



Kuonyesha Art Fund

Introducing Our Partners and Their
Inspiring Projects for the Year 2023

Brief Overview of Kuonyesha Art Fund (KAF)

Kuonyesha is a Swahili word that means “show”. The Kuonyesha Art Fund (KAF), started in 2019: is one of the funds implemented and managed by CivFund, an Afro-Feminist fund of funds; the grant making arm of CivSource Africa.

Kuonyesha Art Fund exists to support, nurture, and develop art; to promote and support artists to improve the quality of arts, in a way that enhances the meaningful influence and participation of art and artists in the issues shaping society and public life in Africa today. The Kuonyesha Art Fund mission is “To support, promote, celebrate Art and artists in all their diversity.” Kuonyesha Art Fund’s governance is guided by the CivFund Executive Board and supported by an Advisory committee, and on the regional level, regional selection committees.

Now in its 3rd year of operation, the Kuonyesha Art Fund that started in Uganda and now spreading its funding support across the African continent, has so far supported over 500 artists, and is still growing!

Join us in celebrating cohort 3 of the Kuonyesha Art Fund!

The Objectives of the Kuonyesha Art Fund are:

1

To enhance the vibrancy of the art industry and in so doing legitimize what artists do.

2

Seeks to build bridges between and amongst artists and various art forms.

3

Support artists to create for their own reasons e.g., expression, freedom, influence community, social, and cultural change in various respects.

4

Nurture and build confidence amongst artists i.e., the fund recognizes artists in all their diversity and supports them to thrive in whatever they do.

5

To enable artists to develop new ways of or deepening relations with the audience and/or the community.

Kuonyesha Art Fund –2023 Partners:

Kuonyesha Art Fund proudly introduces the 3rd cohort of artists for 2023. Out of a total of 362 received and reviewed proposals, 32 partners were supported to embark on inspiring projects and the fund holds a high premium on ensuring equity, inclusivity and diversity.

Reflecting on lessons from the previous years, we recognize the importance of ongoing support for our partners. In addition to financial grants, the fund is committed to providing accompaniment capacity-building opportunities and mentorship. Our accompaniment encompasses arts clinics, workshops, peer learning sessions, and targeted trainings. These sessions cover various aspects, including understanding the digital arts economy, wellness and mental health, arts marketing, branding and identity, intellectual property, tax advice, and financial management for the arts.

As we look back on our journey, we take pride in the thriving arts sector that continues to make impactful contributions across all facets of society. With great excitement, we present the selected artists, their respective art categories, and the inspiring projects that marked the third year of the Kuonyesha Art Fund in 2023.

The regional distribution of applications is visually represented below.

Regional representation of Kuonyesha Art Fund Applications 2023

Gulu

8 Artists
4 Female
4 Male

Karamoja Sub-region

12 Artists
6 Female
6 Male

Kampala

10 Artists
8 Female
2 Male





Empowering Artistry:

Unveiling the 3rd Cohort
of Artists Supported by
Kuonyesha Art Fund in
2023



Karamoja Partners



Sarah Lokong

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music has the remarkable ability to stir our emotions in ways that words alone cannot achieve.”

Interests: Music and Videography

Focused on utilizing music’s potency to drive affirmative shifts in her society, her initiative involves crafting influential melodies that tackle crucial themes including serenity, learning, spirituality, and communal cohesion. Through the composition and sharing of these transformative musical pieces, her goal is to inspire individuals, nurturing harmony, and comprehension. She aims to advocate for tranquility, stimulate education, and foster unity within diverse communities, recognizing music’s profound influence in transcending boundaries and sparking meaningful dialogues. Each of her compositions carries heartfelt messages that resonate deeply with listeners, motivating them and fostering a collective sense of purpose. Her genuine desire to positively impact her society drives this project. By leveraging music’s universal language, she aims to bridge divides, creating a more harmonious world. Through her musical talent and unwavering commitment, she envisions a society where her songs act as catalysts for transformation, uniting people, spreading messages of peace, enlightenment, and spirituality, and fostering a sense of togetherness among all.



Napeyok Gloria Peace aka Lady Comfort Peace

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

"I believe that music can be a powerful tool for social change. I want to use my talents to create songs and videos that will raise awareness about these important issues and inspire people to take action."

Interests: Music

Her project idea is to produce songs and videos that promote peace and sustainability in Karamoja, as well as educational songs and videos about the bad cultural practices that lead to early marriages and gender-based violence (GBV) in the region. These practices are rooted in the economic powerlessness of women, who often have limited ownership and education.



Lokiru Henry

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

"I believe that art can be a powerful tool for social change. I hope that my paintings can help to revive our culture and inspire others to preserve their own cultures."

Interests: Painting

Lokiru Henry's project idea is to use painting as a visual art form to promote and sustain their culture. He also wants to train community members on how to live with their culture without abusing it. Henry believes that painting can be a powerful tool for social change. He hopes that his paintings can help to revive their culture and inspire others to preserve their own cultures.

Here are some of the specific ways that Henry plans to achieve his objectives:

- He will use his paintings to depict traditional cultural practices and values.
- He will work with community members to create educational materials about their culture.
- He will organize cultural events and festivals to showcase their culture to the wider world.
- He will partner with tourism organizations to promote their community as a tourist destination.

Henry believes that his project has the potential to make a significant impact on their community. He is confident that his paintings can help to revive their culture and inspire others to preserve their own cultures.



Apet Abraham
Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Creativity inspires and brings forth constructive change.”

Interests: Product Design

Apet Abraham's project centres on uniting and engaging the youth, steering them away from idleness. He employs craft art as both a means of engagement and a source of increased income. The sale of products resulting from these artistic endeavours serves the dual purpose of generating additional revenue and uplifting the community. His vision extends beyond current boundaries, aiming to expand the business to various Karamoja regions and across Uganda. This expansion would broaden his reach, offering more young individuals opportunities to participate in craft art initiatives of their own. In tandem with meaningful activities, his project emphasizes training and employing more community youth. By imparting valuable skills and knowledge, he seeks to empower these individuals and establish sustainable employment.

The ultimate objective is to catalyze positive change among the community's youth. By nurturing unity and providing engaging activities, he strives to redirect their energy towards constructive pursuits. With unwavering dedication to craft art and community engagement, he envisions a transformative impact, empowering the youth and contributing to their personal and collective development. His overarching goal is to revolutionize the lives of these young individuals. Fostering unity and offering engaging activities are integral to channelling their energy into productive endeavours, thereby shaping a motivated, creative generation equipped with essential skills. Through the artistic outlet of craft-making, he envisions a brighter, more promising future for the youth within his community and beyond.



Etapukan Moses aka Mozerox Di-xtinguisher

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music is a powerful tool that can be used to make a positive impact on the community. By using music to communicate information, we can help to improve the lives of the youth and the community as a whole.”

Interests: Painting

Through his compositions and performances, he aims to illustrate the invaluable benefits of education and spotlight the dire consequences of absenteeism. Moreover, he’s created songs that champion peace, combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and address child marriages. Utilizing his distinct musical talent, he delivers these impactful songs, seeking to engage the listener and establish a profound connection to the artists’ messages. Acknowledging music’s universal appeal, he believes in its capacity to transcend barriers and deeply touch individuals’ hearts and minds.

His music is a vehicle for creating awareness, inspiring change, and nurturing empathy and understanding among listeners. With each melody and heartfelt lyric, he endeavors to stimulate thought, initiate conversations, and ultimately incite positive action. By utilizing music’s power as a catalyst for social change, he strives to generate a lasting impact, addressing urgent concerns and advocating for a brighter future.

His commitment to his craft aims to set off a ripple effect as his music resonates with audiences, spurring them to listen attentively, reflect, and contribute to the causes he champions. By harnessing his musical talent to spark discourse and drive social progress, he intends to leave an enduring imprint on both listeners’ hearts and the issues he fervently supports.



Kakai Barbara

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Fashion has the potential to universally uphold and safeguard our cultures and legacies within our diverse communities.”

Interests: Fashion Design

Her project involves expanding Mama Julie’s Tailoring Garage, with the aim of offering tailoring and fashion design training to a greater number of women. Using fashion design as a medium, her goal is to inspire and encourage women in the Karamoja region and beyond to embrace artistic creativity. The primary focus is on empowering vulnerable women and girls by imparting the skills needed to craft vibrant fashion designs and generate income.

The initiative involves introducing affordable and dynamic clothing styles that incorporate distinctive bindings. Additionally, she plans to acquire more machines to enhance her training services within the community. The project’s involvement will extend to HIV-positive mothers who will receive training. Engagement with the community will occur through group activities and dances at cultural and marriage ceremonies. Gender sensitivity is a key aspect of the project, evident in tailor-made outfits for various occasions like birthdays, traditional marriages, and cultural gatherings.



Augustine Bazaale

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Theatre art is a valuable initiative that has the potential to make a positive impact on the lives of girls and young women in the community.”

Interests: Community participatory Theatre

Bazale's project idea targets the urgent concerns of early marriage, forced marriage, and early pregnancy, which stem from cultural practices that infringe upon human rights. This initiative aims to tackle these rights violations using a behavioral approach, specifically through the implementation of participatory theater. This theater-based approach aims to establish a platform for inclusive dialogue and engagement from multiple perspectives. This encompasses viewpoints from the girl-child, government authorities, policymakers, as well as parents and adults within the community.

The project utilizes theater to challenge societal norms, increase awareness, and advocate for change. By harnessing participatory theater as a means for societal transformation, the project seeks to deepen the comprehension of the consequences linked to early marriage, forced marriage, and early pregnancy. Involving all stakeholders, including affected girls, policymakers, and community members, the project strives to cultivate a collective commitment to ending these human rights abuses. Ultimately, the project's goal is to bolster human rights respect, empower girls, and reshape societal attitudes and behaviors concerning these detrimental practices. Through the dynamic medium of participatory theater, the initiative seeks to leave a lasting imprint on individuals, communities, and society at large, fostering a future in which every girl can exercise her rights and fulfill her potential.



Angella Godfrey aka Mzee G

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Comedy, as an art form, possesses a remarkable ability to alleviate the weight of anger. Few things are as effective in diffusing anger and conflict as shared laughter. By perceiving the humorous aspects of situations,

comedy allows problems to be viewed from a different perspective, enabling individuals to move forward from confrontations without carrying the weight of bitterness or resentment. The power of laughter lies in its capacity to lighten the emotional load, fostering a sense of release and promoting a more positive outlook. Through comedy, we can find solace and create bridges, offering a pathway to resolution and understanding.”

Interests: Comedy

Angella Godfrey’s project centers on creating audio comedy content for enjoyment both within and beyond the Karamoja region. He acknowledges laughter’s widely accepted ability to alleviate physical tension and stress, effectively inducing muscle relaxation.

His project strives to leverage laughter’s potential to enhance individuals’ physical and emotional well-being. Through his audio comedy content, Angella intends to spread happiness, encourage relaxation, and nurture positivity. Whether directed at the local Karamoja community or a broader audience, his project aims to unite people, boost spirits, and provide comfort amidst life’s trials by employing the invaluable medium of laughter.



Anyakun Emmy Chaon aka Blaqmelo

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of people in Karamoja. I am confident that music can help to improve people’s lives, promote peace, and inspire hope.”

Interests: Music

His project revolves around harnessing the potency of music as an art form to nurture peace, harmony, and justice within the Karamojong clans. Through his musical creations, he seeks to both educate and inspire parents, urging them to prioritize their children’s education. Acknowledging music’s transformative capabilities, he envisions employing its melodies and lyrics as agents of positive transformation. His aim is to reach out to the community via his musical compositions, conveying messages of unity, understanding, and the paramount importance of education.

His profound dedication to promoting harmonious coexistence among the Karamojong clans leads him to believe that music can function as a bridge, transcending barriers and fostering unity. By captivating parents’ emotions and thoughts through his musical expressions, he aspires to awaken within them a desire to provide their children with learning opportunities and personal growth.

Through his project, his intention is to prompt a shift in the community’s mindset, underscoring the pivotal role of education as a conduit to empowerment and advancement. By employing music as a mode of communication, he aims to illuminate a brighter future for the Karamojong clans – one characterized by flourishing peace, harmony, and justice, where every child has the privilege of accessing a quality education.



Aperio Anna

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Fashion can be a powerful tool for economic empowerment and social change.”

Interests: Fashion Design

Meet a visionary woman who centres her project idea around the transformative potential of tailoring and fashion design. Her objective is to enhance the income levels of young women and boys by imparting them with tailoring skills and facilitating the establishment of their own businesses. Through comprehensive training encompassing both theory and practice, these young individuals will acquire invaluable skills that hold economic empowerment.

By assisting them with startup materials, providing consistent job mentorship and guidance equips she hopes that they will be equipped with skill that will enable them to generate income through their sales. The reach of this project extends beyond monetary gains. Elevated income levels will enable these young women and boys to meet essential needs like food, health, and education. Improved economic circumstances empower will them to aspire to a higher quality of life and pursue opportunities for personal growth and advancement.

Through her project, this visionary strives to establish a platform for self-sufficiency and empowerment. By harnessing the artistry of tailoring and fashion design, she envisions a future where young individuals can confidently establish successful enterprises, cultivate sustainable livelihoods, and shape a more promising future for both themselves and their communities.



Atyang Jackline Ruth aka Arty Ruth

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music leaves an indelible imprint on the hearts and brains of people who have experienced its transformative power.”

Interests: Music

Drawing inspiration from her rich heritage, culture, and traditions, she envisions a project that employs music as a potent art form to cultivate a profound sense of unity within her community. Through her music’s captivating melodies and rhythms, her intention is to forge a bridge connecting the past and present, intertwining the threads of her cultural legacy with the contemporary world. This project stands as a jubilant celebration of identity, with music serving as a means to showcase the splendor and depth of her traditions.

Her aim is to establish a connection with her community through music, igniting feelings of togetherness, pride, and reverence for their shared heritage. Each musical note and lyric become a vessel for storytelling, preserving and transmitting the collective wisdom and experiences of generations. Within her project, music evolves into a vibrant tapestry that unites people, transcending temporal and spatial boundaries. It acts as a potent tool for safeguarding culture and offers a platform for dialogue and comprehension.

Through her musical journey, she strives to cultivate a more profound sense of connection within her community, kindle a feeling of belonging, and establish an enduring legacy of cultural esteem and preservation. With each composition and performance, she imparts her enthusiasm for her heritage, culture, and tradition, leaving an indelible impact on those who experience the transformative might of her music.



Gulu Partners



Anne Grace Apiita

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Gulu 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Embodying a powerful artistic form, theatre continues to fulfill its mission of revealing truth, fostering empathy, and provoking contemplation. It stands as a testament to our collective desire to comprehend the complexities of existence and navigate the ever-evolving social landscape.”

Interests: Theatre Arts

The Cli-Mates of Change (COC) project is led by Anne Grace Apiita. This project’s core aim is to promote advocacy and facilitate learning through the engaging medium of green drama. Specifically targeting environmental degradation caused by deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and indoor air pollution from harmful fuels, it seeks to enhance awareness and address the associated health implications.

Guided by the conviction that theatrical drama effectively engages communities and encourages dialogue, the COC project hopes to empower Ugandan youth as leaders in driving change. Through relatable characters and well-crafted narratives, tailored to resonate with local communities, the project seeks to transform perspectives and galvanize collective efforts to combat climate change, energy barriers, and other environmental issues.

To materialize this vision, the project has meticulously developed a drama script and will conduct auditions to select twenty-one characters best suited to promote specific behavioural outcomes within the target audience. The initiative underscores innovation and participation by equipping the drama team with environmental knowledge, practices, attitudes, and behaviours. By empowering them as catalysts for societal change, the project aims to trigger a mindset shift and cultivate a collective dedication to tackling climate change.

The plan entails staging the drama in two schools in Gulu city, representing northern Ugandan communities. One school will be selected from Gulu district, and the other from Kitgum district. Additionally, an open theater stage in Gulu will engage the wider community, encouraging active involvement and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

Through the influential tool of green drama, the Cli-Mates of Change project strives to empower individuals, enlighten communities, and pave the way for a sustainable and resilient future. By harnessing the transformative potential of storytelling and the arts, this initiative aspires to spark positive action, cultivate environmental consciousness, and foster collaboration in response to pressing climate and environmental challenges.





Winnie Okwir

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Gulu 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Within the intricate tapestry of life, we find interconnectedness. Every individual represents a precious gift, influencing and supporting those around us as we embrace our true selves. Together, we weave the threads of existence through bead weaving, creating a harmonious and beautiful picture of unity.”

Interests: Product Design

Winnie Okwir and her women’s weaving group seamlessly incorporate the profound cultural significance of beads into their project idea, directing their focus towards the celebration of the traditional artistry of the Acholi people. Beads hold immense importance in Acholi culture, carrying deep-rooted symbolism and historical meaning. The group plans to meticulously weave various marketable articles that showcase their cultural heritage’s beauty and pride. They hope to craft exquisite beads from diverse materials like seeds, animal bones, parts, paper, and well-moulded plastics. These beads will be skilfully incorporated into doormats, bracelets, necklaces, waist ornaments, and other adornments that not only embody cultural aesthetics but also hold inherent value.

This beadwork endeavour serves a dual purpose: it fosters community unity and offers a livelihood. Collaboratively creating these intricate ornaments strengthens social bonds and generates income, enabling group members to sustain themselves through their artistic pursuits. The colours of the beads are significant, as each hue carries its own symbolism. Blue signifies healing, harmony, insight, and truth. Brown represents the earth and stability. Green embodies prosperity, fertility, abundance, hope, and healing. Purple signifies spirituality, wisdom, and royalty. Red embodies vitality, passion, bravery, and confidence. Beads and beadwork play a profound role in

restoring cultural ties and upholding spiritual beliefs among Indigenous artists: They symbolize resilience and a means to exhibit the distinct cultural value of the Acholi people. In various contexts, beads and beadwork are employed diversely, reflecting the versatility of their cultural heritage.

Engaging in the art of beads and weaving, the group aims to preserve and promote Acholi cultural heritage. Their creations stand as a testament to the resilience of their indigenous identity and honour their ancestors' enduring traditions. Through their artistic expressions, they contribute to the broader narrative of cultural appreciation and understanding.



Laker Betty

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Gulu 2023

Personal Remarks!

Film, akin to a dream and music, possesses a unique ability to transcend ordinary consciousness. It delves straight into the depths of our emotions, reaching the twilight room of the soul like no other art form can. Through a mere flicker in our optic nerve, it captivates us with its power—twenty-four illuminated frames per second, with fleeting moments of darkness in

between. Our optic nerve, unable to perceive this darkness, becomes an instrument that resonates solely with light.”

Interests: Painting

Titled ‘One Last Puff,’ Betty’s visionary project arises as a creative response stemming from heartfelt discussions about Mental Health. Through a short film, her goal is to illuminate the obstacles confronted by individuals dealing with early mental health challenges, as seen through the protagonist’s battle against drug addiction within a young family context. In the initial pre-production phases, she envisions an immersive encounter for the cast and crew, fostering an atmosphere that highlights the significance of understanding mental health and providing mutual support in challenging times. This endeavour catalyses awareness, fostering a deeper grasp of mental health and cultivating compassion among the production team.

Diving into the narrative of ‘One Last Puff,’ her aspiration is to evoke empathy and ignite meaningful conversations about mental health. The film’s portrayal of the protagonist’s journey becomes a potent medium for viewers to connect with and contemplate the intricate nature of silent mental health struggles. Her project aims to break down stigmas, nurture understanding, and instil a sense of unity.

‘One Last Puff’ serves as a testament to her dedication to heightening mental health awareness, nurturing empathy, and creating an environment where individuals feel empowered to seek assistance and support each other on their journeys toward healing and wellness.



Bedmot Andrew

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Gulu 2023

Personal Remarks!

*“Music serves as the universal language
that connects all of humanity.”*

Interests: Music

At the core of his project concept lies the utilization of music’s potential to address the adverse effects of stigmatization and discrimination experienced by both individuals with disabilities and those deemed ‘abnormal’ in the community.



Jeanmarie Owachgiu

Kuonyesha Art Fund final

Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

Music serves as the language of the spirit, unlocking the mysteries of life and ushering in peace while dissolving conflicts.”

Interests: Theatre Arts

The proposed project involves orchestrating a Christmas Musical Drama that seamlessly melds the timeless narrative of Jesus Christ’s birth with urgent societal matters. Interweaving the accounts of Gulu’s street children, the production endeavors to spotlight their narratives, hardships, and the societal hurdles they encounter—ranging from teenage pregnancy and drug misuse to unemployment and sexual gender-based violence. Through the vehicle of theater, this Christmas Musical Drama assumes a dual role, both entertaining and enlightening the public. It serves as a forum for addressing these critical concerns, offering a framework to counteract the far-reaching consequences stemming from the burgeoning population of street children in Gulu City.

By harmonizing dialogue and melodies, the production manages to captivate and engage its audiences, delivering a compelling impact. The amalgamation of the Christmas narrative with the experiences of street children serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of empathy, compassion, and collective action. The project’s objective is to heighten awareness, provoke contemplation, and stimulate positive transformation within the community, fostering an environment of empathy and assistance for the most vulnerable segments of society.

Through this Christmas Musical Drama, the aim extends beyond entertainment. It seeks to initiate dialogues, cultivate empathy, and provide a ray of hope for a more promising future. The project stands as evidence of art's transformative potency in addressing societal challenges and cultivating a more comprehensive and empathetic society.



Odong Micheal Kabaka

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

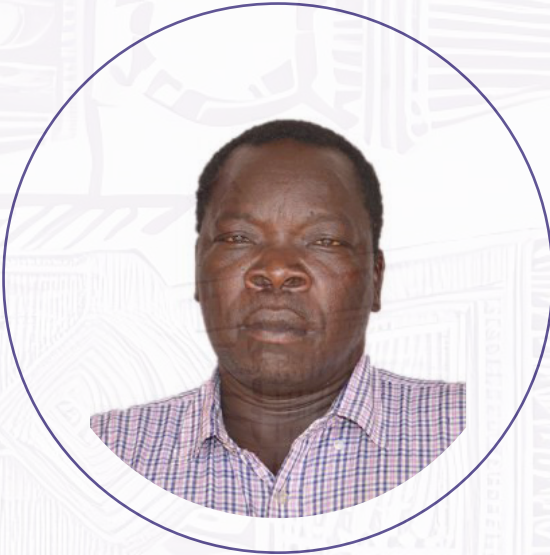
“Engaging in your craft with expertise is a pursuit that embodies nobility, honour, and deep satisfaction.”

Interests: Theatre Arts

Central to his project is the crafting of traditional musical equipment and instruments that are deeply rooted in the local culture. This encompasses the skillful creation of items such as Bow Harps (Adungu), Thumb Pianos (Lukeme), Xylophones, Drums, and Tube Fiddles, among others. The focal point of this endeavor is a workshop situated in Gulu City’s Bardege-Layibi Division, Kirombe Parish, Alokolum Cell. Here, a team of enthusiastic youths collaborates, not only receiving valuable training but also gaining essential skills to navigate the complexities of unemployment.

Through nurturing self-reliance, the project endeavors to empower these individuals to make meaningful contributions to society. As the workshop’s productivity flourishes, and its product range expands, the rise in per capita income becomes a tangible benefit for both the project and the participating youth. This growth becomes the driving force propelling the workshop to new pinnacles of success and evolution.

Beyond the economic dimension, the project’s significance extends to cultural heritage preservation and promotion. By upholding and celebrating traditional musical instruments, his project hopes to generate economic prospects for the community. It stands as a testament to the wealth of local artistry, simultaneously fostering the growth, development, and prosperity of the youth involved.



John Bosco Oryem

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“A great leather craft is not just a piece of leather. It’s a piece of art.”

Interests: : Leather products design

Centrally situated in his project is the mastery of working with leather. Having received comprehensive training at the Osoko Rehabilitation Centre in Arua back in 1984, he has diligently refined his craft in creating a diverse array of leather products. From crafting shoes of varying sizes for both genders to meticulously designed leather belts, bags, and other fine leather goods, his workshop on Awich Road in Gulu City stands as the epicenter of his creative pursuits.

Guided by an unwavering passion for his work, he has undertaken the role of mentoring a group of young individuals. His goal is to instil in them the knowledge and proficiency needed to excel in the realm of leatherworking. This training will empower the youths, enabling them to emerge as self-reliant and skilled artisans in their own right. Collaborating with a shared dedication to craftsmanship and excellence, the team hopes to collectively produce top-tier leather products that embody both style and longevity.

This endeavor goes beyond personal growth. It extends to the broader community, nurturing self-sufficiency and entrepreneurial spirit. In his pursuit, he envisions a positive impact realized through the promotion of local craftsmanship and the creation of extraordinary leather goods. Every meticulously created piece aims to spotlight leather’s elegance and versatility while establishing a sustainable business that supports his team’s livelihoods and enriches Gulu City’s artistic landscape.



Joanita Ayenyo

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Poetry embodies thoughts that come alive, and words that ignite with passion.”

Interests: Music

Her project concept revolves around tackling societal challenges through a novel approach that harnesses the synergy of audio and visual storytelling in the medium of video poetry podcasts. The project concentrates on three pivotal themes: “Society & Women,” “Refugee Lives,” and “Child Abuse,” with the intention of illuminating critical social matters impacting our community.

To actively engage the community and initiate significant conversations, a dual strategy involving physical and online interaction is planned. This involves encouraging people to share their perspectives and experiences related to prevalent vices in their lives through both posts and informal dialogues. This valuable input will form the basis for constructing thought-provoking scripts that will guide the development of the podcasts. By weaving poetic elements into the audio-visual format, the objective is to captivate and deeply resonate with the audience.

Through the fusion of expressive imagery, emotive narration, and impactful visuals, the video poetry podcasts will effectively convey the realities and hurdles faced by those affected by these vices. The ultimate aspiration is to heighten awareness, nurture

empathy, and ignite substantial discussions that contribute to positive transformation within the community. By offering a platform to voices often overlooked, the project aims to empower individuals to collectively confront and address these societal issues.

Through the influential tool of storytelling, combined with the immersive experience of video poetry podcasts, the intention is to galvanize action, encourage understanding, and cultivate empathy. All these efforts culminate in driving towards a more comprehensive and compassionate society.



Anywar Francis

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Every single day, our actions have a ripple effect on the world around us. The choices we make, the things we do, all have an impact. It’s up to us to determine the kind of impact we want to have, to choose what difference we wish to make. Our decisions matter, and they hold the power to shape a better future for ourselves and others.”

Interests: Dance

Centered around the utilization of dance and drama, his project is a dynamic initiative aimed at advancing peace and reconciliation. Through the potent mediums of these expressive arts, his objective is to bridge the gap toward peace while simultaneously addressing the critical concern of deforestation, which has led to extensive land cultivation.

To tackle this environmental issue, his project champions the cause of ecological preservation through the “GO GREEN GULUMA” (G3) campaign. Drawing from his background as a dancer, he recognizes the far-reaching impact of the pandemic, which further compounded the challenges following the 20-year war in northern Uganda.

An additional dimension of the project is addressing the underlying catalyst of climate change—deforestation. This not only contributes to the migration from rural to urban areas but also spawns associated societal problems like prostitution and theft. Recognizing this interconnectedness, his endeavor seeks to minimize idle time among the youth through training and project involvement, thereby reducing these social challenges.

The ultimate aspiration is to cultivate community outreach and catalyze positive transformations in the lives of the youth.



Anyang Daniel

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“ Art unifies a community... Art evokes diverse emotions, altering your perspective. This constant transformation of perception is the essence of artistic expression. Artists continuously strive to shift and reshape your understanding of life, prompting you to feel and experience the world in new and profound ways.”

Interests: Art Illustrations

Through his project, he harnesses the potency of art—comprising drawings, paintings, and illustrations—to effectively communicate essential messages for community sensitization. Leveraging the universal language of art, he dismantles barriers to communication, enabling engagement in a manner that is both captivating and profound. His artistic materials are distinguished by their simplicity, ease of interpretation, and innovative presentation, rendering them accessible to a broad spectrum of individuals. These materials manifest in diverse forms, ranging from charts to wall paintings, and have gained widespread utilization across regions such as Acholi, West Nile, Karamoja, Lango, and more.

The central aim of his artworks is to address shifts in social behavior within communities, promoting the adoption of best practices in domains like agriculture, health, and human rights. Through evocative visuals accompanied by crucial messages, these inventive materials are meticulously crafted to resonate with community members. Simultaneously, they serve as invaluable aids for extension workers and trainers, enhancing the effectiveness of their communication processes.

What distinguishes his visual artistic messages is their enduring impact. For example, a wall painting addressing child abuse within a school environment can consistently deliver its message for years, as these visual reminders possess a lasting influence. By harnessing art as a formidable medium, his project aspires to cultivate enduring change and leave an indelible positive mark on the communities it touches.





Lalam Irene

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Karamoja 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music has the extraordinary power to uplift our spirits, evoking both joy and sorrow. It serves as a remedy, a tonic, a refreshing elixir for the soul.”

Interests: Poetry

Her project is designed with the purpose of heightening awareness and advocating for mental health among women and young girls. This is accomplished through the compelling influence of music and weekly sessions dedicated to sharing stories from mental health survivors. As time unfolds, her plan encompasses the establishment of a secure and all-embracing space within Gulu City. Here, she envisions engaging the public in meaningful discussions and providing a support system.

The emphasis on mental health is rooted in her firsthand observations of school-age girls and young women, including single mothers. She has noted that these individuals encounter mental health difficulties that could have been averted through the exchange of experiences or learning from others who have triumphed over similar challenges. By amplifying the voices of these young women and girls, she believes their narratives hold the potential to ignite solutions and decrease the prevalence of mental health concerns within this specific demographic.

The ultimate ambition is twofold: to decrease the occurrence of mental health challenges among individuals on the streets and to counteract the alarming rates of suicide within this vulnerable group.

Kampala Partners





Immaculate Mali

**Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023**

Personal Remarks!

"I find it fascinating how food acts as both a unifying force and a means of building trust within the project. The intimate gatherings, held in the homes or studios of individual artists, provide a warm and personal atmosphere for participants to connect, cook, and engage in meaningful conversations."

It's through these discussions that the intricacies of our identities, memories, and life moments are explored and shared."

Interests: Poetry

Immy has recently embarked on an innovative venture titled "Iraa-the granary," which revolves around the themes of food and memory. This initiative effectively brings together a diverse assembly of creatives encompassing artists, architects, curators, writers, poets, and enthusiasts, all united by the intimacy of these gatherings. The primary thrust behind this project is to explore unconventional avenues for documenting our existence, breaking free from the confines of conventional Western archiving methods.

Within this endeavour, food occupies a central role, serving as a unifying element and a catalyst for cultivating trust. These sessions serve as a platform where participants collaborate in cooking, sharing meals, and participating in conversations spanning an extensive array of topics. This dynamic environment provides the space to delve into the complexities of our identities, memories, and the pivotal moments that shape our life experiences.

A pivotal facet of this project is the collective construction of an archive, meticulously shaped to align with its cultural context in terms of language and format. The settings for these sessions are



often the homes or studios of individual artists, fostering an atmosphere of intimacy and personal connection. The goal is to establish these gatherings as a monthly occurrence, fostering an ongoing journey of exploration and dialogue.

To sustain the continuity of the project and cover minimal expenses, Immy's team ingeniously sells cookies, jam, and other delectable treats via their Instagram platform. The proceeds accrued from these sales bolster the project's resources, facilitating the creation of a website, procurement of professional recording equipment, and establishment of a communal kitchen for collective culinary efforts.

Through "Iraa-the granary," Immy envisions a space where the collective voices of participants can be captured and preserved. This undertaking epitomizes a more inclusive and diverse approach to archiving personal and collective memories, reflecting the rich tapestry of human experiences.



Aliad Aryaija

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

“It’s my belief that fast fashion has a detrimental impact on our environment, and therefore, incorporating recycling practices is essential in the fashion industry.”

Interests: Fashion Design

Aliad’s project idea revolves around the core concept of “Recycle and Revamp,” driven by the clear objective of advocating for the recycling and repurposing of old garments into novel and artistic designs. Fueled by an unwavering passion for recycling, she ardently embraces the transformative potential inherent in materials. In her creative endeavors, she adeptly harnesses discarded items such as worn-out jeans, used bedsheets, and curtains, skillfully revitalizing them into exquisite couture pieces.

Recognizing the adverse ecological impact of the fast fashion industry, Aliad holds a firm belief in the essential integration of recycling practices within the realm of fashion. By actively participating in recycling efforts, we can substantially diminish waste production and take significant strides towards fostering a fashion industry that prioritizes sustainability and environmental consciousness.

Aliad’s project not only serves as a platform for showcasing her artistic ingenuity but also stands as a compelling testament to the significance of mindful consumption. Through her innovative designs and steadfast commitment to recycling, she aims to inspire others to embrace sustainable practices and contribute positively to the world of fashion.

With Aliad steering the “Recycle and Revamp” initiative, a future characterized by flourishing creativity and a profound respect for the Earth’s finite resources comes into view. Her project signifies a poignant step towards fostering a fashion landscape where imagination thrives hand in hand with responsible resource management.



Davina Kawuma

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Everyday occurrences; The mundane can be just as meaningful as the momentous.”

Interests: Literature

Under the working title “Respect A Fool to Avoid Noise,” her project delves into the unique journey of being a Ugandan woman, encompassing distinct perspectives, beliefs, emotions, thoughts, and viewpoints. By assembling a collection of micro-fiction stories drawn from various facets of her daily existence and her travels on public transport throughout different sectors of Kampala, her aim is to unravel the intricate tapestry of her identity.

At the core of her project lies the conviction that everyday moments carry profound significance. She acknowledges that not only extraordinary events but also the ordinary and routine instances that weave our lives together can offer deep insights and revelations. Her primary objective is to compile and publish these micro-stories in the form of an eBook, coupled with original high-resolution visuals. By merging the art of storytelling with captivating imagery, her intention is to craft a multi-dimensional and immersive experience for her readers.

Through “Respect A Fool to Avoid Noise,” she extends an invitation to her audience to embrace the allure and significance of the ostensibly commonplace. She emphasizes the richness and meaning concealed within the tapestry of everyday life, urging readers to appreciate the depth that lies within the familiar.



Atukwasize Ogon-

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Deconstruction is a key element of cartooning. By taking apart the familiar and making it strange, cartooning creates humor that challenges our assumptions about the world.”

Interests: Cartooning/Illustration

His project concept revolves around the creation of a captivating book that serves as a true testament to his passion and exceptional talent in the realm of cartooning. By compiling a diverse array of his outstanding artworks, his objective is to amalgamate both published and unreleased pieces that span the entirety of his illustrious career. With careful and meticulous curation at the forefront, he envisions crafting a collection featuring approximately 250 to 300 cartoons, all showcased in a visually striking large-format A4 size book.

What truly sets his work apart is his remarkable ability to seamlessly blend current events with humor, capturing the very essence of editorial cartoons and caricatures. Within this distinctive style, his insightful wit shines brilliantly as he fearlessly approaches an extensive spectrum of subjects, offering a refreshing and thoroughly enjoyable outlook on the world that surrounds us. By embarking on this ambitious endeavor, he not only seeks to present his unparalleled talent and boundless creativity but also aims to lead readers on an enchanting visual odyssey, where they can wholeheartedly immerse themselves in the captivating realm of his cartooning.

This upcoming book is poised to stand as a resounding testament to his mastery in the field and promises to deliver an abundance of joy and laughter to those who engage with his artistry.



Lawrence Kasozi

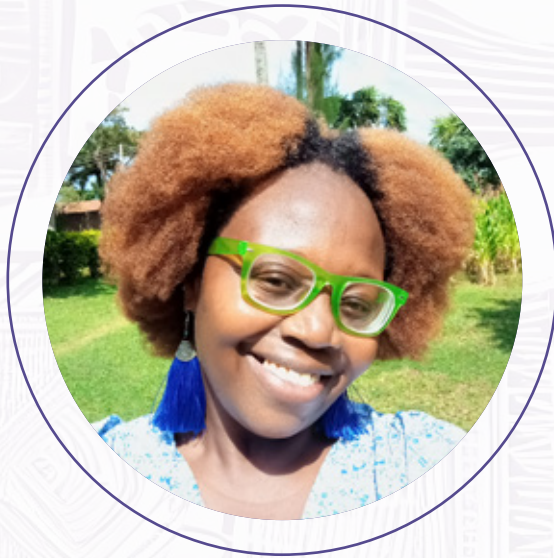
Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

"I see an artwork as the concentration of an idea or concept into a physical entity in relation to environmental culture."

Interests: Sculpture

His project concept centers on the innovative use of discarded polythene and wood to craft distinctive and practical applied art pieces. His vision is to fashion lampshades and tables that possess both artistic uniqueness and functional utility. These creations are intended to serve a dual purpose: being accessible and beneficial for the public while also being made available in the market.



Angella Emurwon

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

“My goal is to establish a nurturing and empowering environment where women filmmakers can feel safe and thrive, both in front of and behind the camera. I aim to create a space that fosters artistic growth and encourages women to express their unique voices and perspectives through the power of filmmaking.”

Interests: Film/web series

Her project is dedicated to establishing secure, empowering, and artistically enriching environments for women filmmakers, encompassing various roles both on-screen and behind the camera. Furthermore, the initiative extends an invaluable invitation to male filmmakers to participate, urging them to engage in experiential learning: to understand, unlearn, and relearn tangible ways to genuinely support, respect, and collaborate with their female counterparts and industry leaders.

As the director and producer, she, alongside her team, is determined to bring to fruition the pilot episode of a web series titled “ENNO LAUVU.” This captivating series centers on women, both as driving forces and leaders, presenting a compelling narrative anchored by a young woman in Kampala. As she grapples with profound grief while nurturing a unique romance with an ambitious filmmaker, she confronts the challenges of navigating a corporate world often tainted by misogyny. The web series serves as a prominent platform where women take the spotlight, both on and off-screen, allowing their voices and perspectives to radiate brilliantly. Through this endeavor, her aim is to make a resounding impact within the film industry, fostering an environment of inclusivity and support that empowers women filmmakers to thrive and instigate transformative change.



Suzan Kerunen

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

“Music transcends cultural boundaries and breaks down the barriers that have historically divided people.”

Interests: Music

Her project, known as ‘MARAYA,’ which translates to “mirror” in Alur (Luo), is an innovative collaborative workshop that strives to enrich and meld diverse art forms stemming from various cultural backgrounds. Through the power of fusion, MARAYA aims to forge connections among artists, with a specific focus on the abundant heritage of grassroots indigenous culture, musical instruments, and modes of expression. By uniting urban talent from Kampala with rural indigenous artists, the project endeavors to bridge the gap between these two distinct realms.

This connectivity will be nurtured through both tangible gatherings and digital platforms, encompassing collaborative discussions, music, instrument playing, dance, and interviews. The core objective is to facilitate the seamless exchange of knowledge and skills between urban and rural artists, fostering a harmonious collaboration that is embraced and acknowledged by all participants. Furthermore, MARAYA seeks to digitally archive culture within the context of the modern era, serving as a valuable resource for future reference and scholarly exploration for artists and music researchers alike.



Akello Sharon Brenda

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

Art research, painting and studio experimentation in visual Art provides the industry with, knowledge and experience needed to accurately and commendably design artefacts for visual documentation.

Interests: Painting/ Arts research

In her research endeavor titled 'Preserving the Blacksmith Practice among the Ethur People in Abim District, Southwestern Karamoja, Uganda', she seeks to employ paintings as a method of documentation and conservation. By visually depicting the blacksmithing procedures, these paintings will adeptly convey and confront societal concerns, emphasizing the profound influence of visual art in safeguarding cultural traditions.



Daisy Phiona Owomugisha

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

Mental health.... is not a fixed endpoint, but rather an ongoing journey. It's not solely about reaching a specific destination, but rather the way you navigate and steer through life."

Interests: Film

Her undertaking, named 'SHINY SUIT', involves creating a short film with the intention of enhancing awareness about depression as a non-communicable ailment. The film focuses on dispelling the misconception that those who project success and well-being might be silently struggling with depression. Through its narrative, the film underscores the significance of monitoring the emotional welfare of our close ones, aiming to avert the sorrow of losing them tragically. It effectively brings to light the fact that depression affects individuals in Africa too, while stressing that it's not a mere plea for attention but rather an authentic call for assistance.



Evelyn Bageire

Kuonyesha Art Fund final
Artist – Kampala 2023

Personal Remarks!

"There is always a story told that goes beyond the image."

Interests: Pyrography & Painting

Her endeavour encompasses a three-part series in which she adeptly utilizes the Garden of Eden metaphor along with portrait art to symbolize the inherent resilience of women (Eves). Through her artistic creations, her objective is to effectively communicate the empowering narrative of women reclaiming and reasserting dominion over their individual 'Edens', despite the array of social and psychological hurdles they confront.



KUONYESHA

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