



Arterial Network | 4th Floor Harrington House | 37 Barrack Street | Cape Town 8001
www.arterialnetwork.org | +2721 – 461 2023 | info@arterialnetwork.org

What is Arterial Network?

Arterial Network is a dynamic Pan-African, civil-society network of artists, cultural activists, entrepreneurs, enterprises, NGOs, institutions, and donors active in Africa's creative and cultural sectors. Established as a member-based, non-profit organisation, Arterial Network operates all across the continent, and is led by an elected Steering Committee which represents the five regions of the continent. Its Continental Secretariat is now based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, as of the 1st of February 2017.

Arterial Network's five core focus areas to support the arts are advocacy (through the Artwatch Africa project), capacity building, market access, knowledge management and information dissemination.

In terms of **Capacity Building**, Arterial Network has published multiple toolkits that are available to download for free online, covering various topics such as Fundraising, Art Advocacy and Networking, Art Marketing, and Project Management. From 2013-2015, Arterial Network ran a Cultural Leadership Programme with the African Arts Institute (AFAI). In 2016, Arterial Network shifted focus to improve the organisational health of African arts organisations through the SHIRIKA programme which was rolled out in Cape Town (South Africa), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Mbabane (Swaziland), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Kampala (Uganda). In addition to this, national Cultural Management programmes have been run in Swaziland, Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo Central Africa, Niger, Seychelles and Nigeria with great success. Then the African Women in Cultural Leadership (AWCL) mentorship programme, which was also piloted in 2016 in Kenya, aims to identify and address the structural, economic, social and cultural barriers that discourage women from taking up leadership positions within Africa's cultural industry.

Advocacy has emerged as one of Arterial Network's most popular functions. The legal framework for the arts and cultural sector is often incomplete or lacking entirely in countries across Africa. In these cases, lobbying government for changes is called for and Arterial Network is able to lend support and expertise in this regard. For example, in 2015, Arterial Network Zimbabwe lobbied the government for cultural policy reforms and hosted a roundtable seminar in order to discuss the various issues faced by the arts and cultural sector. Over the first half of 2016, Arterial Network Nigeria **successfully lobbied** for the release of the performance artist, Jelili Atiku, who was unlawfully arrested following a public performance. Through its Artwatch Africa project, Arterial Network has brought public attention to arts advocacy through the release of the original song *Droit de Vivre* (2015) and a free e-book compilation of poems, essays and short stories, titled *How Free is Free? Reflections on Freedom of Creative Expression in Africa*. The e-book was released in September 2016 and has so far been launched in both Cape Town, South Africa and Lagos, Nigeria, with more launch events to come in 2017.

With regards to **Market Access**, Arterial Network held the **5th edition of the African Creative Economy Conference (ACEC)** in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 2015. With this iteration, it completed a five-year journey through the five regions of Africa which began

in Nairobi, East Africa in 2011, then Dakar, West Africa in 2012, Cape Town, Southern Africa in 2013 and Rabat, North Africa in 2014. Over the five years, the ACEC acted as a market access benchmark occasion for practitioners, policy-makers, donors, academics and other key stakeholders to interact and engage with the critical challenges and innovative solutions that formed part of the process of growing the outputs and efficacy of the creative sector. Now that ACEC has run its course, Arterial Network is looking to grow market access in other ways, such as the Creative Cities initiative. Drawing on the pilot experience of “Ségou Creative City” in Mali (West Africa), and conceived over a two-year period (2016-2018), the African Creative Cities Network (ACCN) aims to encourage and develop advocacy, capacity building and networking initiatives to strengthen local authorities’ approaches to arts and culture in African urban environments. In 2017, the programme will launch in four cities: Harare (Zimbabwe, Southern Africa), Nouakchott (Mauritania, North Africa), Pointe Noire (Republic of the Congo, Central Africa) and Victoria (Seychelles, East Africa).

Due to Arterial Network’s widespread contacts and its growing position as a hub for knowledge about the African arts and cultural sector, they have been engaged on numerous **Research and Knowledge Management** projects for high profile cultural agencies. Related to this is Arterial Network’s Cultural Policy Task Group (CPTG) which is comprised of various African cultural experts who are equipped to assist civil society and government in terms of their Cultural Policy. In 2011, Arterial Network published *Adapting the Wheel* in English, French and Arabic - a tool to raise the standard of arts and cultural theory and practice across Africa. In 2014, Arterial Network published the African Arts and Culture Index (AACI) as a tool to measure and monitor the development of the arts, culture and heritage, and any progress or regression in these areas in countries across Africa. Most recently, Arterial Network was approached by UNESCO to coordinate a regional study for the [Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development](#) which was released in October 2016.

Arterial Network is active on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), Instagram and [YouTube](#) - **Collating and Disseminating Information** relevant to the African arts and cultural sector, such as the latest research, news, resources, events and opportunities.

In 2017, Arterial Network will be celebrating its 10 Year Anniversary in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, combined with the opening celebration of the Secretariat’s new office space to be shared with MASA Côte d’Ivoire, the Market for African Performing Arts.

To learn more about the network, visit the Arterial Network website here:
<http://www.arterialnetwork.org/>

Press Contact

Marie-Louise Rouget - Content and Data Manager, Continental Secretariat
marielouise@arterialnetwork.org