

Call for Researchers - *Cultural Mobility Funding Guide – Focus on Africa (2027 Edition)*

1. Background

On the Move (OTM) is the international network specialising in information and advocacy on artistic and cultural mobility, bringing together 94 members based in 34 countries. OTM is undertaking a full update of its Cultural Mobility Funding Guide – Focus on Africa, last published in 2019 (pre-COVID). **This project is supported by the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for artists and cultural professionals, generously funded by the Kingdom of Norway.**

The updated Guide will map regular mobility funding schemes – at country, regional and international level – available for both incoming and outgoing mobility for the 54 countries of the African continent. It is intended as both a practical information resource for artists and cultural professionals and an advocacy instrument for policymakers and funders, including in relation to the Article 16 of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

To carry out this mapping, OTM is **contracting eight (8) independent researchers**, each responsible for one of the geographic clusters proposed in Section 4 below.

2. Objectives of the research

- Fully update the map of existing funding schemes, covering incoming and outgoing mobility opportunities for artists and cultural professionals across the African continent.
- Strengthen access to structured, reliable and comparable information on mobility funding within and in relation to Africa.
- Feed a policy-oriented introduction identifying structural gaps and pathways for improvement, to be used in advocacy and strategic funders' meetings.

The research is based on existing mobility funding guides ([Africa](#) - 2019 / [South Mediterranean region](#) - 2023) and other materials and resources that need to be further researched.

The research is web-based and the working language is English, even though proficiency in additional languages (including French) is required, given the cluster's composition.

3. Scope of work per researcher

Each researcher, based on the OTM mobility funding guides' editorial policy¹ and a template provided by On the Move, will be responsible for the countries in their assigned cluster and will:

- Identify and document regular mobility related funding schemes at country level (ministries, arts councils, cities, festivals, residencies, private-sector funders, philanthropic foundations etc.).
- Identify relevant funding schemes provided by international and regional bodies (including at UNESCO level) that can benefit artists, cultural professionals and organisations based in their cluster.
- List additional resources: information platforms, guides and tools for administrative and visa-related issues, and support organisations for at-risk and displaced artists, intra-mobility, where relevant.
- Flag funding schemes that embed support for gender equality, environmental sustainability, access cost and digital formats of mobility, as well as schemes relevant to Article 16 of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

¹ See for reference OTM latest editions of cultural mobility funding guides including the editorial policy : [Caribbean region](#), [Nordic-Baltic region](#), [Eastern European and Caucasus countries](#).

- Complete OTM's structured research template within the shared digital workspace, following the detailed guidelines provided at the start of the project.
- Participate in monthly online coordination meetings and provide written progress updates.
- Contribute a concise contextual note on trends and gaps in their cluster, to feed the Guide's introduction and OTM's advocacy messaging. This should for instance, based on the research's results, include a review of existing policies and measures supporting mobility, the structural gaps and barriers that remain, recent positive developments (e.g. visa waivers for African travellers), and potential financial and non-financial solutions to further support mobility.

Note on AI tools' use: AI-based tools may be used, in a limited and supervised manner, to assist with structuring datasets, identifying duplications and preliminary categorisation – but all funding information, eligibility criteria and administrative details must be verified and validated by the researcher against authoritative sources. AI-generated information should be treated only as a starting point and must never be accepted as evidence without human verification: it does not replace the researcher's own sector knowledge, professional network, judgement or engagement with the field.

4. Research division (8 clusters)

The clusters below are proposed by OTM coordination, combining African Union regional groupings with a dedicated Indian Ocean / island-states cluster – reflecting the project's specific attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The division is meant to keep each researcher's workload broadly comparable (4–10 countries) while respecting linguistic and regional coherence, as well as already existing consolidated data.

#	Cluster	Countries	Countries (n)
1	North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia	7
2	West Africa I – Atlantic & Anglophone/Lusophone coast	Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone	7
3	West Africa II – Francophone Sahel & coast	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo	8
4	Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe	8
5	East Africa & Horn / Great Lakes	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda	10
6	Indian Ocean & Island States (SIDS)	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	4
7	Southern Africa I	Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	5
8	Southern Africa II	Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe	5

5. Profile sought

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Based on the African continent, ideally within or with demonstrated knowledge of the assigned cluster and its cultural ecosystem, institutional landscape, mobility context and funding environment.
- Prior experience in research, mapping, data collection, documentation or comparable assignments, preferably in the cultural and creative sectors, cultural policy, international mobility, funding or related fields.
- Previous experience conducting multi-source and/or multi-country research, including the identification, verification and documentation of reliable and up-to-date web-based information.
- Strong ability to identify, assess, cross-check and reference information from authoritative sources, in particular institutional websites of public authorities, cultural organisations, funding bodies and professional networks.
- Fluent written and spoken English is required as it is the working language of this assignment. However, particularly for the Francophone countries, French speaking researchers are particularly sought after. See below.
- For clusters where relevant, working knowledge of French, Arabic, Portuguese and/or relevant national/regional languages will be required, depending on the countries covered by the assignment.
- Strong organisational skills and demonstrated ability to work independently, apply a common research methodology, manage a defined workload and meet strict deadlines are also required.
- Comfortable working remotely and using shared online tools, including Word based research templates provided by OTM, shared documents and video-conferencing platforms (Zoom).
- An existing track record of working directly with artists, cultural professionals, cultural organisations or mobility initiatives (e.g. touring, international/regional exchange, cultural cooperation, professional development or market access), including at a policy level would be an asset.
- Available throughout the full research period, from mid-November 2026–March 2027, including for coordination meetings, review rounds and incorporation of feedback.

In line with the project's gender-equality commitments, OTM targets a minimum of 50% women among the eight selected researchers and encourages applications from gender-diverse candidates.

6. Indicative timeline

- Mid-September– Mid-October 2026: call for researchers and selection (OTM coordination with the Advisory Committee).
- Mid-November 2026–March 2027: research phase (after signature of contracts), with monthly coordination meetings.
- April– May 2027: final editing / translation in French and design.
- June 2027: online launch of the guide in English and French.

7. Fee and payment terms

Each researcher will receive a lump-sum fee, inclusive of all costs, for the full assignment described in Section 3.

Cluster	Countries	Countries (n)	Fee
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia	7	2,030 euros
West Africa I – Atlantic & Anglophone/Lusophone coast	Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone	7	2,870 euros
West Africa II – Francophone Sahel & coast	Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo	8	3,280 euros
Central Africa	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe	8	3,280 euros
East Africa & Horn / Great Lakes	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda	10	4,100 euros
Indian Ocean & Island States (SIDS)	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	4	1,640 euros
Southern Africa I	Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	5	2,050 euros
Southern Africa II	Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe	5	2,050 euros

Lumpsums are calculated based on the number of countries covered, an assessment of available regular mobility funding schemes and the data of reference for the update (2019 for all clusters except the cluster 1 – 2023 with OTM most recent editorial policy for the cultural mobility funding guides).

Indicative payment schedule:

Milestone	Payment (% of the applicable lump sum, as per Section 7)
Signature of the research agreement	50%
Submission of the completed research template for the assigned cluster (31 March 2027)	50%

Exact payment terms will be set out in an individual contract with each selected researcher.

8. Deliverables

Each researcher will submit the following deliverables to OTM:

- Monthly written progress updates shared ahead of each online coordination meeting.
- A completed structured research template for their assigned cluster (see Section 3), submitted via OTM's shared digital workspace by 31 March 2027.
- A short contextual note (500-700 words) on trends and gaps in their cluster (see Section 3), to feed the Guide's introduction and OTM's advocacy messaging by 31 March 2027.
- Confirmation, at the end of the assignment, that all information submitted has been independently checked, verified and validated against authoritative sources.

9. Selection process

Applications will be reviewed by OTM coordination together with the project's Advisory Committee (Ouafa Belgacem, André Le Roux, François Bouda and Dr Yvette Mutumba - see bios in Section 11 below), who will also oversee the quality control of the research results.

Candidates are invited to submit, **by the 16th of October 2026**:

- 1) **A short biography** (maximum 1 page, arial 11).
- 2) **A short cover note** (maximum 1 page, arial 11) outlining relevant experience and availability.
- 3) A brief description of **two previous assignments** of a comparable nature, specifying their role, geographic scope and type of research undertaken (maximum 1 page, arial 11).
- 4) **One example** of a relevant research, mapping, publication or documentation output that demonstrates their research and information-gathering experience.

Only applications that meet the number of documents and the maximum size (pdf format – no photo – no video – maximum 10 MB per file) will be reviewed while using this [googleform questionnaire](#).

You can email any question to info@on-the-move.org. Due to expected high interest, only questions that are not tackled in this call will be answered. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

The list of selected applicants will be available on the On the Move website during the first week of November 2026. Applicants, who are whether selected and or not, selected will be informed. The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

10. Reporting line

Selected researchers will report to OTM's project coordination (Marie Le Sourd, Secretary General, and Aya Kasasa, externalised project coordinator), with quality control and methodological guidance provided by the Advisory Committee.

11. Biographies of the Advisory Committee's members

Ouafa Belgacem

Strategist and CCI financing expert. Ouafa Belgacem is the founder of CFW www.culturefundingwatch.com, the www.CCiboost.com, the www.RMdigithon.com & the www.Artnstay.com platforms.

Her company CFW is a leading Cultural and Creative Industries financing intelligence platform in the Global South. It connects creatives with decision makers & funders & creates spaces where CC artists, entrepreneurs and professionals can be visible, foster impactful connections and collaborations towards building an equitable and sustainable ecosystems for the CCIs. She concentrates her current work on advising on how to formulate smart CCI financing strategies and policies. Ouafa Belgacem is a development expert with over 15 years of experience in designing and financing international cooperation & development programs in various contexts (Africa, Asia & MENA).

Ouafa Belgacem is member of the UNESCO 2005 convention Expert Facility, Member of the EU/UNESCO Expert Facility for UNESCO Culture2030 Indicators and a member of the UNESCO reflection group on protecting and promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the digital environment. She is one of the 100 most influential creatives of African descent 2021, and Most powerful African Doer 2022.

François Bouda is the Francophone Desk and Arts & Culture Programme Officer for Africa No Filter (ANF), a not-for-profit organisation that supports the development of nuanced and contemporary stories that shift stereotypical and harmful narratives within and about Africa.

He has collaborated with international organisations in Europe, Asia and the United States of America, including the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) Group, the Permanent Mission of la Francophonie to the UN in New York, the CKU (Danish Centre for Culture and Development), Art Moves Africa, On the Move, and Africalia. He is the author of several studies, including the Note on the Critical Analysis of Developments in the ACP Group's cultural strategies, and the chapter on dance for AMA's study on Mobility and touring in West Africa. In 2022, he was the main expert for the evaluation of Africalia's five-year cultural programme in Burkina Faso (2017- 2021).

He made his debut in the dance field in Burkina Faso as the manager for Burkinabe dance company Auguste-Bienvenue and then as the project manager for the Choreography Development Centre in Ouagadougou, CDC La Termitière. He holds a bachelor's degree in Anglophone Studies, a master's degree in Arts Management, and a European Diploma in Arts Projects Management from the Marcel Hicter Foundation.

André Le Roux is a leading figure in African cultural development with over 30 years of experience advancing the continent's creative economy. He is the Managing Director of IKS Cultural Consulting and Head of the Concerts SA Project, driving initiatives that strengthen live music ecosystems and empower cultural practitioners across Southern Africa.

Internationally, André serves as Vice President of the World Jazz Network (Netherlands), Ambassador for the African Culture Fund (Mali), and Board Director of On the Move, connecting African arts to global platforms.

A founding member of Music in Africa, the Moshito Music Conference, and the South African Music Export Council (SAMEX), André has been a tireless advocate for arts policy, mobility, and infrastructure development. He previously led the SAMRO Foundation, the largest private contributor to music development in Southern Africa, and held senior roles at the National Arts Council and Department of Arts and Culture. A frequent voice at international cultural forums, André continues to champion African arts, culture, and creative industries on both the continental and global stage.

Dr Yvette Mutumba is the co-founder and director of Contemporary And (C&), a platform for contemporary art and thought in Africa and the Global Diaspora, founded in 2013. Rooted in a global network of contributors and collaborators, C& publishes two online magazines in four languages and develops educational and discursive projects across digital and physical spaces. Alongside her work with C&, Yvette teaches at the Institute for Art in Contexts at the Berlin University of the Arts. From 2020 to 2024, she served as Curator-at-Large at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Previously, she was part of the curatorial team of the 10th Berlin Biennale and held a visiting professorship for Global Discourses at the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne.

From 2012 to 2016, she served as curator at the Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt, where she worked on the museum's colonial and postcolonial collections. As an author and editor, she has published widely on contemporary art and art history. She studied art history at the Freie Universität Berlin and earned her PhD from Birkbeck, University of London.

Note: both André Le Roux and Ouafa Belgacem are members of the OTM Board, but they have been contracted for this advisory role in their independent and professional capacities.