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## Bulawayo Day & Bulawayo Arts Festival 2021

Find the Bulawayo Arts magazine [here](#) !



TIME	VENUE/CHANNEL	EVENT
07:00hrs - 07:15hrs	State Metro FM	BAF Daily Bulletin with Nhimbe
08:00hrs - 10:00hrs	Large City Hall	High Level Cultural Governance Conference
08:00hrs - 10:00hrs	Small City Hall	Small City Hall
10:00hrs - 11:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
11:00hrs - 12:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
12:00hrs - 13:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
13:00hrs - 14:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
14:00hrs - 15:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
15:00hrs - 16:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
16:00hrs - 17:00hrs	Bulawayo Theatre	Bulawayo Theatre
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This BULAWAYO DAY, 1 June 2021, celebrations of the City's history opens the week for the second edition of the BULAWAYO ARTS FESTIVAL (BAF), running this year from 2-5 June as a hybrid festival - with some performances for a physical audience, others recorded live, and all streamed online on the BAF TV channel and other social networks for audiences in Bulawayo and the world.

Nhimbe Trust is proud to be a partner in this vivid programme of arts and culture, in the face of the ravaging Covid-19 pandemic across the planet. Bulawayo Arts Festival and artists of the city have pulled through an extraordinary year with strong resilience and continued creativity, to present a vibrant showcase in the face of the seemingly never-ending pandemic. Organisers are well aware that COVID-19 has changed a lot of what can be done within the creative sector, but they are ready to present the city as the cultural capital to both virtual and physical audiences, within the COVID-19 stipulated regulations for gatherings which has become the new way of doing the business of the Arts.

In the past year it has been heartening to see that creativity has not been stifled, but proved resilient to the crippling blows dealt on the arts industry. In the face of venue shutdowns and social distancing, loss of work and dire need in some cases, artists of Zimbabwe have

not ground to a halt, but rather, continued to grow and flourish, incubated in the tight restrictions of the enforced lockdown.

This year, as a culmination of a 6-year cultural governance partnership between Bulawayo City Council and Nhimbe Trust, supported by leading artists and activists of Bulawayo, and framed with the rationale of cultural rights protection and promotion, the festival has an added dimension with the inclusion of artists from beyond the city's boundaries.

Make a difference ! DONATE

**COVID-19**  
APPEAL

**RENOVATE BLUEZ CAFE**  
Brick Bank Appeal

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## BAF Talent Search Tour - Plumtree, Gwanda, Mutare, Gweru, Vic Falls



The BAF Team on the road

Photo credit: Mgcini Nyoni

The Bulawayo Arts Festival continues to grow and diversify as will be seen in the content of this year's festival. The BAF team undertook a talent-scouting tour to some of Zimbabwe's smaller cities and towns – Plumtree, Gwanda, Mutare, Gweru and Vic Falls - with a mission to identify artists from these areas, with the good assistance of the National Arts Council offices around the country, and various government ministries/offices, for inclusion in the 2021 edition.

Confined by the pandemic and all but hidden until now, the inclusion of this new talent - alongside the rainbow of urban music, dance, theatre, comedy, poetry, visual arts, photography and fashion - will grow the festival in diversity, progressiveness and inclusivity, and provide the world audience with a fascinating and authentic menu to feast on.



## Bulawayo Heritage Corridor

As part of the Bulawayo Arts Festival, the Heritage Tour on Saturday 5 June will include the Amagugu International Heritage Centre, Khami Ruins, the Urban Heritage Corridor in the city, and Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage.

Pictured here are BAF Director Saimon 'Mambazo' Phiri, NACZ Provincial Manager Cleo Dube, and NACZ Director Nicholas Moyo on a familiarisation tour of the Bulawayo Heritage Corridor.

Photo: Mgcini Nyoni

## BAF Creative and Cultural Industries Conference: 3-4 June 2021:

### 'Enhancing Local Government Participation in Cultural Governance'

Within the festival week 2-5 June 2021, Bulawayo City Council in partnership with Nhimbe Trust will host a two-day conference from 3-4 June 2021 at the Large Bulawayo City Hall. The theme of the conference is 'Enhancing Local Government Participation in Cultural Governance' and its aim is to promote and enhance the participation of local government authorities in cultural governance, with focus on participatory policy-making, cultural democracy, culture-sensitive development and culture-responsive urban strategies.

Participants include a wide cross-section of the cultural sector, from the National Arts Council to city councils, cultural practitioners and artists. A hybrid approach encompassing dialogue, training and peer-peer exchanges will guide the conference proceedings.

A statement from the Ministry of Information, read:

"Cabinet received and adopted a report on the 2021 Bulawayo Arts Festival, which was presented by the Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Honourable J.G. Moyo.

Cabinet advises that the inaugural Bulawayo Arts Festival was digitally launched in 2020, reaching audiences in 45 countries. This year's Festival is scheduled to be held from 2 to 5 June, 2021. The main festival, which will largely remain digital due to COVID-19 control measures, will feature two main high profile programmes, namely: the launch of the Bulawayo Urban Heritage and Eco-Tourism Programme (3 June 2021); and the Creative and Cultural Industries Conference (3 – 4 June 2021).

Government is pleased to announce that His Excellency the President will officiate at the event. This demonstrates the Second Republic's commitment to the promotion and development of the creative and cultural industry."

Nhimbe's Executive Director Josh Nyapimbi said: "We can attribute the success the City of Bulawayo has realised as a centre of cultural excellence to the receptiveness of the city to the creation of hybrid intersections that borrow from different models of cultural governance. In the spirit of advancing cultural rights and championing freedom of artistic expression and creativity, we are committed, as an organisation, to complement local and national government efforts."

<https://www.facebook.com/ByoArtsFestival>  
<https://twitter.com/ByoArtsFestival/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ByoArtsFestTV>

[www.byoartsfestival.org](http://www.byoartsfestival.org)  
<https://www.instagram.com/byoartsfestival/>



by Tinashe Gwariro,  
Policy Analyst Fellow, Nhimbe Trust

## Why the Arts Matter in a Democracy

### At a Glance

Around the world democracy has been receding. Authoritarian states have expanded their powers to limit the rights of citizens, while democracies have either seen greater nationalist populist sentiment that aims to restrict the rights of certain groups in their countries or citizens have elected leaders with authoritarian characteristics to positions of power. This has shifted the international balance of power in favor of authoritarian strong men and their supporters.

Freedom of speech and expression has been the one democratic right that is under attack across nations. Whether it's through the Patriot Act in Zimbabwe, or recently Belarus diverting a plane to arrest a single journalist, or artists across the African continent being censored. The right to speech and methods of expression are under threat.

Defenders of democracy need to understand that the arts are a vital tool to creating and defending a democracy.

### Why the Arts Matter

Great art can be used to educate and provide public debate which creates empathy and that empathy leads to people changing their views about social issues thus creating social change. From answering questions such as *What is the meaning of life, why was I created?* to promoting the rights of women, and questioning social norms, and creating greater accountability within society. To an artist whose mission is to tell a story, these questions can be profoundly felt in their work.

It is through works of art that citizens can be exposed to social ills. In Pakistan it is a documentary about a teenager called Saba Kaiser that made the public question 'honor killings' within its society; In Zimbabwe it's through music that helps the youth express their frustrations about their impoverished lives.

Silence sometimes is seen as providing consent, but it also confirms a people oppressed in a society where speaking out is sometimes reserved for the privileged and brave few. Today on many social issues from the Feminist movement, to Black Lives Matter and the social and economic injustices in Zimbabwe, artists voice their concerns through artistic displays of people refusing to be silenced, and rightly so. Freedom of speech and expression are fundamental to holding truth to power and creating the debate that is necessary in creating and maintaining a democracy.

Envisage a world without music, literature and visual arts. How would we be able to empathize with minority groups if pictures of oppression were never taken? How would we understand women's rights without the literature to help us better understand women's vital role in society? How would we have made calls to action for racial, social and economic justice without the music that tells the story of people's plight? The arts are a part of the human condition as important to our everyday survival as breathing.



## What is in it for you

A story told eloquently can move a people towards radical social change. To have the power to be heard gives you the power to vote, the power to vote enables you to be represented in society. That ability to represent ourselves through the arts allows us to voice our concerns. That is why the arts, whether paintings, sculptures, poems or literature and debate is vital for young people to be exposed to from an early age. It is through storytelling that we are exposed to heroes and right and wrong; it is exposing the young to material that helps them determine fiction from fact and makes us accountable to those facts, think critically about those facts about our systems of government and having the courage to listen to others' opinions in a peaceful manner. If we are to create a lasting democratic future, the arts will help us present coherent arguments properly, enabling us to be listened to legitimately, and preserve our vital freedom to speech and expression.s

## HERE, THERE, NOW: Bulawayo-London: Ongoing

HERE, THERE, NOW is an international storytelling project by Nhimbe Trust in partnership with the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre of London and the British Council, under Nhimbe's long-running Women in Theatre & Television programme.

The collaboration between young women actors of Bulawayo and London continues, with introductions and online exchanges by the participants. Led by Lady Tshawe, the Zimbabwean artists include:



Thandy Dhlana



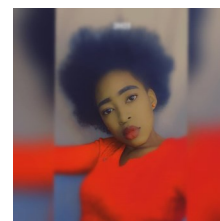
Edith Masango



Getrude Munhamo



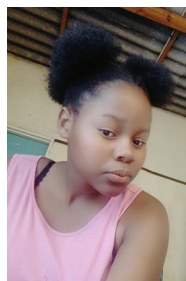
Laura Ngwenya



Antonatte Maphosa



Priviledge Mathema



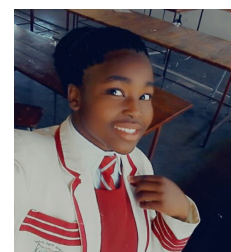
Pamela Mnkandla



Shammah Banda



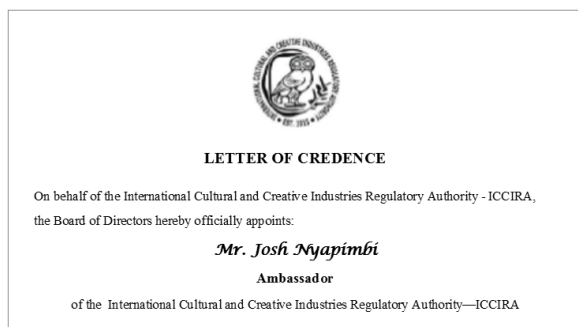
Sidumisile Mthethwa



Hazel Moyo

To visit the project Facebook page, click [here](#).

## ICCIRA Appointment



NHIMBE TRUST are proud to announce the appointment of Executive Director Josh Nyapimbi as Ambassador to the International Cultural and Creative Industries Regulatory Authority (ICCIRA), acting as a Cultural and Creative Industries Diplomat and figure-head for Zimbabwe.

His responsibilities as an ambassador include coordination and promotion of international relations of ICCIRA, concentrating on cultural and creative industries regulatory matters, production, trade, public relations, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral cultural

and creative industries agreements between countries.

He is authorised to take part in meetings with other representatives, in accordance with the agreed procedures, in order to contribute, with questions and comments, to interactive debates, on substantive topics, including Creative Economy or Cultural Policy matters.

The appointment is effective from 1 May to 31 December 2021, with possible extension.

## Webinar: Sustainable cultural and creative industry in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

Executive Director Josh Nyapimbi, has been invited to speak in a webinar by the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the EU, entitled: 'Towards a sustainable cultural and creative industry in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries', from 9-10 June.

The event, organized by the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the EU in the framework of the ACP-EU Culture programme implementation, will put into perspective its actions in support of ACP cultural and creative industries and discuss the new issues of a sector impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The invitation read "On this occasion, after careful consultations with the Programme regional partners and the organizing entities, we convened that your participation as a speaker will bring a precious added value to the discussion."

Specifically, the official invitation is for Nyapimbi to speak on 'Towards a more inclusive cultural and creative industry. From principles to reality' on 10 June 2021, from 11.00 to 12.00 CET.

## Edith Katiji appointed to International Federation of Musicians (FIM)



Nhimbe Trust applauds the appointment of a daughter of Bulawayo, Edith Katiji, as Vice President of the International Federation of Musicians (FIM). Katiji has led the Zimbabwe Musicians Union for several years since its early days, and in a press statement of 27 May, the Union announced her appointment as Vice President of FIM. Joining other vice presidents from Switzerland, Denmark, USA and UK, she becomes the first black woman to be elevated into this prestigious post. The appointment was made at the recently ended 22<sup>nd</sup> FIM Congress.

From her youngest days in the industry Katiji grew in Amakhosi Cultural Centre programmes and was mentored by senior musicians of the city, to become a successful singer-songwriter and bassist, who now holds a Master of Arts degree in Music in Development and a Bachelor of Science in Music Business, Musicology and Technology. The appointment to FIM is anticipated to provide her with a platform to positively impact the careers and lives of musicians, on a global scale. Her appointment also projects Zimbabwe in a positive way and also supports the elevation of women to positions of influence.

In their statement, ZIMU says “This appointment will allow for all ZIMU concerns to be heard at the highest level and we rally all Zimbabwean musicians to engage with us for a better working system, collaborative, networking, learning opportunities, and standing in one with the world in music through this appointment at FIM.” <https://zimu.africa>

## Bluez Café Renovation: BRICK BANK APPEAL



The bold vision to create a multidisciplinary arts centre in the heart of Bulawayo, continues unabated in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic raging across the world.

First established in 2017, the burgeoning Bluez Café under Nhimbe Trust was forced to relocate to 97A Lobengula Street, an old townhouse donated to Nhimbe by the Youth Contact Centre. It requires major renovation to be able to provide a dedicated centre for the city's producers of culture, which is unreachable without financial support.

Nhimbe set up the BRICK BANK appeal in January 2021, to start work on the physical, structural needs of the new premises - and invites all contributions.

The National Arts Council of Zimbabwe applauded the development, and stakeholders in Bulawayo's cultural industries have expressed their strong support for the refurbishment plan.

***Nhimbe invites and urges all stakeholders and supporters of this crucial development to donate to the Bluez Cafe Brick Bank. The cost of a single brick is pinned at USD 0.35.***

Donations can be made directly to Nhimbe Trust through [admin@nhimbe.org](mailto:admin@nhimbe.org).





COVID-19 is unravelling a decade of progress on the status of the artist and cultural professionals in the City of Bulawayo. The social and economic impact of the pandemic has already taken a toll on the city's arts industry. Bulawayo, which is recognised as Zimbabwe's Cultural Hub, currently has the highest nation-al prevalence rate of COVID-19 cases.

**NHIMBE TRUST IS COMMITTED TO RAISING USD 150,000 TO KEEP ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS IN BULAWAYO SAFE FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.**

Nhimbe Trust aims to alleviate this hold-up for vulnerable artists and cultural professionals in Bulawayo by directly supporting at least 1500 artists and cultural professionals especially youth, women and the elderly who have disproportionately been impacted by COVID-19. Nhimbe Trust's response will cover the entire cultural community of Bulawayo. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be implemented in cooperation with the Bulawayo City Council.

This appeal is to people from all walks of life to donate towards the cause in support of our vulnerable artists and cultural professionals. No amount is too small.

**Please Donate!** Donations should be directed to the Facebook page at

[https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser\\_source=external\\_url](https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser_source=external_url) which displays as 'Ezra's personal emergency fundraiser' – (Fundraiser for Josh Nyapimbi by Ezra Tshisa Sibanda).

## Our Partners



The Daneford Trust



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