





# 2020 REPORT



**City of Bulawayo** 





# Proud Supporter of Bulawayo Day and Arts Festival

To operationalise the dictates of Agenda 21 for Culture, the Fund establishes a base for a commitment by the City of Bulawayo, to culture-led development

The Fund endeavors to provide a sustainable resource funding base for arts, culture and heritage in Bulawayo

WOW "We Own Winter"

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His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Bulawayo, Solomon Mguni

Bulawayo is a vibrant and creative city where cultural rights, in their diverse manifestations, occupy a place of pride within the ecosystem of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This brand has emerged as an assemblage of cultural values and traditions that have shaped the city's history. Cultural consciousness defines our identity.

As a cultural hub, Bulawayo City Council must create strong, resilient and inclusive communities to foster social cohesion and enhance social justice. The creative sector therefore is key to providing solutions to ensure that Bulawayo speaks with one audible voice to create an inclusive, just and progressive city.

As a City, we are committed to creating a cultural cooperation platform that is conducive for us to reflect, refine and deliberate on innovative interventions that can reinforce holistic participation in cultural life.

As Nhimbe Trust, a creative civil society organisation, what binds us to Bulawayo City Council, is cultural cooperation. The receptiveness of the City to the creation of hybrid intersections that borrow from different models of cultural governance, is what we can attribute to the success the City has realised as a centre of cultural excellence.

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.

In the five years of our partnership with Bulawayo City Council, we have been extending technical expertise in advocating for the adoption of a cultural rights agenda - One that acknowledges the expandability and the indispensability of culture as a driver of resilient participatory development; creating citizen ownership of development strategies and initiatives.



Lisa Sidambe | Nhimbe Trust Program Officer: Cultural Governance & Democracy

#### PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PILLARS



Fostering social cohesion, city innovation and resilience



Enhancing social and cultural justice through dialogue platforms and the domestication of human rights instruments



Promoting, protecting and defending cultural rights



Enhancing creative spirit through facilitating access to public spaces



Enhancing social and cultural democracy through facilitating the domestication and localisation of Sustainable Development Goals through a culture lens



Championing gender equality, artistic freedom and the status of the artist and cultural professionals

### PARTNERSHIP GUIDING INSTRUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

2001 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

1982 Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies

United Cities and Local Governments Policy Document Culture: The Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development

2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

1980 Recommendations Concerning the Status of the Artist

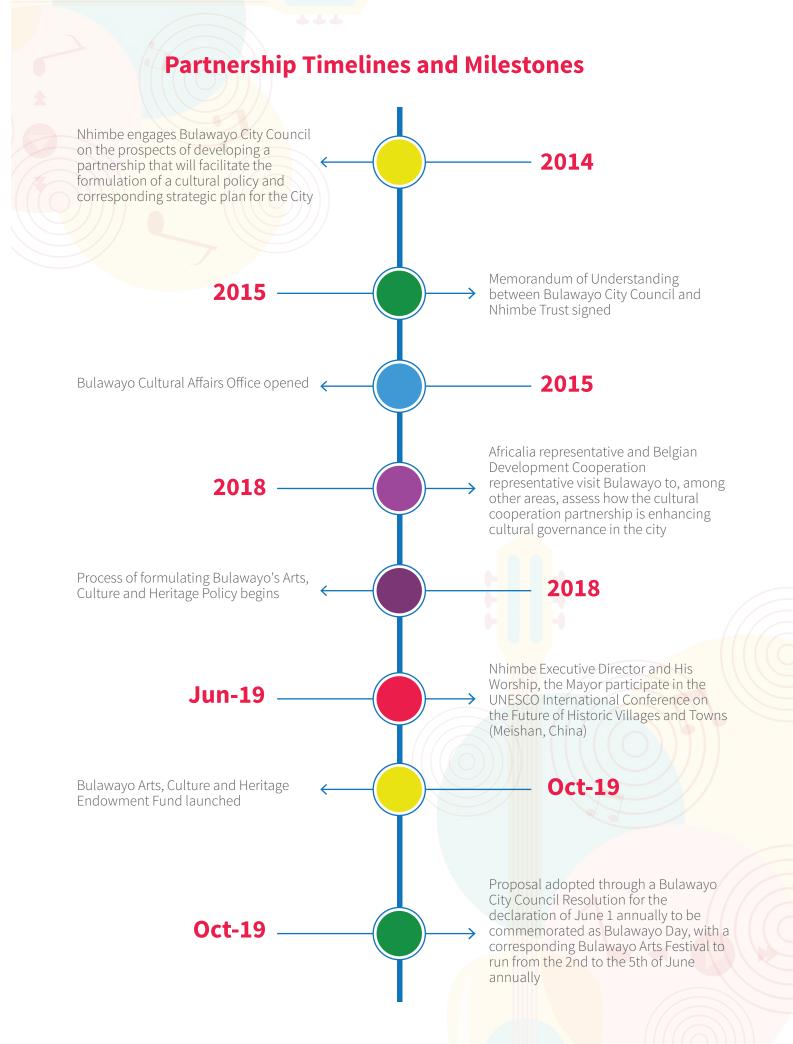
African Union Agenda 2063

Charter for African Cultural Renaissance

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Zimbabwe National Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

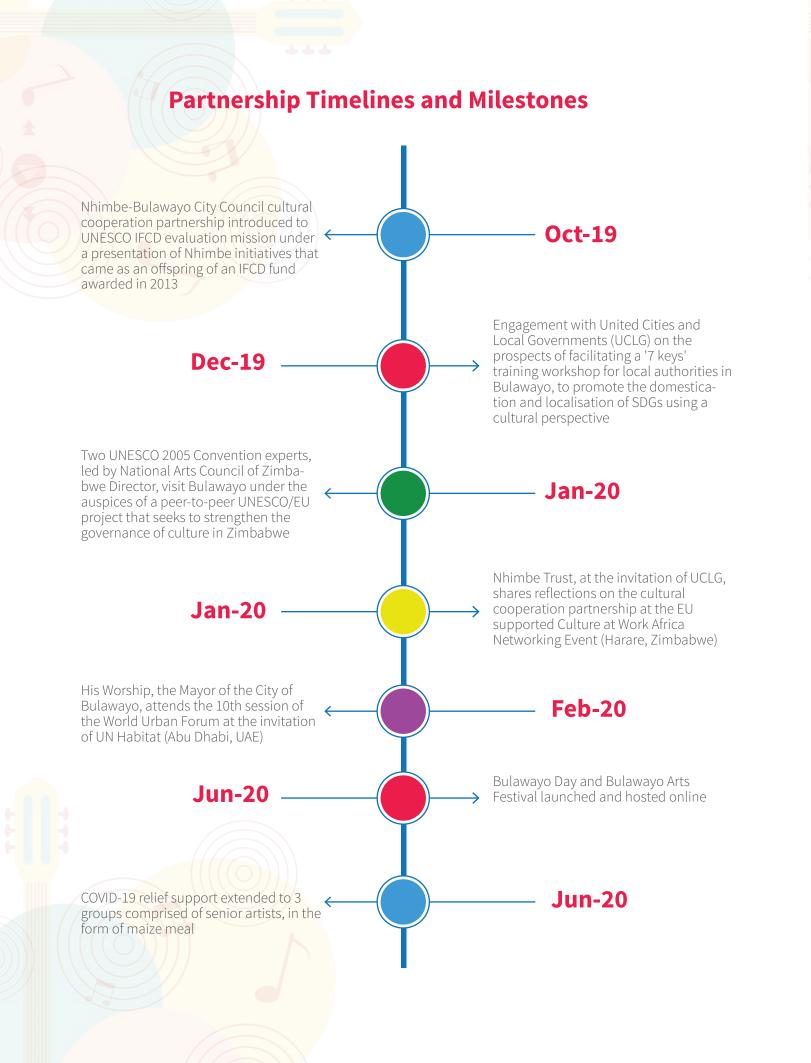
WOW "We Own Winter"



BULAWAYO ARTS FESTIVAL 2020 REPORT

WOW "We Own Winter"

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#### **Bulawayo Arts Festival Mission**

Promoting and strengthening the role of arts and culture as drivers of inclusive and sustainable development, through the mainstreaming of cultural policies and initiatives in Bulawayo's urban development strategies

In the spirit of social and cultural cohesion, Bulawayo Day and Bulawayo Arts Festival establish mechanisms for the integration of the National Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy into the strategic parameters of Bulawayo City The celebration of Bulawayo Day and Bulawayo Arts Festival aims to enable citizens to participate meaningfully in the cultural life of the city, creating participatory, resilient and inclusive communities who are committed to amplifying their competencies and innovative creative capacities in their role as cocreators of the City of Bulawayo

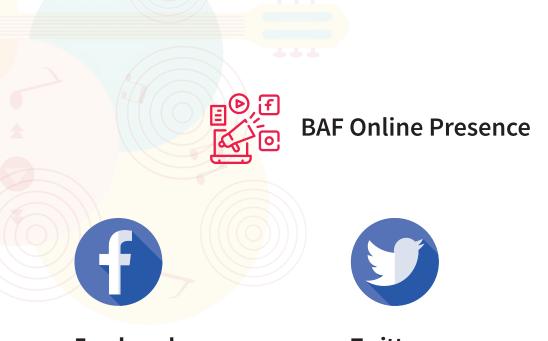
Allow me to acknowledge His Excellency, the President, for pronouncing that the City of Kings should indeed host the Bulawayo Arts Festival annually, in honour of Bulawayo Day which falls on June the 1st.

> This notably, will not only make an indelible mark in Zimbabwe's history as we celebrate our cultural diversity as a people but it is also a noble act of inclusivity needed as a nation that continues to nurture participatory and sustainable development for society in line with the vision of devolution..."

Zimbabwe Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation, Honourable Kirsty Coventry The conception, curation and launch of Bulawayo Arts Festival, framed within the rationale of cultural rights protection and promotion, emerged as a culmination of a cultural governance partnership between Bulawayo City Council and Nhimbe Trust. A city-wide festival was identified as a fundament in the championing of cultural participation in the city, particularly in creating a platform where citizens can be engaged meaningfully in the celebration of the city's proud heritage, rich diversity, creative nature, resilience and majesty."

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Nhimbe Executive Director, Joshua Nyapimbi



**Faceboook** 2 552 Followers **Twitter** 2 056 Followers



**Instagram** 576 Followers



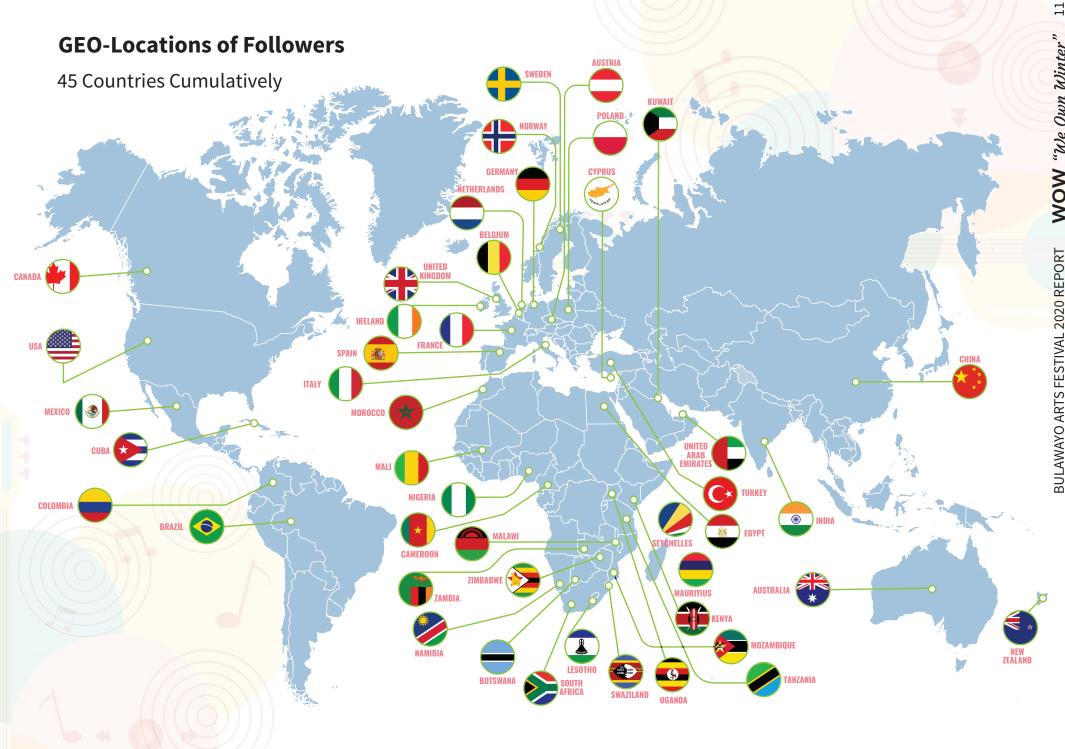
Male

40%

Female

60%





# BAF 2020: Championing a Spirit of Philanthropy





Stanbic Bank presented a generous donation of *Personal Protective Equipment* for medical frontline workers at Bulawayo's Thorngrove Infectious Diseases Hospital, as part of a wider donation for hospitals around the country.

Zimbabwe Cricket donated medicinal essentials for Bulawayo's Thorngrove Infectious Diseases Hospital which has been designated as a COVID-19 Centre



Maize-meal donations were made to senior members of the arts fraternity from three music groups, namely, the Cool Crooners, Ilubalemvelo and Thandanani Women's Group. 88% of the beneficiaries were women artists.

In the absence of social security measures targeted at strengthening the status of artists who are most vulnerable and most in need in times of crisis, the humble extension of donations by BACHEF, although minimal, was intended at symbolically pioneering a vibrant sphere of philanthropy that will leverage on private and public resources to cushion artists.

Within the broader scope of BACHEF, there is a commitment to increase the percentage share of funds allocated to the enhancement of the sustainable livelihoods of Bulawayo's artists and cultural workers.

#### Skyz metro presents the

# 1.June 2020

lia

# hosts

Babongile Sikhonjwa "king Solomon"

Donna N "Indodakazi"

Mjox "umfana ka Mabokoboko"

Bkay "Ingongonono"

Khekhe



100 songs that have rocked Bulawayo on Monday 1 june 2020 in celebration of Bulawayo Day from 7am to 6pm . Asijabulele iBulawayo sonke #Esabantu

# Skyz Metro FM Top 100 Chart

Тор	10 of the Top 100 Chart
#1	Moya Wami: Lovemore Majaivana
#2	True Love: Busi Ncube and Ilanga
#3	Banolila: Solomon Skhuza
#4	Imali: Fanyana Dube
#5	Meet me in Zimbabwe: Themba Ndlovu
#6	Stimela saseZola: Mbongeni Ngema
#7	Bazobuya: Soul Brothers
#8	Bhulugwe Lami: Cool Crooners
#9	Sweetie Lawo: Trompies
#10	Isencane: Platform 1

#### **Key Strands**

- + Celebration of the City of Bulawayo through Music
- + Local and disapora listenership engagement through social media platforms
- + Celebration of artists who have played a pivotal role in the music history of the city
- Citizen engagement in the selection of the Top 100 chart
- + Recognition of music that defined the City's social scene

Radio offers a wonderful display of diversity in its formats, in its languages, and among radio professionals themselves. This sends an important message to the world. Radio has a key role to play as a source of information and inspiration alike. Let us recognise the enduring power of radio to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world."

> Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

...Radio informs, transforms and unites us. It brings together people and communities from all backgrounds to foster positive dialogue for change..."





#### A Borderless Radio Celebration

With a combined local and international listernership of between 700 000 and a million, Bulawayo based SkyMetro FM, joined in the inaugural celebration of Bulawayo Day and Bulawayo Arts Festival, with a Retro-Top-100 of songs that people could link to the City within the 126 years celebrated through Bulawayo Day 2020.

Bulawayo has always been a city that loves to have fun, sing and dance. At some point, people would travel to Bulawayo to have fun. We are a fun loving city. The chart was to celebrate the city through song."

SkyzMetro FM



## **COVID-19: A Reconfiguration of The City's Cultural Life**

#### From physical spaces to digital platforms

The long-awaited and highly anticipated Bulawayo Arts Festival (BAF) exploded into life under the theme 'WOW' (We Own Winter) from the 3rd to the 5th of June 2020, driven online by the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, but no less vibrant in colourful and energetic performances and strong messages for the hundreds of thousands of viewers who poured in from different parts of the world.

Broadcast live via Facebook, the celebration of the inaugural Bulawayo Day and festival week rolled out with an array of artists from different genres and disciplines. Interspersed with fashion and design, interviews, discussions and messages from His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Bulawayo, Councilor Solomon Mguni, Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation, Kirsty Coventry and leaders in the cultural sector, the online shows bridged geographic divides.



This time of celebration is amid the sad reality of the global impact of COVID-19 when many nations and citizens are observing lockdown procedures. It is hoped that these festivities will create a celebratory mood across Bulawayo and globally. The festival allows us to celebrate together yet apart, showing that the bond that exists between Bulawayo and its residents is not limited to geographic distance...More significant also is the fact that this is the City's first digital festival, cementing our attributes of being a cultural hub and smart city.

> The agency of empowering creative talent continues to emerge as a priority that requires concerted and conscious effort. The socioeconomic status of our artists and cultural professionals is our collective responsibility."

His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Bulawayo **Solomon Mguni** 

...It has been interesting to see the progression from traditional theatre and venue spaces to taking content online. The realisation that most people actually do not have content also helped us to try and ensure that everything that was done for BAF was done at its best, because we are also aware that we are being seen from a global audience perspective... Its a good measuring barometer and starting point for other festivals to follow because a precedence has already been set and hopefully Zimbabwe can up the game so we can all do better because we all have to keep the arts alive..."

Bulawayo Arts Festival Director, Saimon 'Mambazo' Phiri

"



I would like to thank the Bulawayo City Council for setting up the Bulawayo Cultural Affairs Office and the Bulawayo Arts, Culture and Heritage Endowment Fund to drive the city's cultural agenda. This is a vision that my ministry would like to urge other cities to emulate. I am aware that the challenges posed by the national lockdown had led to temporary suspension of artistic activities of large scale similarly nationwide. This has not in any way derailed our creatives and indeed our cities from crafting means of ensuring that culture continues to influence development through digital platforms and social media.

In this context, COVID-19 is an invitation to reflect on the core fabric of what makes our cultures unique, resilient and a source to adapt our strategies. It is an opportunity for us to reimagine who we are as a country, as cities and as people...I would like to applaud the people of Bulawayo and all those in the Creative Cultural Industries for being steadfast and resilient in this period of COVID-19 pandemic..."

Zimbabwe Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation, Honourable Kirsty Coventry



# **2020** Perfomance and Team Statistics

000



TOTAL NUMBER OF GENRES REPRESENTED	5 GENRES
Music	22 Acts
Dance	3 Acts
Poetry	5 Acts
Theatre	5 Acts
Fashion	1 Showcase
Comedy	3 Acts



OMERS	127
68	53.50%
59	46.50%
	68

CORE TEAM			
CORE FEST	IVAL TEAM	8	
Male	4	50%	
Female	4	50%	
CORE BULA		13	
Male	7	53.84%	
Female	6	46.15%	
FESTIVAL V	OLUNTEER	S 7	
Male	5	71.50%	
Female	2	28.50%	

CHNICAL TE ATISTICS	
РНΥ	5
3	60%
2	40%
ND SOUND	12
12	100%
0	0%
ID SET DESIGN	4
4	100%
0	0%
	ATISTICS PHY 3 2 ND SOUND 12 0 ID SET DESIGN 4



TOTAL PRESENTERS	5
(MAINSTREAM MEDIA	
& CITIZEN JOURNALISTS)	

Male	3	60%
Female	2	40%

STATISTICS	
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	
CREATIVE EDUCATORS;	

COUCH DIALOGUE

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#### HISTORIANS AND CULTURE EXPERTS; CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS)

Male	4	66.70%
Female	2	33.30%







VICTORY SIYANQOBA (EDUTAINMENT)

MZOE 7 (HIP-HOP AND DANCE ARTIST)

VOCAL EX (GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP)



NKWALI (SINGER, DANCER, ACTRESS AND COMPOSER)

MITCHELLE T MOYO (POET)

MANDLA DA COMEDIAN (COMEDIAN)



PHILANI (POET)

WESTERN KHAZINS (AFRO-FUSION MUSIC GROUP)

FISH F McSWAGG (MUSICIAN)



BOLAMBA PERFORMING ARTS (CULTURAL AND MUSICAL GROUP)



SELMOR MTUKUDZI (AFRO-JAZZ MUSICIAN SONGWRITER AND ACTRESS)



NGOMA INGOMA (AFRO-FUSION MALE BAND)



ZHEZHINGTONS (AFRO-HOUSE MUSICIAN)



HUDSON SIMBARASHE (MUSICIAN)



NKETA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA GROUP (THEATRE)



SUPER GEEKS (CHRISTIAN DANCE CREW)

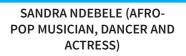


RAS TEKKEN (DANCEHALL ARTIST)



IYASA (PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL)







**ARTS ENSEMBLE**)



VUYO BROWN (CONTEMPORARY GOSPEL ARTIST AND SONGWRITER)



CALVIN (RAP ARTIST)



EZRA NYONI (COMEDIAN)



**JEYS MARABINI (MUSICIAN)** 

LORRAINE MAPLANKA STOT (GOSPEL MUSICIAN)

NTANDO VAN MOYO (COMEDIAN)



THANDI DHLANA (MUSICIAN)



INDOSAKUSA (ALL MALE CHORAL GROUP)



**PRUDENCE DELAH DUBE (POET)** 



ALEX DANCE LAB (DANCER)



GIFFORD HIGH SCHOOL (THEATRE GROUP



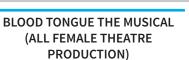
MGCINI NYONI (PLAYWRIGHT, THEATRE DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, BLOGGER, PHOTOGRAPHER AND POET)



ACTRESS)

CHOICE OXIDE







VAGINA MONOLOGUES (ALL FEMALE THEATRE PRODUCTION)



OBHUDI BE SPACE (GROUP OF MUSICIANS, PRODUCERS AND DJs)

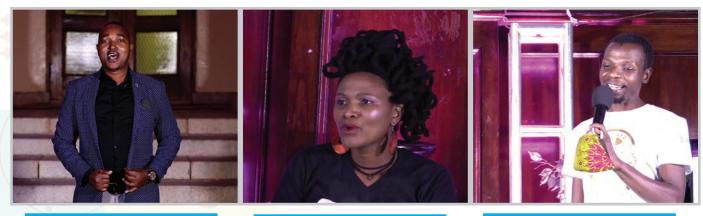
#### Hosts



BATHABILE DLAMINI (MODEL | ACTRESS | TV HOST | JOURNALIST)



BENKOSI BKAY MAPHOSA (RADIO HOST | DJ | JOURNALIST



CDE PHIL (RADIO HOST | MC)

MO MBEDZI (TV HOST)

ZENZO NYATHI (ACTOR | DIRECTOR | PLAYWRIGHT)



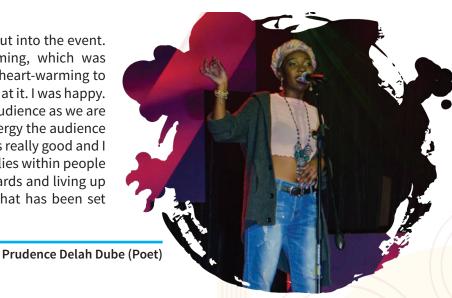
#### **Artist Impressions**



BAF was amazing. I totally enjoyed seeing fresh new faces which we don't normally see on the entertainment scene, especially for theatre and poetry. It was good to see young young people who are not well known by the general public come and showcase their gifts and talents, and I must say that they have been incredible...I just hope and pray that everyone who had an opportunity to be on the platform will work really hard to get their work recognised, because Bulawayo definitely has talent.

Lady Tshawe, Poet and Actress

I was very impressed by the effort put into the event. The atmosphere was very welcoming, which was different to what I expected. It was heart-warming to see people coming together to work at it. I was happy. [But] It was difficult not having an audience as we are used to, because we feed off the energy the audience gives. Otherwise the production was really good and I believe that the future of Bulawayo lies within people who are dedicated to setting standards and living up to them, and also going beyond what has been set before them.





It was a very very good festival and what I liked is that these artists didn't stop doing perfomances because of COVID. They just wanted to go on, even if it was digital. We have a lot of people saying the festival was amazing and the perfomances were great. I want to say congratulations to Bulawayo Arts Festival for doing something different, something fresh. The stage, the sound and eveything was amazing. Thank you very much for me, and to the musicians of the band which backed me. The festival was great and we are looking forward to 2021!

Jeys Marabini, Musician

#### **Artist Impressions**



It was such an honour to be part of the inaugural Bulawayo Arts Festival. I had so much fun. We've had a bit of experience perfoming virtually for people, and we're used to it now. But I especially loved performing in Bulawayo. The organisers knew what they were doing, and the production team was so professional. I loved the stage, lighting, the sound - everything was perfect. The [Bulawayo] band The Outfit backed us with only a very short reahearsal and did a fantastic job. I loved BAF and hope they grow and become a much bigger festival. People should look out for them!

Selmor Mtukudzi, Musician

It was a different environment but we loved it. It was a beautiful platform. The stage as beautiful, the lighting guy was amazing, everything on point. Hoping next year it will be bigger and better. Thanks to the organisers and sponsors...We are used to live shows and perfoming for a zero audience was a bit awkward but it came out nice and we loved it. Fans were screaming all over saying it was too short, so there is the challenge to make it bigger



Sandra Ndebele, Musician

# **Digital Viewership and Engagement**

Digital Showcase Message Transmission Strategy



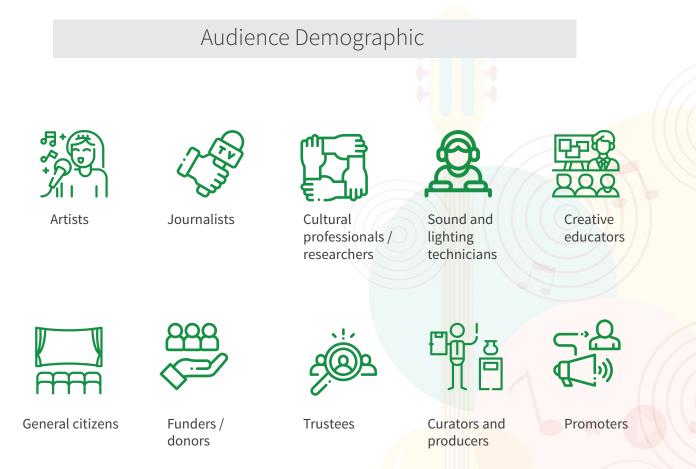




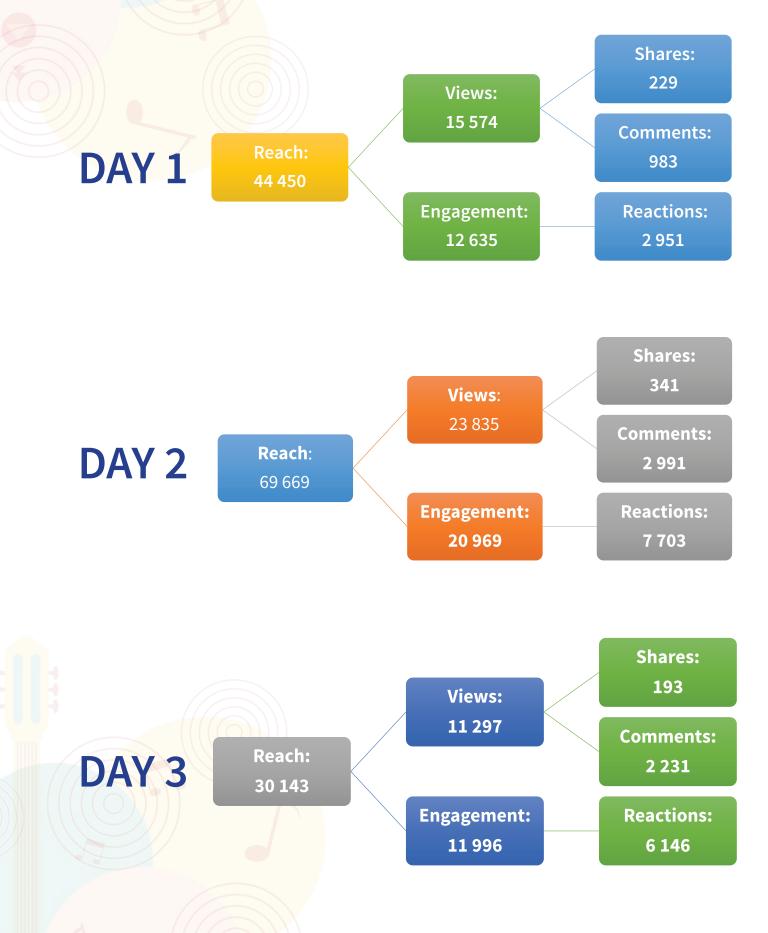
Email



Print and online media



# Digital Viewership and Engagement as @ 30 June 2020: Overview (BAF and Bulawayo City Council Viewership Combined)



# **Audience Impressions**



#### COMMENTS

"This festival is a unique selling point to market the city's rich culture locally, regionally and widely international. A paywall would defeat this opportunity. Certain shows or parts could be made payable, but the main aim must be to promote the city and its modern culture. It's at the forefront of streaming arts online, use this fact as an asset, against the odds Bulawayo pulled this off."

"Excellent job, well done to all. This is a good indication of level/ quality/capacity of Bulawayo creatives to stage such a show. Hope there will be lots of sponsors next year!"

"It exceeded expectations and surprised on the wide range of diverse contemporary arts from the city."

"Well done on this first for Zimbabwe, and Africa by a local authority."





#### COMMENTS

#### "Improve editing."

"Improve picture quality and use more camera angles."

# **Audience Impressions**

POOR		A۱	VERAGE
0%		1	0.26%
	ENTERTA VAL RAT	UE	
GOOD		EX	CELLENT
51.28%	ó	3	88.46%

#### COMMENTS

"I'd love to see more poetry and storytelling as I believe that this is a particular strength of Zimbabwe."

"Be more inclusive, to include more diverse languages such as Venda and Kalanga."

"Diversify genres."

"Integrate children's arts and crafts..."

"Have day-time programming to cater for all ages."



#### COMMENTS

"Support artists by bringing a larger international audience."

"Engage Zimbabwe and Bulawayo artists in the diaspora."

"Have programming that is a general mix of established and emerging artists."

"Artists must be paid reasonable amounts."

# Strides to BAF 2021

#### Stride 1: Post-2020 Festival Digital Resilience

Aims to brand the festival and consolidate its digital resilience, for amplification of visibility and audience expansion

GAPS / CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN 2020	<b>OPERATIONAL ACTION IN BUILDING UP TO 2021</b>
<ul> <li>Lack of a digital branding strategy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Curate a digital branding strategy for audience development, engagement and</li> </ul>
+ Inadequate digital resilience strateg	

Inadequate digital resilience strategy

# expansion

- Map digital visibility and performance +
- + Analyse digital platform algorithms for evidence-based digital resilience strategies

#### Stride 2: Training in New Technologies

Aims to build in-house digital resilience and efficiency, and contain technical overhead costs

GAPS / CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN 2020	OPERATIONAL ACTION IN BUILDING UP TO 2021
<ul> <li>Limited human resource competence for digital programming and archiving</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Create safer, immersive and engaging experiences for festival audiences through monitoring any barriers to artistic expression</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Gender disparities in Zimbabwe's cultural and creative tech sector</li> </ul>	online
<ul> <li>Gender dispairities in Zimbabwe's CCI technical sectors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mainstream new digital technologies by mapping and adapting global trends</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Curate an all women technical training program</li> </ul>

#### Stride 3: Strengthening Citizen Engagement and Cultural Participation

Aims to comprehensively and holistically map barriers to citizen participation in cultural life for the formulation of targeted interventions that will develop resilient urban communities that not only participate in cultural life as audiences but as active participants in the planning, ownership and execution of the city's cultural life

#### GAPS / CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN 2020

- Audiences still largely concentrated within the demographic of artists and cultural professionals
- Lack of evidence-based knowledge on cultural barriers to cultural participation and citizen access to cultural life

#### **OPERATIONAL ACTION IN BUILDING UP TO 2021**

- Develop and administer a cultural participation index for the city for statistical data and analysis
- + Identify barriers to inclusive cultural participation for targeted interventions
- Develop partnerships with telecommunications companies to promote digital cultural engagements as a way of contributing to efforts of building a city of ditigally conscious citizens
- Lobby for the incorporation of cultural participation surveys in national and city census frameworks

# **Acknowledgments**

#### PRODUCTION

- Executive Producer
- + Director

Saimon Mambazo Phiri

Joshua Nyapimbi

• Assistant and Continuity Nomashawekazi Damasane

#### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- + Spencer Biningu
- + Lisa Sidambe
- + Mo Mbedzi
- + Mellisa Gondongo
- + Desmond Ntini
- + Thulani Javas Sibanda

#### **STAGE MANAGERS**

- + Memory Kumbota
- + Blessing 'Stot' Sitotombe
- + Mehluli 'Gomez' Dube
- + Thabani H. Moyo
- + Bridget Sayers

#### SERVICE PROVIDERS

- + Sound, Effects and Lighting
- + Filming and Editing
- + Graphics
- + Design
- + Set and Design

Sound Kalcha

C'n'C Productions

Asher Gakanje

Larry Sticky Designs

Phiri Event Solutions



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