

annual report

2011



**“The best of all governments
is that, which teaches
us to govern ourselves.”**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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Cover Picture:

SPAA performing *A Woman who did not be to a political Party*
by Raisedon Baya

who we are

Who we are:

Nhimbe is an arts education organization and a leader in cultural policy research, training and advocacy and in the promotion and defence of freedom of creative expression in Zimbabwe.

Mission:

Nhimbe's mission is to promote arts education for children and young people that leads to an interest in the arts for life. We strive to achieve this through skills development and the creation of platforms for children and young people in the performing arts, and through advocacy for effective policies that encourage freedom of creative expression.



Vision:

We envision a dynamic creative sector where all children and young people in Zimbabwe are engaged with the arts as practitioners and audience members.

We believe:

- Cultural policy is the foundation for arts education.
- Freedom of expression is fundamental to artistic practice.
- Arts education provides fertile ground for a vibrant artistic community within a supportive general populace.
- Advancing arts education in schools is advancing self-awareness and freedom of creative expression.
- Promoting freedom of creative expression is to advance human rights, democracy and a more inclusive cultural identity and society.

Value Statement:

Nhimbe believes that all young people have the right to be given the opportunity to develop their creativity and that all children and young people have the right to express their creativity freely.

Strategies:

To achieve this mission, Nhimbe has designed a series of strategies to reach the programme goals stated below. These strategies cover seven clusters: policy, research, professional development, civil society advocacy, public-sector lobbying, visibility, and strategic alliances.

GOAL ONE: Strengthening an informed leadership: Lead and serve artists and arts networks to help build environments in which the arts and arts education thrive and contribute to cultural policy advocacy and freedom of creative expression.

GOAL TWO: Increasing resources and meaningful policies for the arts: build the capacity of leadership in the arts to meaningfully influence and improve policies relevant to the creative sector.

GOAL THREE: Advancing the value proposition for the arts: Build individual and collective awareness and appreciation of the value of the arts, arts education and UNESCO conventions and other international standard setting instruments in the field of culture that Zimbabwe has ratified.

GOAL FOUR: Promoting and defending freedom of creative expression: Monitor and campaign around practices and constraints on freedom of creative expression.

what we did in 2011

SPAA

The Schools Playwrights and Actors Academy (SPAA) is Nhimbe's flagship program, which was started in 2009 to provide vocational drama training with an initial focus on high school drama students and teachers in Bulawayo.

The SPAA Weekend Class is conducted at Nhimbe on Saturdays for six hours and throughout the year. The inaugural SPAA enrolment of 30 high school students drawn from 20 schools completed their 3 years vocational drama training (production and performance) in December 2011.

What did we do?

Conducted forty SPAA Weekend Classes

What did we achieve?

- SPAA produced three plays, namely; the lion and The Jewel (set-book), The Wretched Ones (set-book) and The Two Wives of John Mambo.
- Thirty performances staged at selected high schools and community halls in Bulawayo, Gwanda, Plumtree and Hwange.

- Ten SPAA students featured in two independent productions supported by Plan International and British Council at the HIFA, Jahunda/Gwanda and Intwasa Arts Festivals.

WiT

Women in Theatre (WiT) seeks to facilitate and support an enabling environment for women writers, directors, actors and producers for the theatre through training, exchanges, advocacy and platforms and resources for professional production, marketing and performance of theatre produced by women.

What did we do?

Conducted training in script writing and directing.

What did we achieve?

- One workshop conducted for 35 emerging and aspiring women playwrights.
- Three workshops conducted for 25 emerging and aspiring women theatre directors.
- WiT wrote the play *A Song of a Woman* and entered the script in the Arterial Network continental theatre competition.

NPAAC

The Zimbabwe Creative Civil Society's Plan of Action for Arts and Culture (NPAAC) seeks to mobilize and empower the creative sector to advocate for policy and legislative reforms impacting negatively on the creative sector in Zimbabwe.

What did we do?

- We produced and disseminated the NPAAC discussion document by email, to key stakeholders and internationally, to partners and supporters. We are grateful to the following networking partners for their support in reaching out to approximately 30,000 arts and culture workers and supporters: Arterial Network, International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), Coalition for Cultural Diversity (CCD), Kubatana and the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA).
- Three high profile consultative meetings of creative civil society leaders and practitioners were held in Masvingo on 24 March, Harare on 7 April and Bulawayo on 19 May 2011.
- The Validation Conference (Zimbabwe Creative Sector Conference on the Formulation of the Plan of Action for Arts and Culture) - held in Harare on 26 May 2011.

- Setting up of a Steering Committee and the formulation of a 3 year Strategic Plan and implementation Matrix.
- Publication of the NPAAC Strategy document.



What did we achieve?

- Formulated a 3 year NPAAC (2012-2015) Strategic Plan.
- Initial funding for activities in 2012 secured.
- Established an Arts Journalists Network Bulawayo with an initial membership of 15 journalists.

CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY DIALOGUES

What did we do?

- Advocate for a Section for Arts and Culture in the Bulawayo City Council.
- Advocate on the 2012 National Budget for Arts and Culture.
- SWOT analysis and strategy formulation on the operating environment for arts and culture in 2012.
- Consultative meeting between the executive director of the National Arts Council (Elvas Mari) and artists in Bulawayo.
- The Nhimbe director presented a paper at a HIVOS seminar on *Transformation of traditional arts through greater use of the new social media* held in Harare from the 24-25 February 2011.
- The Nhimbe director participated in the Arterial Network's third Arts Advocacy and Networking Training Workshop held in Bamako Mali from the 10 - 16 April 2011

- The Nhimbe director and on behalf of Arterial Network's ArtWatch Project, participated in the Freemuse West Africa Workshop on musicians at risk. The workshop was held at the Goree Institute (Senegal) from 5-8 May.



Elvas Mari Executive Director Arts Council, chatting with Jane and Brian of Amabooks at Nhimbe after an Arts Council - BAF meeting

- The Nhimbe director presented a Paper on *Art, Censorship and Advocacy* at the Protest Arts International Festival (PAIF) held in Harare on 27 October 2011.

- The Nhimbe director attended the Censorship of the Arts Seminar held in Durban South Africa on 13 July.
- The Nhimbe director attended and presented a paper at the 3rd Biannual Arterial Network and first African Creative Economy Conference held in Nairobi Kenya from 4-7 December.
- Nhimbe participated in the research on the situation of Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe by the Observatory for the protection of Human Rights Defenders (OBS), a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT). The research meeting was held on 10 December in Bulawayo and was facilitated by ZIMRIGHTS.

What did we achieve?

- Produced a discussion document on the need for a section on arts and culture and held three advocacy meetings with officials in the Bulawayo City Council

- Participated in the public consultative meetings on the formulation of the 2012 national budget
- Raised awareness and developed strategies around potential threats on arts and culture arising from the civil society operating environment during 2012
- Facilitated a meeting between the Arts Council Executive Director, Elvas Mari and the creative sector in Bulawayo. The meeting discussed the current problems affecting the creative sector in Bulawayo ranging from piracy, censorship and training, marketing and distribution of the arts and cultural goods; as well as the need to building the capacity of the Provincial Arts Council office in Bulawayo.
- Enhanced knowledge and presentation skills.
- Raised profile for Nhimbe.
- Developed new and strengthened existing contacts, networks and partnerships.
- Shared information and good practices.

MONITORING VIOLATIONS, AND DEFENDING FREEDOM OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION



Nhimbe has been monitoring and campaigning on practices and constraints on freedom of creative expression in Zimbabwe since 2008.

The right to freedom of expression is fundamental to artistic practice particularly on human rights and democracy, yet artists in Zimbabwe are not excluded from the assault on freedom of expression experienced by other sectors of society such as media practitioners, opposition activists, academics for example. Actors, writers, directors, musicians and painters are arrested and some have had their works banned in Zimbabwe; the country has signed up to African and international cultural policy instruments that commit them to supporting freedom of expression.

The following is a table of recorded cases of violations on freedom of creative expression recorded during the year.

ARTIST/ORGANIZATION	ART GENRE	CENSORED	BANNED	ARRESTED	EXILE	THREATENED	DEPORTED/DENIED ENTRY
Cde Fatso & Chabvondoka	Poetry/ Music	●	●			●	
Rituals/Rooftop Promotions	Theatre	●		●		●	
Thomas Mapfumo	Music	●			●		
Leonard Zhakata	Music	●					
Andy Brown	Music	●					
Raymond Majongwe	Music	●	●			●	
Ntsiki Mazwai (SA)	Music	●					●
Freshly Ground (SA)	Music Video	●	●				
Soul Brothers (SA)	Music						●

CREATIVE CSOs COORDINATION MANDATES

Nhimbe coordinates and provides secretariat support to the following creative civil society organizations (CSOs):



Multi-disciplinary network of artists advocating for the effective implementation of policies, legislation and UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations in the field of culture in Zimbabwe.



The Coalition promotes and defends freedom of creative expression in Zimbabwe



The Zimbabwe Theatre Association (ZITA) is the national voice of community theatre in Zimbabwe, facilitating training, resources, funding, exchanges, and providing data and information on theatre in Zimbabwe.



Annual Reports for the above are available on request

WHO SUPPORTED US?

ZIMBABWE

- Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust (CFoZT)
- National Arts Council
- Pamberi Trust
- Zimbabwe Theatre Association (ZITA)
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS)
- National Association of Nongovernmental Organizations (NANGO)

INTERNATIONALLY

- Africalia
- British Council
- freeDimensional
- HIVOS
- MIMETA

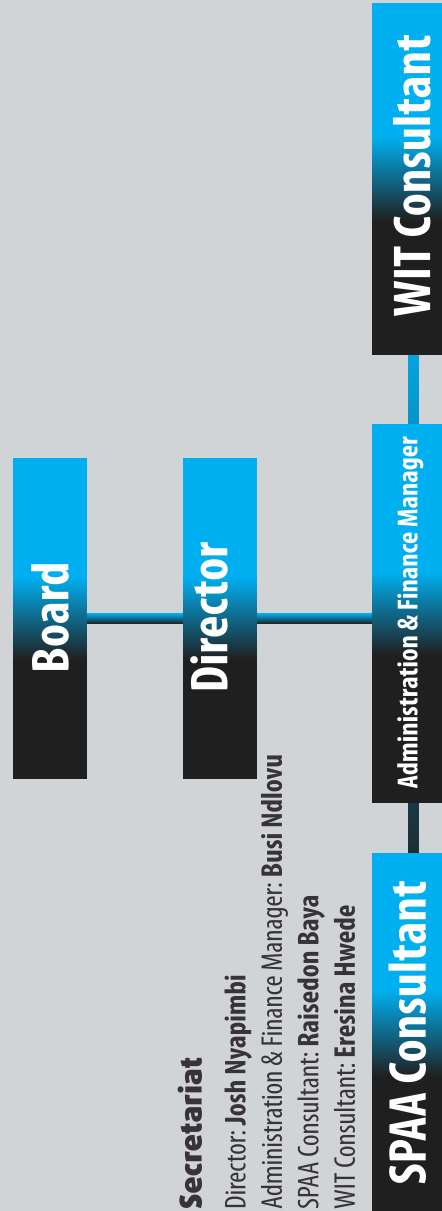
PRO BONO

- Cont Mhlanga
- Arterial Network
- Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA)

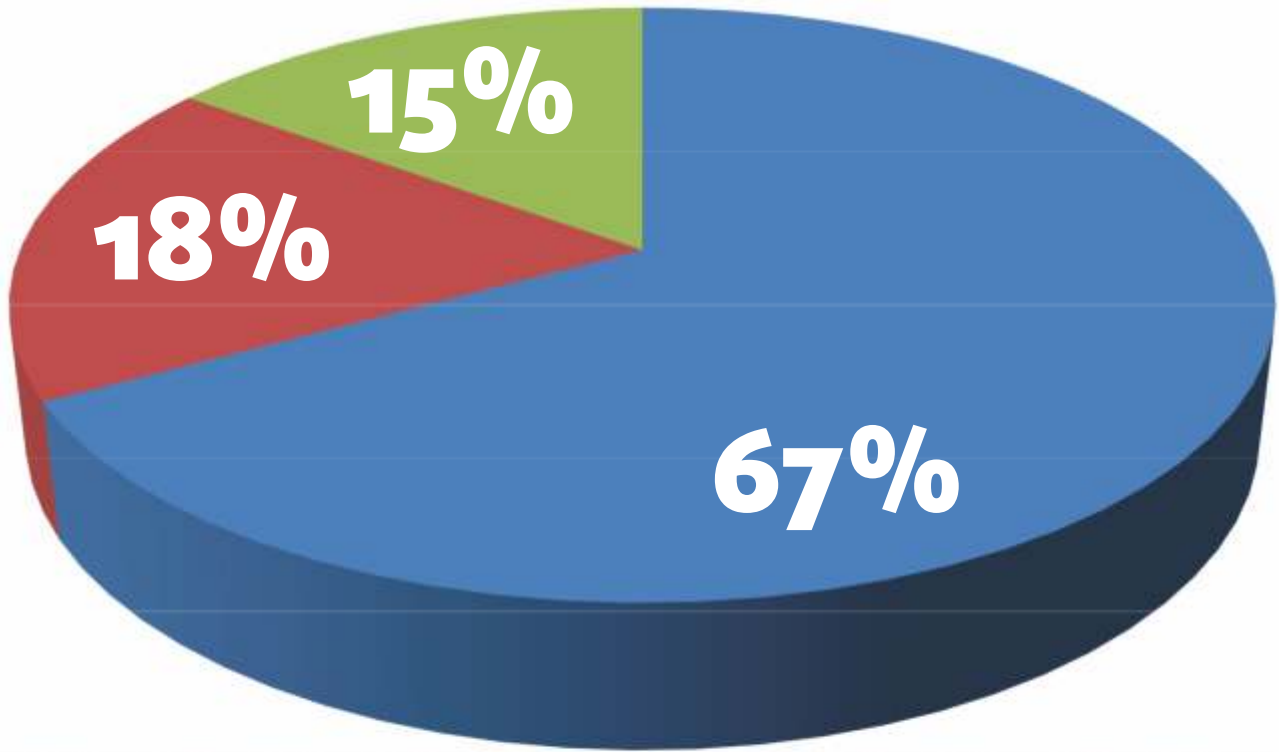
Busi Ndlovu (left) Finance and Administration Manager and Alex Fischer a theatre intern from Germany who was on attachment at Nhimbe for six months.



ORGANOGRAM ▼



on what did we spend the money?




NPAAC


SPAA


WIT

Audited **Accounts** available on request

annual report

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multi
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DEFINING CREATIVITY

