. The photo book will showcase Karamoja in the modern era showing how ordinary pastoralists are keeping up with the current trends of modernity and how they are affecting them through photography.

Bongomin Johnbosco



- **NAME:** BONGOMIN JOHN BOSCO
- **INTERESTS:** Poetry, Writing, Folklore, A teacher by profession who trained at Kyambogo university in language and literature.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** Why Toad Punished Elephant'- Is unique due to its universal moral appeal: "Most children's books are designed to entertain without the did active intention aimed at nurturing a holistic personality as the child reads and grows Up." __ Bongomin John Bosco
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He looks forward to getting this book published for all the children to read and help develop their reading skills foundation early enough before reaching upper primary levels. He hopes the children will relate to the animals in the story. The storyline is based on Karamoja Folklore and Karamoja's environments. He hopes that the book will inspire children to appreciate and love nature and preserve it for the future generation.
- **PROJECT:** His art project is an early reader's picture book for children aged 5-10 years. The book is titled 'Why Toad Punished Elephant.' John Bosco intends to contribute towards helping children in Karamoja and the rest of Uganda to embrace the reading culture which will define their path through education. Besides reading, the moral in the story is how greed can lead to suffering. The elephant in the story represents force and greed. He drowns up all water in Toad's pond. The psychology behind this story is to nurture up children towards moral uprightness in our society. The animals used in the storybook are multicultural and resonate with children of all races and backgrounds. Karamoja has a vibrant heritage and Bongomin hopes to document and preserve the culture in the story book publications. He says most children in Northern Uganda face the issue of being unable to read fluently. He hopes the books will spark a new reading interest in the youth of Northern Uganda. The illustrations in the book will improve not only their reading but also their imagination.

Auma Grace



- **NAME:** AUMA GRACE
- **INTERESTS:** Handcrafts, Beading.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “My community in Kaboong can now reach the outside world through visual art projects.” _ Auma Grace
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She intends to expand her project by consulting other cultures rich in bead decor, like the Masai of Kenya and the Kwazulu tribe of South Africa. Auma hopes to showcase her products beyond Kenya, the Kwazulu tribe of South Africa. She sees her project as an alternative of transforming her community as an avenue for mentoring the youth, teaching them to be proactive and innovative in making visual arts a form of income generation.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is a hand and crafts project involving making necklaces and bangles of African crafts, beads decor, and small stools. She draws her inspiration from the Karamojong culture richly influenced by beading and craft-making skills and techniques. Her career in beading started in 2018. She hopes to introduce unique designs in her crafts product line, especially for items used in birth and marriage ceremonies. The materials she uses to weave the beads together are from Kampala and the beads from Malindi. The demand for her products is high during cultural events and marriages.



Maruk Moses (aka Jeepman)



- **NAME:** MARUK MOSES AKA JEEPMAN
- **INTERESTS:** Music, Singing.
- **ARTIST MEMOIRE:** Maruk is a 27-year-old singer, song writer that has been singing for 11 years now. He admires musicians like Chameleon and hopes to be like them someday. In his free time, he loves playing foot and is a supporter of Arsenal; he plays with a football club in Napak called Giraffe in Mitanyi, and they play in Barbeto FC. Maruk is health-conscious, and he loves food that builds the body, especially posho and beans.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Music is a very significant artform when it comes to addressing and educating community members about the pertinent issues affecting them for example HIV/AIDS, COVID - 19 contagion, child-trafficking, drug, and alcohol abuse.” _ Maruk Moses Jeepman
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes to continue sensitizing his community about the spread of HIV/AIDS, COVID - 19 contagion, child trafficking, drug and alcohol abuse through musical performances and collaborating with various district and development partners.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is to use music and dance in Nga’kirimajong and English to educate and disseminate information about HIV/AIDS sensitization, COVID - 19 pandemic, child trafficking, drug, and alcohol abuse. Grounded in the edutainment approach, Maruk explores various avenues of creating awareness especially about child trafficking in Napak district where he comes from.



Nangiiro Joviah

Nakol (aka Dejustice)



- **NAME:** NANGIRO JOVIAH NAKOL (DEJUSTICE)
- **INTERESTS:** Music
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “There's something indescribable and unfathomable about music, yet it's something that we can all feel and relate to. And while music can never fully be described by words, the sounds powerfully capture different angles of its beauty and put to language all the things we love about the Karamojong culture.” _ Nangiirro Joviah Nakol (Dejustice)
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She hopes that the music and drama pieces produced will also be used as community leisure, counselling, and physical therapy for abused children, women, PWD teenage mothers, and orphans. In addition, their performances will continue to be a platform to showcase and promote unique fashion and design attires of the Karamojong culture in relation to music.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is a music production featuring motivational, inspirational songs in Nga’kirimajong and English. Through music her song will highlight African values, with various traditions accompanied by a melody. The basic premise is that Dejustice’s musical creations denote her attempt to go beyond the usual logic of community sensitization by including broad aspects of a culture as a basis for fostering conversations bout peace, reconciliation and unity among the Karamajong clans, communities and the neighbors beyond the borders.



Akonya Joshua

Lomilo (aka Benzilloza)



- **NAME:** AKONYA JOSHUA LOMILO aka BENZPILLOZA
- **INTERESTS:** Music, dance and drama, creative art, and designs
- **ARTIST MEMOIRE:** Akoya is a 27-year-old dancer (breakdance, Lingala, and dance hall) by profession for the last 11 years and has transitioned into music for the last two years. In addition, he is a singer, songwriter, and composer. His stage name "Benzpilloza" translates to; 'B'_ Breakdance, 'E'_ Entertainment, 'N'_ Network, 'P'_ Person, 'I'_ Initiated, 'L'_Logically, 'L'_ Life, 'O'_ On, 'Z'_ Ziki, 'A'_ Action. Some of his songs include: 'Am a K'jong boy', 'Corona Human Killer', 'Only love', 'Work Hard' and 'More Peace. His hit song 'Work hard' is inspires people in his community to work hard, rise, and take hold of their destiny.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Basing on the different standards of living now days that have been characterized by scarcity of income generating opportunities, life is increasing becoming very difficult to handle in this world of competition. I hope my music will be offer a new lease of hope and inspiration to the community." _ Akonya Joshua aka Lomilo Benzpilloza
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Joshua has been pursuing music, dance, and drama for the last 10 years and is well respected in the different regions in Karamoja. He hopes to pass on these skills to the next generation of youngsters interested in engaging in the same career path. As a Karamojong artist who draws his inspiration from famous pop musicians like Michael Jackson, he hopes to put Karamojong music on an international platform through creatively composing RNB and pop songs that showcase Karamoja culture and traditions.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is a music project involving song compositions, a collaboration of various rhythms and tunes, songwriting, beats production, choreography, studio, and stage performances. The project is an outlet for the young people in Karamoja, an alternative to idleness and crime. Living in multicultural country, youth in Karamoja are growing up with the greatest challenge society face today, diversity. This has led many cases about intolerance that lead to fanaticism, hatred, and violence. The music created by Lomillo will enable the youths to have a better intercultural understanding and empathy of the Karamojong culture and traditions through music. In the process they will develop to develop quality of open-mindedness, respect, and tolerance for where they come from and where they are going.

Leese Josephine


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- **NAME:** LEESE JOSEPHINE
- **INTERESTS:** Beading, Handcrafting
- **ARTIST BIO:** Leese has a Bachelor's in business administration and supplements her income with cultivation in the off season.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Beading and designing of cultural dressings will ignite a profound appreciation for Karamojong culture and traditions not only locally but also internationally." _ Leese Josephine
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She hopes to become the major supplier of cultural dressings, especially those used for traditional ceremonial marriages in all Karamoja regions.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is a community-based project focusing on making cultural products and dressings using skins and beads. She makes handcrafts including necklaces, headpieces, Masai skirts, tire shoes and other beading products. The project is meant to highlight and showcase the Karamojong culture and traditions also act as a reminder for generations to come.



Aleper Emmy

Maxwell (aka Evy Treyz)



- **NAME:** ALEPER EMMY MAXWELL (aka EVY TREYZ)
- **INTERESTS:** Music and music production
- **HOBBIES:** In his free time, he loves playing volleyball as is an ardent supporter of the Arsenal football team.
- **ARTIST BIO:** Evy Treyz (Stage name was born in Nakapelimoru to a family of three. He currently lives in Kotido town. He has been making music for the last 10 years; he started with a group but later decided to go solo. Treyz is a songwriter and recording artist in northern Uganda. One of his songs that is now trending on the airwaves is the 'Corona' song. It is considered one of the currently in Northern Uganda.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Music isn't always just about making music sound better. Sometimes practicing personal development is even more important than getting the perfect snare sound." At least that's a strategy that seems to work for Aleper Emmy Maxwell (aka Evy Treyz)
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** His dream is to improve the quality of songs produced from northern Uganda so that his songs and the songs of the other artists can reach a wider audience.
- **PROJECT:** The project is to establish a music studio in Kotido that will significantly reduce the production cost of his music and support other upcoming artists in the region to record their songs and do music rehearsals. The studio will specialize in sound recording, mixing, and audio production of instrumental or vocal musical performances, spoken words, and other sounds. The recording and monitoring (listening and mixing) space will be specially designed to achieve optimum acoustic properties. This will help reduce the echo that could otherwise interfere with the final results. His projects will help musician in Kotido gain access to the music production expertise and audio equipment for their songs as this will make all the difference in determining how far their music will go and who will listen.

Namoe Ebokot



- **NAME: NAMOE EBOKOT**
- **INTERESTS:** Handcrafts, Cap Knitting
- **ARTIST BIO:** Namoe is the group leader of a knitting caps group in Kotido that has been in operation for two years. The group is of 30 members having both women and men. They make beading crafts, including bangles and necklaces.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Knitting has undergone a significant and somewhat surprising revival in the new millennium. A lot of knitters in Karamoja are shedding this stereotype and are knitting in their homes, shops, schools, while they herd cattle and other places." _ Namoe Ebokot
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes to use Knitting to unify the locals in the Karamojong community as Knitting is a great conversation starter and an equally great reason to expand the knitters' social circle. In addition, it is a medium that helps develop healthy friendships and build relationships and boosts household incomes and individual welfare in the process.
- **PROJECT:** He intends to expand his cap knitting project to create income-generating opportunities in his community. He draws his inspiration from societal forces such as: the appreciation of craft as a medium for expression by the Karamojong community, Changes in leisure, Interest in social and political activism , Consumption of sustainable materials made from threads. This is evident as the caps knitted by Namoe as they come in different colours, shapes, and sizes. His interest stems from the fact that people wear them to express their individuality and creativity. Therefore, he hopes the men and women will embrace the caps as they complement cultural and everyday outfits.

Mario Lokwang Kubal



- **NAME:** MARIO LOKWANG KUBAL
- **INTERESTS:** Handcrafts, Weaving
- **ARTIST BIO:** He is a 57-year-old weaver of woven blankets living in Kaabong. He works with a team of 15 people who are also weavers. He also trains fellow weavers in Kampala, Kaabong, Kotido and Kenya. He says his weaving is different from the Masai weaving because he uses thicker threading available in the shops. He says he is the leading supplier of woven blankets in the whole Karamoja region.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Weaving is one of the many ways of “putting food on the table” in rural regions across the world, particularly where jobs or opportunities may be scarce. Many women and men in Kaabong survive through their ability to transform everyday woven objects into works of art. Traditional weaving is a skill that feeds families, instils a much-needed sense of pride in the artist and makes the world a more beautiful place.” _ Mario Lokwang Kubal
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Through Kabbong Weaving Group, Mario hopes that the art of weaving is a profound metaphor for understanding the workings of our environment and our place in it. Through the physical process of weaving, the Karamojong will gain a better understanding of their culture and traditions and how as human beings are woven into it. He believes we are bound to our bodies with the fragile threads of earth.
- **PROJECT:** His project focuses on ‘Kabbong Weaving Group’ run and managed by a small group of trained individuals working within the district, making neck scarves, shawls, sheets, hats, bed sheets, and table covers of different sizes. As part of the weaving project, various decorative items will be produced in woven cloth, and dyed yarns, both in striped and plaid checked designs. The group members who will acquire weaving skills are to work in organized groups in their respective communities to promote the sustainability of the group and the self-reliance of the members. Their weaving technique is different from the Masai weaving technique because they use thicker threading available in the local shops.

Sire Simon Loduk


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- **NAME:** SIRE SIMON LODUK
- **INTERESTS:** Fashion and Garment Design
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “I believe that someday, the disadvantaged population will find this world a better place to live in.” _ Sire Simon Loduk
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** His dream is to establish a vocational institute where attendees will be able to acquire practical skills training in tailoring that could favour even the illiterate. With these skills, they will gain a sense of ownership, sustainability, reduce dependency and self-reliance.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is a tailoring project that involves contributing to skilling and enhancing income-earning opportunities in Kaabong district to meet market and individuals need through vocational skills and knowledge. Sire is the only one in Kaboong with tailoring skill training experience. He intends to train others in the community in the same practice; in his experience, even someone that has not gone to school can learn this skill. The project will target school dropouts, youths, people with disabilities, divorced young women giving them hope and direction for a better living with the adaptation of tailoring as an income-generating activity.

Lolem Francis


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Art Fund



- **NAME: LOLEM FRANCIS**
- **INTERESTS:** Literature, Research, Culture and Traditional, Story telling
- **ARTIST BIO:** He is a 44-year-old with a dream to publish Stories of the Old. He was the research chairperson of the research committee for the Karamoja cultural day 2018 publications. His work for the publication allowed him to collect a lot of information about the origin of Dodoth and Karamojong. This experience inspired him to start publishing their stories so that the original facts and lessons are likely to be lost in translation.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of the Karamojong cultural diversities are not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture.”_ Lolem Francis
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Lolem hopes to continue documenting stories of the indigenous communities in Karamoja and Northern Uganda so that the next generation can read and reference them for moral guidelines.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is a publication of the Dodoth Oral literature depicting their philosophy and wisdom that has been passed from one generation to another in form of stories. These are stories about some famous personalities who helped and continue to shape and influence the way of life. One of the stories he speaks profoundly of is Lacoro, Namacor, Ekadalima the Trickster etc. The Dodoth community had some great personalities in the past who exhibited leadership skills that helped the community to defend itself and survived in difficult times. Lolem’s idea is to put these stories in a book form that can be a point of reference for the current and future generations. The publication will also help the rest of the world to learn, appreciate and utilize the wisdom of the Dodoth people.

Namoe Fatuma



- **Name:** Namoe Fatuma
- **Interests:** Mixed Media Artist, Handcrafts, Beading
- **Personal Remarks:** “Beading is part of the Karamojong culture; beads are part of our identity.” __ Name Fatuma
- **Future aspirations:** She intends to expand the beading project beyond Kaboong. In so doing, it would provide more opportunities to employ more vulnerable women in her community, bridging the financial gender gap.
- **Project:** Her idea is about handcrafts, especially jewelry. As a self-taught bead weaver, she produces Jewelry pieces that provide people with physical symbols representing meaning, ideas, values and rituals of the Karamojong culture and traditions. Namoe says the beaded jewelry changes the way the owner feels while wearing the jewelry making it more meaningful for them. She plans on training more women in her community so that they, too, have a source of livelihood. Most of her orders are from her community, who recognize her work and consistently make orders, especially for necklaces, headpieces, and scarves with beads. She hawks and sells most of her crafts to tourists who visit Kidepo National Game Park. She plans to increase the number of products produced to fully stock her shop near her home in Kalenga Village, where she sells and showcases her products.

Kampala Final
Artists
2021 **Profiles:**

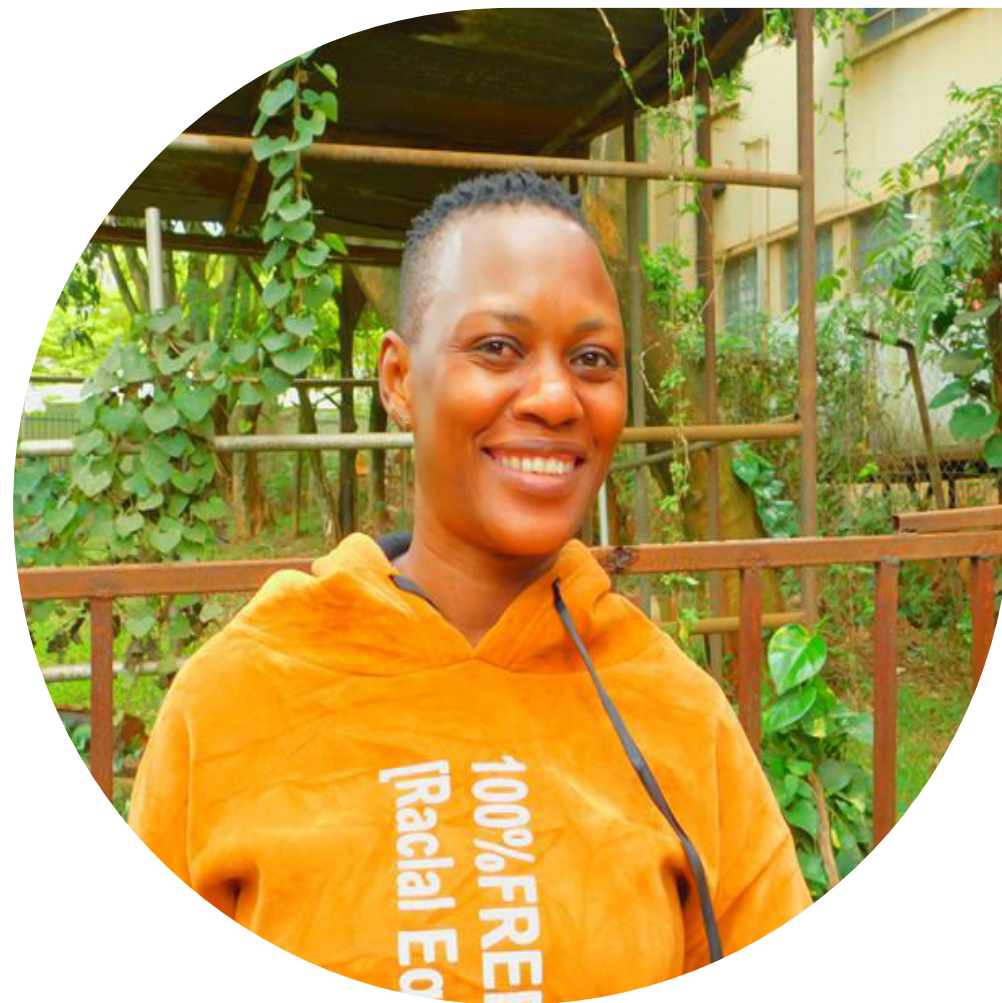


Paula Kyabaggu



- **NAME:** PAULA KYABAGGU
- **INTERESTS:** Comic books, Reading, Writing, Storytelling, Visual Art
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “My comic books intend to reignite the reading culture of Ugandans. Readers will get to learn about their heritage and have a sense of identity.” _
Paula Kyabaggu
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She seeks to merge comic book illustrations with the historic cultural content of the tribes crafted into exciting stories that will be fun to read while at the same time preserving the cultural identities of the tribes.
- **PROJECT:** Paula intends to create a series of comic books based on the diverse cultures that exist in Uganda. Unlike popular culture comics that revolve around the prowess of fictional superheroes, Paula’s comics mainly highlight heroic personalities that different tribes identify with. These stories and characters are central to the existence and origin of various Ugandan tribes. Her project comes with myriad relevance to the community playing the role that orature used to play in preserving the ethnic customs and cultures of the different communities.

Abwalo Ruth Emegu



- **NAME:** ABWALO RUTH EMEGU
- **INTERESTS:** Handcrafting, recycling, jewelry making, finding reusable waste materials like plastics and plant waste like banana fibers.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Sustainability is not only for high industries and plants but for all of us. In our daily lives, we often waste material without noticing its consequences and impacts on environmental sustainability. We can contribute to maintaining sustainability even while sitting in our homes as we give new life to recycled products and waste like plastics and banana fibers.” ____ Abwalo Ruth Emerge
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She intends to maintain sustainability and recycling processes in a bid to save our environment and natural resources so that in the long run, future generations can reap their benefits one handcraft at a time.
- **PROJECT:** She intends to create designs, accessories and handcrafts using waste materials such as bottles, rings and tops, banana fibers, palm leaves, bamboo, and waste car tires.

Arinitwe

Peter


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- **NAME: ARINITWE PETER**
- **INTERESTS:** Social Impact Artist, sculpting using found objects, environmentally conscious, and conservationist.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “The plastic-filled sculpture will leave a mark of what is taking place in our environment. A visceral and visual symbol that will leave a jolt in the minds of community members when plastics, water bodies, and our ecosystem.” __ Arinitwe Peter
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Through his sculptures, Peter intends to educate Ugandans about the impacts of plastic on fish and human pollution by bringing to life visually their destruction in the form of sculptural art forms along with different water bodies.
- **PROJECT:** He plans on constructing a sculpture that will be filled with plastic surrounding Gaba fishing site. The sculpture is a way to educate the local people about plastic pollution. A reminder to the community that plastic pollution is the next revolution against all living things, another pandemic that needs no vaccine but can be prevented if we work together.

Lilian Nabaggala Maxmillian



- **NAME:** NABAGGALA LILIAN MAXMILLIAN
- **INTERESTS:** Dancer, feminist, Passionate about colourism among African Women, both youths and adults.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “What defines beauty? Is it through skin shade and tone or one’s personality or character in the community?” __ Nabaggala Lilian Maximillian
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She plans to use the dance theatre production to educate the community that skin complexions do not determine one’s quality of life. Identity-based on colourism has led to body dysmorphic disorders significantly affecting young minds with irreversible skin damage consequences.
- **PROJECT:** She intends to create and produce a dance theatre production focusing on identity, an issue that has risen through colourism among African women. In addition, she plans to highlight the different perspectives about skin complexions and segregations that have led to the skin bleaching epidemic, especially among the youth and adult African women in Uganda.



Beverley

Nambozo Nsengiyunva



- **NAME:** BEVERLEY NAMBOZO NSENGIYUNVA
- **INTERESTS:** Poet, Feminist, and writer, she is a confident, courageous creative transforming the Landscape of Communication. Beverley holds a Master's of Fine Art in Creative Writing, Lancaster University, is a Team Leader at Rich Diction Enterprises Ltd and Founder of the Babishai Niwe Poetry Foundation.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Poetry is therapeutic entertaining and enables us to think critically about the world we live in as it opens us to the idea of living purposefully. Beverley poetry collection will re-open the space for the oppressed to speak out. It is a statement against passive aggression, hypocrisy, and systemic discrimination." _ Beverley Nambozo
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She is a voice to marginalized women, victims of religious oppression, and children of dysfunctional education systems, spaces and marital hypocrisy, giving breath and truth as she points out the flaws in institutional systems through poetry.
- **PROJECT:** She intends to publish a poetry collection titled "Dress me in Disobedience". The collection is a vast array of voices lifted from doldrums of despair, discontentment, and disillusionment. These emotions arrive from the layers of religious hypocrisy, institutional discrimination, and a need for real interpersonal and institutional change across societies.

Aganza Kisaka



- **NAME:** AGANZA KISAKA
- **INTERESTS:** Actress, Producer, and director, Storyteller, Passionate about victims with Down-syndrome.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Vanilla subtly posits the guardians as heroes for their sacrifices and applauds them for their dedication to the lives of the people they take care of. The telling of this story is a journey of healing, help and understanding for the communities that will watch it.” __ Aganza Kisaka
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** The production is meant to challenge the Ugandan film industry to look for and write about those tales that we all know, but taboo prevents us from speaking about. For example, it is common to witness stories about individuals with down-syndrome or others with intellectual disabilities. Still, it’s unusual to get a glimpse into their guardians’ life and decision-making processes.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is a short film production about families with children who have Down Syndrome entitled ‘Vanilla’. The film sheds light on the stigma parents in such situations face and the obstacles that they may have to go through. In addition, this film intends to highlight some of the family challenges to garner empathy and propose a positive attitude specifically towards the parents and guardians.

Kalungi Maureen



- **NAME:** KALUNGI MAUREEN
- **INTERESTS:** Dancer, Producer, Choreographer, Feminist
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “The creation of a dance piece for only women with different disabilities will address the negative attitudes towards people with disabilities but also act as an eye-opener for inclusion by the art industry and society/ community.” __ Kalungi Maureen
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She is intentional in shifting the recognition of persons with disabilities in the art industry. She hopes the production will be instrumental in gaining status and visibility for dance artists with disabilities. In addition, it will open doors and create awareness for women with disabilities to be fully included in all kinds of performance arts.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is to create a dance piece project titled Un-Limited wings, which will be premiered and performed by 10 (ten) women with various disabilities. The piece will be a medium for the women to express their feelings, abilities, and talents to society.

Kenneth Mugabi


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Art Fund



- **NAME:** KENNETH MUGABI
- **INTERESTS:** Afro-soul Artiste, Music artist and songwriter, Performer.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “My love for music and urge to give Uganda that unique sound has always pushed me. I want to tell people stories and give them a piece of my mind.” __ Kenneth Mugabi
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** His album projects are intentional on grounding and reinforcing gratitude and hope, especially when faced with the cares and misfortunes of society (Uganda in particular). He hopes to heal the land and its people by giving them something to look forward to in the lyrics when he sings.
- **PROJECT:** Inspired by stories of our daily life about the past, present and the future, he intends to produce a music album speaking about love, tragedy, pain, generally the ups and downs of humanity. His project highlights what is currently going on in the land. A call to fellow Ugandans to take heart.

Trevor Mukholi


KUONYESHA
Art Fund



- **NAME:** TREVOR MUKHOLI
- **INTERESTS:** Curator, Art critic, and Art writer
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “My motivation to work is the desire to explore the ideas and systems that are embedded in the work of artists working in the country, their knowledge and ways of seeing the need to be documented and this is why I write and critique.” ____ Trevor Mukholi
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He intends on creating an archive for artists and their practices designed for the communities they inhabit.
- **PROJECT:** He plans to create a research-based online project and physical publication that will be published quarterly. It will focus on artists whose practices are rooted in the local Ugandan context. The publication will be a well-researched exposition into this. He intends to change the current situation, currently the community needs as many resources as possible about the visual arts, still there are not enough resources that meaningfully engage in critical discourse with Art produced in the country in ways that are accessible to communities.

Andrew Kaggwa Myga


KUONYESHA
Art Fund



- **NAME: ANDREW KAGGWA MYGA**
- **INTERESTS:** Ugandan Arts and Culture Journalist. Film and theatre enthusiast. Photojournalist. Africa
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “It is documenting the present for the future. In Uganda today, people are making a lot of Art, but due to limited or no documentation, it’s confusing about where we have to go with our arts narrative.” ____ Andrew Kagwa
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:**
- Arts journalism is at the bottom of the pecking order in many newsrooms in this country. This has left Art on the losing end. Situations in the industry have not been ably documented, especially when it comes to covering the arts. This project educates the community and art fraternity that Art is more than entertainment. It is an economy.
- **PROJECT:** His project is a multimedia piece of work that some will read while others will watch it. It focuses on two performance arts that need numbers to thrive, that is music and film. He looks at how many performers have tried to open their industries while practicing within the pandemic set regulations such as curfews and a ban on open concerts.
- **For Music:** He will be delving into how people, for instance, released and promoted music, how they do it now during the lockdown, is it working and what can be improved because Uganda may be stuck in this hole longer.
- **For Film:** His interest will be in counting the cost, what has been lost, beyond the money? And how is or can the industry bounce back?

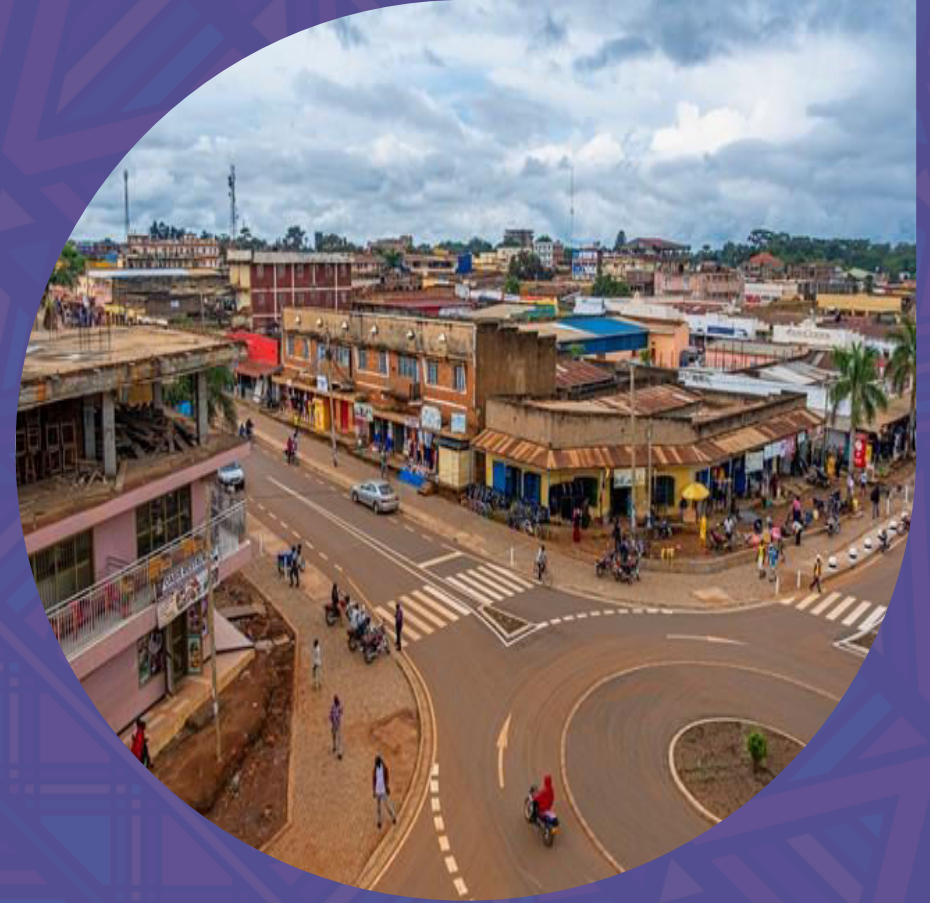
Abaho Aki



- **NAME:** ABAHO AKI
- **INTERESTS:** Fashion designer, Artist, Passionate about the celebration of life's events.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "My chief inspiration is trying to keep things interesting and fresh – to wear things in new ways and combinations." __ Abaho Aki
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She intends to collaborate with global designers to put a unique twist on traditional outfits used for ceremonial life events like weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, etc.
- **PROJECT:** She intends to create a fashion collection of outfits for traditional events like weddings, sendoffs etc. This collection will include unique creations morphed and transformed into different ensembles. Being informally trained, material and construction are some of the elements that influence her designs. She takes a lot of delight in how well-made garments are constructed and finished, especially outfits that are worn during the celebration of life events like christenings, birthdays, you name it.

Gulu Final Artists

2021 Profiles:



Aciro Brenda



- **NAME: ACIRO BRENDA**
- **INTERESTS:** Fashion designer, knitting.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “As a disabled girl, I have witnessed the challenges of bringing up a disabled person and realized that hands-on skills training is key in the development and empowerment of girls with disabilities.” __ Aciro Brenda
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She is very hopeful that knitting will provide stronger ecosystems of support for persons with disabilities to materialize self-reliance thus leading to into effective development solutions.
- **PROJECT:** Aciro is a PWD with creative skills in knitting. Her idea is a knitting project that will include the creation of products like sweaters from football nets, money purses from disposable yoghurt sachet bags and backpacks from empty cement bags. Aciro plans to empower girls and young mothers with disabilities by providing hands-on training skills in knitting to enhance their livelihoods. Her knitting project will contribute to structural transformation and economic growth by enhancing employability and labor productivity and helping persons with disabilities to become more competitive. She intends to train 20 girls with disabilities and exhibit the final products in her community to showcase the girls’ abilities.



Alimo

Everline Kimong



- **NAME: ALIMO EVALINE KIMONG**
- **INTERESTS:** Poet, Writer, Film maker, Teacher and Human Rights Activist
- **ARTISTS BIO:** Evaline Alimo Kimong was born in Ciga - Ciga Village, she is the Executive Director of Private Teachers' Umbrella (PTU), an association of private school teachers in Northern Uganda. Alimo is a teacher at St. College Layibi, Gulu Senior Secondary and Kitgum Town College. A writer with Ink Liners Poetry Group in Gulu and human rights activist who spearheaded the #feedtheteachers initiative in Northern Uganda during the Covid-19 pandemic. Evaline first book publication is of "The Elephant You Are", a poetry Collection of 150 copies. This is a feminist book, with mother and daughter conversations about empowerment.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "Poems running through my mind, make squeaking sounds, I hear voices and produce laughter, and I dance." _ Evaline Alimo Kimong
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She plans on helping her community understand the different perspectives of various individuals and find solutions to some of the political and human relations challenges they are currently facing using poetry, thereby changing their human relations narrative to being positive.
- **PROJECT:** Her idea is to write a collection of short poems inspired by her personal experiences and interactions. The poems express emotions and feelings of the people within her immediate environment. The publication will include short literatures on political and Human relations. Her poems capture moments of joy, anger, rage, suffering, jealousy, euphoria and even numbness. She hopes that people will learn from them, change because of them, and that the poems will evolve into new experiences.

Alweny Bernard



- **NAME: OLWENY BENARD**
- **INTERESTS:** Audio, Writer, and Interviewer, Director, Filmmaker.
- **ARTIST BIO:** Olweny Bernard is a professional teacher, radio journalist in charge of programming and content, show production at Pacis Radio Gulu. Public relations officer of Acholi province for 'FUAFADRUM' _ Federation of Uganda Football Association _ Drum for communication introduced in 2017. Director of operations for Troybuttimer Foundation, a community-based organization responsible for organizing sports clinics where children aged 7 to 11 learn life skills through football.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Many people are suffering from several disabilities, both physical and mental. This has affected their livelihoods and that of their families due to unemployment, depression because of stigmatization which affects their chances and that of their children to attain high education, hence the vicious cycle of poverty. This must change.” ____ Olweny Benard
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes the podcasts will create a consistent platform where dialogues about issues affecting persons with disabilities can be tabled and discussed to find solutions. Bernard hopes this will lead to understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of the community members’ physical and mental state as uplifting stories of people overcoming diversity and physical disabilities to make something of themselves will be shared.
- **PROJECT:** His idea to use podcast storytelling to talk about the challenges, experiences of persons with disabilities and victims of nodding disease and the stigmatizations they face, especially at the grassroots level and the work that needs to be done. The informality of the podcast platform will make them vulnerable enough to have authentic conversations about the issues that affect them. The interviewees will be able to share their own thoughts on their trials, and triumphs, capturing attention in a noisy social environment.

Odongkara Remmy Innocent



- **NAME:** ODONGKARA REMMY INNOCENT
- **INTERESTS:** Film Maker, Storyteller, Producer, Director, Makeup Artist, Actor.
- **ARTIST BIO:** Ondongkara is a former reformed 'Agur' who has turned his life around by going to school. He is now pursuing a Bachelor's in education and humanities, focusing on English and Literature at Gulu University. In addition, he is an actor and a makeup artist on several film sets.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "In life, we all have unspeakable secrets, irreversible dreams, and unique lifestyles. My film script brings hope into the lives of those who have lost hope in life, like the youth in the categories of the unemployed and non-educated." __ Odongkara Remmy Innocent
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** His project looks to work with various non-governmental organizations and government sectors responsible for treating and working with the youth in helping them to find their individuality using film as a medium.
- **PROJECT:** The film storyline will highlight the adverse effects 'Agur' _ Gulu youth living and working on the street. They are some of the most excluded and unprotected in Gulu district. While some are homeless with their families or return home at night after working on the street, many others are without parental care or a home and have no viable alternatives. The film will explore the challenges they face because of crime, family disintegration, conflict, poverty, HIV/AIDS, abuse or neglect. The life of an 'Agur' exposes the youth to a myriad of risks and robs them of the safety and comfort that a family environment and community can offer.

Ojok Simon Peter

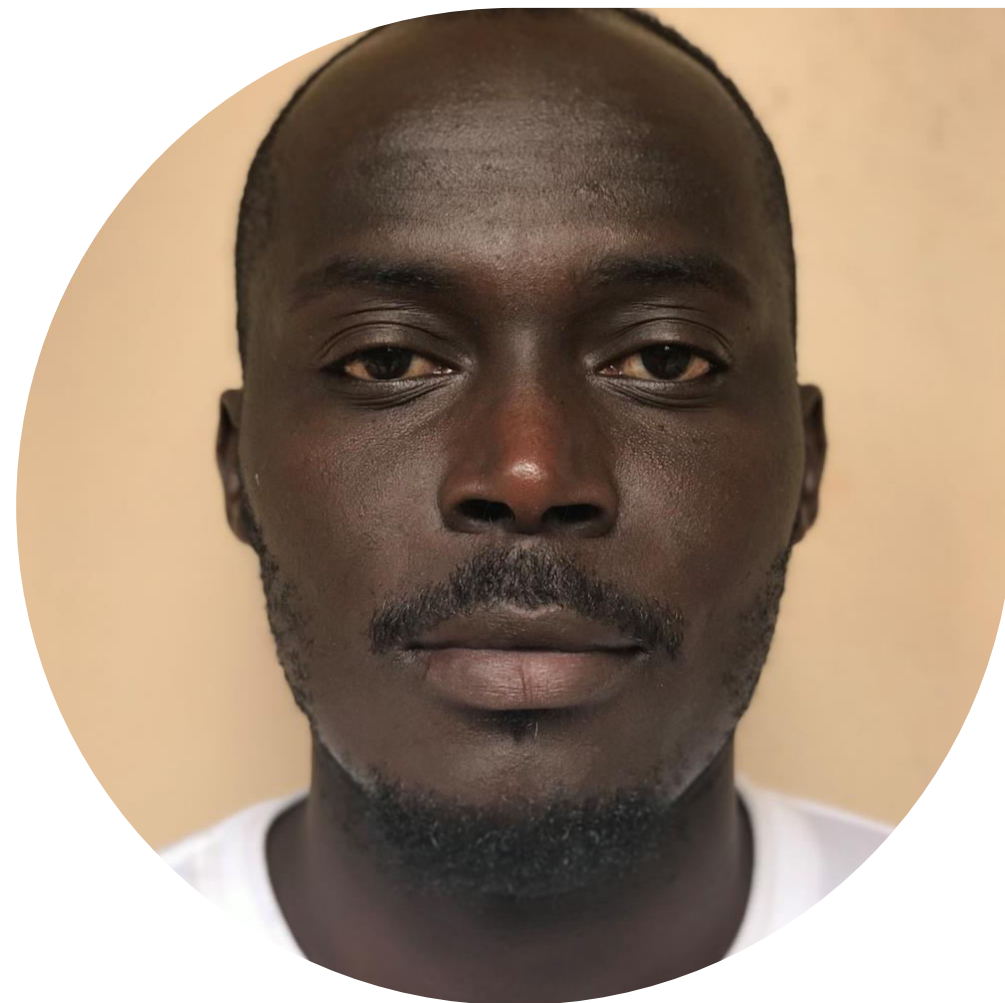

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- **NAME: OJOK SIMON PETER**
- **INTERESTS:** Recycling, Visual art.
- **ARTIST BIO:** Ojok Simon Peter is the chairman of Acholi Visual Artists and co-founder of Northern Uganda Visual Artists, also the founder of Sai Arts Gulu, a graphics and visual arts company
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "I hope to add value to waste especially the non-degradable industrial waste materials which are very harmful to the environment." _ Ojok Simon Peter
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes to create a self-sustaining recycling project that will act as an example in the community about the benefits of recycling, such as limiting wastes in landfills, reducing air and water pollution, protecting the environment, and creating employment opportunities for the youth. In addition, the waste can be transformed into different visual art forms when sold to generate income.
- **PROJECT:** Ojok Simon is a visual artist living in Gulu who creates art not for art's sake, but for the planet's, highlighting the plastic pandemic through the powerful use of waste. Art has long been used as a powerful creative tool for political and social activism- from Picasso's Guernica to Banksy; Childish Gambino's This is America to Beyonce's Lemonade. With plastic pollution and climate change at the forefront of everybody's minds, it's no surprise Simon started looking biodegradable waste in a new way, to create powerful art works that are not only beautiful, but also serve as a stark reminder of the impact of waste on the planet and its inhabitants, inspiring us to rethink our own consumption.



Eric Onono (aka Riky Bird)



- **NAME:** ERIC ONONO aka RIKY BIRD
- **INTERESTS:** Music, Dancing
- **ARTIST BIO:** He was a graduate of Gulu university with a Bachelors in ICT in 2016. His interest has always been in the arts. He is known in Gulu as a performer, a dancer and musician.
- **SINGING CAREER:** Eric is a nominee for the Pearl of Africa Star Search – 2021 competition coming in at number 12. He is known for doing cover songs of his favourite artists like John Legend. He challenges himself daily to perform 30 acapellas for 30 cover songs in 30 days. He is also known for his Karaoke online performances streamed live at O café in Gulu.
- **DANCE CAREER:** His career as a dancer from 2011 to 2014. From 2013- 2019 has been conducting free choreographed dance classes for the youth in his community interested in dancing and singing. Eric produced and choreographed a dance competition of 14 seasons sponsored by Pine Avenue Label at Peché stadium.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Music is relevant at this point in time as people need new ways to cope with the daily stress and anxiety that they experience so that they can lead healthy and happy lives.” _ Eric Onono (aka Riky Bird)
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He hopes to use the live performances for entertainment and edutainment to pass on important messages to the community through music. The messages would focus on moral uprightness and facilitating social change, such as staying safe and following standard operating procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. He also hopes to use the platform for up-and-coming musicians to showcase their talents to the community and the world, which will help them build a fanbase and eventually open the way for employment opportunities.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is to live stream music performances online. The virtual online space will enable artists to showcase talents in their environments and get paid. Because public performances have been affected by the lockdown since 2020. Streaming has become a way of life long before a global pandemic dictated the way live music should be heard. But since COVID-19 grounded most musicians for more than a year, live streaming has levelled up. The increasing adoption of smart devices, people will access Eric’s online show through their phones, computers and from the comfort of their homes. Allowing musicians in Gulu to reach anyone in the world — not just where they can travel.

Malish Emmanuel



- **NAME: MALISH EMMANUEL**
- **INTERESTS:** Multimedia crafts, recycling, environment conservation, local crafts and product design
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Empowering the youth with various skills in multimedia crafts through trainings will transform them hence transforming the entire generation.” _ Malish Emmanuel
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** In future he sees himself having a well-known and established crafts design workshop in Gulu where local artisans can receive additional training and get to showcase and sell their products. But also, a place that produces local products to satisfy the local market.
- **PROJECT:** His idea is to establish a legal craft business specializing in creative multimedia crafts for interior and unique designs. He uses patch work with African fabrics to design products like dress mirrors, photo frames, phone jackets, toilet bags, revamped caps, shoes, bags. The project makes products from waste materials such as plastic bottles, waste papers, sticks, and banana fibers, thus reducing production costs and promoting environmental conservation. It also addresses the challenges of importing foreign craft products from outside the continent, which otherwise would have been locally produced with a favorable African taste. For Malish, Gulu is endowed with resources that can fast-track the consolidation and establishment of local manufacturing industries to meet the increasing local demands, thus creating empowerment and revenue.

Okello Abraham


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- **NAME: OKELLO ABRAHAM**
- **INTERESTS:** Musician and Song writer
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “I want to help to encourage some people who are having a disability to improve and show their talent.” __Okello Abraham
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Okello is visually impaired, yet through his songwriting and performance, he is passionate about showcasing his blindness and as a way to encourage other individuals that face the same discriminations because of their disability.
- **PROJECT:** Okello Abraham is a visually impaired musician currently living in Oyam in Gulu city. His idea is to write, produce, and sing gospel songs in Acholi and Luo because they form an essential part of the community’s aesthetic expression and synthesize music, dance, poetry, and drama distilled into a unified whole. His music also represents a solid link to Karamojong roots in both subtle and sometimes obvious ways. While Okello’s music is firmly entrenched in the Karamojong tradition, it also attracts many who identify with its expression of Karamojong values, aesthetics, and life experiences as with its expression of Karamojong community beliefs. His songs are a source of encouragement to members of the community, especially the disabled. Okello hopes to promote social living, peace, and harmony through his song compositions.

Akello

Innocent Oryema



- **NAME:** AKELLO INNOCENT ORYEMA
- **INTERESTS:** Film Maker, Actor, Storyteller, Producer, Director
- **CAREER IN FILM:** Akello has acted in several films, these include; 'Kaila' (a short film where Akello is the sister to the main character),' Tears of Akello' (Where she is the lead character, the film is about HIV stigmatization_ it won the best film of the year in northern Uganda in 2019). Oryema is also a director; she has directed 'Cost of Agony' and co-directed 'City of Destiny'.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “It is always a privilege to be a part of a series production that contributes to making Gulu City the Dream City that I have always yarned for.” ____
Akello Innocent Oryema
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** Her future ambitions include providing free training for filmmakers in Gulu city. She sees the project as a teaching project for the filmmakers. Most of them get to work on the various film projects through the production and contributing stories and events for better storytelling, thus providing continuous job opportunities that bring in consistent incomes. She hopes to open a film school where the youth in Northern Uganda can learn about film. And study more about the art of filmmaking.
- **PROJECT:** 'Saving Grace' is a film based on prostitution and family relationships. What inspired the movie is the hardships young girls face as they struggle to provide for their families. They are usually forced into prostitution to be able to survive. She intends on producing 3 seasons of the 'Saving Grace' series. The story will focus on uncovering the different criminal activities that have threatened the social wellbeing of residents ranging from forcing young girls selling their bodies to corruption within the various institutions that were meant to protect them in the first place.

Ayoo Agnes Onekglu


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- **NAME:** AYOO AGNES ONEKGLU
- **INTERESTS:** Knitting, Tailor and Designer
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “Through my planned quarterly training of the youth, especially those with disabilities. I will invite experts to speak to the learners about business and entrepreneurship, self-esteem as this will motivate them to engage and socialize freely in their community activities.” __ Ayoo Agnes Onekglu
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She is passionate about empowering young persons with disabilities in sewing especially knitting because Low skills perpetuate poverty and inequality. When done right, skills development in knitting can reduce un- and underemployment, increase productivity, and improve standards of living. Helping disabled people develop and update their skills makes economic sense.
- **PROJECT:** Ayo Agnes is a 29-year-old female living with cerebral Palsy disability. Her idea is to will explore the potential for knitting as a serious form of self-expression. Raising the profile of both knitting and Kitenge textiles, demonstrating the importance and possibilities offered by the medium and the new designs being developed around knitting. Agnes’s knitted pieces will question conformity and notions of normality and standardization. They will subvert the preconceptions of knitting and disrupt the notion of the medium being passive and benign. The project will see the production of knitted pieces with the support of youth or people with disabilities that she trains.

Auma Joyce


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- **NAME:** AUMA JOYCE
- **INTERESTS:** Handcrafts, beadings, and weaving.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** “I am passionate about helping my fellow disabled people to learn a skill and not beg.” _ Auma Joyce
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** She hopes that youth with disabilities can be put in the driver’s seat so they can decide how to improve their own environments. Embracing skills training in handicrafts will equip them with the skills, resources, and networks they need to solve problems in their communities, and ensure they are empowered to lead the process. This will see the youth supporting job creation, contribute to economic growth, and much more.
- **PROJECT:** Auma Joyce a 25-year-old young woman with physical disabilities. Her project is about empowering youth with disabilities especially all forms of disabilities with skill training in designing and making paper beads, money purse making out of beads, making tablecloth, handbags, and tailoring to enable them to earn an income, be self-reliant and independent enough to participate in societal development. Disabled youth in Gulu are an indispensable yet underutilized force in tackling global poverty and inequality. Auma is inspired by their energy, passion, and courage to challenge the status quo, identify, and address complex community problems. Their insights are worthy of attention and investment.

Komakech Daniel



- **NAME: KOMAKECH DANIEL**
- **INTERESTS:** Filmmaker, director
- **ARTIST BIO:** Komakech is a 34-year-old filmmaker with a background in music video production. Co founder of Gulu International Film Festival 2017 - 2020. Award winner UFF_ Uganda film festival 2014 (A short film called 'Crying for Help'). In 2015, he made his first feature film, which garnered a lot of buzz in Northern Uganda.
- **PERSONAL REMARKS:** "The safety of the night commuters in Acholi region is equated to 'Te Okono' (living under pumpkin leaves). There remains a gap in knowledge of how the children from the night commuter generation have evolved through the post-conflict Northern Uganda to adulthood. Film can bridge this gap." _ Komakech Daniel.
- **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS:** He plans on establishing a film school in Gulu where youth, film makes, and actors can get training on film making aspects that would in turn enable them tell their own stories.
- **PROJECT:** His project is 30-minute short film production. That tells the story of a fourteen-year-old Apio and her life and challenges as a night commuter _ a transition brought about by the effects of war and the LRA rebels. The film will highlight her relationships with her friends, siblings, parents, and shelter leaders and how she struggles to survive. The question is; Will she choose to sleep at home and in the shelter? Will she choose trauma or abduction? The film will attempt to gain insight into the coping skills and continued tensions in the lives of individuals like Apio as they developed into adulthood. It focuses on individual stresses, rape traumas, personal accounts, resilience, health resources, mental health, social integration, personal triumphs and unique individual perspectives in their foreseeable future.



Thank you



KUONYESHA

Art Fund