



# TOY FESTIVAL

2022



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## Welcome to **WOKOBER**

Wokober is a social enterprise that was formulated in 2020 and formally established in 2022 with the core belief that through ingenious creation, we can make a better world. WOKOBER- Ingeniously a better world.

With a vision of Ingenious creation at the core of our being for a better world and a mission to elevate the human experience through innovative designs, captivating storytelling, and transformative education we are thriving above all else with impactful projects to the society.





# Letter from the **FOUNDER**



## **BEN WOKORACH**

*Founder & General Team Leader*

Dear friend,

Warm greetings and happy New Year 2023! As Wokober, we ended the year 2022 with a bang, it was a great moment for us to launch our very first education initiative that saw 69 brilliant children showcase their creative abilities in the first-of-its-kind festival in the world, Wokober Toy Festival.

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**This truly reflected  
our founding be-  
liefs and was a  
validation for us to  
keep pushing**

The kids were truly amazing, from the youngest participant of 2.5 years to the oldest 15 years with talents we couldn't have ever imagined. This truly reflected our founding beliefs and was a validation for us to keep pushing to transform the education system. There are still thousands more children that we still need to give this creative platform to. This is why 2023 is very important for us, first to mentor the 20 winners that were selected and to also organize a bigger and better festival in December to reach more young creative children within Gulu city and its immediate neighbourhood. We have already started this year with a burst of momentum from the success of the festival, we plan to carry on with it and we want you to be part of it. In this report, we look at the Toy festival 2022 in detail, what is in store in 2023 and how you can be part of it. The future looks bright and we want to walk that journey with you.

The toy festival was inspired by the current state of Education in Northern Uganda, Uganda, and larger parts of Africa today which is on the decline.

To a greater extent, it is attributed to the poor approach to learning (among others), and delivery of the curriculum which focuses majorly on theoretical/memory-based learning that is aimed at passing exams, and a number of schools these days compete to have the highest number of first grades or passes.

This has seen learners complete with high grades or drop out of school without practical skills to earn a basic living or contribute to society's growth. As Wokober we believe we have an alternative approach in **TOY MAKING**.



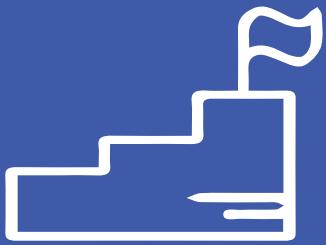
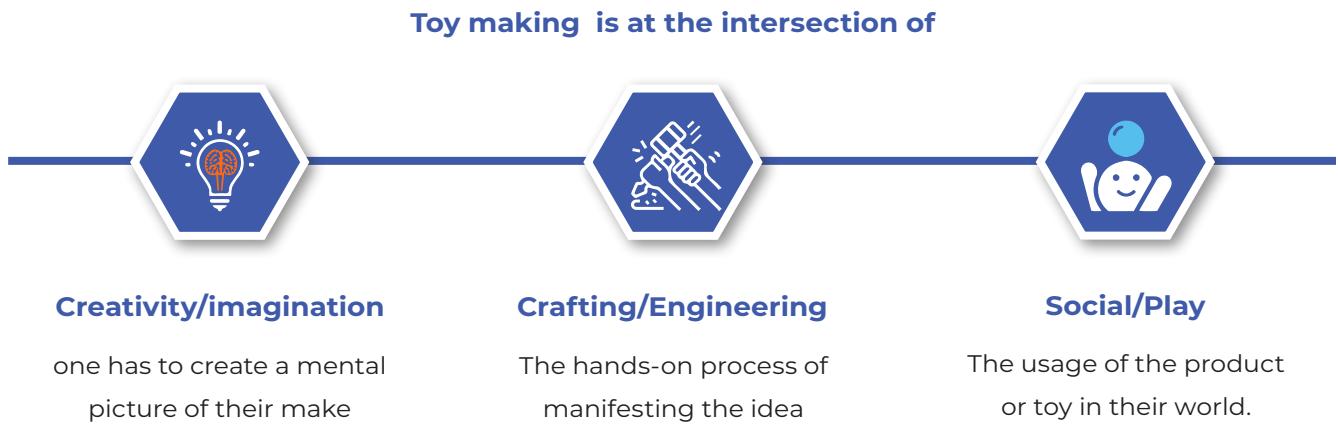
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For children, it is the first step towards creative exploration, a way to understand the world by observing and mirroring or copying it on a miniature scale.

Toy making has been at the core of children's play culture in Northern Uganda, and across Uganda. These toys are normally made out of scraps and cycled wastes ranging from automobiles, electronics, animals, dolls, etc. made by both boys and girls. For children, it is the first step towards creative exploration, a way to understand the world by observing and mirroring or copying it on a miniature scale and playing within that world through imagination as real actors.

“

**Leveraging toy making as an approach to creative learning.**



Our ambition is to leverage the ingenuity of the **TOY MAKING** as an approach to **CREATIVE LEARNING**, in an environment that inspires wonder, innovation, and collaboration, to propel learners to greatness never imagined before.

## Organizing the event



The event was organized as a competitive event with the theme “Showcasing creative abilities in children” was held at Elephante Commons, one of the event partners.

Organizing it took about approximately 2 months, a late start towards the end of October. It was initially shelved for 2023 because of financial challenges, however, the idea kept calling and it became a beautiful haunting dream wanting to manifest itself. The founder made a decision to have made it come to pass “if it matters then it shall happen successfully”

He reached out to colleagues that formed 10-member organizing committee members who volunteered from the beginning till the end of the festival. The team reached out to individuals/patrons and organizations and were overwhelmed by the encouragement and support.

This became the initial validation burst of energy to push for the event. Some patrons and organizations took it upon themselves to call up friends and other organizations to contribute/donate, and support the event. It was a challenging yet beautiful journey till the end of the festival.





# Showcasing creative abilities in children



**Ben Wokorach**  
General team lead



**Paul Kagga**  
Team lead & Publicity



**Opiyo Morris Ester**  
Facillitator



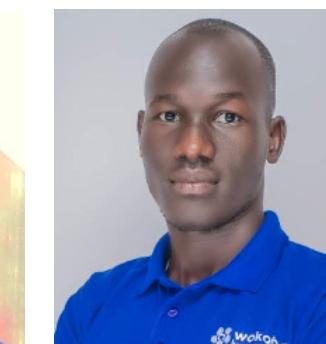
**Ahwera Rabwon**  
Facillitator



**Bongomin Innocent**  
Facillitator



**Hope**  
Volunteer



**Chuwi James**  
Facilitator



**Achirop Monica**  
Registration & Welfare



**Lawrence Oketayot**  
Volunteer



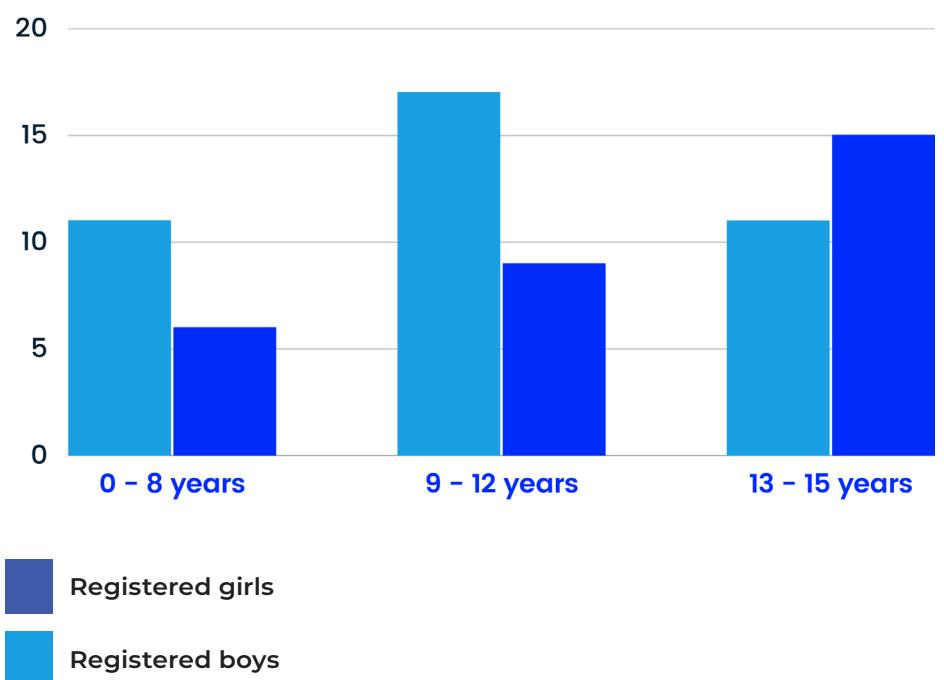
**Jimmy Oringa**  
Treasurer



**Jimmy Acellam Odoki**  
Volunteer

## Meet the organizing committee

# Participation and Exhibition



## Statistics of participants

We had a total of 69 participants who constituted Children from rural areas and city suburbs, participating in age categories of "0-8 years", "9-12 year", "13-15 years" for both boys and girls.



**Aber Selesha**

With 2.5 years of age, he was the youngest participant.



**Edimo Patrick**

With 15 years of age, he was the oldest participant.

Our estimate for the participants was 45. However, we got worried when 2 weeks before the event we had registered only 2 participants registered. What was wrong, didn't we do enough outreaches, were the participation fees too high? Did the parent see the value of the initiative?

Nonetheless, we keep pushing. One week to the event we had about 10 participants. Two days to the event we had 46 participants. On the actual day of the event, we had 57 participants registered and by the closing of the festival, we had a total of 69 participants.

What we found truly amazing was children who escorted their siblings ended up participating because they couldn't miss the fun.

# Event Juries & Winners' Selection

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**RWOTONGO GENESIS**  
Director of innovations,  
Elephante Commons & Founder-  
er of Mwonya.



**EVERLINE KIMONG**  
A feminist, Teacher,  
Entrepreneur Poet, Radio Host,  
Public Speaker, Head of News  
& Anchor at Nile TV



**RICHARD OBUKU**  
Co-Founder and C.E.O River  
Poultry



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The selection was winners was done by three brilliant individuals who constituted the jury members; Richard Obuku, the CEO of River Poultry; Jacob Odur, Director of Innovations at Elephante Commons and Everline Kimong, a writer, poet head of news anchorat Nile TV.

The team first developed a judging rubric that was core to the process of Toy making



Fun: The team evaluated the toys based on the level of enjoyment they brought to the children. Toys that were engaging, interactive, and brought smiles to the children's faces were highly regarded.



Creativity: The team appreciated the originality and ingenuity of the toys. Toys that demonstrated unique and innovative designs, use of materials, and creative thinking got high scores.



Craftiness: The judging team assessed the quality of craftsmanship in the toys. Toys that showed skillful construction, attention to detail, and precision in the assembly were highly valued.



Use/Functionality: The team considered the practicality and functionality of the toys. Toys that could be used for play or other purposes scored highly.

Every participant was observed and interacted with right from the idea stage to the final toy product and marks were awarded in that growth process, tabulated and the ones with the highest scores were selected as winners.



## Awarding the winners

There were eighteen(18) selected winners, nine(9) from each Category. Three (3) honorable mentions in each category received scholastic materials worth 20,000ugshs each. Two children also surprised the team, much as the event was planned for the participants to make the toys onsite during the event, the two young boys came with their toys already made, a helicopter and a plane. The team found it very captivating to see the level of detail and passion put into the work. The boys were named as honorable mentions and shall be part of the 18 winners to make 20 children that shall proceed to the mentorship stage.

We also received amazing feedback from parents, local leaders, and sponsors.

One parent said, "My child had so much fun building and creating their own toy. They didn't even realize they were learning and developing skills while doing it."

Our guest of honor Mr. Olara A. Otunu, was impressed with the impact of the festival on the community, saying, "The Toy Festival is a prime example of how education can be fun and engaging while still promoting valuable

skills."

One of the sponsor of the event also praised the festival, saying, "It was incredible to see the children's faces light up as they brought their creations to life. We are honored to have been a part of this transformative experience for the community."

These feedbacks show that the Toy Festival was a success in promoting creativity, education, and community engagement.



### 1st Prize won 300,000ugx

First prize winners in the 3 categories, from left(L) to right(R); **Olanya Jonathan** (0-8yr), **Ogenrwot Daniel** (9-12yrs) and **Piloya Judith** (13-15yrs)



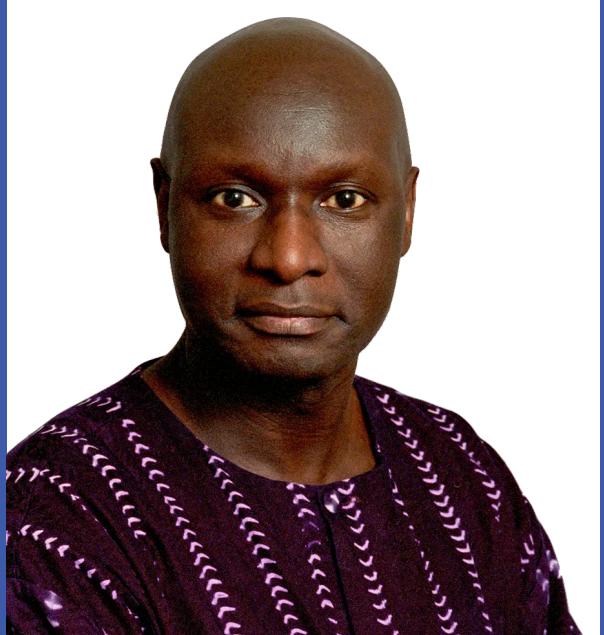
### 2nd Prize won 200,000ugx

Second prize winners in the 3 categories, from left(L) to right(R); **Rwotngyeo Genesis** (0-8yr), **Laker Angel** (9-12yrs) and **Aber Sharon** (13-15yrs)



### 3rd Prize won 100,000ugx

Third prize winners in the 3 categories, from left(L) to right(R); **Agenorwot Princess** (0-8yr), **Jakisa Jerry** (9-12yrs) and **Edimo Patrick** (13-15yrs)



## AMBASSADOR DR. OLARA A. OTUNNU

“

**Wokober toy festival is very important to encourage that learning can be from imagination and creativity**

## A word from the Guest of Honor

Ambassador commended the organizing team for putting the effort to launch this very important program. "Starting things are not easy, but your effort made it possible 'he said.

He also thanked the parents for encouraging their children and paying for participation fees for the 2 days event.

He thanked the children for having the interest and zeal to showcase their creativity to the world.

"Some of you children may not know, but everyone amongst you is different, important, has a unique gift and talent God has given. This could be talent of creation, leadership, storytelling, music/arts and many others. These gifts needs to be discovered and it's through and a holistic education approach that allows such talents to be unveiled, nurtured to grow and bear fruits.

What is important for our young people today is to be broadly exposed, and for our Parents, teachers Leaders and Learners to have a broad notion of education. Starting from home, the first level of education were parents offers guides, instills life values. The second level, is the formal classroom learning, Math's, Science, Language, Social studies etc. The third is the informal learning through play, from colleagues and personal explorations of ideas that comes through a learner's Imagination. It

is in this context that Today's Wokober toy festival is very important to encourage that learning from imagination and creativity. Those who made trains, computers, and electricity all started like this. The ideas come, you try and test, and keep trying until something emerges that is truly amazing and can transforms people's life.

All these learning is important and when combined it's what makes a well-rounded person A resonance Man/Woman.

So whatever you are doing now don't despise it, it's a gift that god has given, that needs nurturing to developed to help our society. It starts like this and it grows.

Lastly don't let anyone tell you, whether a teacher, a friend or a parent that you as a girl or you from the village cannot make it. Don't allow that. The gift you have is limitless, there is no ceiling, and even the sky is not the limit. There are people who came from villages, but shock the whole world and you too can do it".

## Appreciation for our Patrons

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all our esteemed Patrons who generously donated to our Toy Festival. Your support has made a significant impact in fostering creativity and innovation in children through the joy of building and crafting their own toys. We are deeply grateful for your contribution towards our mission, and we are honored to have you as part of our Wokober community. Thank you for your unwavering support!

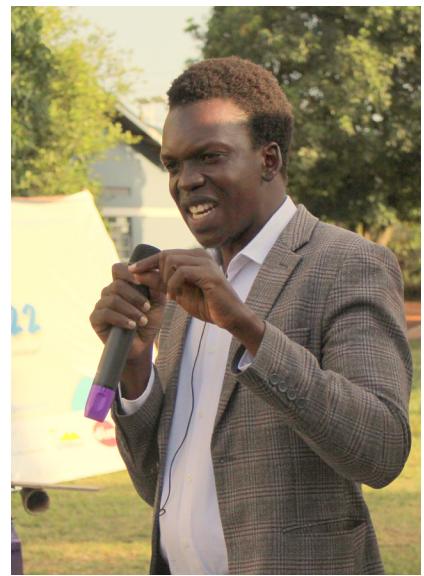
1. Eng Wokorach Stephen
2. Dr. Imran
3. Eng. Tabu Micheal
4. Roselyn Amoto Otunnu
5. David Monk





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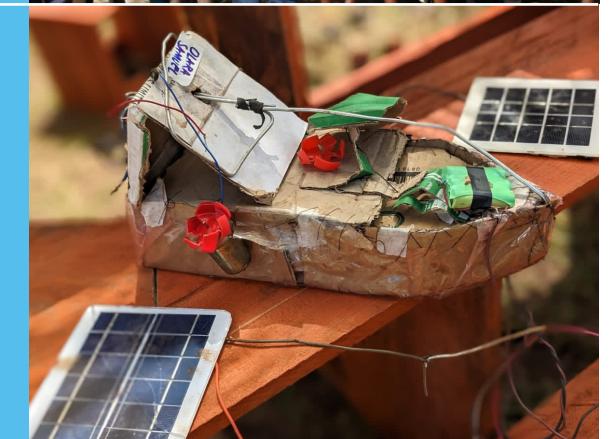
**Capturing  
the joy of  
Toy-Making**



# What is in store for 2023?

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The 18 winners shall be further mentored to develop their skills further in design, fashion, engineering, science and technology, and many other fields. We shall plan for study trips to different places to expose their minds.



## TOY FESTIVAL 2023

For Wokober Toy Festival 2023, it shall be bigger and better to cover the larger northern Uganda.



## RESEARCH INTO A LEARNING MODAL

This aims at leveraging the ingenuity of toy-making as an approach to creative learning.

# How You Can Be Involved

Among the three major activities of the year, you can be involved in the following ways.

**01**

## Become a partner

Our partnerships take many forms;

1. A partner can be a sponsor, contributing unrestricted finance. This can cover any costs within the activity budget of the festival 2023 or the mentorship program.
2. Provide restricted finance. Here a partner can pay a service provider to offer a service within our activity budget, which could be food, tents, music systems, etc.
3. A partner can offer in-kind service, this could be volunteering with the team, training, mentorship of winners among others.
4. We also collaborate with partners who have specific packages in line with our activities. For example, Fundi Bots as a partner shall be offering robotic training to our winners during the mentorship program.



**02**

## Become a patron

1. We are grateful that we have already 6 patrons. Patrons are advisers, donors, and friends who can support the activities in kind, through their experience advisees and financially.



**03**

## Donations

1. You can request for activity budget for the mentorship program and the festival and donate towards a specific activity.
2. Subscribe for updates.
3. Subscribe to our monthly newsletters for updates.
4. Subscribe to our social media platforms for timely updates.

(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok, YouTube, Link-in)



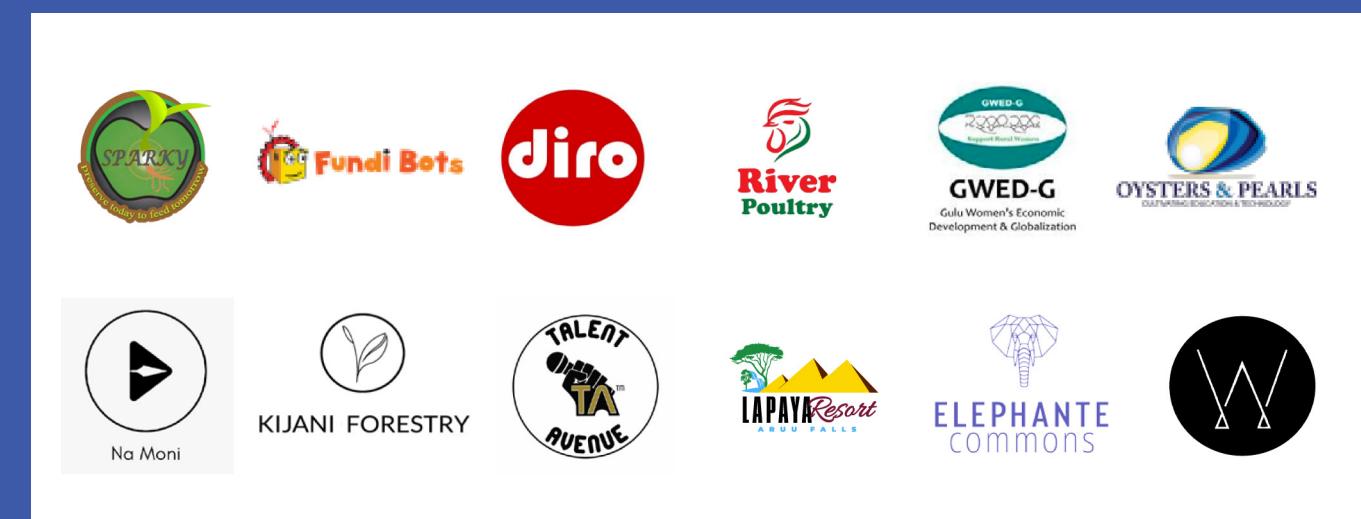
**04**

## Become a volunteer

1. As a volunteer, you shall be part of activity planning and implementation. You can register your interest early for the 2023 festival or the ongoing mentorship program.
2. We look for proactive individuals, smart, open-minded, daring, and align with our core beliefs and values



## Our Sponsors & Partners





*"Children learn as they play.*

*Most importantly, in play,  
children learn how to learn"*

**O. Fred Donalson**

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