

AFRICAN CULTURAL POLICY NETWORK

SECRETARIAT:

Racines, Morocco

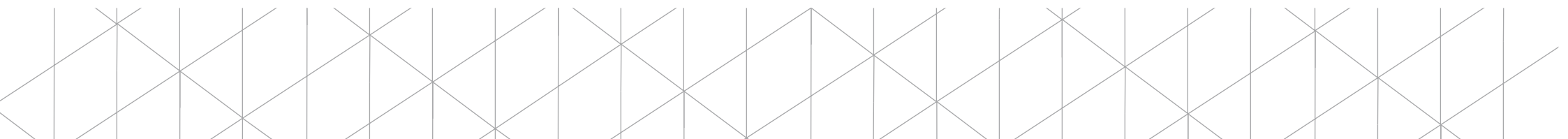
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INTRODUCTION

The African Cultural Policy Network (ACPN) is an on-line network initiated by Mike van Graan (South Africa) and Aadel Essaadani (Morocco) in June 2017.

The African Cultural Policy Network will work with, and seek to complement other actors in the African creative space.

While the ACPN will operate mainly as an online network, it recognizes the value of face-to-face dialogue and will seek to facilitate such engagement both through technology and through physical meetings.

“With numerous – and rapid - developments in the international cultural policy arena, there is a need to have an informed, proactive and bold African voice in the arena of cultural policy and advocacy.”

The Constitutional aims as adopted by ACPN’s founding members are:

1. To research, devise and advocate for arts, culture and heritage policies that are relevant and appropriate to varying African conditions
2. To interrogate international cultural policy themes, strategies and ideas, to present alternatives where necessary, and to initiate and proactively lobby at international level for cultural policies that are priorities and appropriate to African conditions
3. To serve as an African voice and advocacy network in international, regional (African), national and local forums to do with arts, culture and heritage policy
4. To provide support to cultural policy-makers, cultural activists and advocates working in, or connected to African arts, culture and heritage
5. To develop strong relationships with similar networks and advocacy organisations globally, but particularly within the Global South (Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Arab region, Caribbean, Pacific region) and Eastern European countries who share similar conditions to Africa
6. To collect and distribute information, ideas, publications and other material to

- arts, culture and heritage stakeholders in Africa, and those working in partnership with African players
7. To build a strong and active membership in all African countries, as well as within the African Diaspora
8. To produce publications, online material (blogs, etc) and research that articulate/represent African perspectives on international, regional, national and local cultural policy themes
9. In recognition of varying African conditions, histories and cultures, to facilitate and encourage robust debate and theorising about arts, culture and heritage in Africa
10. To build policy-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation capacity within Africa's arts, culture and heritage sector
11. To monitor cultural policy developments in every African country and to share this information through social media
12. To build and sustain an on-line resource library of arts, culture and heritage policy material relevant to Africa.
13. Vigorously to promote and defend the aims and principles of the ACPN as outlined in its Constitution

PRINCIPLES

The African Cultural Policy Network is committed to the following principles and requires its members to subscribe to such principles: Democratic decision-making and participation in the affairs of the Network, including accountability and transparency

A commitment to the following rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- **Article 1:** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- **Article 18:** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his/her religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, and to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- **Article 19:** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- **Article 20:** Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- **Article 25 (1):** Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his/her family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- **Article 26 (1):** Everyone has the right to education.
- **Article 26 (2):** Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- **Article 27 (1):** Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- **Article 27 (2):** Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which s/he is the author
- **Article 2:** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- **Article 7:** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration.
- **Article 9:** No-one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
- **Article 28:** Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The African Cultural Policy Network is open to individual Africans who reside and work on the African continent as well as those engaged in cultural work in the African Diaspora.

Cultural organisations and institutions may join the ACPN as associate members and representatives of these may attend ACPN activities.

72 founding members from 23 African countries adopted ACPN's Constitution and participated in the election of its inaugural Steering Committee.

NAME	COUNTRY	BIOGRAPHY
Mike van Graan (President)	South Africa	Playwright and member of UNESCO's Expert Facility on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
Dounia Benslimane (Deputy President)	Morocco	Cultural actor. Co-founder of Racines and currently its Development & Partnerships Director.
Aadel Essaadani	Morocco	General coordinator of Racines, urbanist, technical scenographer, activist and consultant in cultural policies for development and human rights.
Ayodele Ganiu	Nigeria	Talking drum artist, activist, author of research paper "Anticipating a Cultural Policy of Nigeria by the Year 2030" commissioned by Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa; Regional Programme Officer (Africa) at Freemuse, the world's leading organization promoting and defending freedom of artistic expression.
Christine Gitau	Kenya	Founding Member of the Arterial program African Women in Cultural Leadership, co-founder of the social enterprise Craft Africa.
Carole Karemera	Rwanda	Executive Director of the ISHYO Arts Center
Ayoko Mensah	Togo/Diaspora	Advisor for the Africa Desk at the Center For Fine Arts in Brussels and consultant for UNESCO and UEMOA (Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa).
Jean-Pierre Moudjalou	Gabon	Artists and festivals manager, Programme Officer in the media group Génération Nouvelle, President of the Gabonese Music Export Office and Head of "Arts en expression".
Bongani Njalo	South Africa	Artist, Co-Director at Leonandi Contemporary Gallery and Founder of The 54 Art Foundation
Josh Nyapimbi	Zimbabwe	Founder and executive Director of Nhimbe Trust, coordinator of the Zimbabwe Creative Civil Society's National Plan of Action for Arts and Culture (2012/2015).
Daba Sarr	Senegal	Director of the Africa Fete Festival in Senegal, member of the Grand Jury for the Grand Prix for Arts of the President of the Republic (2016-2017)
Ayeta Wangusa	Uganda	Coordinator of the African Chapter of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and member of the African Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals..