



Creativity Pioneers Fund

Moleskine
Foundation



Who are we

The Moleskine Foundation is an independent non-profit organization that aims to inspire a new generation of creative thinkers and doers to change themselves and their communities.

We are committed to providing youth with tools and experiences that help foster critical thinking, creative doing, and life-long learning.



Creativity for Social Change

We believe Creativity can change the world.

We want to catalyze transformational social change by investing in, connecting, and championing cultural and creative organizations that advance bold and unconventional practices for building a more just, inclusive, and equitable world.

We want to create a global movement of change-makers around the idea of Creativity for Social Change.



Why Creativity?

Creativity is in fact a tool for economic development, social transformation, and a response to the great global challenges of our time.

We consider creativity as a set of higher-order skills that do not develop in a linear way but need spaces where criticality and imagination can happen.

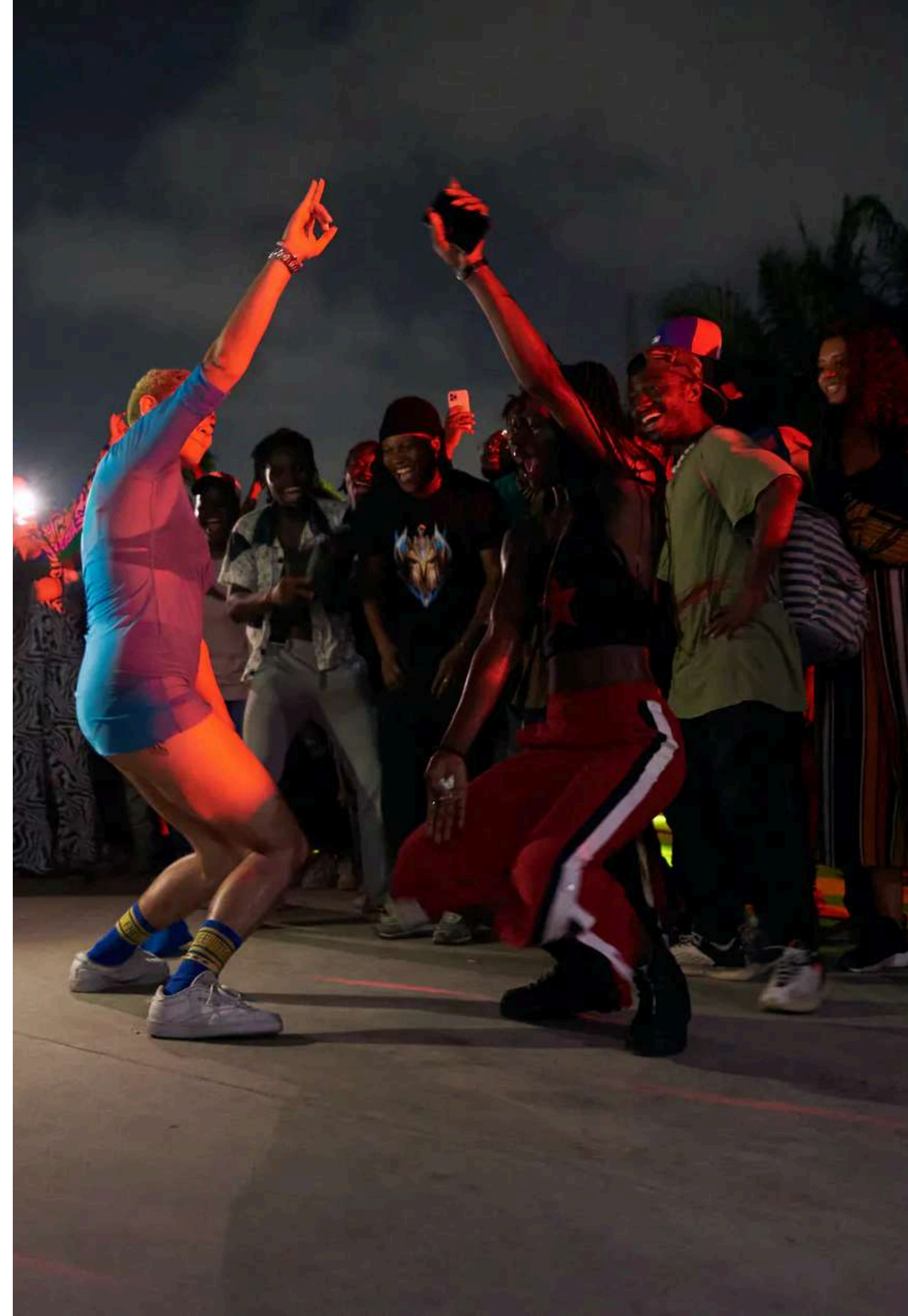
We aim to create an ecosystem that can support the growth of these spaces while also contributing to the democratization of creative skills.

WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM



UNITED NATIONS

THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY ENDORSED BY THE POLICY MAKERS





The Challenge

How do you restore a sense of wonder in a society devastated by decades of conflict?

How do you encourage self-expression where communities are still marginalized?

How do you develop the vision needed to create a better future for your community?

The Creativity Pioneers Fund believes the answer lies in supporting spaces where creativity can flourish.

**What is the Creativity
Pioneers Fund?**



The Creativity Pioneers Fund

Established in 2021, the Creativity Pioneers Fund provides unrestricted financial support to creative and cultural organizations around the world.

Beyond financial assistance, we also foster collaboration through a platform model, where together with our partners, we act as ecosystem builders, in which the Creativity Pioneers are at the core of it.



A Fund like no Other

Unconventional

A trust-based, intersectional, highly inclusive approach to support organizations that often escape traditional philanthropic tools.

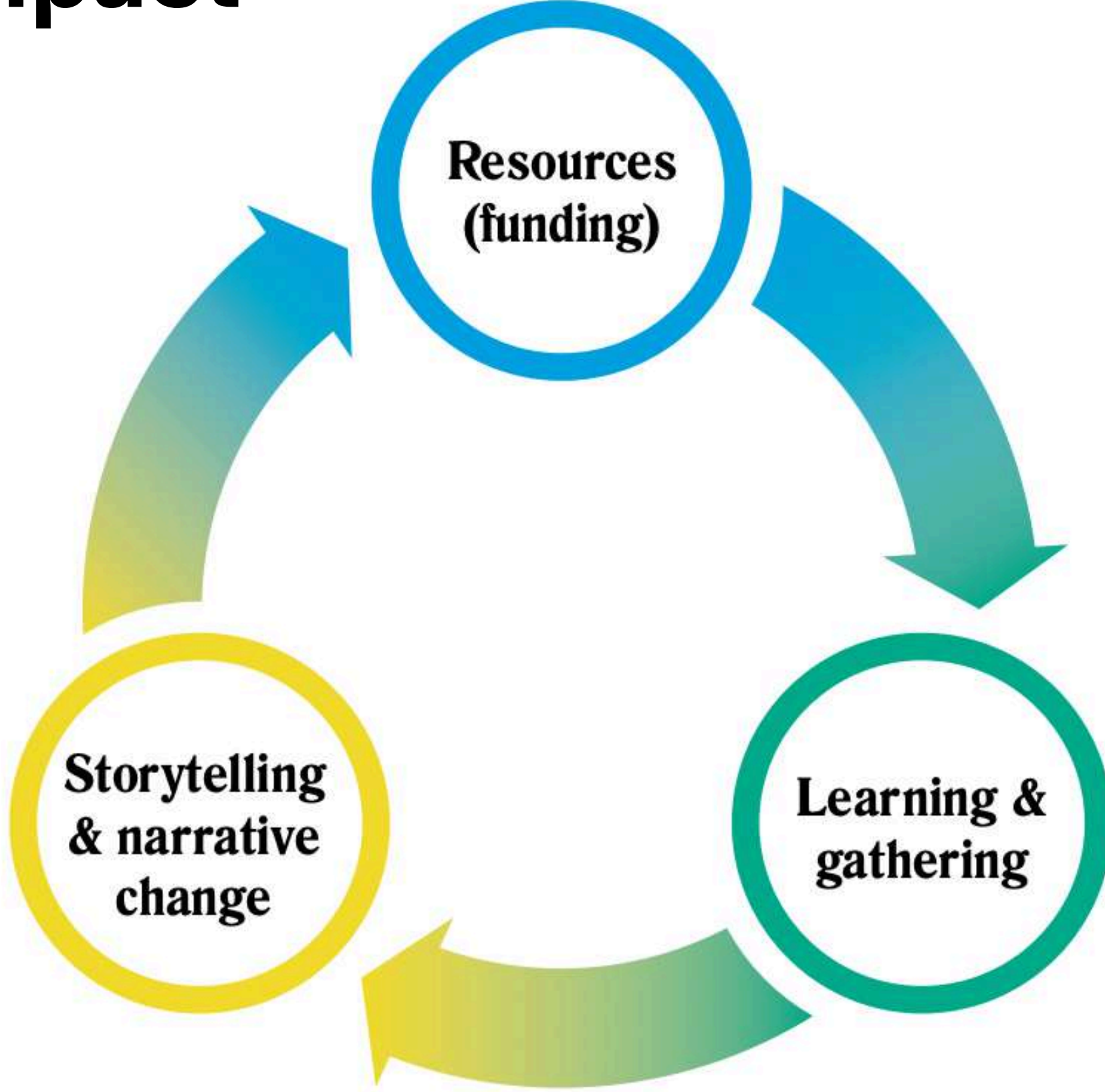
Unrestricted

Unearmarked funding supports the creative organizations' core, thus preserving their often hybrid and intersectional nature.

Glocal

Creativity Pioneers are rooted in their communities but have a global outlook. The CPF unites the local with the global through the creation of international networks and collaborations.

A Model for Impact





Highlights 2021-24

+5000

APPLICATIONS FROM 120 COUNTRIES

60

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

150

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

2.2m

YOUNG PEOPLE WORKED ON THEIR CREATIVE SKILLS AND SENSE OF WONDER

The Partners

Funding Partners

Moleskine Foundation

PROMOZIONISERVIZI
GESTIAMO FONDI DI GARANZIA
Innova

BIC
Corporate Foundation
We Give to Create

cherry bank

Fondazione OELLE
MEDITERRANEO ANTICO

fondazione Marcegaglia ONLUS

COMMUNITY ARTS LAB
BY PORTICUS

BASE

Fondazione CRT

Hawthornden Foundation

Healthy Food Healthy Planet

FONDAZIONE CON IL SUD

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

MANE

KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION

NIROX FOUNDATION

Learning Partners

KAOSPILOT

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OPEN CAMP
UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN & SOCIAL CAPITAL
TODI 20-23 OTTOBRE 2023

isola

istitutomarangoni

Network Partners

BRITISH COUNCIL

European Cultural Foundation

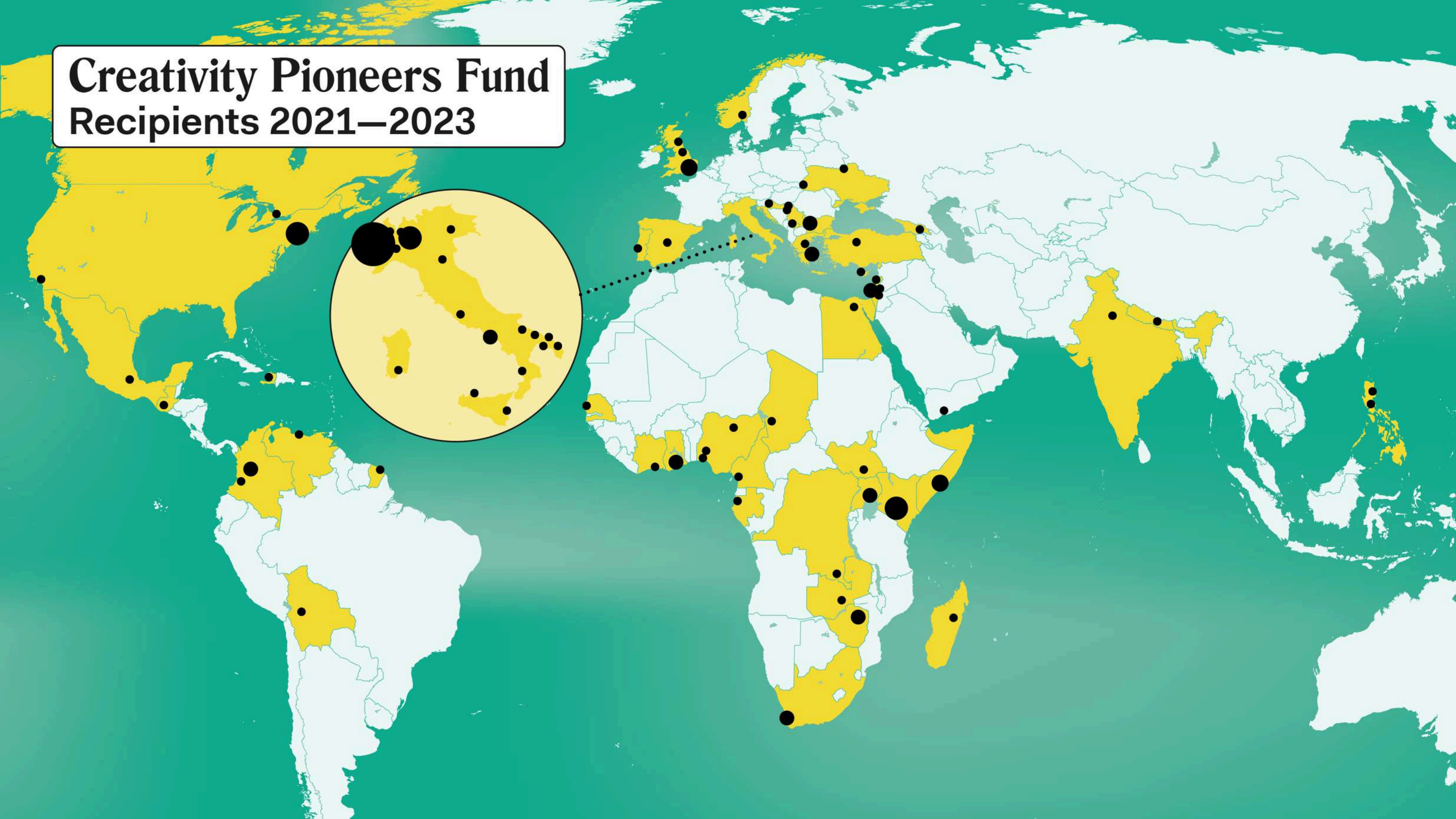
Who are the
Creativity Pioneers?



The Creativity Pioneers

- Embrace an intersectional and process-oriented approach
- Tackle significant societal issues.
- Intentionally develop creative skills in youth.
- Are highly inclusive in terms of target audiences.
- Operate with local context sensitivity while thinking globally.
- Are willing to join and contribute to a collaborative ecosystem of like-minded organizations.

**Creativity Pioneers Fund
Recipients 2021–2023**



Challenges faced by the Creativity Pioneers

65% of all the 101 Creativity Pioneers have never received unrestricted funding

77% has a budget of <150k euros

38% has a small staff of 1 to 5 often on a volunteer/and or part-time basis

The platform effect

The coalition of Partners and various stakeholders allows us to generate a stable system of opportunities in which the Creative Pioneers can draw from it.

Somali Arts Foundation 	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023
	Entrance in the creativity for social change platform	Regrant from CPF Partners	New grant from Porticus Foundation (third party grant)	Scholarship for program incubation Watson Institute	Talk Saatchi Gallery and 1:54
	5k micro-grant	5k micro-grant	20k grant	20k scholarship	+400 audience and visibility
					

A photograph of four young women performing on a rooftop. The woman in the center is wearing a cap and glasses, singing into a microphone. To her right, two other women are also singing into microphones. A fourth woman stands to the left, looking towards the performers. The background features a city skyline and a suspension bridge. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

THE CREATIVITY PIONEERS

A selection of organizations supported
by the Fund in the past three years.

JAIL TIME RECORDS

The first recording studio inside an African jail

“ It gives them hope that one day, they can be one of those artists with a lot of success. It’s like a new page in their life”.

– Dione Roach, co-founder

Jail Time Records is a non-profit music label and the first permanent recording studio inside an African prison. The organization aims to scout and promote detainees to unlock their talents in music, helping social reintegration and addressing the bias against people who have undergone incarceration.



CHEAP

A female-led collective tearing down walls

“ We want to raise a discourse on designing urban spaces as spaces of inclusive citizenship.”
– Statement by the 6 co-founders

CHEAP is a public art initiative that blends art and activism, curatorial practice, and social responsibility by conveying fundamental social messages through poster art.

AS OF
TRANSITIONS



REBECCA MOM
per CHEAP street
MATRIA | LINGUA M

QUEEN

SUNSHINE CINEMA

Africa's first solar-powered cinema network

“The youth we serve will turn a collective story of frustration and cynicism into a new narrative of individual and collective power.”

– Sydelle Willow Smith, co-founder

Sunshine Cinema works at the border between cinematography and ecology to sustainably increase film literacy in rural areas of South Africa.



MOONGIRLS

Graphic novels to raise African Consciousness

“ We want to create spaces for young Africans to envision a better Africa free from the shackles of oppression and neo-colonialism”
– Nana Akosua Hanson, founder

The Ghanaian graphic novel series follows the adventures of African queer superheroes fighting for an Africa free from corruption, patriarchy, and the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism.

YOU WILL BE UNDER?

IF I'M NOT BACK UP
IN AN HOUR, INVADE.

GOT IT. I'M OUT.

THE ROOMS WITH
WARRIORS ARE ASSEMBLING
SOME OF THEIR WOMEN ARE
DOWN THERE. LET ME KNOW
WHAT YOU DISCOVER.

THE WONDER CABINET

Experimental cultural space in Bethlehem

“ Wonder Cabinet was created for young people in Palestine to co-create, exchange their knowledge, connect each other. Providing a space where they could develop their creative practice.”

– Ilaria Speri, director

The Wonder Cabinet is a cultural and educational space that prioritizes artisanship and physical crafting principles as essential art-making tools based on knowledge exchange and collaboration.



OROKO RADIO

Broadcasting the sounds of the diaspora

“While we platform and showcase the identities that the station drives, I wouldn’t say first and foremost that it is about music; it’s about community.”

– Kikelomo Oludemi, co-founder and DJ

Oroko Radio is a not-for-profit independent internet radio station based between Berlin and Accra that aims to connect, inspire and empower through conversation, collaboration and community.

VISUAL VOICES

Visual voices telling peace narratives

“ We aim to combine traditional arts-based peacebuilding activities with substantive peace advocacy campaigns.”

– Marina Neophytou, co-founder

Visual Voices is a non-profit organization supporting young artists from communities affected by conflict.



X FARM

Farming for agroecological and social impacts

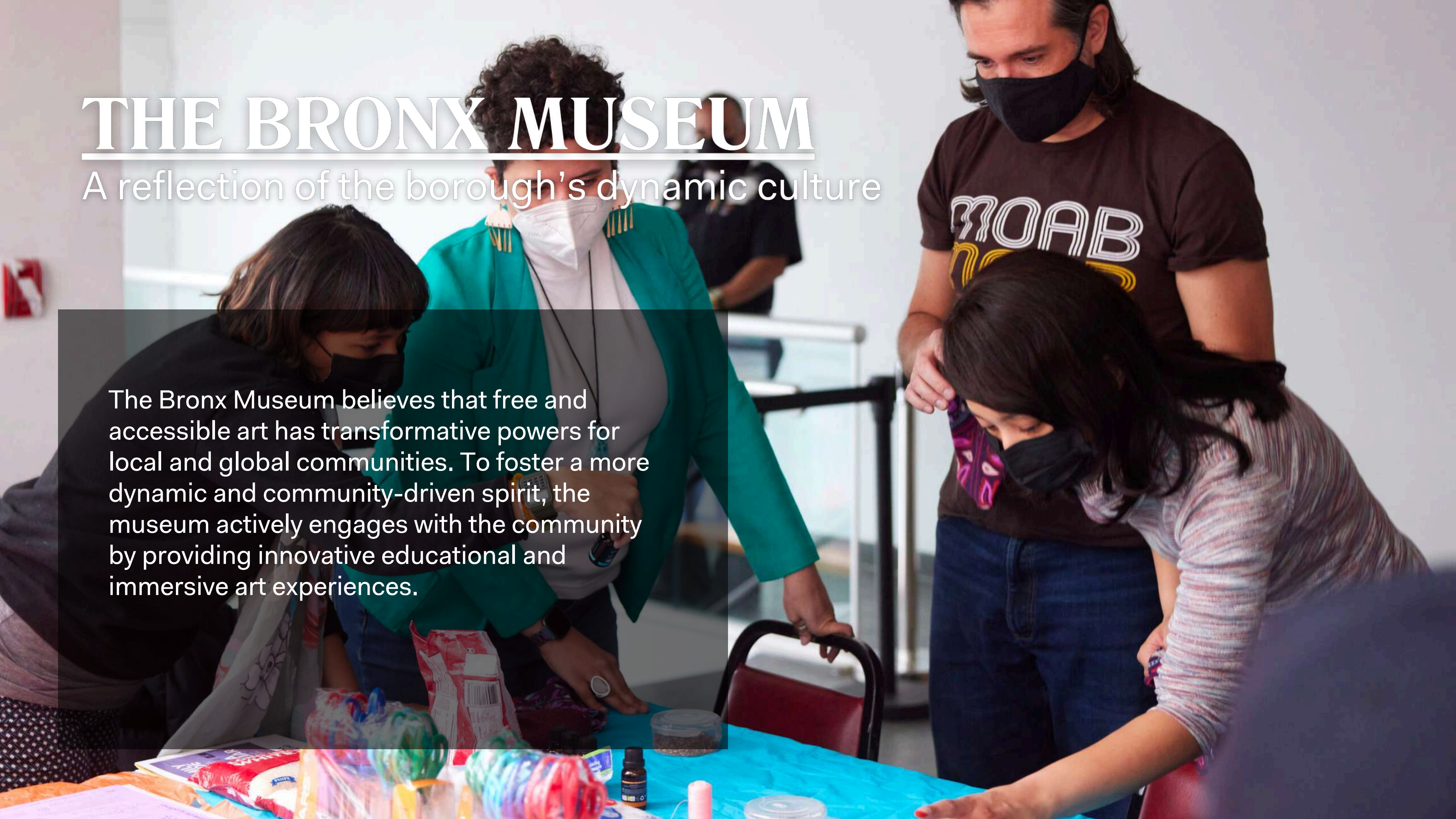
The Social Cooperative “Qualcosa di Diverso” was founded in 2014 within the experience of the Ex Fadda Urban Laboratory. The main project is XFARM Agricoltura Prossima, which aims to regenerate and transform a farm confiscated from the Mafia - 50 hectares of land in the countryside of San Vito dei Normanni - into a 'Manifesto' agricultural enterprise from a social, ecological and productive point of view, capable of generating well-being for the community, employment and improvement of the ecosystem.



THE BRONX MUSEUM

A reflection of the borough's dynamic culture

The Bronx Museum believes that free and accessible art has transformative powers for local and global communities. To foster a more dynamic and community-driven spirit, the museum actively engages with the community by providing innovative educational and immersive art experiences.



NYC SALT

Lenses of the Unseen Capture the Untold

“ It’s so refreshing to see students exploring their creativity without having all these constraints they know about, that they shouldn’t do this or shouldn’t. It leads to so much more creativity.”

– Alicia Hansen, founder

NYC Salt guides students from their teen years through the early stages of their careers in the visual media fields and continues to inspire youth to unlock their creative potential.



LA GUARIMBA

Bringing cinema back to the people

“We want to create a multicultural space where there is a political connection to the world, attention to the other, mutual respect and active participation.”

La Guarimba is a cultural innovation project in Calabria that focuses primarily on cinema and illustration and uses culture as a vehicle to promote values of participatory democracy, integration, accessibility, and respect for human rights.

"Guarimba" is a word that means "safe place" to Venezuelan Indians.



MILANO MEDITERRANEA

Amplifying voices from Mediterranean diaspora

Milano Mediterranea is an association strongly rooted in its local community, the Giambellino neighborhood in Milan, which looks to the opposite shore of the Mediterranean. It is a participatory art center that wants to change the narrative that media and institutions make of Mediterranean immigration in Italy, offering opportunities for artistic residencies to young residents.





KALAVVERSE

Empowering the next generation of female leaders in
Design in Africa

“We focus on identity because we strongly believe that to realize your fullest potential, you must be rooted in who you are and who we are as a community.”

– Ann Mary Nassanga and Maria Sheba Atukunda,
co-founders

Kalaverse encourages young women to participate in creating sustainable design solutions for the present and future inspired by the rich traditional cultures of the 56 Ugandan tribes.

Adama Sanneh
Co-founder & CEO
adama.sanneh@moleskinefoundation.org

Marina Mussapi
Strategy Implementation Manager
marina.mussapi@moleskinefoundation.org

Moleskine 
Foundation