



Enabling a Culture
and Creativity Enriched
Society

Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust
**2020 Annual
Programmes Report**



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Culture Fund Strategic Thrusts

The Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust is a unique organization working within African communities and serving as an active social transformation agent through investments in innovative and sustainable creative sector capacities. The Culture Fund is registered in Zimbabwe as a not-for-profit Trust.

Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust's Strategy Plan | 2018-2021 was pivoted on efforts to deliberately assert Africaness; leveraging home-grown Culture for Development approaches and robust sub-granting capabilities - while deploying the Culture Fund model across Zimbabwe and into the Africa region. Culture Fund delivered culture for development impacts through CultureACTIONS; sub-granting for creative sector ecosystems through CreativeACTIONS and intercultural dialogue and social cohesion as public value in Africa through the international consortium - Culture at Work Africa. Beneficiaries of these projects were characterised by a greater depth in diversity - beyond gender, age and regional representation.

Our new Strategy Plan | New Era, New Technologies, New Pathways, will span from the mid-2021 to mid-2025. It will intensify our governance-of-culture advocacy, influence and leadership while forging new ways of programming and diversifying our programme funding sources within a post-COVID-19 and increasingly digital era. Young African creatives and community-generated solutions will receive special attention.

Vision - Enabling a culture and creativity enriched society.

Mission - To contribute to the growth of vibrant arts and cultural sectors; through financing and technical support to and collaborations with targeted arts and cultural practitioners, institutions, and community-based organisations in Zimbabwe, Africa, African-diaspora and the world.

Values - Culture Fund believes that its business practices should be tested for integrity and legality so that operations should be efficient and quality never compromised.

Visit our website (www.culturefund.org.zw) or more information about us.

Value Proposition

What We Value and Offer

As part of our proposition, Culture Fund appreciates that sustainable development projects must be rooted in local culture and creativity dimensions and must continue promoting inclusivity and diversity. In this regard, its work complies with the following commitments:

- Deliver support and funding, to the Zimbabwe and African creative sector; focusing on youth-driven work accessible through digital environments
- Promote and support focused conversations on Culture for Development and Cultural and Creative Industries; ensuring this dialogue contributes to sustainable development
- Value adaptability, agility and innovative approaches that provide solutions to societal challenges and deliver sustainable social impacts through tested approaches such as Culture Fund's Creative Knowledge Toolkit (CKT)
- Seek partnerships with professionally-run organisations and entities that are held accountable and are transparent in presenting their programming and business models to the public
- Value deepened diversity and inclusion as important and enriching ingredients to mutually beneficial aspirations within societies

In offering this value proposition, Culture Fund seeks to work within society to re-imagine our world, profit from focused conversations, join hands in innovating and co-creating within collaborative spaces while exploring and profiting from the dimensions and nexus of arts, culture, commerce and development.

Culture Fund seeks to continue positioning itself as a leading enabler and provider of technical and financial support for the arts and cultural sectors in Zimbabwe and the region, implementing Culture for Development and sub-granting projects that are pivotal to local cultures and creativity dimensions.

Culture Fund leverages its robust fund management capabilities and deploys home-grown approaches such as the Creative Knowledge Toolkit (CKT). It seeks to remain relevant in the society it serves; by designing and implementing initiatives that respond to local and global shifts in demographics, technology, politics and the economy.

Most of all, Culture Fund believes that its efforts must meaningfully impact communities and societies, arts, cultural and creative sectors in Zimbabwe and beyond.

2020 at a glance

Operating environment

2020 was an extraordinary year. Culture Fund development projects and programmes were implemented within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The arts, cultural and creative sectors were impacted significantly. Spaces of operation and participation were closed, mobility of artists and cultural practitioners was restricted while capacities of community based partners to engage their constituencies was greatly limited. Other challenges emerged. The Zimbabwe economy was hard hit like many others around the world. Jobs and livelihoods were lost. Psycho-social stresses increased, especially in areas that were already fragile. Culture Fund CultureACTIONS project partners reported increased cases of Gender Based Violence and Child Marriages while CreativeACTIONS sub-grantees lamented over lost creative industry opportunities – and mental health strain. Our Culture at Work Africa project partners witnessed similar challenges and applauded the spirit of resilience across many African countries.

Despite these challenges, 2020 reaffirmed the resilient capacities in many Zimbabweans, especially creatives and rural based communities - who had to re-image their very existence and adjusted activities in many innovative ways. We are here looking back and giving you a glimpse of 2020!

2020 highlights

5932
community
members

We mobilised 5932 community members and raised their awareness on GBV, child marriage and climate change

1806
girls and women
empowered

We empowered 1806 girls and women in communities through knowledge enhancement on GBV and climate change

130 traditional
leaders engaged

We engaged 130 traditional leaders to interrogate harmful cultural practices which disempower women and girls

6 innovative
and creative
organisations
and individuals

We enhanced the capacities of 6 innovative and creative organisations and individuals from 5 provinces

200,000
people reached

We reached audiences of over 200,000 people through online comedy festival

We were consortium member of Culture at Work Africa; supporting 33 projects, 90 organizations in 15 sub-Saharan African countries - reaching out to over 20,000 beneficiaries.

33 projects **90** organizations **15** sub-Saharan African countries **20,000** beneficiaries

362
GBV referrals

We promoted speaking out against GBV by referring 362 girls and women to post GBV support services

951 men and boys
in communities

We mobilised 951 men and boys to be agents for supporting women empowerment within their communities

15000 online
community members

We reached over 15000 online community members during the 16 days of activism against GBV, through the #StillStanding campaign

13 podcasts discussing
women's issues

We touched lives of girls and women through 13 podcasts discussing women's issues particularly young women lived experiences

Successes

- CultureACTIONS, a **women empowerment** project, funded by long standing development partner – the Government of Sweden – was extended by a minimum 18 months implementation period following a successful pilot in Chipinge, Makoni, Mazowe and Chimanimani districts of Zimbabwe
- Supported over **450 Zimbabwean creatives** and the cultural value chain through 9 innovative projects. CreativeACTIONS projects funded by the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe. **Strengthened capacities** of creative organisations and arts and culture practitioners within vibrant ecosystems
- With the support of the European Union (Brussels), Culture at Work Africa contributed to creating new opportunities, actively mobilizing stakeholders, to **promote intercultural dialogue** and **social cohesion** in 15 African countries
- Mainstreamed **COVID-19** within **development programming** to compliment Government of Zimbabwe efforts to curb the spread of the virus
- Influenced national and international arts and **culture sector policy** formulation, planning and implementation through participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues
- The Culture Fund Trust **remained resilient** in the face of turbulent tides. Embraced **new technologies** and emerging youth cultures
- Scheduled Culture Fund Board of Trustees seamless succession. Nurtured and **expanded relationships** with key development implementation and funding partners. Culture Fund auditors, Grant Thornton, delivered **clean audit** report, boosting governance credentials
- Culture Fund offices went green through a **new solar system** and supported. Facilitated **Climate Change adaptation planning** within 4 districts of Zimbabwe (Mazowe, Makoni, Chipinge and Chimanimani).

Culture Fund Board Chairperson, Cynthia Malaba with EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Timo Olkkonen



CultureACTIONS Project

The Culture Fund -CultureACTIONS project was launched in 2017 with the aim to reduce Gender-based violence, child marriages and foster environmental sustainability in the face of climate change. It especially targets girls and women. Culture-based arguments and societal norms that disempower girls and women are being debunked through Culture Fund's Creative Knowledge Toolkit and used in advocacy and awareness campaigns to mitigate the social ills in the four districts of Mazowe, Makoni, Chimanimani and Chipinge.



CultureACTIONS - community implementation partners meeting

The project is being implemented by six partners, Diocese of Mutare Community Care Program (**DOMCCP**), covering Chipinge and Chimanimani districts, Real Open Opportunities for Transformation Support (**ROOTS**) covering Mazowe district and Women and Land in Zimbabwe (**WLZ**) in Makoni district. The project has technical partners covering all districts, with different expertise to assist project delivery, Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust (**AWET**), Chenhaka Trust and Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (**SAFIRE**).

Community mobilisation



Our work in the communities

Catching them young!

One of the project pillars is engaging girls and young women in and out of school, raising awareness on GBV, child marriage and climate change. The strategy ensures girls are empowered at a young age, can stand for their rights early in life and hence are able to challenge oppression and abuse. Schools were closed for the better part of the year 2020, and in-school activities were not feasible. Our creative partner, Chenhaka, worked with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MOPSE) to discuss a way of engaging learners out of school. In Makoni alone 240 girls have completed child marriage, GBV and climate change sessions. The same strategy was taken to Chimanimani district where 267 girls have completed child marriage sessions.

With schools reopening, sessions in other remaining districts are being held in-schools.

In addition to mobilising and empowering learners, the project through its Mazowe based partner, ROOTS, uses the 'nhanga' concept to provide a safe platform for girls to discuss issues that affect them and sharing solutions to their day to day challenges.



In-school girl sessions

'Nhangas' are bedrooms for girls, the concept shows how girls are free to discuss their day to day experiences on dating, sex, marriage among other topics. Bringing girls from different villages, with age range of 15 to 24 years, the sessions have helped girls and young women open up with each other and their facilitators on issues that they need advice on. Some girls have opened up on abuse within these sessions and have been offered support.

Tackling GBV and child marriages

The COVID-19 induced lockdown saw an increase in GBV cases globally and Zimbabwe included. Our project implementing partners had reports from community based facilitators of this increase in GBV and child marriages. The project had to intensify efforts to mobilise communities and raise awareness on GBV and child marriages. Mobile road shows were mainly used to reach out to the communities because of COVID-19 and the lockdown restrictions. A total of 5932 community members were reached in all the four project districts. The mobilisation raised awareness of community members and raised agency and support for women empowerment activities.

Community engagement



Mobile Road show

Community dialogues are used as a way of engaging community members including community and faith based leaders to discuss important issues related to GBV, child marriage and climate change.

Mobile Roadshow



Community Dialogue



Adapting to climate change

Communities were engaged to develop community climate change adaptation plans, specific to their region in bid to capacitate communities to become resilient to effects of climate change. One of the project districts, Chipinge (some parts) was affected by the 2019 cyclone Idai which saw communities more aware of climate change. Communities developed plans ranging from small grain farming, value addition to crops, drought resistant farming, adjusting cutting down of trees for fuel among other plans. The plans were submitted to the local councils which take the responsibility of ensuring the plans are activated and monitored. The project will activate one of the plans per district in 2021.

One of the project technical partners, SAFIRE, trained communities on making 'tsotso' stoves, which use twigs as fuel instead of firewood. This provided an alternative to cutting down of trees unnecessarily within the communities for fuel. In addition to improving environmental management, the 'tsotso' stove making became a livelihood initiative where community members started making the stoves and selling them in other areas.

One of the project beneficiaries Otilia, from Makoni district managed to sustain herself and her family from the 'tsotso' stove venture. She was subjected to Gender Based Violence by her husband and through the skill she attained on the project, she left the abusive husband and started her new life with the children. Women's financial independence is one of the key strategies to end GBV as most women especially in rural areas stay in abusive relationships for livelihoods. [Click here to see her full story.](#)

Inspiring stories

CultureACTIONS uses change stories to showcase project successes and document real changes in the lives of women and girls who are part of the project beneficiaries. During the 16 days of activism against GBV, the project ran a campaign #StillStanding which showcased stories from GBV survivors within the project districts. The global campaign was running under the theme: Orange the world: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect. The campaign sought to encourage women, girls and the general public to speak out on GBV issues. Ten stories were showcased during the campaign on Culture Fund's social media platforms. Here are some of the stories showcased;



Elizabeth's story – Elizabeth lost her husband, according to her culture, wife inheritance is acceptable and encouraged, she agreed to have her brother in law inherit her as his wife. She had three children from her first marriage. Her new husband started abusing her physically and emotionally. A CultureACTIONS community facilitator came to her rescue and the case was reported to the police where she was given a protection order. She is #StillStanding. [See the full story here.](#)



Talent's story – Talent (not her real name) is a 16 year old girl who was sexually abused at the age of 14 whilst she was about to write her Grade 7 examinations. She told her parents of what had happened to her. Her parents rushed to report the case to an active CultureACTIONS community facilitator and the local police station. The facilitator and our Community Based Organisation assisted Talent and her parents to get to a GBV support shelter where she received treatment and support. [See the full story here.](#)

Implementing partners celebrated the 16 days of activism against GBV within their districts and the commemorations were platforms to raise communities' awareness on GBV and child marriage.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), and like our CultureACTIONS [Facebook](#) pages

The Shangaan people pride themselves, in their traditional dances as they commemorate 16 days of activism against GBV and raise awareness of COVID-19.



CreativeACTIONS Project



CreativeACTIONS project started in 2020 with the aim of strengthening the capacities for creative civil society organizations and arts and culture practitioners in Zimbabwe. It targets to facilitate and strengthen the growth of Zimbabwe's creative sector and their capacities to promote equitable access, inclusive participation and benefiting from artistic and cultural expressions by all citizens.

CreativeACTIONS up to December 2021 granted financial support to the cultural and creative industries in Zimbabwe. The first call for proposals extended USD117, 416 to nine projects across the nation as a way of promoting new and innovative projects from Zimbabwean creatives.

Successes from funded projects

- Supported projects that offered skills training
- Funded initiatives that promote interaction and exchange of ideas and improved the living standards of creatives
- Brought colour and active dialogue in communities through bold and innovative mural art
- Supported individuals, groups, organizations and communities and created lasting opportunities through exposing creatives to other markets
- Promoted creative enterprising skills through facilitating connections and networks between artists, trainers and those that consume cultural goods and services within and outside of the specific localities
- Created employment and empowerment for young people including university graduates and those working in the creative value chain
- Promoted gender equality through running creative empowerment initiatives with rural women in Chiredzi and Binga
- Created platforms for dialogue and social cohesion executed through [online festival](#) activities as in Simuka comedy and Vuka Afrika
- Strengthened new media, creative digital technology with a strong bias towards female [leadership and dialogue](#) promotion
- Enhanced the interaction between creatives, groups and the local authorities – with the Rural District Authorities and Urban Local Authorities i.e. Chiredzi, Binga, Bulawayo, thereby placing art at the epicenter of influencing political will through local authorities' for political influence and development agenda advancement in the CCIs.

Of the nine funded projects, more resources were directed towards females and a number of female creatives within digital and traditional spaces became part of the CreativeACTIONS community. This has prepared more females to be included in the professional production and distribution of contemporary and traditional folk art.



Inspiring stories

Kunzwana Women's Association is one of the beneficiaries. The organization has over 7,800 women members that it supports in order to become influential social entrepreneurs. It was financed to assist the Chilelema-Binga based female crafters to graduate from crafters to artisans.



Completed Basket-final touches

About the Binga Baskets

Binga baskets are well-known craft pieces of work which carries a symbolic representation of the BaTonga people's way of life, history and skills. In the project, Kunzwana has linked these Chilelema based women to be able to produce competitive baskets that are sold to the international markets [catalogue](#) mainly through Amazon. The baskets have a market world over and carries both utility and intrinsic value.





Color on Bulawayo Walls

CaliGraph invades streets through murals



Busi Ncube's Mural in Nkulumane-Bulawayo

CaliGraph is a youth focused organization that specializes in street art and murals painting. They use paint on roads or walls as a canvas to put out stories through placing these on high traffic zone spaces. Street art was done in urban spaces that include, Chitungwiza, Harare and Bulawayo. The initiative was biased towards provoking conversations while empowering the girl child.

CaliGraph has left a mark in Bulawayo communities following the paintings of female prominent figures who grew up in the city. In Bulawayo CBD and high density suburbs, are colorful walls that celebrate women. The painted characters are challenging the already traditional norms, reflecting power, courage, professionalism and influence.

Gaza Trust strengthened skills for Shangaan female crafters

The "Avuxeni Craft centre has contributed significantly to promoting creativity in the local craft industry and connecting local artists to the markets specifically the marginalized, VaTsonga (Shangaan) people based in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. The support directed to Gaza Trust also noticed the organisation setting up a structure that will continue to promote the rural based innovation hub within Centre for Cultural Development Initiatives.

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**Culture
at Work
Africa**

THE PUBLIC VALUE
OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE
FOR SOCIAL COHESION
IN URBAN AFRICA

Culture@Work Project

The project is run by a consortium of eight African, European and international partners funded by the European Union to create new opportunities and mobilise stakeholders to promote inter-cultural dialogue and cultural diversity in urban and peri-urban areas in Africa as drivers for social inclusion and sustainable human development. Culture Fund is one of the eight partners.

Culture Fund hosted a networking conference in February 2020, where 15 countries were convened in Harare. The conference was a platform for inter-cultural dialogue between various countries.

Zimbabwean, Chief Makope, during community inter-cultural dialogue



Implemented by



Establishing a Culture
and Creativity Driven
Society



Co-funded by
the European Union



Thank you

In this year of unexpected realities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are grateful for the relations we made, the partnerships we kept and for friends who keep believing that Culture is at the centre of sustainable development and enriching the human condition. We all helped in contributing to better human lives, one life at a time!

Our implementing partners

CultureACTIONS Project Consortium

Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme - DOMCCP Women and Land in Zimbabwe
Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources - SAFIRE
Chenhaka Trust
Real Open Opportunities for Transformation Support
ROOTS Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust - AWET
Chido Advertising and Andrew Zankanani
Bustop TV



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In partnership with:



CreativeACTIONS Sub-Grantees

Kunzwana Women's Association
Gaza Trust
Caligraph
Vuka Africa
Ndau Arts Festival | NDAFA
Shepherd Nyoni | Convergence
Media and Arts Zimbabwe
Girls Aloud
Simuka Comedy



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Co-funded by
the European Union

Culture at Work Africa Consortium

Interarts; Arterial Network; Centre for Fine Arts - BOZAR; Culture et Développement; Regional Centre for the Living Arts in Africa - CERAV/Afrique; Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust; International Music Council - IMC; Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG

Implemented by:



Co-funded by the
European Union:



With the support of:



Our collaborating partners

National Arts Council of Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation
Zimbabwe Ministry of Women Affairs, Small to Medium Enterprises Development
Zimbabwe Republic Police Victim Friendly Unit



Our funding partners in 2020

The Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe through the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
The Delegation of the European Union to Zimbabwe (EU)
The European Union (Brussels)



Our Board of Trustees, Culture Fund Team

We appreciate the Culture Fund Board of Trustees who guided the Trust's mission throughout the year.
We thank the Culture Fund team for invaluable dedication to the mission during a challenging year.

Trust Auditors

We remained committed to be held accountable to our partners and society.
We valued our Trust Auditors – **Grant Thornton**

CultureACTIONS - community implementation partners





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