

# The Pan-African Biennale

## The Challenge

**By 2050, one in four people globally will be African**, shaping culture, creativity, and innovation. Yet African architecture - its histories, contemporary visions, and future trajectories - remains overlooked.

Despite **36 global biennales, none have been hosted in Africa**. Only 3% of architects in the US are Black or African American, and **no single digital archive documents work from all 54 African countries**.

African architects, designers, builders, and storytellers are generating powerful ideas about how we live, build, and imagine differently. Yet these contributions remain fragmented, under-documented, and under-recognised globally.

## Vision

The Pan-African Biennale combines a biennial week-long exhibition with a permanent open-access digital and 3D archive. It centres African voices, dismantles inherited narratives, and preserves and elevates African architectural knowledge for generations to come.

We envision the Pan-African Biennale as a leading institution for African architectural and creative discourse - one that positions Africa at the centre of global conversations. By curating, housing, and articulating our stories on African terms, the Biennale showcases Africa's ingenuity and imagination as forces shaping a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

We will deliver:



**A bi-annual gathering** of practitioners, scholars, and institutions from all 54 African nations and the diaspora.



**A permanent, open-access digital archive** and 3D exhibition that documents architectural histories, contemporary practice, and spatial knowledge from across the continent.



**A platform for research, learning, and collaboration** to grow talent and strengthen networks.

## Outcomes and Impact



**Expand and preserve documentation, visibility, and preservation** of African architectural knowledge through a coordinated, open-access digital archive.



**Build stronger Pan-African networks**, connecting practitioners, researchers, and institutions.



**Improved access to shared resources** for students, educators, and early-career practitioners.



**Greater global recognition** of African spatial knowledge and influence on debates about sustainability, innovation, and community-led development.

## Why Partner with Us

The Pan-African Biennale offers funders a rare opportunity to support a landmark institution that:

- Positions **Africa as a global leader** in architectural and spatial innovation.
- Mobilises experts across **all 54 countries** and the diaspora, building unprecedented continental networks.
- Preserves, curates and disseminates African architectural knowledge, ensuring narrative sovereignty over Africa's built environment.

Your support accelerates a historic shift: from being referenced in global architecture to authoring it.

## How Can You Support

The Pan-African Biennale invites funders and partners to:

1

### Invest in the Biennale

support the bi-annual **exhibition, workshops, publications, research** and programs projecting African design globally.

2

### Sponsor the digital archive and 3D exhibition

preserve and share Africa's architectural artefacts for generations.

3

### Provide partnerships

and in-kind resources to scale reach and sustainability.

**The Biennale is not just an event - it is a structural investment in Africa's spatial future. Stand with us to uphold the power of the African now, and the African future.**

Contact the Fundraising team on: [fundraising@panafricanbiennale.org](mailto:fundraising@panafricanbiennale.org)