



Diversity of
Cultural Expressions



European Union

With the participation of



The Directorate of Arts,
Ministry of Education,
Arts and Culture

CREATIVE
INDUSTRY
GUIDE



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ResiliArt Namibia



COVID-19 Pandemic
Impact on Namibia's
Cultural and
Creative Industries

WED
20
MAY
2020

TUE
26
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COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Namibia's Cultural and Creative Industries

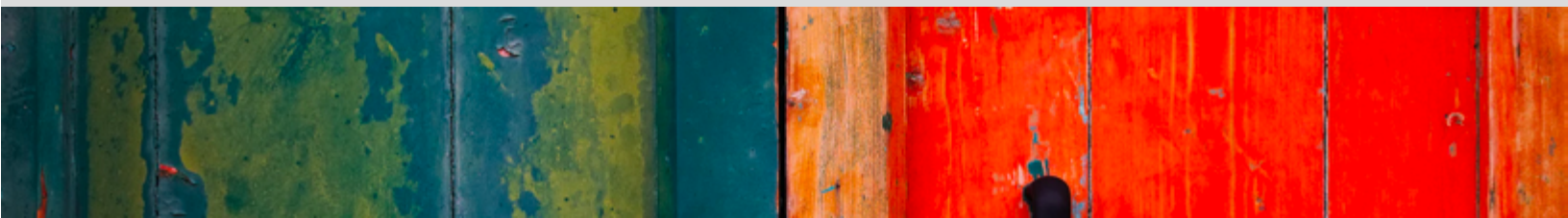
Background

The WHO Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), based on the advice of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) on the 30th January 2020. Many countries went on lockdown leading to the closure of all cultural and creative industries. As a way to celebrate World Art Day, UNESCO launched **ResiliArt, a global movement that aims to convey the resilience of art**, as well as promote how art builds resilience during challenging times, through the hosting of debates. ResiliArt also emphasises the role of artists and cultural professionals as resilient in the face of adversity, in this instance, as posed by the current health crisis. Various countries joined the movement and held debates, composed of panels comprising private and public industry players, to share experiences and challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This inspired Namibia to hold its own ResiliArt debates with an objective **to bring the voice of arts and cultural professionals** to discuss the impact of the pandemic on Namibia's cultural and creative industries.

Concept and objective

Namibia's Cultural and Creative Industries is a sector that is fairly recognised as a contributor to the country's economy even though, as indicated in UNESCO's 2014 Cultural Development Indicators Suite, it employs 4,447 practitioners, which is 0.65 per cent of the Namibian working population. When the Namibian President declared the state of emergency in March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) were negatively affected leading to the closure of museums, heritage sites, galleries, craft markets, theatres and cinemas, and therefore cancellation of performance arts, festivals, award ceremonies, exhibitions, concerts, and so forth.

Therefore, the first **ResiliArt debate aims for artists to share their experiences** as impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, how they are staying resilient despite the huge knock on the cultural and creative sector, as well as discuss possible interventions to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the Namibian Cultural and Creative Industries. This will be followed by debates in the cultural and heritage sector, including issues of copyright, policies and statistics. The ResiliArt Namibia will have three debates.



ResiliArt

ONLINE DEBATE FOR NAMIBIA

Concept and objective

The ResiliArt Namibia will have three debates, of which the first two will be structured along the following questions:

Panel 1: Creative Industry – Proposed date 20 May 2020

The panel will provide some context on the Namibian creative industry, and share experiences on the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on income and livelihood strategies.

It will detail the call to government, to structure a response to the Pandemic, which promotes resilient livelihoods for arts and culture practitioners.

1. Patrick Sam (Chairperson, National Arts Council of Namibia)
2. Tanya Stroh (Founder and Creative Director, Turipamwe Design)
3. Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja (Performing Artist and PhD candidate)
4. Nikhita Winkler (Social Entrepreneur, Nikhita Winkler Dance Theatre & Project)
5. Ben Kandukira - Big Ben (Musician)
6. Nelago Shilongo (Artistic Director, National Theatre of Namibia)

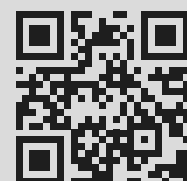
Moderator: Joel Haikali (Joe Vision Production, Creative Industry Guide and Chairperson of the Namibia Film Commission)

The ResiliArt Namibia first debate will be structured along the following questions:

- What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative sector and the livelihoods of its professionals? What is your experience?
- What have you done to remain creative? How do you monetise your work?
- What are the lessons learnt from the crisis? What would you do or can be done to circumvent vulnerability in future?
- What would you propose as a way forward?



Scan QR code to access
meeting on Microsoft Team



ResiliArt

ONLINE DEBATE FOR NAMIBIA

Panel 2: Culture/Heritage Industry - Proposed date 26 May 2020

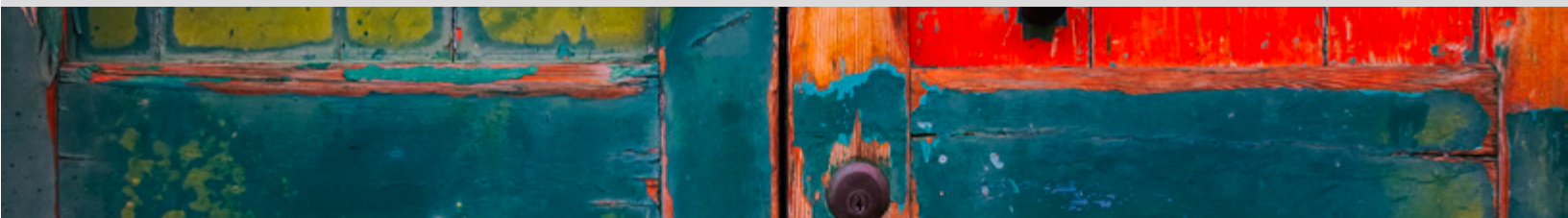
This panel will look at the impact on the Culture/Heritage industry, given the closure or restrictions on visitors to heritage sites, museums and craft markets. How can resilience in the sector be embedded, and what possibilities exist for this sector to migrate to the digital sphere?

1. Dr Jeremy Sylvester (Director, Museums Association of Namibia)
2. Shareen Thude (General Manager, Namibia Craft Centre)
3. Boyson Ngondo (Deputy Director, Directorate of National Heritage and Cultural Programmes, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture)
4. Papa Shikongeni (Visual artist, Arts Lecturer, Cultural Activist and Folk Singer)
5. Erica Ndalikokule (Acting Director, National Heritage Council)
6. Dr Martha Akawa (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Namibia)

Moderator: Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Office Manager, Museums Association of Namibia

The ResiliArt Namibia second debate will be structured along the following questions:

- Constraints faced by the culture sector, heritage institutions and the livelihoods of its professionals?
- What have you done to remain relevant/visible to mitigate the effect of COVID-19?
- What are the lessons learnt from the crisis? What would you do or can be done to circumvent vulnerability to the Culture/heritage industry in future?
- What would you propose as a way forward?



ResiliArt

ONLINE DEBATE FOR NAMIBIA

Panel 3: Importance of an enabling creative environment (Copyright issues, policies and statistics) - Proposed date 28 May 2020

This panel will look at the evident need for better migration of the arts and culture services and products to the digital environment. How do we capacitate or up skill artists to put their work on digital platforms? What is the role of all organizational bodies involved in cultural governance in facilitating this?

1. Dr Isak Neema (Executive of Data Quality Assurance and NSS Coordination, Namibia Statistics Agency)
2. John Max (Chief Executive Officer, Namibian Society of Composer and Authors of Music (NASCAM))
3. Aina Vilengi Kaundu, Intellectual Property Services, Business and intellectual Property Authority (BIPA)
4. Vitjitua Ndjiharine (Visual artist)
5. Dr. Mark Mushiva (Creative Technologist)
6. M'kariko Amagulu (Deputy Director, Directorate of Arts, Ministry of education, Arts and Culture)

Moderator: Patrick Sam (Chairperson of the National Arts Council of Namibia)

The ResiliArt Namibia second debate will be structured along the following questions:

- What gaps (policy) and possible interventions have the pandemic highlighted for the Cultural and Creative Industries?
- In view of the very apparent need for better migration of the arts and culture sector to the digital environment, how do we capacitate or up skill artists to put their work on digital platforms?
- Where does copyright stand during the COVID 19 Pandemic, with regard to the Cultural and Creative Industries, particularly in the current digital age? What is being done to deal with this in Namibia?
- What is the importance of data and statistical evidence in generating empirical evidence in support of CCI's?
- What would be a conducive policy environment for Cultural and Creative Industries to function optimally, particularly post COVID-19?



ResiliArt

ONLINE DEBATE FOR NAMIBIA

Format

Four (4,5) questions

2hr discussions (14h00 to 16h00)

35 min for presentations (5min per panelist)

35 min Discussion

30 min Q&A

Audiences will be able to send in comments and questions through the chat, which the moderator will use to direct questions in the Q/A session, after the initial discussion is done.

20 min conclusion

Platform

An online platform like Microsoft Team will be utilised to allow as many as possible participants/audiences to follow the debate and to engage with the panel.

How to participate

To be part of the debate participants will receive a link that can be used to access the debate when it goes live.

