

Annual Report 2012



NHIMBE

'Censorship always defeats its own purpose, for it creates in the end the kind of society that is incapable of exercising real discretion.'

~Henry Steele Commager

All that is banned is desired
~Arab Proverb

Highlights of 2012

3rd Pan-African Cultural Congress (PACC3)

Nhimbe attended the 3rd Pan African Cultural Congress which was held in Addis Ababa from the 28th to the 30th of August 2012. The Executive Director, Josh Nyapimbi, made a presentation on the discussion paper entitled *Role of Languages in Development in Africa*, prepared at the request of the African Union Commission.

World Conference on Artistic Freedom of Expression

All that is Banned is Desired – A world conference on Artistic Freedom of Expression was held in Oslo over two days in October 2012. It was organized by Fritt Ord and Freemuse. The conference provided a platform for artists, journalists, activists, scholars, curators and others to share experiences and good practices of combatting censorship of the arts around the world.

Zimbabwean Cultural Diaspora Round Table Discussion

Nhimbe, in partnership with Pamberi Trust and the Zimbabwe Association (UK), hosted two round table discussions, in Harare and Bulawayo, on the Zimbabwean Cultural Diaspora. The purpose of the discussions was to identify where help is needed to assist Zimbabwe's creative sector; to investigate gaps in technical, professional, and training capacity in Zimbabwe that could usefully be filled through international exchanges and expertise from Zimbabwean artists in the diaspora; to develop effective contacts between the Zimbabwe Association and local partners (Nhimbe, Pamberi) in identifying needs and provide local support for new initiatives; and to broker effective responses to identified needs.

Cultural Mapping for City of Bulawayo

The Bulawayo Arts Forum (BAF) and Nhimbe, in partnership with the Bulawayo City Council, began the process of Cultural Mapping for the City of Bulawayo, with the goal of providing empirical evidence why the city needed a full-time office responsible for arts and culture promotion and development.

National Constitution-Making Process

The Nhimbe Director and renowned film-maker Tsitsi Dangarembga prepared a creative civil society position paper for inclusion in the compendium of civic society positions on different sections of the draft constitution.

Contents

2012 Highlights.....	2
Foreword.....	4
Director's Message.....	5
What we did in 2012.....	6
Schools' Playwrights and Actors Academy – SPAA.....	7
Women in Theatre – WiT Labs.....	7
NPAAC -Creative Civil Society's National Plan of Action for Arts and Culture 2012-2015.....	8
FreeArtZim.....	14
Board & Management.....	15
Who supported us in 2012?.....	16
Expenditure Pie Chart.....	19

Conceptualisation: Nhimbe Trust
Editor: Amabooks
Design and Layout: PT Design

Cover: *Looking into the Future*
by Adam Madebe

Created in 1985
Banned in 2010

Foreword

During the past year, the creative civil society, especially the theatre sector, has witnessed a worrying phenomenon in which theatre productions, which have been cleared by the Censorship Board and that have been performed in venues in Harare and Bulawayo, are later banned by the police when scheduled for performances in venues in provinces and districts outside of Harare and Bulawayo. Actions by the police have included arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of actors whose theatre productions have been proscribed. Nhimbe has documented and issued alerts.

Our critical achievement has been in rolling out the National Plan of Action for Arts and Culture (NPAAC). This has led to the establishment of stronger arts advocacy teams and in providing and supporting platforms for dialogue and action on the concerns and aspirations of the creative sector.

One crucial factor in our success is that as Nhimbe we are a learning organisation, and we believe that all arts advocacy must be premised on empirical evidence and not hyperbole. We also believe that the price of any successful arts advocacy is a constructive alternative; hence the compendium on legal instruments on arts and culture offers a unique, pertinent and timely instructive critique on policies and legislation on cultural governance, but also progressive alternatives.

'Where there is official censorship it is a sign that speech is serious. Where there is none, it is pretty certain that the official spokesmen have all the loud-speakers.' Paul Goodman

Dr Tsitsi Choruma
Board Chair

Director's Message

In 2012 we laid the foundation for achieving our vision of being the leader in cultural policy research, training and arts advocacy, and in monitoring and campaigning on practices and constraints on artistic freedom of expression in Zimbabwe. Through our timely research and arts advocacy campaigns, we have stimulated and provided platforms for pertinent critical discourse on cultural governance in Zimbabwe.

The year 2012 saw the launch of the landmark HIFA-Nhimbe Policy Dialogue Seminar, "Giving Voice to the Artist: The Impact of Current Cultural Policy Discourse on Zimbabwean Arts". The Commonwealth Organisations Committee on Zimbabwe said in their report entitled 'Re-Engaging with Zimbabwe through Arts and Culture – A Needs Audit for Commonwealth Countries'



'This symposium was extremely useful for our project since it enabled us to familiarise ourselves with a broad spectrum of informed opinion and to listen to some lively debate about cultural policy in Zimbabwe.'

We strive to demonstrate exemplary transparency and accountability to our partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders as embodied in our programming on self-regulation and accountability. We have remained proactive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the creative sector in Zimbabwe and in Africa, through partnerships, networking and exchanges. We remain steadfast in our belief in the concept and principle of "Nhimbe" (community coming together to help each other accomplish work) by acting locally and impacting continentally.

During the first quarter of 2013 we plan to launch two research reports, namely: *International Mobility of Cultural Professionals into Zimbabwe*; and *The 2012 Barometer on Freedom of Artistic Expression in Zimbabwe*.

The year 2013 marks Nhimbe's 10th Anniversary. We cut our teeth in theatre for development, transitioned to arts education and now specialize in arts advocacy and defending freedom of artistic expression. We thank our partners past and present for travelling this life giving and life changing journey with us. We are proud to have given birth to a number of organisations and networks, in addition to creating jobs and securing livelihoods in the creative sector and beyond.

We have the pleasure to present our new logo in this report and look forward to sharing the various festivities being planned to celebrate our 10th Anniversary throughout 2013.

Josh Nyapimbi
Executive Director

What we did in 2012

I respect and admire the work that Nhimbe is doing and the lobbying and advocacy activities the organization undertakes.

I know firsthand how much effort, time and courage this actually takes and I congratulate you and your team for what you achieve.

-Maria Wilson - Executive Director Harare International Festival of the Arts(HIFA)

Schools' Playwrights and Actors Academy – SPAA

In 2012 Nhimbe enrolled 30 students for the 2012-2015 Schools' Performing Arts Academy (SPAA). The SPAA was established in 2009 with a grant from Africalia to provide vocational training in theatre for children and young people.

The SPAA runs a weekend class for 30 drama students drawn from high schools in and around Bulawayo. The inaugural SPAA weekend class completed their three year vocational drama training and graduated at the end of 2011. The



SPAA produces original works and curriculum based set book play adaptations. The SPAA performs its plays at a variety of venues and art spaces, which include schools, theatres, festivals (HIFA, Intwasa and Dzimbahwe), private and public events and functions.

Women in Theatre – WiT Labs

In 2012 the enrolment of the 2012-2015 WiT lab student intake was undertaken. The Women in Theatre Programme (WiT Labs) is an initiative of Nhimbe, which seeks to promote visibility and increase economic opportunities for women in theatre. The WiT Programme started in 2011 with funding from Africalia up to now. The three distinct elements of the WiT Labs are:

- *Playwrights Lab*: helps emerging women playwrights to develop new work in a supportive and nurturing environment.
- *Producers Lab*: seeks to enhance resource mobilization, networking skills and knowledge amongst emerging WiT producers. Armed with practical tools and information on potential resource providers, fellows are empowered to pursue specific theatrical projects within and without WiT labs. The Lab is founded on the firm belief in the power of creative producing and strives to make its fellows equally at home analyzing scripts, budgets and funding bids. Currently WiT produces under the banner of Amakhosi Plays on Sunday, which in turn facilitates touring under the Bulawayo Entertainment Circuit (BEC) and ZITA National Touring Circuit, which currently comprises Amakhosi Theatre Cultural Centre (Bulawayo), Courtauld Theatre (Mutare) and Charles Austin Theatre (Masvingo) and Gweru Theatre.
- *Directors Lab*: provides a platform for emerging directors to network and share skills, knowledge and good practice on directorial techniques and trends in the field, while creating collaborative relationships with fellows of the Playwrights and Producers Labs.



NPAAC

Creative Civil Society's National Plan of Action for Arts and Culture
2012-2015

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
~African Proverb

NPAAC Summary Achievements to-date

- NPAAC Strategy Document widely distributed and well received by creative civil society, funders and some government agencies;
- PEST/SWOT analysis of cultural governance well presented in a professional compendium;
- Skills and knowledge on arts advocacy enhanced;
- Evidence that creative civil society input is influencing policy;
- Improved understanding and appreciation of policies and legislation impacting negatively on the creative sector by relevant government officials and broader civil society; leadership – through active participation in NANGO, CiZC and COPAC organised forums;
- Arts Advocacy Campaign is well-known and well received;
- Creative civil society kept up-to-date on NPAAC through monthly newsletter;
- Vibrant and interactive online discussions on pertinent issues affecting the creative sector;
- Creative civil society meets regularly to discuss, plan and act together.

NPAAC Rollout

In order to create a shared strategic intent, between April and May 2012, Nhimbe, with funding from Africalia, Hivos and Mimeta, published and distributed the NPAAC Strategic Plan. Three regional rollout meetings were held in Mutare (20 April), Bulawayo (24 April) and Harare (2-4 May). The later took the form of a Cultural Symposium done in partnership with HIFA.

The *purpose* of the three regional rollout meetings was to define and set regional priorities and coordination structures for the NPAAC. The four key deliverables of the rollout can be summarized as follows:

- NPAAC publication distribution: 251 Bulawayo, 288 Mutare and Masvingo and 314 Harare/HIFA (out of 1000 copies printed)
- Two Regional Steering Committees set up in Mutare and Bulawayo
- The Manicaland Provincial NPAAC Steering Committee developed a work plan and timeline for the period May – December 2012
- Two Regional Steering Committees in Mutare and Bulawayo signed up to the Terms of Reference (ToR).

The focus of the Symposium was on the most pressing issues faced by the arts and culture sector as it emerges from a period of economic depression and continues to confront political responses to artistic expression ranging from indifference to repression. Prime among these issues is funding, the role of foreign donors, the polarisation and mistrust which exists between government representatives and arts practitioners, the marginalisation of the arts sector and the problem of audience development.

~ Commonwealth Organisations Committee on Zimbabwe

NPAAC-HIFA Policy Dialogue Symposium



Nhimbe, in partnership with HIFA and Arterial Network, and hosted by the Book Cafe, conducted a Cultural Symposium from the 2nd to the 4th of May under the theme 'Giving Voice to the Artist: The Impact of Current Cultural Policy Discourse on Zimbabwean Arts'. Mimeta provided funding. A total of 45 people attended the Cultural Symposium. The participants were drawn from civil society, academia, government, business, NGOs, diplomatic missions, UNESCO and funders.

The focus of the Symposium lay on the most pressing issues faced by the arts and culture sector as it emerges from a period of economic depression and continues to confront political responses to artistic expression ranging from indifference to repression.

Prime among these issues is funding, the role of foreign donors, the polarisation and mistrust which exist between government representatives and arts practitioners, the marginalisation of the arts sector and the problem of audience development.' Commonwealth Organisations Committee on Zimbabwe

Actionable Points

NPAAC should facilitate the production of a civil society Shadow Report on the 2005 UNESCO Convention, which is due for submission to UNESCO by the end of 2012;

A voluntary arts and culture organisation, along the lines of the Media Monitoring Project, should be established to assess the coverage of the arts in the media, reporting violations and compliance where that happened;

Need to lobby for the establishment of a focal person on arts and culture within the Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture.

NPAAC Compendium Research on Legal Instruments on Arts and Culture

The process of effectively transforming the arts and culture sector in Zimbabwe requires the production, through research, of a body of evidence on the challenges being faced by arts and culture practitioners and activists on the one hand, and by those involved at different levels in managing cultural governance structures and in policy formulation on the other hand. Nhimbe carried out research on legal instruments in the creative sector and their impact on the status of the artist. The research was carried out by cultural policy experts drawn from the local creative civil society and their conclusions were:

Cultural Governance by Florence Mukanga-Majachani: All departments and parastatals with arts and culture responsibilities should work together in formulating a comprehensive national cultural policy.

Broadcasting Services Act by Jacob Mapara and Shumirai Nyota: The Act entrenched government control over the airwaves, thus campaigning for opening up of airwaves so as to grow the distribution and consumption of artistic products and allied services is vital.

Censorship Act by *Eric M. Mazango*: Free artistic expression cannot flourish nor be effectively nurtured in an environment where the right to freedom of expression continues to be curtailed by political responses ranging from mistrust, suspicion, indifference to repression.

National Arts Council Festival Guidelines by *Nehemiah Chivandikwa and Ngonidzashe Muwonwa*: The Guidelines are authoritarian, border on infringing and curtailing freedom of artistic expression and institute bureaucratic delays.

National Gallery of Zimbabwe Act by *Jacob Mapara and Shumirai Nyota*: The Act gives the Minister responsible too much power, it has no scope for the promotion and presentation of visual arts throughout the country, as the Gallery is intended to serve only three major cities, Mutare, Bulawayo and Harare.

National Arts Council of Zimbabwe Act by *Pathisa Nyathi*: The NACZ Act has remained on the statutes without any amendments since 1985. The national, regional and international cultural landscape has changed markedly yet the Act does not resonate with the global cultural discourses. There is too much emphasis on control, regulation and supervision.

Implementation of four out of the seven UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture that Zimbabwe has ratified by *Stephen Chifunyise* – namely;

The 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export and Transfer of Cultural Property (2006)

The 1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1982)

The 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006)

The 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2008)

The research focused on four Conventions because:

These are Conventions where there have been implementation activities by government departments, public statutory institutions, communities, groups, arts and culture practitioners.

These Conventions have featured prominently in:

National forums on the review and formulation of the national cultural policy;

Forums of Zimbabwe creative civil society on formulating a plan of action for arts and culture.

Awareness of each of the Conventions needs to be raised, with translation of the documents into local languages. Information on Zimbabwe's cultural heritage needs to be collected and collated, with national committees for each Convention that include members of the creative civil society.

In Zimbabwe, cultural governance frameworks are predominantly restrictive, intrusive and some ultra vires in terms of the national constitution, international treaties, declarations and conventions in the field of culture.

This repressive ideology permeates across the arts, to the extent that most creative civil society organisations deemed anti-establishment have been infiltrated or been under continuous surveillance by state security agents.

Thus the Compendium's recommendations provide an important reference point for informed arts advocacy.

NPAAC Arts Advocacy Training Workshop

From the 28th of April to the 30th of May, twelve arts human rights defenders and two arts journalists participated in the arts advocacy training workshop held at the Bronte Hotel in Harare. The training programme was based on the recommendations contained in *NPAAC Compendium Research on Legal Instruments on Arts and Culture* and used the Arterial Network Networking and Advocacy Toolkit. The two key outputs of the workshop were:



- *Arts Advocacy Steering Committee:* Raisedon Baya, Peter Churu, Virginia Phiri, Victor Moyo, Nyaradzo Mutonhori, Michael Mabwe, Jane Parsons, Daniel Maposa, Value Dick, Stephen Chifunyise and Josh Nyapimbi;
- *Three Arts Advocacy Plans on:* NACZ Act, NACZ Festival Guidelines and need for a Ministry of Arts and Culture

NPAAC Newsletter Launched

To ensure regular and timely updates to stakeholders and partners, a monthly online *Newsletter* was launched on the 15th of September, 2012. Currently the *Newsletter* has a total circulation of 1330 subscribers comprising local and international/diaspora artists, arts organisations, media, funders, international networks (Arterial Network, OCPA, IFACCA, IFCCD, Kubatana) government officials, parliamentarians, universities, colleges, embassies and UNESCO. The *Newsletter* covers local and international arts and culture events, campaigns, alerts, notices and opportunities (conferences, training and funding). The Nhimbe Information and Communications Department is responsible for the production and dissemination of the *Newsletter*.

NPAAC Blog Launched

As per the recommendation made at the Arts Advocacy Training Workshop and in an effort to encourage debate and writing about issues affecting arts and culture in Zimbabwe, a Blog was set up in August <http://nhimbetrust-npaac.blogspot.com>. A total of 14 articles have been published to date and the blog had recorded 1758 page hits to date. New blog articles are posted at fortnightly intervals. Some of the comments from the blog follow:

'It's good to be here in this blog, very nice post, the content is amazing, keep posting friends, it will be very helpful for everyone, Thanks for sharing. I really liked it. Thanks And Regards.' Lucknow. 13 October 2012 05:26

'I would like to thank you so much for your updates in the newsletter. Keep up the good work you are doing in the creative sector. Regards.' Vusamandulo Director, Ugodlwayomuhle Performing Arts, Plumtree

Commemorating International Human Rights Day

The Zimbabwe Creative Civil Society joined the world in commemorating International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December with a special focus on the right to freedom of artistic expression. The key highlights for the commemorations were:

Press Release: It noted with great concern the simmering political climate that has heightened intimidation, suspicion and violence, which, in turn, have further curtailed the democratic space for the creative sector in our country. There have been several actions that have translated into real threats of violence against cultural workers suspected of raising a dissenting voice. Also threatened have been those who have publicly defended the right to freedom of artistic expression or who have spoken out against any violation of human rights, especially any violation through harassment at art spaces or through threats and intimidation of artists exercising their democratic right to participate in public dialogue on socio-economic and political issues that affect them.

Public Dialogue: Nhimbe hosted a public discussion for 50 members of the creative civil society to explore and respond to the Questionnaire by UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights. Through this questionnaire the Zimbabwe Creative Civil Society were afforded an opportunity to:

- a) Research and document on Art Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe, through the use of a barometer that measures and evaluates violations. The barometer will be published in April 2013;
- b) Carry out a baseline survey and publicize the state of laws governing freedom of expression and Art Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe. The report will be published in April 2013;
- c) Raise awareness on the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders amongst creative civil society and how to enforce it.

The commemorations and research currently underway are supported by Mimeta.

Self-regulation and Accountability - SAP

The Nhimbe Self-regulation Programme, under which the NPAAC is implemented, has been expanded to cover promoting and upholding the practice and values of accountability and transparency within the creative sector in Zimbabwe. The need to expand the scope of the programme is in response to calls by stakeholders and beneficiaries for creative civil society to demonstrate exemplary practice. The programme is now called the Self-regulation and Accountability Programme (SAP).

FreeArtZim

FreeArtZim is the Observatory for the Protection of Arts Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe. It documents, alerts and campaigns on freedom of artistic expression. Currently FreeArtZim is working on the 2012 *Barometer on freedom of artistic expression* in Zimbabwe and a *Compendium on freedom of artistic expression* in Zimbabwe for the period 1980-2011.

Mandates and Membership

NATIONAL MANDATES	INTERNATIONAL MANDATES
Secretariat – Arterial Network	Lead Agency - Arterial Network SADC Cultural Policy Advocacy Project
Secretariat – ZiTA/Zimbabwe Theatre Association	
Secretariat - City of Bulawayo Cultural Mapping Project	
Secretariat – NPAAC/National Plan of Action for Arts and Culture	
Campus – ICUZ/International Culture University Zimbabwe	
Researcher – ArtWatch Africa	
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP	INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP
NANGO/National Association of Non-governmental Organisations	Arts Rights Justice
CiZC/Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition	IFCCD/International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
NACZ/National Arts Council of Zimbabwe	

Board Renewal

As the term of some current board members come to an end, we thank Dr Lawton Hikwa, Okay Machisa, Nomasomi Mpofu, who are stepping down, for their valuable contribution to the work of Nhimbe during the past three years, and look forward to the possibility of their continued association with the work of Nhimbe in the field. Munyaradzi Chatikobo and Dr Tsitsi Choruma will continue and be joined by new board members during the first quarter of 2013. Dr Choruma will step down as board chair once a new board has been appointed and will continue in an associate capacity.

Board of Trustees

Dr Tsitsi Choruma – Chair
Okay Machisa – secretary (outgoing)
Joyce Dube – Treasurer
Dr Lawton Hikwa (outgoing)
Nomasomi Mpofu (outgoing)
Munyaradzi Chatikobo

Management

Josh Nyapimbi – Executive Director
Busi Ndlovu – Admin & Finance Manager
Shellin Mugoma – Info & Comms Officer

Programme Consultants

Raisedon Baya – SPAA Coordinator
Nonhlalo Dube – WiT Labs Projects Coordinator
Stephen Chifunyise – SAP
Florence Mukanga-Majachani – SAP

NPAAC Steering Committee

Daniel Maposa – Chair
Cont Mhlanga
Stephen Chifunyise
Florence Mukanga-Majachani
Dr Jacob Mapara
Josh Nyapimbi – Secretariat

Who supported us in 2012?

Zimbabwean CSOs

Arterial Network
Amakhosi Cultural Centre
Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition
Kubatana Network
National Association of Non-governmental Organizations
Steering Committee, Africalia Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Theatre Association

Government Cultural Agencies

National Arts Council of Zimbabwe
Department of Arts and Culture
Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation

Local Government

City of Bulawayo
Mayor of Harare

International CSOs

Arterial Network
International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies
International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

Funders

Africalia
Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust
Hivos – Norwegian Embassy
Pro Helvetia – SDC
Mimeta



Quotes

It's good to be here in this blog, very nice post, the content is amazing, keep posting friends, it will be very helpful for everyone, Thanks for sharing. I really liked it. Thanks and Regards.

~Lucknow.13 October 2012 05:26

I would like to thank you so much for your updates in the newsletter. Keep up the good work you are doing in the creative sector. Regards.

~Vusamandulo. Director, Ugodlwayomuhle Performing Arts, Plumtree

Good work you are doing and the newsletter updates are great.

*~Farai Mpfunya, Executive Director
Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust*

Thanks for keeping us informed and well done with the newsletter, its fabulous!

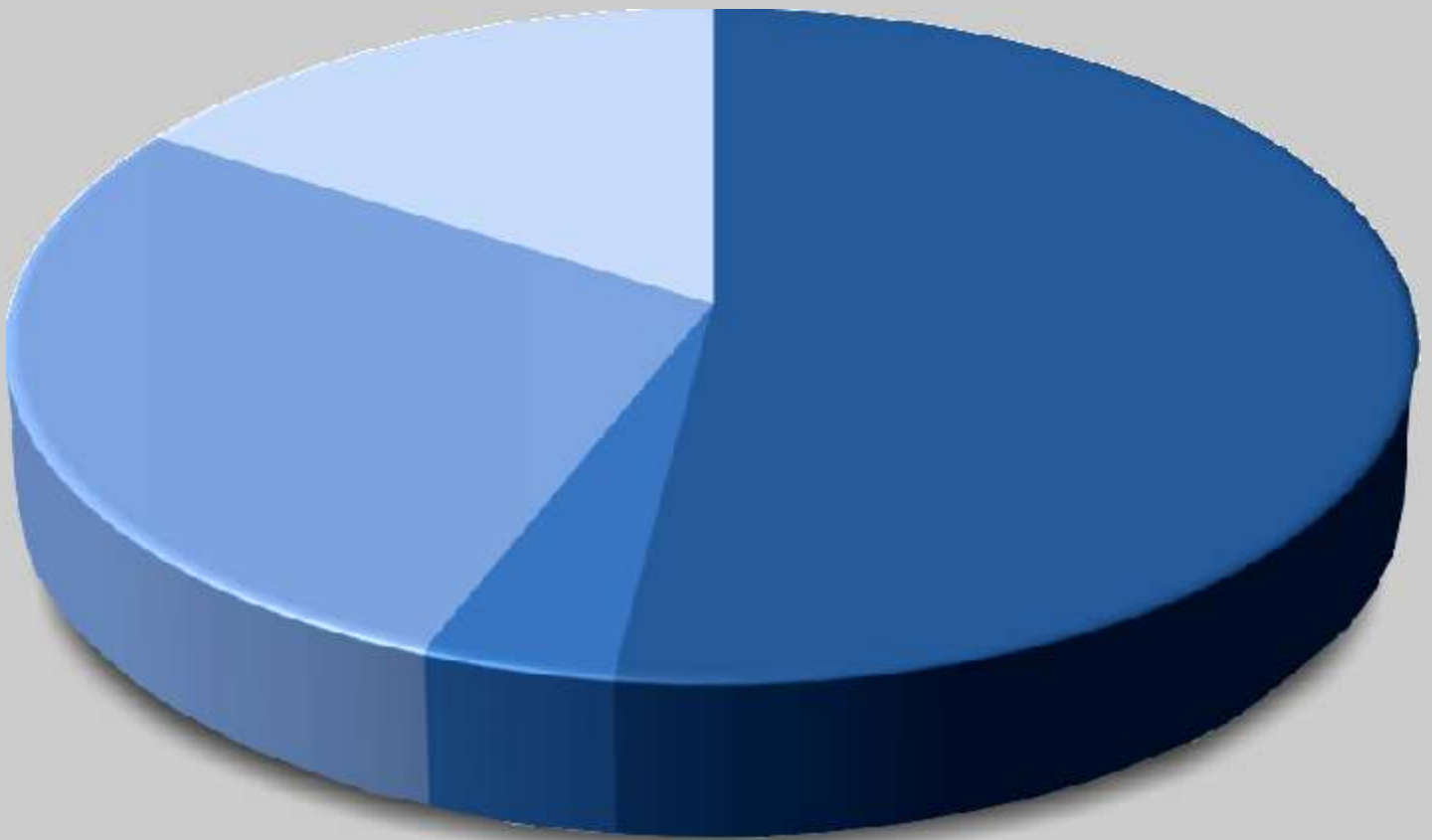
*~Mike Van Graan – Advisor, Arterial Network/ Executive Director,
African Arts Institute*

Now the Zimbabwe Theatre Association is on the right footing, we cannot go wrong if we put our primary focus in facilitating and supporting distribution and markets for theatre.

~Cont Mhlanga – Amakhosi Cultural Centre Founder and Director

Notes

On what did we spend the money?



- NPAAC: Arts Advocacy (52%)
- FreeArtZim: Freedom of Artistic Expression (4%)
- Arts Education: WIT/SPAA (28%)
- CSO Capacity Building: ZITA (16%)



NHIMBE

84 Fort Street
Canberra Building
P.O. Box 509
Bulawayo
Email: info@nhimbe.org
Website: www.nhimbe.org
Tel: +263 (09) 60002/60019