



YALE DIRECTORS
FORUM

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

February 6th – 9th, 2024
Johannesburg, South Africa

Yale Institute for the Preservation
of Cultural Heritage

WELCOME MESSAGE

Fellows, guests, and colleagues—welcome!

Thank you for joining us for the first global symposium of the Yale Directors Forum. It is our honor and privilege to welcome you to this inaugural convening, which is spearheaded and hosted by Yale University's Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH).

This symposium is an integral part of our mission at IPCH to serve global leaders who are dedicated to preserving and interpreting cultural heritage for present and future generations. Our goal is to help support your learning and professional development as you build impactful cultural institutions in your communities. Our program during the symposium features inspiring thought leaders from across Africa and the world as well as interactive dialogue and visits to cultural spaces and sites around the city of Johannesburg. We encourage you to make new connections, share your unique perspectives, and immerse yourself in this learning experience.

On behalf of our team at IPCH, we thank you for your participation and support. We look forward to spending this time together and embarking on a transformative journey with you.

With warmest wishes,



Charlotte Ashamu

Director of International Programs
Yale Institute for the Preservation of
Cultural Heritage

ABOUT YALE IPCH

The Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH) was established in 2011 at Yale University. Working at the intersection of the arts, sciences, and humanities, IPCH spearheads ground-breaking programs in cultural heritage preservation that engage students, scholars and practitioners from across Yale's campus and around the globe.

IPCH's signature international program – the Yale Directors Forum – is a global fellowship program for leaders of museums and cultural institutions. Through interaction with leading practitioners, engagement with expertise across Yale, and connections within each cohort, the program provides fellows the opportunity to expand their executive leadership skills, grow their professional networks and strengthen their organization's capacity in the preservation and care of collections. In its first phase, the Yale Directors Forum is strategically focused on the African continent, building on the Yale Africa Initiative, a university-wide effort established in 2013 to prioritize and expand Yale's commitment to Africa.

YALE DIRECTORS FORUM FELLOWS



Marie-Cécile Zinsou

Founder & Director

Ouidah Museum | Fondation Zinsou
Benin



Meskerem Assegued

Founder & Director

Zoma Museum
Ethiopia



Kwame Akoto-Bamfo

Founder & Director

Nkyinkyim Museum
Ghana



Wanjiru Koinange

Co-Founder

Book Bunk Trust
Kenya

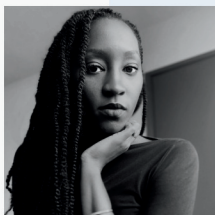
YALE DIRECTORS FORUM FELLOWS



Desiree Dibasen Nanuses

Founder & Executive Director

The Curatorial Institute
Namibia



Ore Disu

Director

Museum of West African Art | Pavilion
Nigeria



Oyindamola Fakeye

Director

Centre for Contemporary Art
Nigeria



Seun Oduwole

Co-Founder & Director

Living Object
Nigeria

YALE DIRECTORS FORUM FELLOWS



Michaella Rugwizangoga

Chief Tourism Officer

Rwanda Development Board
Rwanda



El Hadji Malick Ndiaye

Director

Théodore Monod Museum of African Art
Cheikh Anta Diop University
Senegal



Bongani Mgijima

Director

Stellenbosch University Museum
South Africa



Lekgetho Makola

CEO

Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria
South Africa

YALE DIRECTORS FORUM FELLOWS



Sonia Lawson

Founding Director

Palais de Lomé
Togo



Samba Yonga

Co-Founder

Women's History Museum
Zambia



Makhosi Mahlangu

Founder

Sivalo Food Museum
Zimbabwe



Silenkosi Moyo

Regional Director

National Gallery of Zimbabwe | Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

FEBRUARY 6 | DAY 1

- 8:30 am **Registration**
- 9:00 am **Welcome and Introductions** *(Open to All)*
Charlotte Ashamu, Director of International Programs,
Yale IPCH
Rehema Isa, Facilitator
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Building and Preserving Cultural Infrastructure in Africa**
(Open to All)
Issa Diabate, Managing Director, Koffi & Diabaté Group
Mae-ling Lokko, Assistant Professor, Yale School of
Architecture
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 12:30 pm **Lunch**
- 2:00 pm **Depart to MaXhosa Africa**
- 3:00 pm **From Heritage to Fashion: The Making of MaXhosa Africa**
(Open to All)
Laduma Ngxokolo, Founder, MaXhosa Africa
Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Director of Graduate Studies for
Graphic Design, Yale School of Art
MaXhosa Africa
- 6:00 pm **Welcome Dinner with Chef Wandile Mabaso**
Les Creatifs Restaurant

Facilitator



Rehema Isa

Co-Founder, Oya Solutions

Rehema Isa is the Co-Founder of Oya Solutions, an advisory firm that works directly with women-owned and managed businesses to scale up and do business across the African continent. She is a seasoned business strategist, social impact entrepreneur, leadership coach, and an engaging storyteller with more than 20 years of experience. She is a faculty member of the University of Witwatersrand's Business School (WBS), Duke Corporate Education and the Johannesburg Business School.

Coordinator



Angela Nzegwu

Fellow Liaison & Coordinator, Yale IPCH

Angela Nzegwu has ten years of administrative, programming, and leadership development experience working with US faith-based organizations, colleges, universities, and nonprofits. As a trained facilitator and social justice educator, she uses dialogic tools to connect people, resources, and ideas. Angela received her BA in English and Religion from Amherst College and her MA in Black Theology and Womanist Ethics from Duke University.

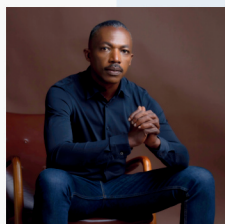
Guest Speakers



Mae-ling Lokko

Assistant Professor, Yale School of Architecture

Dr. Mae-ling Lokko is an Assistant Professor at Yale University's School of Architecture and Yale's Center for Ecosystems in Architecture (Yale CEA). She is an architectural scientist, designer and educator from Ghana and the Philippines whose work focuses on the upcycling of agrowaste and biopolymer materials. Lokko is the founder of Willow Technologies, Ltd. focused on the research, design and development of biobased building materials. Lokko's recent projects have been exhibited globally including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of the Future, Dubai; and London and Triennale Milano, Italy.



Issa Diabaté

Managing Director, Koffi & Diabaté Group

Issa Diabaté is the Managing Director of Koffi & Diabaté Architectes and Co-Founder of Koffi & Diabaté Group, a firm specializing in architecture, real estate development, and construction. As an architect practicing on the African continent, he aims to shed light on both the issues and creative solutions required to build the 'African City of Tomorrow.' He is a laureate of Senegal's Dak'Art Contemporary Art Biennale and was appointed Knight of the Order of Cultural Merit for his contributions to his field and to the nation of Côte d'Ivoire. Issa is a graduate of Yale University's School of Architecture where he earned his master's degree.

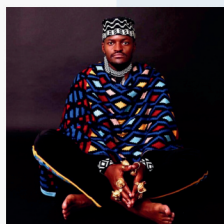
Guest Speakers



Nontsikelelo Mutiti

Director of Graduate Studies for Graphic Design, Yale School of Art

Nontsikelelo Mutiti is a Zimbabwean-born visual artist and educator. She is invested in elevating the work and practices of Black peoples past, present, and future. Mutiti's work appears through a conceptual approach to design, publishing, archiving practices, and institution building. Mutiti holds a diploma in Multimedia from the Zimbabwe Institute of Digital Arts (ZIVA) and an MFA from the Yale School of Art, with a concentration in Graphic Design. Mutiti is the Director of Graduate Studies for Graphic Design at Yale School of Art.



Laduma Ngxokolo

Founder, MaXhosa Africa

Laduma Ngxokolo is an award-winning designer, entrepreneur and creative artist. In 2010 he founded and created the global fashion brand, MaXhosa Africa. He established the brand with a desire to explore culture and heritage-based design solutions, producing a premium knitwear range that celebrates traditional African beadwork aesthetics, using South African mohair and wool. MaXhosa Africa's collections have been showcased internationally and in several international museums including the Smithsonian and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). Ngxokolo's pride and creativity is reflected in the intricate pieces he creates for MaXhosa Africa.

Guest Speakers



Jennifer Harrison Newman

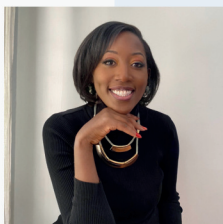
Associate Artistic Director,
Schwarzman Center, Yale University

Jennifer Harrison Newman is an artistic director, producer, educator, choreographer, and performance artist with over twenty-five years in the visual and performing arts, working extensively with artists across disciplines pushing the boundaries of dance, opera, and theater. Jennifer has been an artist-in-residence at various institutions and has led workshops across the United States, and in Sweden, South Africa, and Mexico. She has worked with Michael Jackson, Julie Taymor, The Radio City Rockettes, and has performed on Broadway in Saturday Night Fever and Disney's The Lion King. Jennifer is currently developing a new music theater work, The Slaying of Innocents which will premiere at Arts Emerson in 2025.

FEBRUARY 7 | DAY 2

- 9:00 am **Reflections (*Fellows Only*)**
Rehema Isa, Facilitator
- 9:30 am **Yale Directors Forum | The Coaching Journey (*Fellows Only*)**
Micheline Nturu, Executive Coach
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Starting and Leading a Collections Care Program
(*Fellows Only*)**
Anupam Sah, Art Conservation Specialist
Founder Anupam HeritageLab & Himalayan Society for
Heritage and Art Conservation
Mark Aronson, Deputy Director and Chief Conservator,
Yale Center for British Art
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 12:30 pm **Lunch**
- 2:00 pm **Depart to Javett Art Centre - University of Pretoria**
- 3:00 pm **Tour of Javett Art Centre - University of Pretoria (*Open to All*)**
Lekgetho Makola, CEO, Javett Art Centre - University of
Pretoria and Team
- 4:30 pm **Reflections**
Rehema Isa, Facilitator
Javett Art Centre
- 7:00pm **Free Evening**
Hotel dinner buffet or your own arrangement

Guest Speakers



Micheline Nturu

Impact Leader & Executive Coach

Micheline Nturu is a global impact leader with 22 years of professional experience in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. Micheline has coached scores of “subject matter experts” and non-profit professionals from Africa and Latin America as well startups and international non for profits such as KCB Bank, Stanford University, and the Gates Foundation. Micheline is also co-founder of We Three Queens of Africa, a social enterprise and multimedia platform focusing on empowering and mentoring women and showcasing African narratives.

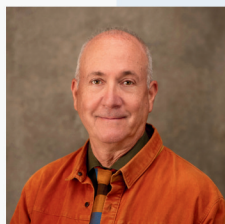


Anupam Sah

Art Conservation Specialist
Founder Anupam Heritage Lab & Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation

Anupam Sah is an art conservation–restoration practitioner, strategist, and educator, trained in India, Italy and the United Kingdom. He uses an interdisciplinary systems approach to address heritage conservation issues and links them with multi-sectoral development. Committed to strengthening the profession, he has helped develop over 20 art conservation facilities and has designed and conducted over 285 training sessions. He is the founder of Anupam Heritage Lab & Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation. He was the former Head of Art Conservation, Research and Training at CSMVS Museum in Mumbai.

Guest Speakers



Mark Aronson

Deputy Director and Chief Conservator,
Yale Center for British Art

Mark Aronson is the Deputy Director and Chief Conservator at the Yale Center for British Art (YCBA) and is a critic at the Yale School of Art. Prior to work at the YCBA, Mark was the Chief Conservator at the Yale University Art Gallery. Mark is particularly interested in the history of painting techniques and attitudes toward restoration and conservation. His teaching has included courses on the history of painting technique, painting and seminars on technical art history with students and faculty from Historically Black colleges and Universities in the US.

FEBRUARY 8 | DAY 3

- 9:00 am **Reflections** (*Fellows Only*)
Rehema Isa, Facilitator
- 9:15 am **Fundraising: Build a Strategy for Abundance** (*Fellows Only*)
Hallie Hobson, Director, HSH Consulting
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Board Leadership and Governance** (*Fellows Only*)
Olaniyi Yusuf, Director, Veraki Partners
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 12:30 pm **Lunch**
- 2:15 pm **Depart to Constitutional Hill Precinct**
- 3:00 pm **Visit and Tour of Constitutional Court Art Collection**
(Open to All)
Albie Sachs, Activist, Writer, & former Judge on
Constitutional Court of South Africa
Vanessa September, Producer of the Albie Collection
Bahlakoana Lesemane and **Francois Lion-Cachet**,
Curators, Constitutional Court Art Collection
Constitutional Court
- 5:30 pm **Depart to Strauss & Co**
- 6:00 pm **Closing Cocktail and Dinner with music by Thandi Ntuli**
Strauss & Co

Guest Speakers



Hallie Hobson

Director, HSH Consulting

Hallie Hobson contributes to the vitality and health of philanthropic and nonprofit institutions by developing and implementing innovative planning, fundraising, and patron engagement strategies including: philanthropic strategy development and implementation; capital campaign and strategic planning; individual giving program design; major gift pipeline development; department buildout and optimization—staffing and systems; chief development officer coaching; board development. Prior to launching her consultancy, Hallie served as the Director of Institutional Advancement for the Studio Museum in Harlem and led that organization's Capital Campaign.



Olaniyi Yusuf

Director, Veraki Partners

Olaniyi Yusuf is the Managing Partner and Lead of the Social Sector practice at Verraki Partners, a proudly African business solutions company partnering with enterprises and governments to accelerate the development and transformation of Africa. He previously served as the Country Managing Director of Accenture Nigeria. Olaniyi is a respected transformation manager with over 30 years experience advising executives across private and public sectors. He is a Fellow of the African Leadership Initiative West Africa (ALIWA) and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. He is an angel investor and mentor to many startups and founders, a facilitator at the Lagos Business School, and a volunteer with several non-profit organizations.

Guest Speakers



Albie Sachs

Activist, Writer, & former Judge on Constitutional Court of South Africa

Albie Sachs is an activist, writer and former judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. He began practicing as an advocate at the age of 21, defending people charged under the racial statutes and security laws of apartheid. He went into exile in England, where he completed a PhD at Sussex University. In 1988, he lost his right arm and his sight in one eye when a bomb was placed in his car by South African security agents in Mozambique. He later served as a member of the Constitutional Committee and the National Executive of the African National Congress until South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. Sachs is a Board member of the Constitution Hill Trust.



Vanessa September

Producer, The Albie Collection

Vanessa September is the Producer of The Albie Collection. She previously served as CEO of the Constitution Hill Trust where she provided a stable institutional base for the curatorial, creative and archival teams to complete the work of converting the founding documents of South Africa's constitutional democracy into accessible stories, animations, oral histories, timelines and an accessible digital archive. September is also an architect. She has worked in small and large architecture firms and is the principal of her own small practice. Most of her architectural work assists groups and individuals who cannot afford architectural services.

FEBRUARY 9 | DAY 4

- 9:00 am **Global Case Study | African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund** (*Open to All*)
Brent Leggs, Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
Tiffany Tolbert, Senior Director for Preservation, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Global Case Study | Cultural Institutions in the United Arab Emirates** (*Open to All*)
Vilma Jurkute, Executive Director of Alserkal
Manal Ataya, Advisor, Sharjah Museums Authority
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 12:30 pm **Lunch**
- 2:00pm **Yale Directors Forum | Next Steps** (*Fellows Only*)
Charlotte Ashamu, Director of International Programs, Yale IPCH
Angela Nzegwu, Fellow Liaison & Coordinator, Yale IPCH
- 2:30 pm **Final Reflections** (*Fellows Only*)
Rehema Isa, Facilitator
Radisson Red Conference Room
- 3:30 pm **Free Afternoon and Evening**
Hotel dinner buffet or your own arrangement

Guest Speakers



Brent Leggs

Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Brent Leggs is the Founding Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the largest preservation campaign in U.S. history on behalf of historic African American places, and a Senior Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Through the Fund, he leads a national community of leaders, preservationists, and activists to preserve the memory and legacy of Black American identity. Described as the man who “spends time thinking in centuries” by the New Yorker, Mr. Leggs work is rooted in telling the nation’s full history and leveraging historic preservation to mitigate the erasure of African American cultural heritage.

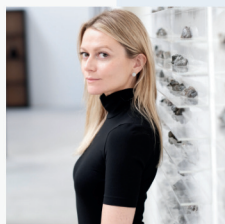


Tiffany Tolbert

Senior Director for Preservation, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Tiffany Tolbert is the Senior Director for Preservation of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She leads high-profile national preservation programs and projects, such as the HBCU Cultural Heritage Stewardship Initiative and Preserving Black Churches and develops preservation strategies for national significant sites associated with African American cultural heritage. Her preservation expertise includes providing technical assistance to local organizations, advocacy, strategic and preservation planning, historic designation and rehabilitation.

Guest Speakers



Vilma Jurkute

Executive Director of Alserkal

Vilma Jurkute is the Executive Director of Alserkal Initiatives, overseeing Alserkal Avenue, Alserkal Arts Foundation, and Alserkal Advisory. Her professional and academic experience is centered on placemaking and the development of sustainable, community-centric creative economies with both global and regional impact. Under her leadership, Alserkal has grown into a socially responsible and forward-thinking cultural enterprise. She continues to advocate for homegrown initiatives emerging from Dubai and the region, especially through her role on the advisory board of the Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN).



Manal Ataya

Advisor, Sharjah Museums Authority

Manal Ataya is an accomplished museum professional with over 18 years of expertise in museum development, cultural heritage management, and cultural diplomacy. She currently serves as Advisor for Museums to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, providing expertise in strategic planning, cultural policy making, and the development of new museum projects. Ataya also serves on numerous advisory boards, including the Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN) and ICCROM-Sharjah, the field office of the UN's body for cultural heritage management in the Arab world.

NOTES

NOTES

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