NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

nganigeria

Newsletter

Quarterly Publication | SEPTEMBER EDITION | 2026



THE MUSEUM ACADEMY PROJECT

NGA & KWASU forge a landmark partnership to transform arts education accelerate creative innovation and unlock Nigeria's creative economy

CELEBRATING NIGERIA'S AMAZONS
Leadership. Excellence. Legacy.

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REIMAGINING WASTE
Where discarded wires become powerful works of art.

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LEGACY IN FOCUS
Preserving the stories of Lagos State's First Ladies through Photography

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Editorial

Art is How We Meet Each Other. Welcome to the September 2026 edition of the National Gallery of Art newsletter. This platform exists for one reason: to bring Nigerian art closer to the people who make it, support it and discover it. Staff, artists, patrons, students and first-time visitors, this is for you..

Inside these pages you will find the work happening across our galleries and programmes: exhibitions taking shape, educational projects reaching new audiences, and stories from colleagues whose daily effort keeps the NGA alive.

Art does not stay still. It crosses borders, challenges assumptions, and builds community. Our role is to open the door wider — so more people can see, question, and be moved by the richness of Nigerian creativity.

To every member of staff: your dedication is the foundation of this institution. To our public: thank you for walking through our doors and for staying engaged. We see you, and we are building this next chapter with you in mind.

Creativity, innovation, and shared purpose will guide us. Let's keep the conversation going.

Warm regards,

Ahmed Bashir Sodangi
Director-General
National Gallery of Art

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Director-General's CORNER

NGA, KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY ADVANCE PARTNERSHIP ON PROPOSED MUSEUM ACADEMY



L-R: *Prof. Binta Sulyman, Kwara State University; Prof. Shaykh-Luqman Alade Jimoh, Vice-Chancellor, Kwara State University; and Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, Director-General, NGA, at the follow-up meeting in Abuja*

The National Gallery of Art (NGA) has reaffirmed its commitment to establishing the proposed National Gallery of Art Museum Academy at Kwara State University (KWASU), describing it as a landmark project for arts education, innovation and Nigeria's creative economy.

The Director-General, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, gave the assurance on 24th July, 2026 at a follow-up meeting with a KWASU delegation in the NGA Boardroom, Abuja.

The delegation was led by the Vice-Chancellor of KWASU, Prof. Shaykh-Luqman Alade Jimoh, with Prof. Binta Sulyman. They were received by the then Director, Special Duties, Mrs. Ngozi John Uyah, who introduced members of NGA Management.

The visit followed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier in Ilorin for the Academy, to be built on land allocated by the university.

Welcoming the delegation, Mr. Sodangi thanked the KWASU management for the reception given to the NGA team during the MoU signing.

"The proposed National Gallery of Art Museum Academy is a key component of the Gallery's strategic roadmap to establish art hubs across tertiary institutions in Nigeria, particularly those with Faculties of Arts and Departments of Fine and Visual Arts. This initiative is designed to unlock the economic potential of the visual arts through innovation, storytelling, value addition, and the deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence," he said.

He commended Prof. Sulyman for her dedication to the project and named September 2026 as the target for activities that will formally launch it. He also disclosed that private sector organisations have shown interest in supporting the project through partnerships and funding.

Responding, Prof. Jimoh reaffirmed the university's commitment. "Having carefully reviewed the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, Kwara State University is fully prepared to work with the National Gallery of Art to ensure the successful realisation of this visionary project," he said.

Describing the Academy as a legacy project, Mr. Sodangi said it would serve as a national model for similar art hubs. Heads of the Gallery's professional departments pledged their technical support.

The Acting Director, Special Duties, Mrs. Vera Chijioke, gave the vote of thanks.



L-R: *Prof. Shaykh-Luqman Alade Jimoh, Vice-Chancellor, Kwara State University; Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, Director-General, NGA; and Mrs. Ngozi John Uyah, former Director, Special Duties at the follow-up meeting in Abuja*



L-R: *Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, Director-General, NGA with delegates from Kwara State Univiersity, and Management Staff of NGA at the follow-up meeting in Abuja*

NGA, MBNCWD AND DE-VERGE SIGN TRIPARTITE MOU ON "AMAZONS OF NIGERIA 1.0

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), the Maryam Babangida National Centre for Women Development (MBNCWD) and De-Verge Securities and Logistics Services Ltd have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on the project "Amazons of Nigeria 1.0: Celebrating Leadership Excellence".



D-G MBNCWD, Dr. Adedayo Benjamins-Laniyi, D-G NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, and MD De-Verge Securities and Logistics Services Ltd, Mr. Bala Dauda at the MoU Signing

The MoU was signed on Thursday, 17 September 2026, at the MBNCWD office by the Director-General of the NGA, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi; the Director-General/CEO of MBNCWD, Dr. Adedayo Benjamins-Laniyi; and the Managing Director of De-Verge, Mr. Bala Dauda.

The project will use visual art, documentation and storytelling to honour the achievements, leadership and service of 66 selected Nigerian women.

Dr. Benjamins-Laniyi said the MoU was more than a formal partnership: "It is a shared commitment to recognizing, documenting and preserving the remarkable contributions of Nigerian women to national development." She commended the D-G for conceiving the initiative.



D-G MBNCWD, Dr. Adedayo Benjamins-Laniyi, and D-G NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, gazing at a sculptural piece

In his remarks, Mr. Sodangi praised Nigerian women for their roles in key sectors and for the strength and character they have shown when it mattered most. He said the project would create a lasting record that inspires young women and girls to see leadership, service and nation-building as attainable.



D-G REAFFIRMS NGA'S SUPPORT FOR NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF GRAPHIC DESIGNERS



Prof. Louis Emmanuel Etsename, President Organizing Committee presenting a special recognition award to D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi

The Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, has reaffirmed his support for the Nigerian Association of Graphic Designers (NAGD).

He spoke at the association's inaugural conference at the Federal University of Lafia on Friday, 11 September 2026. The theme was "Graphic Design Education and Practice in the 21st Century: Issues and Insights".

Mr. Sodangi congratulated the founders and interim executives, describing the association as timely for Nigeria's visual arts sector. He said professional associations promote dialogue, standards, advocacy, mentorship and market development, and assured NAGD of NGA's readiness to collaborate on exhibitions, capacity building, policy advocacy and international exchange.

He noted that graphic artworks are underrepresented in the National Art Collection and said NGA would create more opportunities for graphic designers to contribute. He challenged designers to produce works that document Nigeria's stories and contribute to cultural posterity.

Thanking the association for honouring him with a Special Recognition Award, the D-G urged members to pursue excellence, ethics and innovation.



Prof. Ilemona Adofu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs with D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi at the NAGD Conference



D-G, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART VISITS LAFIA OUTSTATION

The Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, paid a working visit to the Lafia Outstation on Friday, 11th September 2026.

The D-G was warmly received by the Curator and staff of the outstation. The visit was aimed at assessing facilities, reviewing ongoing activities, and engaging with staff on the progress of the outstation.

In his remarks, Mr Ahmed Bashir Sodangi commended the team for their dedication and creativity. He reaffirmed the management's commitment to equipping outstations to better serve as centers for art promotion, cultural preservation, and youth empowerment.

Staff expressed appreciation for the D-G's visit and pledged to sustain the momentum in delivering on the Gallery's mandate.



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi with staff of NGA Lafia

Sector News

CBAAC GOES GLOBAL AHEAD OF FESTAC @50



The Director-General, Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC), Hon. Aisha Adamu Augie

The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC) is taking bold steps on the global stage as preparations intensify for the 50th anniversary of FESTAC '77 in 2027.

In a major international recognition, the Director-General of CBAAC, Hon. Aisha Adamu Augie, has been selected among 12 cultural leaders worldwide for the prestigious 2026 Yale Directors Forum (YDF).

The Forum is convened by the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH) at Yale University, USA. It brings together outstanding heritage leaders from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in a 12-month fellowship focused on strengthening the preservation of both tangible and intangible heritage.

Hon. Augie emerged as one of only two Nigerians and one of six African women chosen for the second cohort of the fellowship – a testament to her visionary leadership and CBAAC's renewed relevance.

Reacting to the selection, the Centre noted that the fellowship offers CBAAC a unique opportunity to expand its international networks, build institutional capacity and further project Nigeria and Africa's rich cultural legacy globally.

In her remarks, the DG stated:

"Every artefact, photograph, and recording in CBAAC's care tells the story of who we are as Nigerians and as Africans... Our goal is to ensure that the torch lit by Nigeria through FESTAC '77 continues to burn brightly as we carry its legacy forward into the next fifty years."

This recognition comes as CBAAC plans to host about 100 countries for the FESTAC '77 Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Sector News

NICO LEADS NIGERIA–BRAZIL ROUNDTABLE ON GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE



Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, FCIA, Frpa, the Executive Secretary/CEO NICO, with participants at the Nigeria-Brazil Bilateral Meeting hosted by Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)

The National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO), a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, is spearheading talks with Brazilian institutions to secure global recognition, scientific validation, and commercialization of traditional medicine as a viable component of modern healthcare systems.

Speaking during a live television interview on TVC News from Brazil, the Executive Secretary and CEO of NICO, Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, said Nigeria and Brazil possess complementary strengths capable of creating a globally impactful partnership that bridges culture, science, and medicine.

He noted that Nigeria's rich indigenous knowledge and oral traditions, combined with Brazil's advanced health and research infrastructure, could help develop evidence-based traditional medical solutions.



Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, giving a presentation at the meeting

Ajiboye stressed the need for increased investment in indigenous medicinal research, noting that scientific validation and commercialisation could reduce Nigeria's dependence on imported pharmaceuticals while creating new economic opportunities.

The initiative, facilitated under the World Orisha Congress, brings together institutions including Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Brazil's Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Harvard University and other cultural and research organisations.

The Nigeria-Brazil engagement is expected to strengthen cultural diplomacy, promote scientific cooperation and unlock the economic potential of Nigeria's indigenous knowledge and traditional medicine.



Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, Executive Secretary/CEO, NICO, exchanges pleasantries with Carlos Garcete, Brazilian Ambassador to Nigeria, and Ajoyemi Osunleye, International Consultant to the Congress

Artist Spotlight

TAIWO OWOYEMI'S 'BECOMING' EXHIBITION SHOWCASES THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF UPCYCLED ART



The Artist, Taiwo Owoyemi

Contemporary Nigerian visual artist, Taiwo Owoyemi, has showcased his solo exhibition, BECOMING, at the Main Exhibition Gallery, National Museum, Onikan, Lagos.

The exhibition, which opened on 19 September 2026, presents a selection of 35 sculptural and mixed-media works drawn from over two decades of the artist's exploration of discarded aluminium soda cans. Through cutting, hand-pressing and intricate metalwork, Owoyemi transforms waste materials into compelling works of art.



Guests at the exhibition

BECOMING explores themes of resilience, human potential, choice and transformation. The discarded soda can serves as a metaphor for the human journey from brokenness to wholeness, while also drawing attention to environmental responsibility.

Highlights of the exhibition include Individual Differences, All of Me and the Dialogue Series. The opening attracted artists, collectors, students and art enthusiasts, with an engaging artist talk focusing on Owoyemi's medium, techniques and creative process. A special session also celebrated emerging young artists.

The exhibition demonstrates the possibilities of upcycled art as a contemporary artistic practice in Nigeria and underscores the value of creativity in addressing environmental and social issues.



Taiwo Owoyemi and colleague, next to his artwork

Artist Spotlight

PATIENCE ADEKUNLE:
TURNING ELECTRONIC WASTE INTO ART, HOPE AND RESILIENCE



Patience Adekunle in her studio, working on an artwork

Nigerian visual artist Patience Adekunle transforms discarded electronic cables and wires into expressive artworks that promote environmental consciousness, human resilience and creative innovation.

What happens when discarded materials become powerful expressions of human strength and beauty? For Adekunle, an expressionist mixed-media artist, recycler and environmentalist, the answer lies in looking beyond what society considers useless.

Raised by a single mother, she credits her mother and grandparents with encouraging her talent and supporting her training in Fine and Applied Arts at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso. Today, family members still collect discarded cables from different locations and send them to her studio.

After years of working with oils, acrylics, beads and fabrics, Adekunle noticed faulty chargers and cords piling up in her studio. Reluctant to throw them away, she began to see their colours, lines and textures as artistic material. She also became conscious of how much electronic waste is abandoned in homes, on streets and in drainage channels.

Through experimentation, she developed a technique for building expressive forms and portraits from cables and wires. She identifies herself as the first female Nigerian artist to work with discarded electronic cables in this way.

"Reshaping wires and electronic cables is more like I'm reshaping a story," she explains.

Working only with the colours she can recover, she relies on form and tonal contrast to carry her message. She likens the cables to human skin and veins. Each piece begins with an idea, an emotion or a story, then a sketch, and can take from four weeks to several months.

Her work invites viewers to reconsider value and belonging in a society that easily dismisses people and objects once they seem no longer useful. She sums up her art in three words: hope, beauty and strength.

"I want my viewers and audiences to understand that transformation is very possible, and hope is also possible, because waste is not the end of everything," she says.



Before use, she washes, disinfects and treats the wires, and has learnt to handle sharp copper strands and fragments with care. She now also sees creative possibilities in plastic bags, fabric offcuts and drinking straws.

Beyond the studio, Adekunle runs Sip and Paint for Mental Health, sessions where adults aged 18 and above paint, talk and, when comfortable, share their experiences. Her team has held sessions in psychiatric departments of general and teaching hospitals and hopes to reach correctional facilities. She is clear that art cannot replace professional care, but believes it can help people express difficult emotions and start conversations.

She has practised professionally for more than eight years, and with wires for more than four. Early on, some people questioned the value of her materials. Her persistence has since led to local and international sales, commissions and exhibitions including Swans: A Celebration of Women in Art, Resonance, Coalition and the 234 Art Fair. She is candid that she has not yet reached the financial success she hopes for, and wants collectors to buy her work because they connect with its ideas, not out of sympathy.
Her advice to emerging female artists is to find their own voices, keep experimenting and not wait for permission before pursuing an original idea.

For the National Gallery of Art, Adekunle's journey shows how visual art can inspire innovation, encourage environmental consciousness and create opportunities within Nigeria's creative landscape.



Training

INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT TRAINS STAFF ON EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By: Opemipo Rilwan Obadimeji



The Director, Information Services Department, Mr. Emeka Odiari (back row, center), with staff of the department at the training

The Information Services Department (ISD) of the National Gallery of Art held the first of a two-session staff training on Monday, 28 September 2026, in the Director-General's Boardroom, Abuja. The theme was "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Smarter, Faster and Better Administrative Writing".

Part of the department's capacity-building programme, the training equipped officers to use AI in preparing reports, official memoranda and other administrative documents.

The hybrid session drew staff in person and online from NGA offices nationwide. The Director, ISD, Mr. Emeka Odiari, and the department's Deputy Directors, Mrs Chenyere Nweze, Mrs Arike Obadimeji, and Dr Chika Kate Obiechina attended.

The facilitator, Mr. Segun Bodunde, Assistant Director and Head of the IT Division, introduced participants to generative AI and showed how different tools can be applied in an organisational setting.

He discussed the strengths and limits of the technology, stressing that AI should assist officers, while responsibility for the accuracy, confidentiality and quality of official documents remains with them.

The session also covered the ethical and secure use of AI, data protection, and what organisational and personal information must never be entered into public AI tools.

A question-and-answer session and a practical demonstration on work-related tasks followed. The Director, ISD, gave the closing remarks.
The second session held on Monday, 5 October 2026.



The Head of the IT Division, ISD, Mr. Segun Bodunde, presents at the training

RATTAWU HOSTS SAFE DEMOCRACY SUMMIT, CHARTS COURSE FOR ETHICAL AI USE AHEAD OF 2027 ELECTIONS

By: Precious Oparaugo



RATTAWU President, Comrade Prince Emeka Kalu, (Magic Fingers), delivering his address at the RATTAWU Safe Democracy Summit

The Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers' Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU) has called for ethical journalism, responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and stronger collaboration among stakeholders to safeguard Nigeria's democracy ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

The call was made at the Safe Democracy Summit, held on Monday 20th July, 2026 at the Ballroom Hall of the Oriental Hotel, Lagos, as part of activities marking the Union's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The summit, themed "Electoral Integrity in an AI Era: The Role of Responsible Media and Culture in Safeguarding Democracy," brought together communication scholars, media professionals, policymakers, labour leaders, public relations practitioners, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to deliberate on the growing impact of AI on Nigeria's electoral process.

Speaking at the event, the President of RATTAWU, Comrade Prince Emeka Kalu, said the summit underscored the Union's commitment to providing a credible platform for national dialogue on emerging issues affecting democracy, media, and governance. He noted that hosting the event in Lagos for the first time reflected RATTAWU's expanding national outlook and determination to deepen stakeholder engagement.



***L-R:** Prof. Rotimi Olatunji, Lagos State University; Comrade Prince Emeka Kalu, RATTAWU President, and Mrs. Kalu; and Dr. Ike Neliaku, President, NIPR, at the summit*

Delivering the keynote address, Professor Rotimi Olatunji, President of the Association of Communication Scholars and Professionals of Nigeria and Professor of Public Relations and Advertising at Lagos State University (LASU), examined the evolution of electoral processes and the increasing influence of technology and Artificial Intelligence in democratic governance.

He warned that while AI offers significant opportunities for innovation and national development, its misuse through misinformation, disinformation, deepfakes, and manipulated digital content poses serious threats to electoral credibility and public confidence. He urged journalists and communication professionals to embrace technological innovation responsibly while upholding the principles of truth, professionalism, accountability, and ethical practice.

Chairman of the occasion and President of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Dr. Ike Neliaku, FNIPR, stressed that democracy can only thrive where truth, credibility, and responsible communication prevail. He commended RATTAWU for initiating a timely national conversation on protecting democratic institutions in an increasingly digital information environment.

The summit also featured a panel discussion involving Comrade Debo Adeniran, President of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR); Pastor Kayode Jacobs; and Barr. Princewill Akpakpan, with Mrs. Adenike O. Ajiboye, News Manager of Superscreen TV, serving as moderator. The panellists advocated greater investment in digital literacy, fact-checking, ethical AI deployment, and conflict-sensitive reporting as critical tools for protecting Nigeria's electoral process.

Representing the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, FNIPR, Dr. Suleiman Haruna, Director of Public Relations and Protocols in the Minister's Office, commended RATTAWU for championing responsible media practice and recognising individuals whose contributions promote national development.



A major highlight of the summit was the presentation of RATTAWU's Golden Era Pillar of Logistics Excellence, Purposeful Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy and National Development Award to High Chief Tochukwu Emmanuel Ezisi (Aku Yie Nwata Egwu) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship, humanitarian service, and national development.

The colourful event also featured goodwill messages from labour leaders, partner organisations, communication professionals, and cultural performances showcasing Nigeria's rich heritage and reinforcing the role of culture in promoting peace, unity, and democratic participation.

At the end of its deliberations, participants adopted a communiqué reaffirming ethical journalism as essential to electoral integrity and called for stronger newsroom verification systems, institutionalised fact-checking units, continuous capacity building for journalists in AI and digital verification, issue-based election reporting, and closer collaboration among media organisations, electoral bodies, government institutions, technology platforms, and civil society organisations.

The summit also advocated balanced legal and regulatory frameworks that promote the ethical deployment of Artificial Intelligence while protecting press freedom and accountability in the digital information space. Participants further recognised the vital role of Nigeria's cultural and creative industries in fostering peace, national unity, and democratic values before, during, and after elections.

The summit concluded with a renewed commitment by RATTAWU and stakeholders to advance responsible media practice, ethical communication, and the constructive application of Artificial Intelligence in strengthening Nigeria's democratic process ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

RATTAWU FCT COUNCIL HOLDS TRAINING ON EFFECTIVE TRADE LEADERSHIP AND WORKPLACE UNIONISM.



RATTAWU FCT Council Chairperson, Comrade Adama Isyaku, and delegates at the RATTAWU FCT Training

The Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union (RATTAWU), FCT Council, has organised a two-day training programme aimed at strengthening trade leadership and promoting effective workplace unionism.

With the theme, "Effective Trade Leadership and Workplace Unionism," the training emphasised the importance of honest, knowledgeable, courageous and accountable leadership in protecting workers' interests.



NGA RATTAWU Chairman, Comrade Gideon Kpiri at the RATTAWU FCT Training

Participants were exposed to the qualities and responsibilities of effective trade leaders, including integrity, knowledge of labour laws, good communication and negotiation skills, courage, selflessness, accountability and transparency. The training also highlighted the role of union leaders in representing workers during negotiations, protecting them from unfair treatment, resolving grievances, and educating and uniting members.

The programme further examined workplace unionism as a means of giving workers a collective voice to negotiate better working conditions, promote industrial peace, prevent exploitation and safeguard workers' welfare and job security.

The training concluded with a strong emphasis on the need for effective leadership to build a strong and united union capable of promoting fairness, peace and progress in the workplace.



Group Photograph of Secretaries from NGA, FMACTCE, and Other RATTAWU-Affiliated MDAs

Outstations Report

NGA ADVANCES PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION WITH LAGOS FIRST LADY



L-R: *Mr. Efeturi, Mrs. Nkiru Godfrey (AD HRM), Mr. John Egwuatu (Curator/HOS), Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu (First Lady Lagos State), Dr. Patrick Okpah OON, & Mrs. Helen Umoh (AD Education)*

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Lagos Station, has taken further steps towards the actualisation of a proposed photographic exhibition in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady of Lagos State.

The initiative was discussed during a follow-up meeting between an NGA delegation led by the Curator/Head of Lagos Station, Mr John Egwuatu, and the First Lady of Lagos State, Her Excellency, Dr (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu.

Dr Patrick Okpa, OON, presented the exhibition concept, which was warmly received by the First Lady. She expressed support for the initiative and suggested that the exhibition should document the roles and contributions of both past and present First Ladies of Lagos State.

November was proposed as the exhibition period, with Lagos Television (LTV) identified as a possible venue. The First Lady also designated two media aides to work with the NGA team on publicity, guest selection and other arrangements.

The proposed exhibition is expected to provide a photographic and historical record of the contributions of First Ladies to the social and cultural development of Lagos State.



NGA KADUNA PROMOTES ART EDUCATION THROUGH SATURDAY ART CLUB

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Kaduna Outstation, has continued to promote art education and community outreach through its Saturday Art Club programme at Access Bank Fifth Chukker School, Maraban Jos, Kaduna.

The programme, held on 30 September 2026, provided an opportunity for students to engage in art-related learning and creative activities as part of the Gallery's educational and outreach mandate.

NGA Kaduna was represented by Mrs. Abrak Abigail Hadassah, Mr. Timothy Ago and Mr. Munu Garba.



Cross-Section of students at the NGA Kaduna Saturday Art Club event



Cross-Section of NGA Kaduna Staff

Outstations Report

NGA LOKOJA ORGANISES IN-HOUSE SEMINAR TO STRENGTHEN STAFF CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The National Gallery of Art in Lokoja, Kogi State, conducted an In-House Seminar for staff on Monday, 3rd August 2026. The programme aimed to enhance knowledge sharing and understanding of the Gallery's operations.

"Two departments presented papers: Educational Services on 'Capacity Building for Educational Staff', and Planning and Research on 'The Role of Research Reports in Shaping the National Gallery of Art'. Participants described the seminar as productive.





Cross-Section of NGA Lokoja Staff at the In-House Seminar

NGA SOKOTO INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Sokoto, recently hosted students and teachers of Rochas Foundation College, Sokoto, on an educational excursion designed to deepen their understanding of visual arts and inspire creative expression. The visit, held on Thursday, 2 July 2026, formed part of the Gallery's ongoing commitment to promoting art education among young Nigerians.

Welcoming the visitors, the Curator, Mr. Suleiman Rufai Shehu, introduced the students to the Gallery's role in preserving and promoting Nigeria's artistic heritage. The programme featured an enlightening lecture on the significance of art, its relevance in contemporary society, and the diverse career opportunities available within the creative industry. Students actively participated in an interactive question-and-answer session before embarking on a guided tour of the exhibition galleries, where they gained valuable insights into the artworks, artistic techniques, and cultural values represented in the collections.

The visit concluded with refreshments and a vote of appreciation from the Principal of Rochas Foundation College, who commended the Gallery for its warm reception and enriching educational experience. In his closing remarks, the Curator reaffirmed the National Gallery of Art's dedication to nurturing creativity, encouraging artistic excellence, and expanding public access to art through sustained educational and outreach programmes.



The Curator, NGA Sokoto, Mr. Suleiman Rufao Shehu, guides visiting students through the gallery

Outstations Report

ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE



Sussan Omagu, Curator Calabar Outstation gives her presentation at the seminar

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Calabar, held a quarterly presentation titled "Significance of Art and Social Changes" on 12 August 2026. The presentation, organised by the Curatorial Services Department, explored the role of art and visual communication in influencing how people think, feel and respond to social issues.

Presented by Sussan Omagu, Visual Artist/Curator, the seminar highlighted how paintings, sculpture, textiles, images, colours, symbols and other visual forms can break language barriers, preserve cultural identity, raise awareness and inspire positive action. It also emphasised the growing influence of visual communication in the digital age.

The presentation also showed how artists and visual art drive social change, demonstrating how effective visual communication can communicate ideas quickly, evoke emotions and enhance education and public messaging.

The programme was endorsed by Mrs Uwaoma Ideli-Agudosi, Zonal Coordinator, south-south

NGA KANO STATION HOSTS "KANO IN COLOURS" SOLO ART EXHIBITION



Bashir Faruk (HOD ESD), Vikala Sati Paul (Exhibiting Artist) and Hassan Idris Gatawa, Curator NGA Kano Outstation

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Kano Station, on Monday, 31 August 2026, hosted a solo art exhibition titled "KANO IN COLOURS: A Visual Chronicle of Culture, Heritage and Life." The exhibition featured the works of Vikala Sati Paul, a multidisciplinary Nigerian visual artist and NYSC Corps member serving in Kano State.

The exhibition showcased the artist's creative interpretation of Kano's culture, heritage, people, environment and everyday life through contemporary visual expressions. It also provided a professional platform for an emerging artist while promoting public appreciation of Nigerian visual arts and cultural heritage.

The event attracted artists, art enthusiasts, cultural stakeholders, members of the public, NGA staff, NYSC Corps members, media representatives and other guests. The Chairperson of the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA), Kano, officially launched the exhibition.

A major highlight was the participation of children of NGA Kano staff in drawing and painting activities. The children were provided with art materials and their works were displayed for guests, encouraging early exposure to visual arts and creative expression.

The exhibition strengthened engagement between the NGA, artists and the wider creative community while contributing to the visibility of contemporary Nigerian art and the promotion of Kano's cultural heritage. The NGA Kano Station reaffirmed its commitment to supporting emerging artists, encouraging young people in the arts and providing platforms for cultural engagement.

Outstations Report

NGA HOSTS ART EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NEW YAM FESTIVAL.



The Zonal Coordinator, Mr Afam Edozie reading Director-General's welcome address

The National Gallery of Art (NGA) hosted cultural stakeholders, community leaders, artists and members of the public to an art exhibition in celebration of the National New Yam Festival in Igbo-Ukwu, Anambra State, on Friday 4 September 2026.

Speaking on the exhibition theme, "Harvest Narratives," in the Director-General's welcome address, read by the South-East Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Afam Edozie, the D-G said the festival goes beyond celebrating a successful harvest, as it provides an important platform for preserving and transmitting cultural stories, memories and identity through art, music, dance and traditional practices. He reaffirmed NGA's commitment to promoting, preserving and showcasing the works of Nigerian artists while encouraging visitors to appreciate and patronise the artworks on display.

In his remark while declaring the exhibition open, the traditional ruler of Igbo-Ukwu, HRH Igwe Alexander Azike, Idu III, represented by Ichie Fabian C. Okeke, commended the NGA for its continued efforts in promoting Nigerian art and culture and pledged continued support for its activities. He noted that NGA, through its exhibitions and collaboration has impacted positively on the culture and tradition of the town

The event was attended by some traditional rulers from neighboring communities, including eminent sons and daughters of Igbo-Ukwu. Also in attendance was the National Chairman of the Mbido Igbo Association, Chief Ugochukwu Okaforzu, who called for the establishment of active art studios to encourage greater artistic participation and production in the community. Artists and curators from sister agencies also participated in the event.



The Curator National Gallery of Art Igbo-Ukwu, Nwoye Judith A. reads her welcome address

Social Diary

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Mr. Azuka Ezeana (Right) with the Head, Human Resource Management

A Tribute To A Distinguish Boss.

The National gallery of art (NGA) celebrates the retirement of Mr. Azuka Okechukwu Ezeana, Curator/Head of Station, NGA Abeokuta, after a remarkable career of dedicated service.

Born on 19 September 1966, Mr. Ezeana joined the National Gallery of Art in February 2004 as a Research Officer II and rose through the ranks to become a Deputy Director and Curator/Head of Station in 2024.

Throughout his years of service, he distinguished himself through integrity, dedication, punctuality, humility, transparency and commitment to duty. His leadership and contributions to the Gallery have left a lasting impression on colleagues and the institution.

After 22 years of meritorious service, Mr. Ezeana retired on 18 September 2026. As he begins a new chapter, the National Gallery of Art wishes him good health, peace, happiness and many more fulfilling years ahead.

Your service will be remembered, and your legacy will endure.



Mr Azuka Ezeana with staff of NGA Abeokuta

GRANT IKHARO MARKS 60TH BIRTHDAY AND RETIREMENT



Elder Grant Ikharo, Deputy Director, Finance & Accounts Department

Elder Grant Ikharo, Deputy Director, Finance and Accounts, has celebrated his 60th birthday and retirement from public service.

Born on 24 September 1966 in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, he began his career with the News Agency of Nigeria in 1994 and joined the NGA in 2013. He rose through the ranks in accounting, earning recognition for his diligence and professionalism, and retired from the NGA headquarters, Abuja.

A devoted family man, he is married to Mrs. Gladys Ikharo, with whom he has three daughters. Colleagues, friends and family celebrated his Diamond Jubilee and wished him good health and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Social Diary

NGA MOURNS RESEARCH OFFICER, MR. IBRAHIM UMAR TSAMIYA.



The National Gallery of Art (NGA) mourns the passing of Mr. Ibrahim Umar Tsamiya, a Research Officer at the NGA Sokoto Outstation, Sokoto State.

Mr. Tsamiya passed away on 16 August 2026 at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto, where he was receiving treatment. His funeral and burial were conducted in accordance with Islamic rites.

Management and staff of the National Gallery of Art extend their heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. His contributions to the Gallery will be remembered with appreciation.

May Almighty Allah grant him Al-Jannah Firdaus and give his loved ones the strength to bear the loss.

Repository of Nigeria's Creative Spirit!

The National Gallery of Art is the custodian of Nigeria's rich artistic heritage. It is a home of wide range of treasures from the best of painting, sculptures, drawings, Photography, Textiles Designs, Jewelry, Architectural Designs, Pottery/Ceramics, communication designs and other works of Art. It is the repository of Nigeria's creative spirit.

We are poised to become Art treasure Island in Africa and global destination for Visual Art. With 25 offices across Nigeria, the welcome is warm, the education enduring and the experience awesome.

OUR PROGRAMMES

- NGA Mast Festival and Awards
- International Art Fair Abuja
- International Art Fair Lagos
- Rainbow Art: Unlocking Creativity
- Art Workshop Benin
- Art Fair Enugu
- Art Fair Jos
- Annual Children's Day Art Competition/Exhibition
- Annual Distinguished Lecture/ Symposium
- Stakeholders Forum
- Special Exhibition (Local and International)
- Art Fair



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART HQTRS
Ministry of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy
4th Floor, Block C, 8th and 9th Floors, Block E,
Federal Secretariat Phase II, Central Area, Abuja.
PMB 456, Garki-Abuja.

OUT STATIONS
Abakaliki, Abeokuta, Bauchi, Benin, Calabar, Enugu, FCT, Gombe, Gusau, Igbo-Ukwu, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lafia, Lagos, Lokoja, Maiduguri, Makurdi, Minna, Osogbo, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Umuahia and Uyo.

... Custodian and Promoter of Modern Nigeria Visual Art!