



Prince Claus Fund (2023)

Cultural and Artistic Responses to Environmental Change

Edward Oludare



XdIMxBak

Submission details

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To what extent are you familiar with Prince Claus Fund activities?

Select all that apply.

- ✓ I have applied to the Fund's open calls in the past
- ✓ I follow Prince Claus Fund on social media
- ✓ I have subscribed to the Prince Claus Fund's newsletter

We are interested to hear about how you found out about the Prince Claus Fund.

- ✓ Network: friends, colleagues, peers
- ✓ Social Media
- ✓ Website

I am applying as an individual creative

✓

I am a national of a country listed in the [Prince Claus Fund eligible country list](#)

✓

I currently live and work in a country listed in the [Prince Claus Fund eligible country list](#)

✓

Personal Details

Preferred Name / Artist Name / Public Name

Edward

First Name(s)

Edward Olutomi

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Surname(s) | Oludare |
| Date of Birth | 1969-07-30 |
| Which of the following most accurately describes you? | ✓ Male |
| What are your pronouns? | ✓ He/him |
| Nationality | Nigeria |
| Country of Residence | Nigeria |
| E-mail | edwardoludee@gmail.com |
| Telephone | +2348033959076 |

Postal Address

We would like to send materials via post for those selected.

Please make sure to provide us with a valid and correct postal address.

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Street | odunsi street Ilaje-Bariga |
| Number | 9 |
| Postal Code | 01234 |
| City | Lagos |
| Country | Nigeria |

I understand that if I live between different countries, or if my country of residence changes in the period of this open call I must inform the Prince Claus Fund. ✓

Is your postal address the same as your residential address? Yes

About Your Work

What discipline(s) do you work in? ✓ Artistic Research

Please select a max. of 3 disciplines that apply.

- ✓ Music
- ✓ Other(s)

Considering that the Cultural & Artistic Responses to Environmental Change is an interdisciplinary mentorship that aims at accelerating engaged, community-based cultural practices at the intersection of arts and the environment, explain how your practice and trajectory relates to the focus of this programme.

My artistic and cultural practice relates to sustainable development by addressing the limited available resources among the disadvantaged residents of the Bariga community of Lagos State. My community outreach focuses on ameliorating the lack or limited social amenities, physical living conditions such as clean water, health practices, housing/ living quarters, etc. of the residents. These include addressing the alarming critical changes within the community environment with regards to the quality of air and water sources which are increasingly polluted, adverse effect on the fishing profession and food safety, disappearing coastal line, life, and vegetation, and the continuous flooding that affects their homes and breeds malaria causing mosquitoes during the raining seasons.

I also provide educational activities and awareness among the community to inspire and motivate them with regarding the challenging environmental impacts and changes caused by either their neglect and unhealthy environmental activities, or the global climate change effects. This is to empower and encourage a communal action that centers on non-hegemonic and indigenous forms of knowledge system through my artistic and cultural activities, as a form of response and envisioned alternative modes of addressing the environmental issues locally and globally.

In and outside formal schools, I combine educational, cultural and social activities, which includes using Yoruba traditional music, instruments, language, crafts, cultural history and heritage, through my tailor-made learning and interactive programs for the children and adults. I address the issue of gender inequality by being intentional in the inclusion of female children in all my programs and activities in the community thereby succinctly showing parents that the girl-child can also excel with the male children. My educational and cultural practice engages the interaction of arts and the environment, thereby contributing not only to promoting indigenous and formal knowledge, but also promoting community-based interactive activities.

Tell us about your work as an artist and/or cultural practitioner.

I am a Nigerian artist, cultural practitioner, and educationist. My practice engage the processes of social interactions which relates to human participation through collective indigenous knowledge and education. My works explore themes revolving around cultural heritage, community life, environment and humanity, as a form of artistic and cultural responses to environmental changes towards human and social development. I actively involve in sustainable development scenarios among underprivileged people of disadvantaged status in the social circle, such as children from poor families, gender quality, and the uneducated, unemployed, and often marginalized groups within the community. I provide informal education at the grassroots by designing tailor-made learning and interactive programs for the children. It combines educational, cultural and social activities, which includes using Yoruba traditional music, instruments, language, crafts, cultural history and heritage. Through cultural education, I explore the easily relatable traditional system of informal education and vocational artisanship which consists of a communal, collaborative and social values work system, using the Yoruba talking drums and folklores in interacting with children and adult residents in the coastal community of Bariga, Lagos State. This include working on environmental consciousness through the awareness of the importance of basic amenities, hygiene, healthcare in the community.

We are interested in understanding which of these social/political themes, if any, you address through your work besides the issues of climate crisis. Please tick any that apply:

- ✓ Racial Justice
- ✓ Indigenous rights
- ✓ Gender equality
- ✓ Reexamining history
- ✓ Others

How do you tackle these environmental/social/political themes through your practice, and how are these themes relevant to your context?

Through my educational and cultural initiatives, I encourage communal actions centered on indigenous forms of knowledge system through my artistic and cultural activities, as a form of response and alternative modes of addressing the environmental issues. In my community, I engage people from low status background, who are at risk of negative environmental impact, either due to the community's neglect and unhealthy environmental activities or the global climate change effects. My community outreach thus focuses on ameliorating the lack or limited social amenities, such as clean water, healthcare, and living conditions of the people. I address the critical environmental changes within the community, with regards to the quality of air and water which are increasingly being polluted through unhealthy waste disposal and petrochemical waste released into the environment by individuals and industries, which have adverse effect on the fishing profession and food safety. I also assist the community in tackling the continuous flooding that affects their homes and breeds malaria causing mosquitoes during the raining seasons, through periodic environmental sanitation and hygienic practice initiatives. Hence, I motivate them to create a green and eco-friendly environment, and embrace biodiversity. I also design learning and interactive programs for the children, and encourage gender equality by consciously pushing for girl-child education and representation in all my initiatives. I combine educational, cultural and social activities which aims to raise awareness among the community to inspire and motivate them with regards to the challenging environmental impacts such as, disappearing coastal line, fauna and flora life/vegetation, and the impact on their fishing profession and food source. I address the racial injustice and indigenous right issues experienced by the poor people, socially disenfranchised, and the discriminated minority groups within the community, by creating interactive and communal engagements through my artistic activities, to promote cultural diversity and inclusivity.

What is the body of work/concept that you would use the grant to work on during the mentorship? What results would you hope to achieve by the end of this one-year programme?

During my mentorship program, I will use the grant to work on the following concepts of community and environmental initiatives:

- Artistic and cultural response to environmental changes: This initiative will work on addressing the identified critical changes with regards to the environmental issues experienced within the Bariga communities. I will organizing cultural activities that uses traditional music, storytelling, and visual arts to create the awareness about the changes in nature and the environment all around us. The aim is to make the people be responsive to their environment, with emphasis on providing enlightenment campaigns and community-based hygiene maintenance activities, improved quality of water sources and living conditions, reverse the disappearing biodiversity, and mitigate the escalating extreme weather phenomena within the local and global environment. The arts and cultural activities will provide communal entertainment and social bonding experience for the children and adults, as they are able to showcase their artistic and cultural talents during the program.
- Community outreach for grassroot development: I will organize a project with the support of the community leaders, schools, health centers, and families, to give free educational advice and counselling to the children, administrative guidance and support to the school staff, employment and ethnic inclusivity knowledge to the parents, localized hygiene education and advice. This will include provision of materials such as mosquito nets, water storage containers, pesticides, insecticides, rain coats, sweaters, etc to more families within the communities. The community education outreach is important because, most of the children are from poor families that cannot afford better education, the schools are poorly run due to marginalization and lack of government support, while the community is marginalized due the members belonging to low social class and minority ethnic group. I will therefore use the grant to spend more teaching hours with the children, and to buy and distribute more teaching aids, materials and tool resources for the lessons free of charge. These activities will be carried out during the school periods, extra-teaching lessons and extra-curricular activities outside the school periods.
- Human capacity development through mentorship and training: I intend to use the knowledge and resources I acquire during this mentorship program to further develop my community, by also inviting and training other members of the community who are either talented or interested in becoming artists, cultural practitioners, and educationists like me. I intend to use the funds to invest in human capacity, by bringing more mentees under my mentorship in order to acquire continuity and sustainability of my projects, as my newly trained cultural artists mentees will also join me in the successful execution of my activities.

By the end of the mentorship one-year program, I hope my artistic and cultural activities in response to the environmental changes would materialize into bio-diversified, greener nature and eco-friendly environment within the my community. Also, that I am able to provide more educational services, arts and cultural events, social bonding activities, and invest in human capacity and community development.

What are your main challenges/needs, and how do you expect this mentorship programme to strengthen your practice?

My proposed artistic and cultural activities relates to addressing the social environmental challenges, as a form of response to the environmental changes within the community. As an artist, cultural practitioner, and educationist, I work with the people of the communities to execute my projects, which include the community leaders, social and professional associations, formal and informal school heads, formal and traditional healthcare providers, and the families of the children. It is important to receive their approval, trust, and support, as the people are often less tolerant and suspicious. However, I am able to overcome these challenge because I am a native speaker and ethnic member of the community. In my community outreach, I do not just receive valuable information but I also give back to the community through my services, and assure them of the potential benefits and incentives of the projects to the community. Since my community outreach also include ameliorating the lack or limited social amenities among the residents, there is the need to provide the interventions in form of clean water, waste disposal, hygiene, first-aid, educational and vocational materials to the people within the communities. I hope to receive more mentorship and technical training in relevant IT support and tools that can enhance my artistic and cultural community outreach activities in contemporary climate change, biodiversity, and alternative environmental sustainability during the mentorship program.

I hope this mentorship program will strengthen my practice so I am able to extend my cultural education projects to more schools, and expand my community outreach activities to more families and communities. I also intend to train new mentees in cultural and artistic practices to join me in the project.

What do you want to contribute to the mentorship group?

I believe that I will be able to contribute to the mentorship group, by bring my experience as an African artist and cultural practitioner and indigenous knowledge from the Global South on the traditional practice of using the arts and culture in addressing environmental issues. These include the indigenous knowledge systems and African philosophies, such as the Ubuntu and Nigerian 'omoluabi' ethos of 'unity in humanity' and 'respect for the environment'. I am also able to show how the arts can be engaged as an intercultural communication process in addressing cultural diversity and an inclusive society, and how the concepts and practice of green nature, bio-diversity, and alternative environmental sustainability are embodied and narrated through African arts and oral genres. In addition, I will contribute to the interdisciplinary perspectives and internationalization of the mentorship program of engaging cultural and artistic medium as a form of response to environmental changes globally.

I agree that the information in this application may be shared with the external advisors making the Mentorship Awards selection. ✓

Pitch

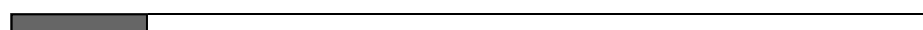
Pitch

Introduce yourself, your work, and present your motivation for joining this mentorship programme. You can submit this in either video or audio format (2 - 3 minutes).

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| AAC | Mentorship Pitch - Edward... (2.1 MiB download) |
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Portfolio & CV

Portfolio



PDF

[PROJECTS.pdf \(150 KiB download\)](#)

CV (curriculum vitæ)

PDF

[OLUDARE, E.O. C.V.pdf \(134 KiB download\)](#)

References

Name, email addresses, and titles of two references.

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Supporting Materials

Please submit any additional supporting materials related to your work that you wish to share with us. Please submit a maximum of 6 files/links.

These could include, but are not limited to:

- **Samples of work (images, videos, texts, etc.);**
- **Reviews;**
- **Interviews.**

Log in to princeclausfund.awardsplatform.com to see complete submission attachments.

MP4

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| <u>WhatsApp Video...</u> 15.9 MiB |