



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
OF NAMIBIA

ARTS PULSE

NOV-DEC

2025
Newsletter - Issue 2

VOICE OF THE NACN ADMINISTRATOR



Dear Creative Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of Arts Pulse, the official newsletter of the National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN). As we close the year, we celebrate the creativity, resilience, and collaboration that continue to define Namibia's cultural landscape. This edition reflects the many milestones that showcase the strength and diversity of our creative sector.

We highlight the achievements of our Grant Cycle 3 recipients, whose projects demonstrate the innovation and cultural richness we proudly support. We also revisit major creative events, from the electrifying Next Ma/Gaisa Star Finale and the vibrant Otjomuise Live Arts Festival to Katutura Fashion Week and the book launch of *So You Are Left-Handed* and *whispers from the Khwe*.

This edition further shares insights from KIFA Week 2025, where meaningful creative exchanges continue to strengthen regional engagement. In our Artist Spotlight, we celebrate Sagarias Tsam, whose performance at the Marafiki Music Festival highlights the global reach of Namibian talent.

To all artists, partners, and cultural stakeholders, thank you for your dedication throughout the year. Your contributions strengthen our nation's identity and expand the possibilities of our creative future.

From the NACN family to yours, we wish you a joyful festive season and a prosperous New Year. May the year ahead be filled with creativity, purpose, and continued artistic growth.

Warm regards,

Gretta Gaspar

IN THIS EDITION

The second edition of Arts Pulse, the official newsletter of the National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN), highlights a dynamic season of creativity, collaboration, and cultural growth.

This issue captures key highlights from across the creative sector, including Grant Cycle 3 recipients, whose projects continue to enrich the country's artistic landscape.

We bring you updates from NACN supported events such as the Next Ma/Gaisa Star 2025 Grand Finale, OLAF 2025, Katutura Fashion Week, Top Cheri's Kiddies Concert Launch, and two literary milestones: *So You Are Left-Handed* by Sarah Negumbo and *Whispers from the Khwe* by Patricia Dinyando, *Vote Ngugwe & Ndapewa* Fenny Nakanyete.

This edition also features the Launch of the National CCI Strategy 2025–2030 Consultations, the Creative Futures Programme Pitch Day, and the opening of the Prop-Onganda Props & Costume Warehouse.

Our Artist Spotlight celebrates Sagarias Tsam and Afron Nyambali, who represented Namibia at the Marafiki Music Festival in Tanzania. We also share highlights from NACN's contribution to creative dialogue during KIFA Week 2025.

As we close the year, NACN remains committed to nurturing talent, supporting innovation, and strengthening cultural participation across Namibia.

Find us at the Government Park, NACN Office, Room 018, contact us via email: administrator@artscouncilnam.org / 061 293 3311 / 0811 450 641 for enquiries

GRANT CYCLE 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Grant Cycle 3 marks another important milestone for us, as a diverse group of artists and creative projects received support through the 2025/2026 funding programme. Recipients span multiple disciplines such as music, fashion design, crafts, visual arts, literature, dance, and multidisciplinary arts, reflecting the richness and range. Through this cycle, NACN continues to champion artistic excellence, strengthen cultural expression, and empower creatives across the country to bring their ideas to life and share their stories with wider audiences.

CYCLE 3 RECIPIENTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 **30** CYCLE 3 - GRANTS RECIPIENTS

	Grant Application Nr.	Name of applicant	Discipline	Region
1	CRC 3/25/26/019	Shikongo Paavo	Craft	Omusati
2	CRC 3/25/26/038	Johannes Petrus	Craft	Khomas
3	CRC 3/25/26/022	Alexia Aochamus	Craft	Khomas
4	CRC 3/25/26/063	Mpandu Kwa Homba Sewing Project Cc	Craft	Kavango West
5	CRC 3/25/26/062	Elegance Beads By Ash	Craft	Kavango West
6	FAS2/25/26/089	Edla Katuutja	Craft	Otjozondjupa
7	FAS2/25/26/058	Kandjandjala Cultural Group	Craft	Kavango West
8	FAS2/25/26/100	Angelika Katjatenja	Craft	Otjozondjupa
9	VAC3 25/26-015	Witlook Kamatoto	Visual Arts	Khomas
10	VAC3 25/26-014	David Amukoto	Visual Arts	Khomas
11	VAC3 25/26-017	Faces That Refused To Fade	Visual Arts	Khomas
12	VAC3 25/26-034	Enk Puplic Art Group	Visual Arts	Khomas
13	VAC3 25/26-029	Shanangolo Art Academy	Visual Arts	Oshikoto
14	FAS 3/25/26-001	Nebasgne Group	Fashion Design	Khomas
15	FAS 3/25/26-005	K.Varity Isaacs	Fashion Design	Otjozondjupa
16	FAS 3/25/26-028	Knitting ,Batik And Painting	Fashion Design	Khomas
17	FAS 3/25/26-051	Crochet By Anna	Fashion Design	Omusati
18	MDC/25/26/3/023	The Great Facilitator	MDA	Khomas
19	MDC/25/26/3/044	Nisa Damaradi IGomenigams	MDA	Erongo
20	MDC/25/26/3/049	Tsum Arts	MDA	Oshikoto
21	MDC/25/26/3/053	Zambezi Harmony	MDA	Zambezi
22	MDC/25/26/3/064	Ten Minas	MDA	Kavango West
23	MUC3 25/26/025	Galileo Ndjembo	Music	Khomas
24	MUC3 25/26/021	Yenda Summer Festival	Music	Khomas
25	MUC3 25/26/002	Aron P Nambahu	Music	Khomas
26	MUC3 25/26/041	Let's Sing Ensemble	Music	Khomas
27	MUC3 25/26/018	Tulimeameno N. Twahafifwa	Music	//Kharas
28	MUC3 25/26/067	WMS Group	Music	Omusati
29	CRC 3/25/26/006	IAib Nisab	Dance	Khomas
30	LIT3/25/26/016	Hilma Weber	Literature	Khomas

THE FINNISH SOUTHERN AFRICA COOPERATION INSTITUTE (FSAI) LAUNCHED IN WINDHOEK

The Namibian Scientific Society hosted the launch of the Finnish Southern Africa Cooperation Institute (FSAI), marking a new chapter of collaboration between Finland and Southern Africa in science, education, culture, and business. Established in 2024 and formally registered in Namibia in August 2025, the Institute aims to strengthen knowledge exchange and regional partnerships.

The launch programme included remarks from representatives of both regions and a two day symposium on Desert Agriculture and Food Security. For the arts and culture sector, FSAI opens new opportunities for cultural cooperation, heritage exchange, and creative industry development, strengthening platforms where creativity and cross cultural learning can flourish.





Next Ma/Gaisa Star 2025

This year's Next Ma/Gaisa Star finale delivered an exciting showcase of talent, passion, and cultural pride at the National Theatre of Namibia. Emerging as the winner of Season 4 was Sylvia Haoses, a vibrant young songstress from Okahandja whose stage presence, vocal strength, and connection with the audience set her apart throughout the competition. Her performance journey reflected the determination and creativity that continue to drive the Ma/Gaisa genre forward.

The competition has grown into an important platform for discovering new voices and nurturing artistic development, with strong community support and increased participation this season. The NACN, as one of the supporting partners, is proud to contribute to initiatives that spotlight emerging talent and strengthen cultural expression through music and performance.



OTJOMUISE LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL (OLAF) 2025

The Otjomuise Live Arts Festival (OLAF) held from 31 October to 1 November 2025 at Zoo Park, once again transformed Windhoek's public spaces into a vibrant hub of creativity.

Presented by the National Theatre of Namibia and the Goethe-Institut, and proudly sponsored by the National Arts Council of Namibia, this year's festival embraced the theme "A Garden of Expression", celebrating art that brings communities together.

The event featured an exciting mix of music, dance, performance art, and storytelling, offering free creative experiences to the public and reaffirming the power of the arts to connect, inspire, and cultivate cultural participation.

Snapshots from OLAF 2025



KATUTURA FASHION WEEK 2025

Katutura Fashion Week 2025 lit up Windhoek with a bold celebration of style, identity, and creativity. This year's showcase brought together emerging and established designers who presented fresh, innovative collections inspired by Namibian culture, urban life, and contemporary trends.

The runway also served as a platform for young models and creative entrepreneurs, highlighting the growing influence of fashion within Namibia's creative economy. As one of the country's key fashion showcases, Katutura Fashion Week continues to open doors for local talent and strengthen the visibility of designs on larger platforms.



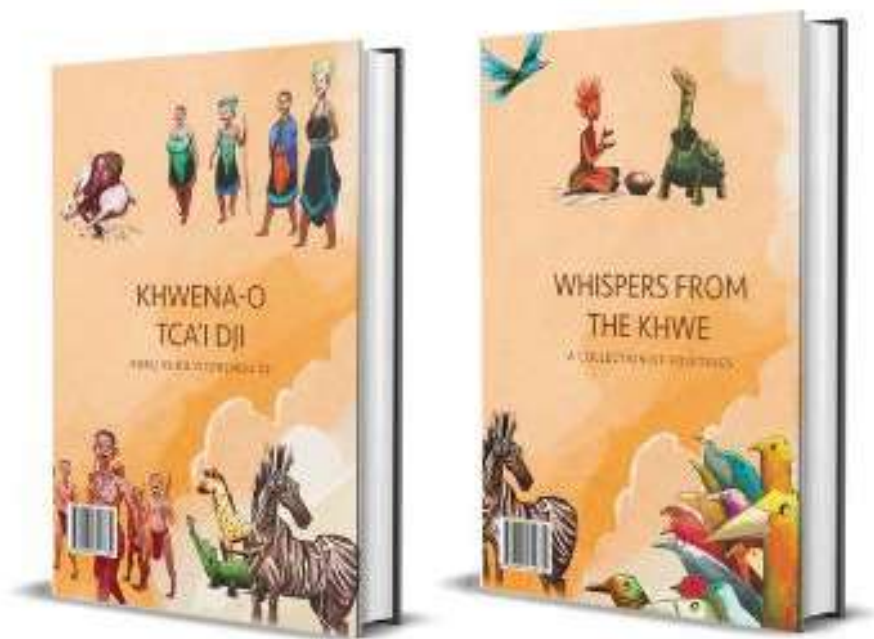


BOOK LAUNCH: SO YOU ARE LEFT-HANDED BY SARAH NEGUMBO

Writer Sarah Negumbo recently launched her latest book, *So You Are Left-Handed*, a publication that delves into the unique experiences, challenges, and social perceptions surrounding left-handed individuals. The event drew readers, educators, and members of the creative community, all gathered to celebrate Negumbo's thoughtful and timely contribution to country's literary space. Her work brings attention to an often overlooked perspective, offering insight and representation for many who share similar experiences.

The NACN, which supported the project, is proud to stand behind authors who bring fresh narratives and culturally relevant stories to the forefront. Through initiatives like this, the Council continues to encourage literary growth, empower writers, and widen the scope of voices shaping Namibia's creative landscape. Negumbo's launch not only highlights the importance of diverse storytelling but also underscores the growing momentum within the local literary community.





BOOK LAUNCH: WHISPERS FROM THE KHWE BY PATRICIA DINYANDO, VOTE NGUGWE & DR. NDAPEWA FENNY NAKANYETE

The NACN proudly joined the launch of *Whispers from the Khwe: A Collection of Folktales* on 29 November 2025 at The Project Room Gallery in Windhoek. Authored by Patricia Dinyando, Vote Ngugwe, and Dr. Ndapewa Fenny Nakanyete, the publication preserves the oral storytelling traditions of the Khwe community, bringing timeless narratives into written form for readers across generations.

Supported through the NACN Grants Programme, the project reflects the importance of cultural preservation and highlights the role of literature in safeguarding indigenous knowledge. At the launch, NACN emphasized the significance of storytelling as a foundation of identity and celebrated the collaborative efforts that made the book possible.

This milestone marks a meaningful contribution to the country's growing body of cultural literature and reaffirms the value of nurturing diverse creative voices.

NACN SHARES INSIGHT AND STRENGTHENS CAPACITY AT KIFA WEEK 2025



As part of KIFA Week 2025 under the theme “Imagine Namibia,” the NACN contributed to key conversations on strengthening Namibia’s creative sector. On 28 November 2025, NACN Administrator Gretta Gaspar presented a session titled “The Funding Bridge: Connecting Artistry and Resources,” guiding artists on accessing funding, improving project proposals, and building sustainable support networks.

Cicle Jacobs, Executive Manager of the Namibia Arts Association and Chairperson of the NACN Interim Board, also shared valuable insights on Intellectual Property (IP) Management, equipping creatives with essential knowledge to protect and monetise their work.

Through this participation in KIFA Week, the NACN continues to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strategic support for the growth of the cultural and creative industries.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Sagarias Tsam at Marafiki Music Festival

This season, Namibia's own Sagarias Tsam took to the stage at the Marafiki Music Festival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, representing the country among a vibrant mix of East-African artists. The Marafiki Music Festival is one of the region's growing live-music platforms, known for showcasing both local and international performers and fostering cultural exchange through concerts and creative workshops. Sagarias's participation at the festival was supported by the NACN, reflecting the Council's ongoing commitment to helping local artists reach wider audiences and expand their international footprint through the Mobility Grant.

Accompanied by Mr. Afron Nyambali as the backup guitarist, the band delivered a captivating performance that added a distinct Namibian voice to Marafiki's celebration of musical diversity.



TOP CHERI LAUNCHES KIDDIES CONCERT 2025

On 1 November 2025, award-winning musician and creative entrepreneur Top Cheri launched the Kiddies Concert 2025, which successfully took place this past weekend on 29 November at the Van Rhyn Primary School sports field. The launch brought together new and returning young performers, with Top Cheri encouraging parents to use the platform to nurture and support their children's talents.

Internationally acclaimed DJ Alba shared an inspiring message with the young audience, emphasizing the importance of balancing academics with creative pursuits. The media launch also featured performances by Mario, Fenny, and Dr Mutota, offering a glimpse of the vibrant talent showcased at the main event.

The concert received support from the NACN, reinforcing the Council's commitment to empowering young creatives and strengthening the cultural landscape.

vibrant moment from the Kiddies Concert 2025 launch



NACN MOBILITY FUND ENABLES NAMIBIAN CREATIVES TO ACCESS GLOBAL PLATFORMS

The NACN continues to empower Namibian creatives through its Mobility Fund, enabling artists to travel, showcase their talents and build international networks. Between April and December 2025, seventeen projects received support, demonstrating the Council's commitment to cultural exchange and artistic growth.

During this period, several creatives received assistance to travel and participate in international festivals, training programmes, cultural exchanges and performances. Among the recipients were Edugame Namibia, which attended Africa Games Week and the Rage Expo in Cape Town, the Atja Pekaravi Youth League, which travelled to Botswana, participants who took part in Berlin Bazaar 2025 in Germany, Ms. Veronica Josefa, who travelled to Australia, and representatives involved in the Marafiki Cultural Music Festival in Tanzania. Further beneficiaries included Ingrid Eichas, Elizabeth Hangara, Maria De Conceicao Lourence and Claudia Hangara, all of whom travelled to China, as well as Julia Nelago Kandjimbi, who attended an engagement in Ethiopia.

The Lutheran Brass Band also travelled to Johannesburg with NACN support, while the Khomas Diverse Choir received mobility assistance for their programme. Additional recipients included Munigandu Hoveka, who travelled to Switzerland, Nghipandulwa Ndakondjelwa, who participated in a programme in the United States, Afro Nyambali, who travelled to Tanzania, and the ensemble People of Song, who also benefitted from the initiative.

The mobility funding reflects NACN's ongoing commitment to enabling artists to access regional and international platforms. By supporting travel and cultural exchange, the Mobility Fund plays a vital role in elevating Namibian talent, fostering cross border collaboration, and expanding the visibility of Namibian creatives around the world.

For many artists, this support has been transformative, opening doors to international stages, new audiences, and professional networks that may lead to future partnerships. It also reinforces NACN's mandate under the National Arts Fund Act I of 2005 to finance arts projects, mobility exchanges, bursaries, and capacity-building initiatives that strengthen a vibrant and inclusive creative sector.

As the Mobility Fund continues to run alongside other NACN programmes, artists are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

LAUNCH OF THE PROP-ONGANDA PROPS & COSTUME WAREHOUSE

The Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Emma Theofelus, officially launched the Prop-Onganda Props and Costume Warehouse at the Creators Industry Institute of Africa (CIIA) in Windhoek on Tuesday, marking a significant leap forward for Namibia's evolving film and creative sectors.

Speaking at the event, Minister Theofelus highlighted the importance of this new facility, noting that the creative industry is driven by young people who are eager to take up space but require platforms, infrastructure and sustained support to thrive. She reaffirmed her Ministry's commitment, through the Namibian Film Commission to strengthening the creative ecosystem by advancing progressive policy, expanding digital and production infrastructure, and fostering partnerships that stimulate innovation and investment.

The establishment of Prop-Onganda arrives at a critical moment for the local creative economy, as Namibia continues to see rising growth in film, performing arts, fashion and digital media. The new warehouse provides filmmakers and creatives with access to a wide range of professional props and costume resources, enabling higher quality productions and increased competitiveness on regional and international platforms.

Beyond improving production capacity, the facility also reinforces national efforts to empower young creatives, create jobs and promote cultural expression. By providing practical tools and lowering barriers for emerging artists, Prop-Onganda contributes to a more inclusive and dynamic creative environment, one that supports storytelling, nurtures new talent, and strengthens Namibia's creative identity both at home and abroad.





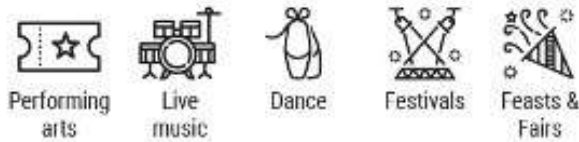
CREATIVE FUTURES PROGRAMME: PITCH DAY SHOWCASES NAMIBIA'S EMERGING CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURS

The Creative Futures Programme celebrated a key milestone on Saturday, 29 November 2025, as Basecamp Business Incubator hosted its Pitch Day at CcHub in Windhoek. Supported by the National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN), the programme provided training, mentorship, and business development support to 80 young creatives through its Ideation and Incubation phases.

The Top 20 participants presented their ventures after advancing through a competitive and transparent selection process. Fifteen participants successfully registered their businesses or secured name reservations with BIPA, positioning them for future investment and market opportunities.

The event highlighted the programme's growing impact in nurturing creative entrepreneurship, strengthening the creative economy, and empowering young Namibians to transform their ideas into sustainable enterprises.



A. Cultural and natural heritage**B. Performance and celebration****C. Visual arts and crafts****D. Books and Press****E. Audio-visual and interactive media****F. Design and creative services**

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL CCI STRATEGY 2025–2030 CONSULTATIONS

The Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports and Culture, through the Directorate of Arts and in partnership with UNESCO Namibia, will officially launch the National Consultations for the Draft Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) Strategy 2025–2030 on the 08-12 December 2025. This launch marks the beginning of a nationwide effort to define a sustainable, inclusive, and forward-looking vision for Namibia's creative economy.

Following the launch, sector-based consultations will also run from 8–12 December 2025, inviting participation from artists, cultural practitioners, creative entrepreneurs, institutions, and the public. The sessions will be hosted at the National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) and the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC).

The consultations will focus on key sectors of the creative ecosystem, including Cultural & Heritage, Performance & Celebration, Visual Arts, Craft and Design, Books & Press, Audio Visual & Interactive Media, and Design & Creative Services.

This process underscores the Ministry's commitment to collaborative policymaking and ensuring that voices from across the country help shape the implementation priorities of the creative future.



*Merry
Christmas*

www.artscouncilnam.org