



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Introduction:

Bayimba would like to take this opportunity to thank (Africalia) for the outstanding 2022/2026 programme and institutional support that constitutes as the organisation's financial base in addition to other cultural partners, private sector, individual donors, registered members and our fans.

This year, Bayimba has effortlessly invested with optimism and support at all levels to uplift the human and creative spirit of our industry professionals, community and stakeholders with its programmes and activities. This annual report gives insight and reflection into what activities and events have been achieved and challenges we met in 2024 as we embraced the good vibes floating around from the waters of Lake Victoria, and fresh air from the natural ecosystem which we continue to study in a way of coexistence with nature at Lunkulu Island for sustainable development.

Who We Are:

Bayimba Cultural Foundation Ltd, established in June 2006 and formally registered in November 2007, has long been a beacon of cultural innovation and artistic development in Uganda and East Africa. Since its inception, Bayimba has been committed to fostering a dynamic and sustainable arts and culture sector, driving social and economic development through the transformative power of the arts.

At the heart of our mission is the Bayimba International Festival of the Arts, Uganda's first multi-arts festival, which debuted in 2008 and has since become a landmark event on the cultural calendar. The festival showcases a wide range of artistic expressions including music, dance, theater, visual arts, and storytelling, promoting a rich cultural exchange both locally and globally.

Beyond organizing events, Bayimba is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of artists and creatives. Through various programs, workshops,

and collaborations, we provide emerging talent with the tools and opportunities they need to grow and thrive. Our commitment to cultural exchange and capacity-building has helped position Uganda as a key cultural hub on the African continent.

Guided by our core values of respect, shared leadership, transparency, accountability, learning, and collaboration, we remain focused on uplifting the arts and culture sector, ensuring that our organization continues to be a vital source of creativity, inspiration, and cultural enrichment.

Our Mission:

Bayimba's mission is to uplift music and arts in Uganda and East Africa by promoting original intra-and intercultural exchange and creativity, contributing to making Uganda and East Africa a significant hub for music and arts in Africa.

Our Vision:

The foundation envisions a vibrant arts and culture sector that is professional, creative, innovative, and viable, contributing to social and economic development in Uganda and East Africa.

Our Goals and Objectives:

To achieve its mission and vision, Bayimba has set the following strategic directions:

- **Advocacy** // to develop the profile of arts and culture.
- **Arts Education** // to promote creativity, professionalism, and entrepreneurship.

- **Festivals/Events** // to organize quality arts events and develop market connections.
- **Organizational Development** // to enhance the organization's capacity and brand.
- **Lasting (Infra)structures** // to establish sustainable arts infrastructures.

These strategic directions guide Bayimba in its commitment to nurturing the arts and culture sector, ensuring its growth and sustainability for the benefit of artists and communities alike. These strategic goals have also been a road map to Bayimba's activities as described in the following activities which are categorised as per the company objectives.

Advocacy:



In 2024, Bayimba made significant strides in advocacy, aligning with its strategic objective to develop the profile of arts and culture in Uganda and East Africa. A notable achievement was the publication of the report titled ["Mapping the Current Landscape of the Culture and Creative Industries in Uganda."](#) This comprehensive study, commissioned by the British Council, Bayimba Cultural Foundation in partnership with Africalia, Cross Cultural Foundation Uganda, Kuonyesha Arts Fund, and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, aimed to analyze the state of Uganda's culture and creative industries, focusing on post-COVID-19 shifts and digital-led opportunities.

The research provided valuable insights into the characteristics, business models, and scaling opportunities within Uganda's creative sectors, including fashion, creative technology, film, literature, performing arts, visual arts and crafts. It also identified current investments in creative businesses and highlighted emerging sectors with strong implementation capacity. By mapping key clusters and growth opportunities, the study offered recommendations for stimulating growth, fostering innovation, and enhancing sustainability within the creative industries.

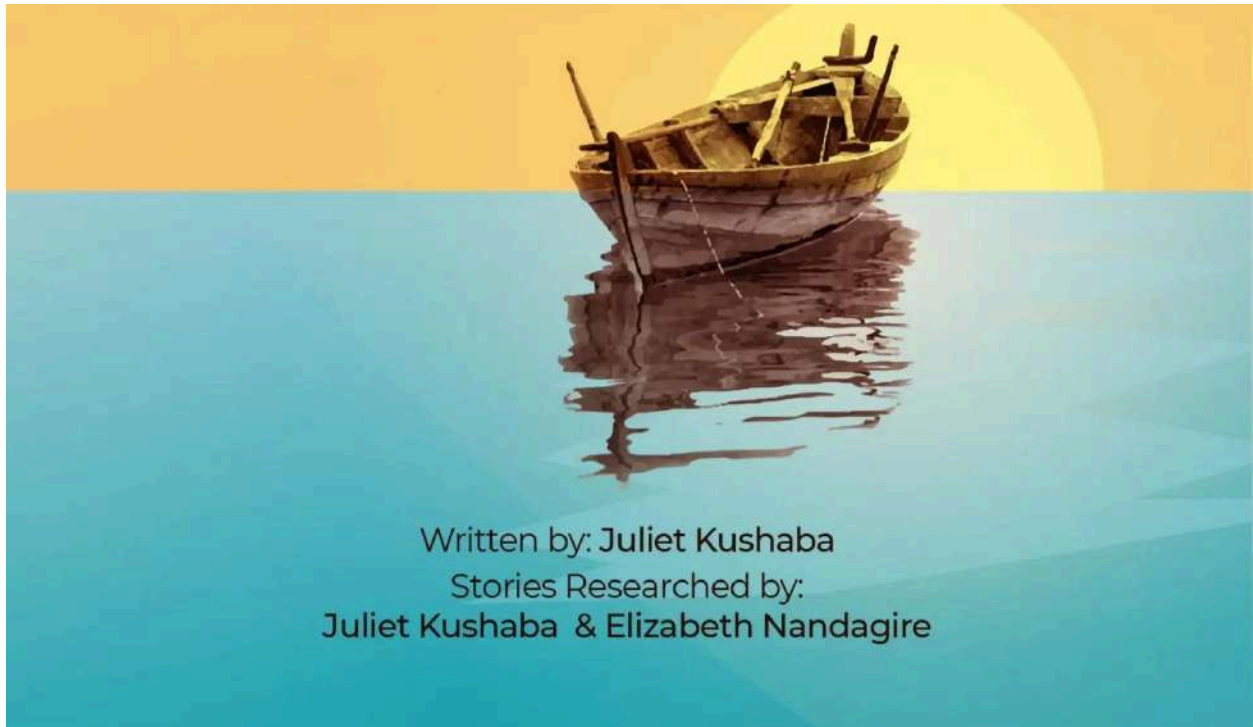
This advocacy effort underscores Bayimba's commitment to informing policy development, guiding investment strategies, and fostering a more robust and sustainable creative economy in Uganda. By providing a detailed analysis of the current landscape, the foundation has equipped stakeholders with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions that support the growth and development of the arts and culture sector.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

In 2024, further studies and publications were made to assess [Bayimba's activity alignment](#) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this study assessment highlighted the significant effort the organisation has been making towards these global goals and working towards addressing the challenges we face. Including but not limited to climate justice, equal opportunities for all, community development, access to education and economic empowerment of the youth through its arts education programmes. The organisation continues to exhibit remarkable commitment to advancing the SDGs across various sectors, thereby fostering socio-economic prosperity and cultural vibrancy within its communities.



Written by: Juliet Kushaba
Stories Researched by:
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Furthermore to the organization's efforts, Bayimba published two research findings – one documenting the lives of the communities living around the surroundings of the Bayimba Centre. Through an evaluation process, nine individuals were selected with outstanding stories that Bayimba thought could add to the community tourism and enforce the idea of a shared development plan for the community in which the organisation finds itself as a new neighbour. The research documentation titled [“Emboози Teba Nkadde”](#) was shared to the public. Bayimba intends to continue documenting more community stories, hold exhibitions of the participants and make documentary films in the future.

The other publication's research aimed at documenting the work of Bayimba over the years since its founding. Due to the fact there is less information about the processes of conceptualising sustainability creative initiatives in Uganda. And Bayimba being one of the first multi-disciplinary arts organizations that has stood the test of time. It was deemed relevant to share with the public some of the insights in its endeavors. This research

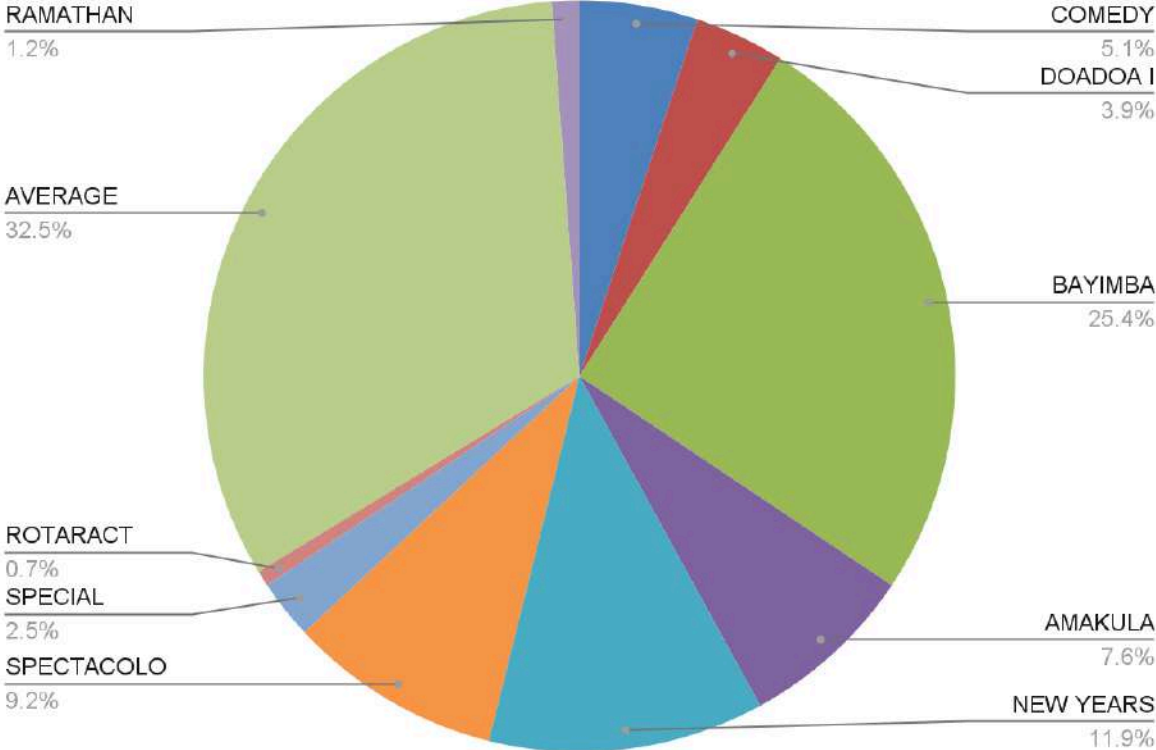
publication serves as a preliminary version of a forthcoming book titled [“Stimulating Creativity and Empowering Artistic Expressions”](#).



Photo by Samuel Okocha –

One of Bayimba’s ongoing efforts to lobby and advocate for cultural institutional development is the establishment of spaces to give more access to creative content creation, expressions and showcase of artistic works. That is why the organisation continues to elevate the arts and culture sector with its ambitious but essential establishment of the [Bayimba Centre for Visual and Performing Arts](#) on Lunkulu Island. This ecologically sensitive cultural ecosystem aims to provide artists with a professional and holistic space for collaboration, creative development, and community engagement. By cultivating a vibrant arts environment, the Centre further aims at contributing to the social, economic, and human capital development in Uganda.

Bayimba Annual Events, Festivals and Activity Attendance and Outreach



COMEDY WEEKEND	300
DOADOA I PERFORMING ARTS MARKET	230
BAYIMBA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL	1,500
AMAKULA FESTIVAL	450
NEW YEARS RAVE	700
SPECTACOLO PROJECT	543
SPECIAL EVENTS AT LUNKULU ISLAND	150
ROTARACT CLUB	40
AVERAGE ANNUAL WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	1920
RAMATHAN IFTAR EVENT	70
TOTAL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE	5,943

Arts Education:



Introducing the accordion to local music in Uganda ...

Each year, the Bayimba Arts education programme reaches further within the arts community to offer opportunities to budding and emerging artists. This continuous effort aims at balancing the growth and leveling the different sectors in the arts to develop at the same level. Whereas in the past, the organisation has invested in arts journalism training, video and photography, contemporary dance, street theatre and video mapping among others. In 2024, Bayimba thought to continue contributing to arts education through more various initiatives aimed to further foster creativity, professionalism, and innovation within Uganda and the East African arts community.

Bayimba Centre for Visual and Performing Arts

A cornerstone of Bayimba's commitment to arts education is the development of the Bayimba Centre for Visual and Performing Arts on Lunkulu Island. This ecologically sensitive creative space is designed to accommodate the foundation's growing annual festivals and events, as well as provide a platform for arts education accessible to all, especially the disadvantaged youth, women and rightsholder groups. The continues with its development masterplan whose phase is on developing arts education infrastructure that will facilitate year round training programmes that will serve both artists and local communities with workshops, masterclasses and residencies of various art forms, thereby enhancing the cultural business environment in Uganda.

Workshops and Capacity-Building Programs

Throughout the year, Bayimba organized workshops and capacity-building programs focused on enhancing artistic skills and promoting entrepreneurship among local artists. These initiatives provided participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the evolving arts landscape, thereby contributing to the overall development of the creative sector. Some of the workshops and training in this capacity were in person and others online. For example – during DOADOA, several industry professionals were welcomed to participate in conferences and talk shows with some of the industry professionals. The Spectacolo theatre programme also explored alternative ways of skills development within the theatre business and offered recommendations for policy to the government.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Bayimba's activities in 2024 were aligned with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Quality Education (SDG 4). By

offering educational programs and fostering cultural exchanges, the organisation played a pivotal role in preserving local knowledge and promoting inclusive education within the arts community.

Through these efforts, Bayimba demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing arts education, thereby nurturing a vibrant and sustainable creative ecosystem in Uganda.

Spectacolo Training Workshop

Bayimba joined an Erasmus+ consortium project with industry professionals from Greece, Capo Verde, Serbia, Rwanda and Uganda to deliver the Spectacolo training workshops. These training enhanced theatre practitioners' skills in live-streaming performances. The Live Streaming Workshop, led by Bayimba, covered essential topics like equipment setup, sound and lighting design, and audience engagement, using tools like OBS and DaVinci Resolve.

Despite recruitment challenges, 115 applicants signed up to the online training, with only 13 successfully completing final assignments and earning certificates. The training was delivered over ten weekly sessions, addressing technical aspects and best practices for live streaming. The rest of the registered participants did not complete the training because of internet cost challenges and late hours of the programme due to the different time zones for all partner countries that were jointly managing the programme.

The workshop reinforced Bayimba's dedication to arts education, providing valuable learning experiences for theatre professionals and fostering creative growth.

Ethno Uganda 2024

Bayimba hosted its third edition of the Ethno Uganda folklore and traditional collaboration exchange from September 7 to 15, 2024, at Lunkulu Island. This music exchange program brought together 15 young musicians from Uganda, Malawi, and Serbia to collaborate and learn traditional and world

music under the mentorship of Ernesto Calderon (Chile), Matyas Egervári (Hungary), and Sandra K (Uganda).

Participants created 11 songs, six of which were professionally recorded, and performed at the Bayimba International Festival.



Ethno Uganda 2024 participants jamming at Lunkulu Island.

Whereas Bayimba takes pride in organising the Ethno programme, Ethno is JM International's program for folk, world and traditional music. Founded in 1990, aimed at young musicians (up to the age of 30) with a mission to revive and keep alive global cultural heritage.

The programme is presently in over 40 countries and on all 6 continents, Ethno engages young people through a series of annual international music camps as well as workshops, concerts and tours, working together with schools, conservatories and other groups of youth to promote peace, tolerance and understanding. At the core of Ethno is its democratic, peer to

peer learning approach whereby young people teach each other the music from their countries and cultures. It is a non-formal pedagogy that has been refined over the past 33 years, embracing the principles of intercultural dialogue and understanding. Ethno provides a unique opportunity for young people from across the globe to come together and engage through music in a manner that is characterised by respect, generosity and openness.

The goal of Ethno is to inspire musicians through these interactions to deepen their musical interests and to build a global network that supports their careers. Each Ethno music camp combines workshops, jam sessions, rehearsals and performances that enable participants to develop both personal and professional skills. Through Ethno, musicians gain a greater understanding of each other's cultures. At Ethno, music is a powerful tool that fosters inclusion, understanding and acceptance.

Bayimba as a national member of JMI and a sitting Ethno committee member leverages this opportunity to continue organising this event to strengthen their skills in music arrangement and cultural preservation.

Mural Art Workshop at Bayimba International Festival



Hannah working on the Mural during the Bayimba Festival 2024

The Mural Art Workshop, led by Egyptian mural artist Ms. Hannah Medhat, was a highlight of the Bayimba International Festival. Participants of all skill levels engaged in mural design and painting, transforming our newly built Lunkulu office into a vibrant creative and artistic space. Hannah's mural concept over the walls of the office reflected ideal imaginations of the connection between Uganda and Egypt. Understanding that Egypt significantly depends on the River Nile that has her source in Uganda – the artists designed and created works in symbolisms to the narratives of the African ancestry – making a case for a united heritage between the two countries.

The artist was joined by a Ugandan based Central African Republic visual artist, Fatuma Hassan in developing the mural concept research. They were further joined by a community of other artists attending the festival to complete the one week long mural painting project.

The outcomes of this project led to – 1) an enhanced visual environment around Lunkulu Island, 2) a shared skills experience, technique and conceptualisation, 3) a fostered community outreach, collaboration and exchange of ideas with all participants involved.

Bayimba Cultural Foundation extends gratitude to Ms. Hana Medhat and all participants for their creative contributions, which have left a lasting artistic legacy at the Foundation's cultural center.

Skilled Expressive Entrepreneurial Designers (SEED) Project 2024



Fashion concept and showcase at Bayimba Festival.

The SEED Project is a fashion project designed by Ras Kasozi and first supported by US Mission Kampala under the mentorship of Ras Kasozi himself. The objective of this project is to promote fashion entrepreneurship among the youth in Uganda's fashion scene.

The project started with 10 designers in 2014. Each year, SEED trains 20 designers from at least 4 regions in Uganda growing the numbers to 70 designers. 10 designers are selected to showcase their creation in the following fashion events and shows like at the U.S Embassy's Ambassador's residence, Kampala Fashion Week, and at the Bayimba International Festival of the Arts. Since 2017, the project has partnered with Bayimba and Africalia. By utilizing Africalia's support SEED educates and promotes it's vision by giving a platform to emerging fashion designers to take their careers to the next stage by collaborating to set a high standard for Uganda's fashion through the complete process of fashion designing from initial inspiration, design, garment production right through to the final fashion show and introduction to the marketplace.

Ras Kasozi is passionate about nurturing creative entrepreneurship for young Africans, transforming job seekers into job creators by developing job opportunities, connecting stakeholders within an existing ecosystem so that they can continue to thrive. The project also puts emphasis on celebrating identity that significantly supports social-economic development.

Each year, the project process starts with scouting for talent from targeted groups across the country, especially vulnerable women. The 2024 edition focused on seeking interest and talent for fashion from Uganda's central and eastern region including rightsholder groups from the communities around the Bayimba Centre. A seven days training with all necessary materials is held on the island as designers put in use their newly acquired skills to develop and prepare garments for the public fashion showcase. To keep the community excited and engaged during this showcase event at the festival, the audience is invited to participate in the fashion show by trying on the students' garments and modeling along the runway to acquire the title of Miss and Mr. Lunkulu.

Events and Festivals:



Audiences having fun at the Bayimba Festival

The Bayimba annual events and festivals, including the Comedy Weekend, Amakula Film Festival, Bayimba International Festival, DOADOA, and the New Years Rave, collectively celebrate and promote the vibrant cultural scene in Uganda and from around the world. The Amakula Film Festival showcases African cinema with a mix of alternative hybrid local and regional productions, offering a platform for filmmakers to present their work, while the Bayimba International Festival focuses on various art forms, bringing together local and international artists for performances, workshops and masterclasses. DOADOA serves as a music market that connects artists and industry professionals, fostering collaboration and growth within the music sector. Finally, the New Years Rave offers an energetic celebration to usher in the new year, featuring DJs and live performances, making it a vibrant conclusion to the festive season. Together, these events enrich Uganda's cultural landscape and encourage community engagement through art and creativity.

The Comedy Weekend 2024

Bayimba's Comedy Weekend is a lively event that brings together comedians from Uganda and beyond to entertain audiences (mainly from the local community) with fresh, local humor. The weekend typically features a variety of comedy acts, including stand-up performances, improvisation, and sketch comedy, showcasing the talents of both emerging and established comedians. The event aims to provide a platform for comedic expression while fostering a sense of community through laughter. It serves as an enjoyable gathering for comedy lovers offering a relaxed atmosphere where audiences can connect and share in the joy of entertainment.

Artists like Amooti Omubalanguzi, Madrat and Chiko, Bizoonto, Teacher Mpamire have graced the Comedy Weekend stage before. This year, the event highlighted one of the legendary female comedian, entertainer, singer songwriter, radio and television host Justine Nantume. In an effort to make a case for the role and contribution of female comedians in Uganda but also encourage them to start planning and organising their own independent events across the country - even in far away communities like Lunkulu Island.



Justine Nantume at Comedy Weekend 2024

DOADOA | East African Performing Arts Market 2024

DOADOA | East African Performing Arts Market continues to serve as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange, professional development, and artistic collaboration. From the 23rd to the 25th of May 2024, the event unfolded at the Speke Hotel and Sheraton Hotel gardens, bringing together stakeholders from across the region to explore new opportunities and foster creativity.

The event commenced with an opening ceremony on the 21st of May at the Speke Hotel, setting the stage for delegates' networking engagement and fruitful exchange with an amazing performance from Kenneth Mugabi and a wonderful keynote address on culture and diplomacy in Uganda today by Mr. Alex Mukulu which was followed by a conversation question and answer session moderated by arts journalist and columnist Andrew Kaggwa Mayiga.



Conference delegates at DOADOA 2024

Conference Highlights // Throughout the event, attendees had the opportunity to participate in insightful conferences with esteemed panelists,

including Mr. Alex Mukulu, Mr. Jeff Ekongot, Mr. Charles Batambuze, Mr. Martin Musoke, Mr. Derek Debru, and Mr. Faisal KIWEWA, shared valuable insights on advancing the arts and cultural industry. These sessions were designed to equip participating delegates with practical knowledge and strategies to enhance the sector's growth and sustainability.

Networking Opportunities // A key aspect of DOADOA East African Performing Arts Market 2024 was the facilitation of meaningful connections among attendees. Five festival directors who included Mr. Eddie Hatitye from Zimbabwe, Aziza Ongala from Tanzania, Ramadan Journey Abdallah from Zanzibar, Iragena Rodrigue from Rwanda and Shabani Ramadhan were invited by the Bayimba Foundation team, providing a platform for interaction with artists and paving the way for future collaborations and opportunities within the East African performing arts landscape.

Performance Showcase // The market featured captivating performances by renowned artists such as Dory Marshall, Baba Raa, Kenneth Mugabi, Andereya Baguma, and Spyda Mc. Their electrifying performances not only entertained attendees but also showcased the rich diversity of talent prevalent within the region. These artists also had the opportunity to engage with festival directors, furthering the potential for cross-border collaborations and artistic exchanges.

Audience Engagement // Approximately 230 individuals attended the event in person, with a gender distribution of 160 men and 70 women. Additionally, the event reached significant online viewership, with over 1000 individuals accessing the market through various digital platforms, extending its reach beyond physical boundaries. This widespread engagement underscores the event's impact and reach within the East African performing arts community.

Appreciation for Exceptional Hosting // Speke Hotel's exemplary facilities and services provided attendees with a comfortable and conducive environment for networking, learning, and artistic expression. From accommodating conference sessions to ensuring the seamless flow of event

activities, Speke Hotel's support was instrumental in enhancing the overall experience for participants.

Acknowledgment of Support from Uganda Wildlife Authority // The Uganda Wildlife Authority's cooperation and assistance were invaluable in facilitating the event's success. Their collaboration ensured the smooth coordination of any activities associated with the event, enriching the overall experience for attendees and contributing to the event's holistic approach to cultural exchange and appreciation.

DOADOA 2024 emerged as a resounding success, fostering a dynamic space for innovative, collaborative, and artistic exchanges. The comprehensive program, coupled with the dedication of the Bayimba Foundation team, ensured an enriching experience for all participants. As we reflect on the achievements of this year's event, we look forward to building upon its successes and continuing to nurture the growth and vibrancy of the East African performing arts sector in the years to come.

Bayimba International Festival 2024

The 16th edition of the Bayimba International Festival 2024 dazzled several audiences with an electrifying celebration of creativity and culture, transforming Uganda into a vibrant tapestry of artistic expression surrounded by the serene natural tree canopies at Lunkulu Island. From the 11th – 15th September, the non-stop programme offered an unforgettable experience – day and night, featuring a delightful fusion of music, dance, theater, fashion, visual arts and sports games that captivates the senses. Those who spent all the five days at Lunkulu Island were enthralled by both local talents and international artists who graced the stage, delivering performances that resonated with cultural richness, authenticity and innovation. From thought-provoking workshops and engaging panel discussions to mesmerizing art exhibitions, the festival invited attendees to immerse themselves in a world where tradition meets modernity. As a beacon of creativity, Bayimba 2024 continues to ignite passion, foster

community connections, and inspire a collective journey through the transformative power of the arts.



Maria Brancha at Bayimba Festival

The festival featured a diverse lineup of artists, both local and international, performing across various genres. Notable performances included:

September 11, 2024 // Andereya Baguma, Baba Raa, The Rasta, Cosign Yenze, Sami Guitare, Vanjo Black, House of Reggae.

September 12, 2024 // Big Lion Turbulence (Jamaica), Smooth Groovers (Malawi), Charles Obina, BYG Ben Sukuya, Sali wa Afrika Band, Angel Adio Black Queen, Jerry Dee, Dimitri and The Scarecrow (Zimbabwe), Masaka Masaka.

September 13, 2024 // Daxx Kartel, Andy Mwag (Burundi), Fik Gaza, Jowy Landa, Kagayi Ngobi, Betina Namukasa, Zoey the Storyteller, Masta Luminary (Kenya).

September 14, 2024 // Kalifah Aganaga, Viboyo Oweyo, Raven Duchess (Zimbabwe), Happy Kyazze, Vyper Ranking, Doryn Marshal, Charmic Ssentongo, ZNYUKE, Since88, Irs MDNYT, Leo and Bazil.

September 15, 2024 // Zambe Live (Togo), Exodus, Spyda Mc, Nasibo Mutize (Zimbabwe), Mwenya Troupe, Kasozi Juma, Karibu Youth Performers, DJ KRYSKROSS, Shanaritha Evans (Kenya), Crazy Mind, Authentic Voices Africa, Skills East Africa, Mumba Collective Workshop.

DJs such as DJ Max, DJ Complex, DJ Mambo, DJ Harvey (Dubai), DJ Anold (Rwanda), DJ Sorge Richard, DJ Kreed, DJ Maili, DJ Nervy (Rwanda), DJ Mrvn, Stunna, DJ Ed Hilmer, DJ Treva, DJ T Fire Baby, Kharts MC, Patrim Nayo, DJ Selecta GMI, Street Boy, DJ Frost Mfalme (Switzerland), DJ Doro, DJ Kibs, DJ Kris Marvinz, and DJ Skipa also contributed to the festival's dynamic atmosphere.

The 2024 Bayimba International Festival successfully achieved its mission of fostering cultural exchange, promoting artistic expression, and providing a platform for emerging talents – the organisation aims to make each year of the festival a much better experience for all stakeholder and artisans alike.

Amakula Film Festival 2024



Children from the local school attending a film workshop at Amakula

The AMAKULA film festival 2024, presented at Lunkulu Island from the 15th and 16th November continues to be a groundbreaking cinematic experience for the local communities neighboring the Bayimba Centre, showcasing the best of independent films in a cutting-edge 3D cinema format. This innovative approach not only caters to film enthusiasts but also provides a unique platform for community engagement, influential local tourism party goers particularly the young audiences. Through its community film workshop, Amakula once again introduced aspiring young filmmakers and local school children to the art of storytelling, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to trigger their creative emotions and future hopes in life. By combining indie films, 3D cinema technology, and community outreach, AMAKULA film festival 2024 made a lasting impact on Uganda's local film culture, while inspiring a new generation of filmmakers and film enthusiasts.

For Amakula to reach the hearts of its target audience, the Bayimba management teamed up with the local authorities and schools to bring their children and film students to experience with professional equipment and

experts the processes, commitment and concentration needed to come up with a moving image that they see daily on screen. Over 80 students participated in these hands-on sessions—covering everything from camera operation to editing—complemented by informative island tours on environmental sustainability. The festival attracted around 250 in-person attendees and over 200 online viewers. Looking ahead, plans include investing in outdoor screens and expanding training opportunities to further support Uganda’s film industry.



Children from the local school attending a film workshop at Amakula

New Year's Rave 2024

On December 31, 2024, the Bayimba Centre on Lunkulu Island hosted the 3rd edition of the New Year's Rave, the culminating event of the organisation's annual events and festival calendar. The celebration combined dynamic sports competitions—featuring football matches and bicycle races with monetary prizes—with lively musical performances by local talents such as Kasozi, Angel Ssekandi, Deejay Kayrah, and others, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display to welcome the new year.



New Years Rave Fireworks at Lunkulu Island

The event was marked by strong community involvement, drawing about 200 in-person attendees and engaging over 500 viewers online through effective outreach. This vibrant celebration not only showcased local culture and talent but also reinforced Bayimba's commitment to fostering cultural exchange and community development.

Future recommendations include further enhancing local participation, expanding outreach efforts, diversifying activities to cater to all ages, and implementing systematic post-event evaluations to continuously improve the experience.



New Years Rave local audiences at Lunkulu Island

Infrastructure and Organizational Development Achievements in 2024



The new Bayimba Office at Lunkulu Island

In 2024, the organisation made significant strides in infrastructure and organizational capacity development with the aim of improving its activity operations on the island.

It started with the second phase of completing the office, painted and further improved with the artistic mural done during the festival in September. In addition, Bayimba also embarked on the landscaping effort by planting over 1,500 trees on the island as a way of continuing to maintain the holistic idea of maintaining nature and the natural ecosystem. It also managed to install a clean and safe water system from the local source that

helped the organisation to reduce the water labour service that was costing so much especially during events and festivals.

By the end of 2025, Bayimba hopes to have completed its modern washrooms, an access road through the swamp that connects the island to the mainland and a few residence houses for artists and regular guests that continue to visit the centre on a weekly basis.



The artistic impression of the yet to be built washrooms at the Bayimba Centre, Lunkulu Island

Conclusion

The year 2024 has been a remarkable chapter for Bayimba Cultural Foundation, marked by creative innovation, impactful community engagement, and combined significant strides in art and space development. The organisation continues to show its unwavering commitment to fostering socio-economic development and opportunities within the arts.

As Bayimba Cultural Foundation looks to the future, it remains steadfast in its mission to nurture creativity, support local talent, and build a functional vibrant cultural space that inspires innovation and collaboration. The successes of 2024 serve as a solid foundation for even greater achievements in the years ahead.