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Art 4 Peace: #Artivism



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ART 4 PEACE: #ARTIVISM

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

How does culture affect peacebuilding?

What can art contribute to lasting peace?

Why is #Artivism important to society?

- How do cultural activities contribute to peacebuilding?
- What are the common elements of these activities?
- How do they connect to your understanding of peace?
- Are they successful in realising the aim of building peace?
- Sketch your ideas to connect cultural activities with peacebuilding.



STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL PEACEBUILDING

The following are some of the #defyhatenow activities that have taken place since 2015. These activities are developed around the concept of peacebuilding through grassroots community action. They are listed to offer examples and inspiration, in your own creative approach to peacebuilding.

What is a social media #PeaceJam anyway?

A #PeaceJam is a relatively informal community oriented peacebuilding event, process, or activity where people, typically youth, cultural actors and anyone interested in peace and cultural dialogue get together to share their ideas, visions and hopes for the future - and to make new friends and connections. To “jam” for peace is to improvise peacebuilding without extensive preparation or predefined arrangements, but to develop new ideas and ways of doing things spontaneously with the energy coming from the creative interaction of the participants. A #PeaceJam may be loosely based on an agreed action or things suggested by one participant, or may be wholly improvisational.

A #PeaceJam session can range from very loose gatherings of amateurs to actions where the #PeaceJam host acts as a “conductor” bringing different performers, activists and others together. The point is to focus on all manner of peacebuilding, and expressing them, along with individual ideas, slogans and connections to others online using, and learning about social media. Let South Sudanese occupy the global social media landscape with peacebuilding, taking action against hate, conflict and incitement to violence.

“ Culture jamming is a tactic used to disrupt or subvert media culture and mainstream cultural institutions, using mass media to produce ironic or satirical commentary about itself, often subverting the original medium’s communication method. ”

A #PeaceJam can be as simple as a social gathering, and may be based upon existing types of gatherings, dances, theatre, songs or completely different forms of collaborative action.

#Defyhatenow Social Media #Peacejam

Anyone can start a social media #peacejam by organising an event or simply by sharing your own peace messages online. Link your #peacejam to any kind of global peace event to reach a wider audience and have greater impact with your message. Examples: UN World Peace Day, 21st September; World Press Freedom Day, 3rd May; International Women’s Day, 8th March.

Use **#peacejam #Acts4Peace237** and **#defyhatenow** hashtags on your social media posts to help track the use of online channels for positive cultural change to gain a better understanding of the social media peace landscape.

Harness the power of social media to promote peace; online and offline with **#PEACEJAM**

Bring friends and communities in South Sudan and worldwide together to **#DEFYHATENOW #Peacejam** on Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram, WhatsApp to be a social media Peace Ambassador.





#DEFYHATENOW COMBATING HATE SPEECH THROUGH THE ARTS

#Peace4ALL music video

<https://youtu.be/DxZ-r2tM5-Y>



#defyhatenow #Peace4ALL Music Video, Rhino Camp Uganda 2017

The #PeaceVillage uses music to send positive and educational messages to people by discouraging hate speech online and offline. The music program was designed to break down the prejudices in South Sudanese communities and foster a culture of reconciliation. #Peace4ALL video recorded at Luruja, Terego (Rhino camp). The key singers are Sherry Zania (Aurora), Ronald Luate (RonnyRiddimz) and Adams Mandela (FreeBoy). Video shot by Benchmark films montage (P4A Camera shots by Yass Alman, directed and edited by AB soft.)

#ThinkB4UClick Video

https://youtu.be/UMz6s_m0q_l

#ThinkB4UClick (Think Before You Click) is an awareness campaign that aims at pointing out the dangers of misinformation, fake news and hate speech with a focus on South Sudan. The campaign aims to discuss with the public the consequences of hate speech and how it can be mitigated through individual actions that aim at creating safe spaces online and offline for citizens to interact with each other and discuss matters in a fruitful and informed manner. Artist : Free-Boy and Sherry Zania Lyrics : Free-Boy Adams Producer : Benchmark Films, Arua, Uganda

“Let’s talk” #defyhatenow podcast

<https://soundcloud.com/user-796361206>

Let’s Talk podcast on South Sudan features Achol Jok Mach in conversation with South Sudanese community leaders and citizens.

DEFY! The Film



<https://youtu.be/vpvsIQTHBSI>

DEFY! tells the fictional story of senior politician Honourable David's new found passion for social media and the risks that come with using these platforms to spread propaganda and rumours.

Starring Silvano Yokwe, Doker Stephen, Winnie Joseph, Nicole Mariam
Produced by SKP South Sudan, Bilpam Studios with r0g_agency
Director Egily Hakim Egily Written by Sam Lukudu



ART FOR PEACE IN CAMEROON

Felix Fokoua

Felix Fokoua is a self-taught artist and graphic designer from Yaounde, Cameroon. He is a freelance illustrator, designer and was a concept artist with Kiro'o Games. Felix won best Young African designer 2017 at the African Design days in Morocco, MasterCard Foundation Young African Artists 2018 Award, and created Stickers 237 to ease communication on social media through Cameroonian language stickers. His illustrations feature in the #defyhatenow Field Guide Cameroon Edition 2020.

SuperKmer A Cameroonian superhero who stands against all the flaws, and wishes to help us grow towards peace and unity. [Top Image]

Impact of War Conflict impacts life and most of all our offspring. Let's think about what we wish to offer them as a legacy. [Middle Left Image]

Stand Against War Under the protection of the Unification symbol we pray for the souls who are gone from this conflict. And we stand still against those entities who strive to destroy Cameroon that ought to stay indivisible. [Middle Right Image]

VivreEnsemble Gathering around local foods we live together as one. [Bottom Image]



Meet Felix: <https://afropunk.com/2017/06/meet-self-taught-cameroonian-visual-artist-felix-fokoua/>

Shadow Performance by Girls4Art

<https://youtu.be/XdfUbMdJPeM>

The Spoken Word Event with Mac Alunge

World Philosophy Day 2019, Buea Cameroon

Shadow Performance by Girls4Art at The Spoken Word Event with Mac Alunge Edition II (2019) The Spoken Word Event with Mac Alunge is a quarterly National and Bilingual Platform for the expression of Spoken Word Art and other forms of CreativeStage Performance Arts. It is organised by Cameroonian Spoken Word Artist Mac Alunge; and this November, it was graced by the incredible Girls4Art crew from Sysy House of Fame.

Sysy House of Fame is an association contributing to Sustainable Development by engaging communities through Arts and Culture Education and the Media. We are redefining the role of entertainment by shifting from the paradigm of Entertainment to Entertainment for Development.

We are also involved in promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Exchanges while connecting stories through our online media platform www.wikonnnectstories.com. SHF started in 2016 with the primary purpose of promoting talents and contributing to Sustainable Development through arts, culture and the media. After working in the field for 2 years, we identified the challenges faced by arts in Cameroon. Prominent amongst many is the fact that we have tens of thousands of artists in Cameroon, less than a quarter of them are able to earn a livelihood from it. We decided to contribute by creating sustainable platforms where artists can thrive while contributing to Sustainable Development.

Working on a paradigm shift, from the mentality of entertainment which is limiting to the creative industry. We are adding Value to arts by training artists, creating and finding opportunities for them, developing their skills and providing life skills training as well.

#WorldPhilosophyDay2019 #TheSpokenWordEventWithMacAlunge2019 #SWE2019
#TheSpokenWordEvent #MacAlunge2019 #UNBuea #SiliconMountainBuea #UNESCOBuea <https://www.sysyhouseoffame.org/> <https://strawacademy.org/> <https://www.macalunge.com/>



FROM HATE SPEECH TO PEACEBUILDING

Prinz Johnson from Cameroon

Interview by Salamatou Blanche

I am Ebigwe Johnson Agbenjang from the South West region of Cameroon, Mamfe Manyi Division. Located now in Bonaberi in Douala Littoral region, because of the crisis. As the Director General of JE production, a Cameroonian movie actor, gospel standup comedian and member of the Human Rights Defence Club, I exercise leadership skills as a peacebuilder, thereby contributing to sustaining peace and development anywhere I find myself.

When does your action for peace begin?

It is clear that when I was younger, I knew nothing about peace, nor hate speech. Back in my secondary school days, I led my peers, whether in social life or running campaign activities for politicians in my community up to the level of high school. Until the crisis began in 2016, when I and some of my peers were convinced to circulate, and share information on activities of secessionists and we were given a lot of promises and even financial assistance to inspire other youths to join the struggle. We were actively involved in sharing SMSs to all contacts we received from hierarchy, as airtime credits were made available daily and contributions towards our financial upkeep and transportation during any youth gathering.

Why did you choose peace? What are your good points in terms of awareness?

Choosing peace as my core agenda is because I am a movie actor and a gospel comedian. Influencing society through my arts instead of using movies to incite hate, I can use this movie acting to influence positive change in the society.

How have you overcome obstacles? (cultural, languages, etc.)

From November 2018 until now, I have faced many challenges in the field, especially meeting those who know your past and you are now coming to tell them something contrary. Finance is another challenge as you carry out campaigns with little or no financial support. Schools and other institutions went out for campaigns always believe we are filled with money to carry out the activity and they always ask for their share starting with the gateman. Some will refuse you access and stop you entering the gate until you pay a certain sum as 'registration' before you carry out the activity. Especially when no document from the government is backing you up.

Language has been another serious problem to communicate the message. Hate to Cameroonians who do not understand English, because I am an English speaking Cameroonian with average skills in French, some will not even give me the opportunity to express myself. The first way to handle this was by engaging a youth who is bilingual to assist during campaigns. I am now taking private classes to improve my level of speaking the French language.

2020 is an election year that promises to be important in the fight you lead for peace. Have you planned actions to anticipate or mitigate hate speech?

Concerning the 2020 elections in my country, I am mobilising influential youths who are going to join me sensitise others about hate speech, and should not give that opportunity for any politicians to manipulate us. Many youths promote hate speech because they are ignorant about its negative effects on society.

What is your message for peace?

The message for my fellow Cameroonians especially the youths:

“
Peace is the only way out.
”



CASE STUDY: AMPLIFIER 'WE THE PEOPLE'

<https://amplifier.org/>

Amplifier is a design lab that builds art to amplify the voices of grassroots movements. Working with a community of social change partners, to build symbols, language, and distribution strategies that can change the national narrative. Drawing from a deep portfolio of artists to commission new art, we then take the work and distribute it in unparalleled numbers through creative space hacks, reaching new audiences and driving real change.

We the People is a nonpartisan campaign dedicated to igniting a national dialogue about American identity and values through public art and story sharing. On Inauguration Day, and since, these images have flooded America and the globe with new symbols of hope to combat the rising power of nationalism, bigotry, and intolerance.

The We the People campaign aims to restore hope, imagination, curiosity, and creativity into our country's

dialogue. At a time of so much discrimination and injustice, this photograph taken by French and Senegalese artist Delphine Diallo and converted into an illustration by Shepard Fairey reminds us of the power of youth and the world we're building around them.

"We finally understand the necessity to diffuse more art to the public not only for the elite. This art is meant to spark a conversation. What does WE THE PEOPLE—these three famous words in the preamble to the Constitution—mean in the 21st century?" Delphine Diallo

This image of 12-year-old Menelik, calling us to #ProtectEachOther, has been downloaded on Amplifier's website and shared thousands of times.

<https://www.instagram.com/delphinediallo/>



Credit: Delphine Diallo and Shepard Fairey, 'We The People Protect Each Other' for Amplifier.org

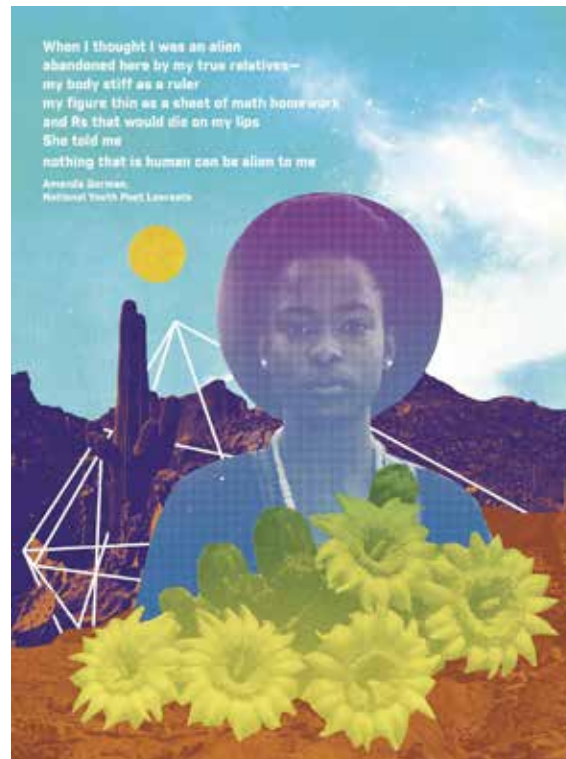
Amplifier: We The Future

<https://amplifier.org/campaigns/we-the-future/>

The We the Future campaign showcases ten young leaders representing ten diverse movements, each already building us a better world. They are drafting and passing legislation. They are working on climate justice, criminal justice reform, voting rights, immigration rights, disability justice, gun reform, queer rights, and literacy. Their work is nonpartisan, and it carries the energy of countless communities from every background. In a time of uncertainty, these icons show us a path forward, and they show us that the Future is already here. Join us in our campaign to support them.

The National Youth Poet Laureate champions the voices of creative, socially-conscious, motivated young storytellers. In 2017, the Laureate partnered with Amplifier to create artwork celebrating its inaugural appointee, Amanda Gorman. The Harvard student is a published poet, U.N. Youth Delegate, community activist, and more. "My poetry isn't always rooted in current events, but it's always rooted in world or domestic events which speak to social justice and equality. I can write poetry about anything under the sun, but what calls me again and again is to use my pen lyrically in a way in which I can have a dialogue about race, about gender, about class in a way that I couldn't necessarily do with prose."

We Who Belong



Credit: Lexx Valdez, 'We Who Belong, National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman' for Amplifier.org



ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE

#BeTheChange

Any form of creative self-expression is one way to empower ordinary citizens to mobilise action. The use of technology and digital media has allowed art movements to grow with unprecedented speed and access. Social media can be used to change deeply rooted stereotypes and prejudices by giving a platform for those who were often silenced or had no vehicle for their message. This leads to the birth of new creative online art movements where people break down long-established barriers. Many art movements are working to facilitate new perspectives, cultivate dialogue and build a culture of empathy through creative connections and expression.

Arterial Network - Art for Social Change

<http://www.arterialnetwork.org>

Africa-wide arts platform that works against poverty and for human rights on the continent. Arterial Network is a dynamic Pan-African, civil-society network of artists, cultural activists, entrepreneurs, enterprises, NGOs, institutions, and donors active in Africa's creative and cultural sectors.

#BlackLivesMatter

<http://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>

The Black Lives Matter Global Network is a chapter-based, member-led organization whose mission is to build local power and to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. We affirm the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, undocumented folks, folks with records, women, and all Black lives along the gender spectrum. Our network centers those who have been

marginalized within Black liberation movements.

We are working for a world where Black lives are no longer systematically targeted for demise. We affirm our humanity, our contributions to this society, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression. The call for Black lives to matter is a rallying cry for ALL Black lives striving for liberation.



CASE STUDY: BEAUTIFUL RISING

<https://beautifulrising.org/about>

Beautiful Rising harnesses the insights of change-makers worldwide to help make our movements more strategic, creative and effective. Inspired by the concept of a “pattern language,” Beautiful Rising teases out the key elements of creative activism.

Waging NonViolence

People powered news and analysis

By Phil Wilmot

<http://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/new-activist-toolkit-arrives-beautiful-fashion/>

Beautiful Rising merges the analytical framework of creative nonviolence to the lived realities of activists in the global south. Beautiful Rising’s reach extends far beyond Uganda. Community organizers, trainers, tech gurus and writers across six continents, the Beautiful Rising team is working to broaden the relatively thin library of resources on creative nonviolence and social change strategy. What’s more, they’ve done it in a way that takes into consideration the concerns of activists in the global south: security, accessibility and usability.

While working with ActionAid International – a global civil society federation devoted to issues of corruption, poverty and human rights – Danish activist Søren Warburg noticed a very significant shortcoming within the global community of nonviolent activists: a lack of idea and resource sharing.

“There has been very little cross-movement learning from successes and failures,” said Warburg, who then got the idea to spearhead Beautiful Rising. “A lot of resources in the nonviolent direct action catalogue come from the global north, yet courageous activists in the global south are living a whole other political life.”

Warburg realized that – beyond using his professional position to network across more than 40 countries – he would need to take an external look to social and political movements on the ground. This led to a deepening of his past connection with Beautiful Trouble, a group aimed at codifying the innovations of activists in various forms, including a book that offered a starting point for the toolkit.

“The idea was to merge the Beautiful Trouble analytical framework of creative activism to the lived realities of activists in the global south,” Warburg noted.

Beautiful Trouble - Tactics

<http://beautifultrouble.org/tactic/>

Conflict is #Solvable

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/solvable/solvable-podcast-series/conflict-is-solvable/>

Victor Ochen is, the Founder and Executive Director for the African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) which has provided reconstructive medical repair to over 21,000 war victims of rape, mutilation, and gunshots. He also serves as the UN Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Justice and is the first Ugandan and youngest ever African nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. Interview by Jacob Weisberg. Produced & published by The Rockefeller Foundation #Solvable podcast series.

Rogue Citizen - The People's Creative Toolkit<http://www.roguecitizen.com/peoples-toolkit.html>

Video Tutorials on making signs & banners. "Our story has to be told, and a lot of people have to listen. Every important story, labor campaign and grassroots effort to change the way we work and live for the better asks these questions. The solutions are different every time. The creative and strategic tools offered here can help take those solutions from conversation to reality."

speak2tweethttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speak_To_Tweet

Speak To Tweet or speak2tweet is a communications service which allows users to leave a "tweet" on Twitter by calling a designated international telephone number and leaving a voice message. The service was developed to help people stay connected when an Internet connection is unavailable, specifically in response to the Internet shutdown during the 2011 Egyptian revolution. Speak2tweet service was launched for Syria on 30 November 2012.

#ThisFlag campaign

Zimbabwe @PastorEvanLive

<https://twitter.com/PastorEvanLive?s=20>

Citizen | Author | speaker | Social Justice advocate | Humor | Creative



ONDOA L'AFRIKAIN PRESENTS: THE PROMISE OF THE WIND

By Carole Leuwe<http://visionartistik.com/2019/12/29/conte-performatif-ondoa-lafrikain-presente-la-promesse-du-vent/>

Evundü (the wind) had worked tirelessly for three days and three nights to build the landmarks of humanity, inside which he placed Sîî (the earth) and all its inhabitants.

On the fourth day, tired but proud of his work, he sat in his armchair next to his mysterious confidant Biem-bia-bum.

Some time later, a rebellion broke out, led by a tiny fraction of the inhabitants who did not appreciate the spirit of equality that existed between all the inhabitants. This is how they succeeded in destroying and breaking out of the bounds of humanity...

This act saddened Evundü who got so furious, he could not contain himself and dissipated around the world in search of repentance from the insurgents.

Any positive act is capable of bringing human beings back to the landmarks of humanity. Before exploding with anger, however, he made a promise; part of which, he entrusted to his confidant Biem-bia-bum, the other part, was never parted from him!

What was this promise all about? Who was it all about?

Maybe it was about you, maybe someone else ...



Credit: Carole Leuwe, visionArtistik.com

This art performance took place on December 14, 2019 in Bonendale with the participation of the Art 123 studio of Justine Gaga, a Cameroonian renowned visual art artist.

Ondoua is a storyteller performer who grew up in the village moulded by his father who was one of the leading artists who introduced the #Bol rhythm to modernity.

He started as a rapper, before he met Emmanuel Dou, a Cameroonian bass player with whom he sparked a new cultural impetus. Together, they set up the group N'DABORO. In 2015, they recorded a 13-track Audio Word Music album with the band. His artistic career led him to work with artists such as: ALDO NDICKA (music) BODULE MUKILO (theatre), Gabriella BADJECK (performance) TALLY MBOCK (Visual arts and performance), MARSU ESSOMBA (Slam Rap).

Since January 2018, ONDOA l'Afrikain has embarked on a solo career in the art of storytelling and performance and travels nation-wide to showcase his talents in festivals and trains children with disabilities on the art of performance.

In his quest to understand the intricacies of slavery, its origin and the actors who fought for its eradication, Ondoa helped us to question our humanity. Questioning our intelligence. Questioning our mentality. Of our ability to overcome without forgetting, but also to celebrate these little-known heroes who have marked history. Our history.

Have you ever heard of Victor Schoelcher? Before Ondoua presented his work to us, I did not know of him. What a shame. And yet, and yet!

Victor Schoelcher, (born July 22, 1804, Paris, France—died Dec. 26, 1893, Houilles), was a French journalist and politician who was France's greatest advocate of ending slavery in the empire.

Although born into a wealthy porcelain-manufacturing family, Schoelcher showed little inclination for a business career. After a trip to the United States in 1829, he was horrified by the abuses of slavery and Schoelcher became a dedicated abolitionist.

He worked as a journalist from 1829 to 1848, writing ceaselessly on the barbarism of slavery. As undersecretary for the navy in 1848, Schoelcher prepared the famous decree that abolished slavery in the colonies. He was elected deputy to the French national legislature from Martinique (1848) and from Guadeloupe (1849), where he worked passionately to eliminate the abuses of colonialism and plead the cause of blacks in the Assembly.

Source: Britannica.com/Biography/Victor-Schoelcher



Credit: Carole Leuwe, visionArtistik.com

Bonendale, this beautiful village in Bonaberi, Douala welcomed us with its usual warmth. The population came out to witness "the Promise of the wind". Even though we could not erect our plate with his name as planned in honour of this brave and courageous man. We were told that the traditional authorities were not aware of this and so we had to meet them before we could proceed. Another frustration for sure. 123 Art studio, the technical partner of the performance, promised to follow up.

We are so proud of Victor's fight against racism and slavery, we are sure of one thing, the fight for freedom shall never be given to us! We will have to fight for it... today more than ever!

Yes the Promise lives on... its fulfilment could be anytime! Hopefully.

Thanks to the artist!