

LEGACY
ARTS
FOUNDATION



IMPACT REPORT

SINCE
INCEPTION
FY 2025

Founder's Note

My relationship with art began with curiosity.

As a young person, an uncle encouraged me to look closely at what I was seeing, to ask questions about African art and what it carried within it. Years later, while living in London, I watched African art gain new visibility on the global stage. When I returned home and began collecting Nigerian art, I did so intentionally and that early curiosity deepened into something more lasting: a sense of responsibility.

01



As I spent time with artists trained in Nigeria and those working across different contexts, a pattern became clear. Talent was not the issue and neither was commitment. What was often missing were the less visible but equally essential skills and supports: the ability to articulate one's work clearly, to engage confidently with collectors and institutions, and to navigate a global art world that places heavy demands on artists beyond the studio.

Legacy Arts Foundation was born from this understanding. Education has always mattered deeply to me, so scholarships became a natural starting point. But it was equally clear that tuition alone was not enough. Artists also needed guidance, mentorship, and the so-called "soft" skills - the ability to engage collectors, institutions, and the public with clarity and purpose.

In the early years, much of this support was informal. Artists reached out directly in moments of need, and I responded where I could. These individual acts of patronage were meaningful, but they also had their limits. Without structure, documentation, or continuity, impact could not be fully understood or sustained. Over time, it became clear that if this work was to endure, it had to move beyond the individual and into the institutional.

I believe deeply that organizations – when well governed and thoughtfully designed – can outlive their founders, evolve with time, and remain relevant long after the original problem they set out to address has changed. This belief shaped the formal establishment of Legacy Arts Foundation and continues to guide its evolution.

The year 2025 was an important turning point. The Foundation gained momentum, expanded its activities, and began to operate with greater clarity of purpose and structure. This first Impact Report reflects that moment. It looks back to capture our journey since inception, and it marks the beginning of a more intentional practice of measuring, learning from, and strengthening our work.

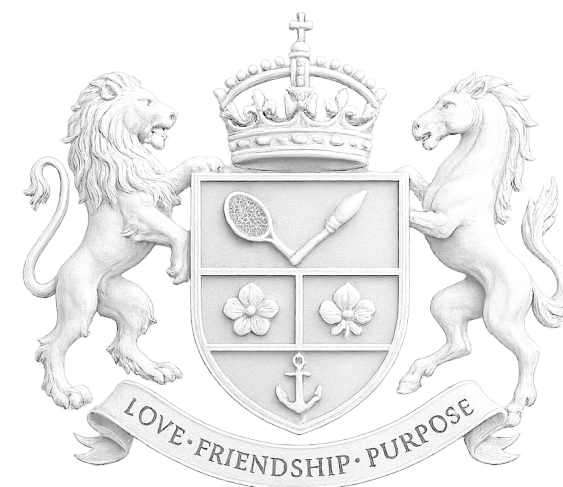
I am deeply grateful to the artists, educators, partners, and team members who have helped to shape this work. This report is an invitation to continue building, together, a future where African artists are supported not by chance, but by design.

Warmly,

Niyi Adenubi

Niyi Adenubi
Founder, Legacy Arts Foundation

"I believe deeply that organizations – when well-governed and thoughtfully designed – can outlive their founders, evolve with time, and remain relevant long after the original problem they set out to address has changed."



About Legacy Arts Foundation

Legacy Arts Foundation exists to ensure that artistic talent in Africa is not lost to circumstance, but supported with intention, continuity, and care.

Founded in Lagos in 2021, Legacy Arts Foundation (LAF) grew out of years of close engagement with artists, educators, and cultural practitioners working within Nigeria and across the continent. What began as individual acts of patronage has evolved into a deliberate effort to build structures that support artists over time.

Today, LAF works across education, practice and patronage guided by the belief that African art and artists thrive best when supported by systems designed to endure.

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Mission + Vision

The Foundation supports art students through tuition assistance and mentorship, provides flexible grants to artists and organizations to help them produce and present work, convenes local and international ecosystem players, and manages cultural assets with long-term responsibility. These efforts are focused on helping artists remain engaged in their practice and on strengthening the institutions that support them.

An important part of this work is the stewardship of the Niyi Adenubi Family Collection, which reflects a long-standing commitment to modern and contemporary African art. The collection is managed both as a body of works and as a means of engagement with artists, collectors, and institutions. Through loans to other individual collectors as well as major institutions in Nigeria, London, and France, the collection contributes to the visibility and positioning of African artistic practice within broader cultural contexts.

LAF's vision is of an African arts ecosystem in which education, mentorship, production, and preservation are supported by structures designed to endure.

Legacy Arts Foundation's mission is to protect and project African cultural heritage by investing in artists, educators, institutions, and collections.



Untitled. Ben Enwonwu, 1962, ceramic with bronze patination

Philosophy of Support

Legacy Arts Foundation's approach to support is shaped by the realities of making art in Nigeria and across the African continent, where talent is abundant but access to resources is uneven.

Before LAF existed as an institution, artists often reached out directly to our founder when they needed help, whether to pursue a fine arts education, access materials, or take up an opportunity. From inception through 2024, LAF's giving was largely responsive, grounded in trust and proximity, and focused on practical needs.

In 2025, this approach became more structured. While responsive support remains important, LAF is now focused on building systems that can sustain artists and institutions over time, without losing the flexibility that first defined its work.

At its core, our philosophy reflects a simple belief: that culture is sustained through expression, but also through consistent support, shared responsibility, and care across generations.

Photo: New recipients of the LAF Scholarship from University of Lagos present new works as gifts to LAF Founder at a *(italics)* Meet the Scholars 2025 event.



The LAF Scholarship Program

Photo: 2025 Recipients of the Legacy Arts Foundation scholarship from the University of Lagos and Yaba College of Technology.

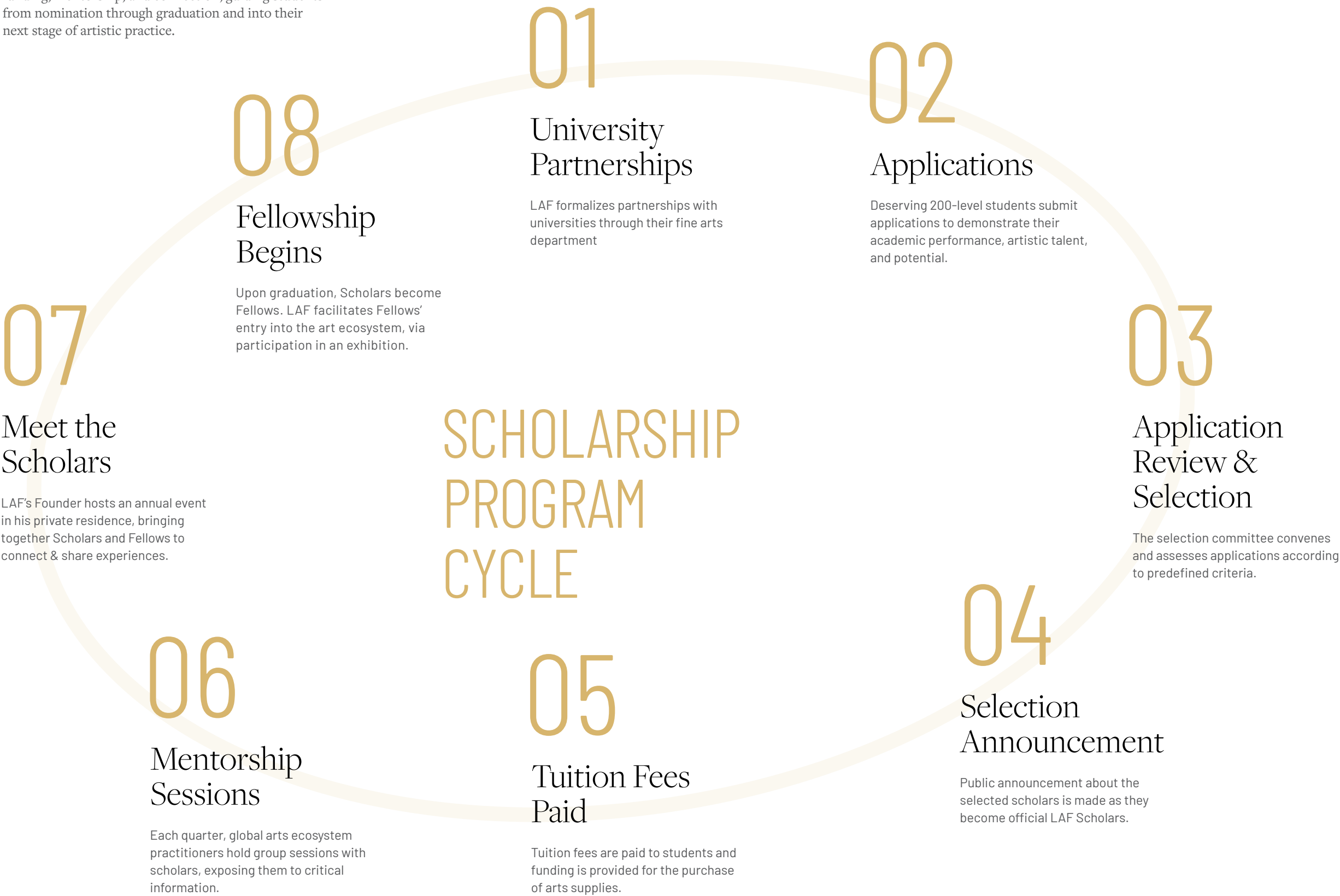
The Scholarship Program is our flagship initiative and is central to our work, supporting students while strengthening the institutions that have shaped Nigeria's artistic legacy.

03



Program At-a-Glance

The Scholarship Program is structured as a continuous cycle of support and this diagram reflects how LAF supports art students over time, through consistent funding, mentorship, and connection, guiding students from nomination through graduation and into their next stage of artistic practice.



What the Scholarship Provides

- Tuition
- Mentorship
- Art supplies
- Community

Data Snapshot

Number of scholars supported:

21

Years covered:

2023-2025

Institutions involved:

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

YABA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Our Selection Committee

The Legacy Arts Foundation Scholarship Program is guided by an independent Selection Committee made up of practitioners working across art, design, curation, education, and cultural leadership. Together, they bring a grounded understanding of artistic practice and the realities facing emerging artists today.

In addition to their role in reviewing and selecting scholars, Selection Committee members also serve as mentors within the program. Throughout the academic year, one member volunteers their time to lead a quarterly mentorship sessions, sharing insights from their own practice and professional journeys.

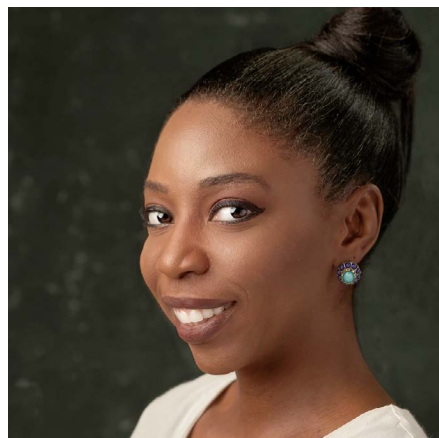
The Selection Committee plays a central role in shaping both the integrity and the lived experience of the Scholarship Program.

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Selection Committee members ensure the program is rigorous and relational. They are practitioners who understand both the creative and practical dimensions of the arts ecosystem.



Meet the Members



Oyindamola Fakeye

INAUGURAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Oyinda Fakeye is an experiential art curator and learning and participation producer, and the Executive and Artistic Director of the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (CCA, Lagos). Her work focuses on exhibition-making, education, and public engagement. She has curated and worked on major projects including Identity: An Imagined State (2009), Nigeria’s first video art exhibition, and the 2019 Lagos Biennial, How to Build a Lagoon With Just a Bottle of Wine.



Oyinkan Dada

INAUGURAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Oyinkan Dada is a solicitor and gallerist, and was named to Forbes 30 Under 30 in Arts & Culture in 2023. She is the founder of DADA Gallery and DADA Magazine, a platform dedicated to underrepresented Black artists from Africa and the diaspora. The gallery presents exhibitions at Cromwell Place in London, with a permanent space in Lagos, Nigeria.



Lani Adeoye

INAUGURAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

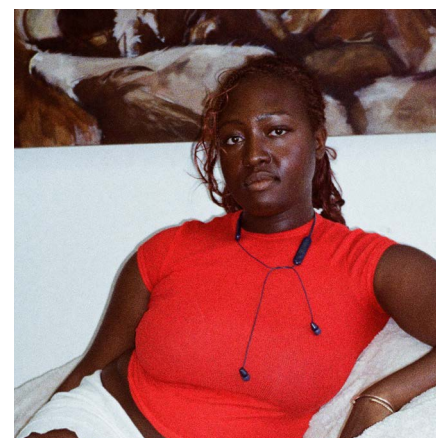
Lani Adeoye is an award-winning designer and the founder of Studio-Lani, a design brand spanning sculpture, lighting, furniture, fashion and assistance devices. She is a Visiting Professor at Parsons’ The New School of Design in New York. Her work is held in the permanent collections of institutions including the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Die Neue Sammlung in Germany. She became the first African designer to win the SaloneSatellite competition in Milan, where she was named “The Future of Design.” Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Elle Décor, Wallpaper, Azure and Architectural Digest. Based primarily in Lagos, Lani works across Africa, North America, and Europe.



Ugonna Ibe-Ejiogu

INAUGURAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ugonna Ibe-Ejiogu is a cultural strategist, curator, and founder of Yenwa Gallery and Yenwa Art Lab, an institution focused on art, education, archiving, and sustainability. She previously led the revitalisation of the Guild of Professional Fine Artists of Nigeria and has curated and coordinated major initiatives, including the revival of the TKMG Lagos Art Auction. Her work bridges art, environmental practice, and creative entrepreneurship.



Okiki Akinfe

INAUGURAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Okiki Akinfe is a London-based painter whose practice explores Black subjectivity, visibility, and alternative forms of the archive. She completed her MFA in Painting at the Royal College of Art and her BA at the Slade School of Fine Art. Her recent exhibitions include Free the Wind, the Spirit, and the Sun at Stephen Friedman Gallery and Hauntology: Ghostly Matters at Mariane Ibrahim, Chicago. She is currently an artist-in-residence at Porthmeor Studios in Cornwall, England.

Beyond selection, the Committee’s continued involvement as mentors gives scholars rare access to practitioners who actively shape the arts ecosystem. Through quarterly mentorship sessions and ongoing engagement, committee members help translate talent into confidence, clarity, and preparedness for life beyond the classroom.

2022–2025 Impact Snapshot

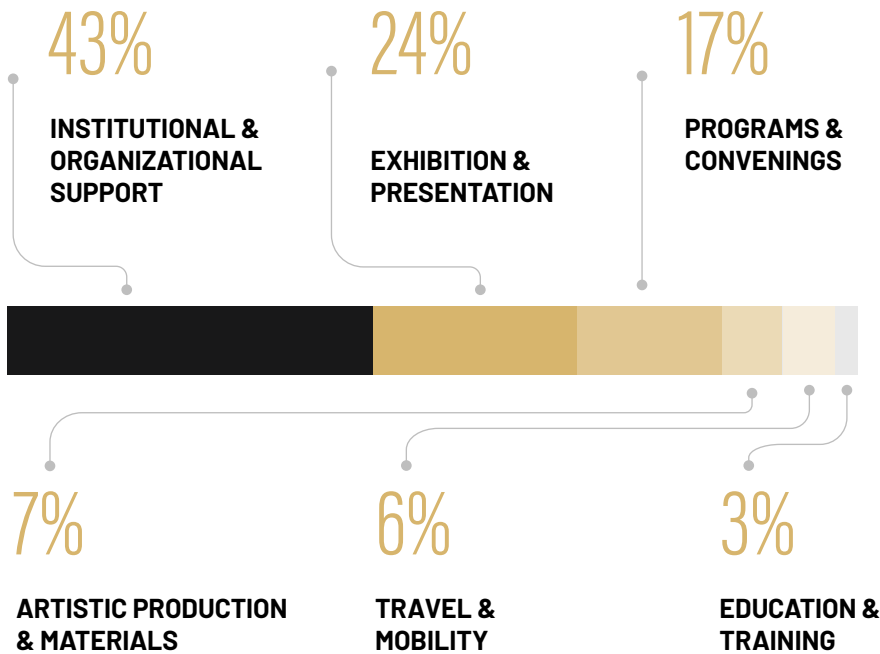
This Impact Snapshot captures Legacy Arts Foundation’s responsive grantmaking and ecosystem support outside of the Scholarship Program. It reflects the Foundation’s work with individual artists and cultural organizations through grants, project support, and time-sensitive interventions.

While the Scholarship Program represents LAF’s most structured investment, this snapshot highlights the broader support that has helped artists and institutions during critical moments. It offers a view of how LAF’s flexible support has responded to immediate needs while contributing to a wider creative ecosystem.

04



Grantmaking by Type of Support



Responsive Ecosystem Support

Legacy Arts Foundation’s approach to support is shaped by the realities of making art in Nigeria and across the African continent, where talent is abundant but access to resources is uneven.

Before LAF existed as an institution, artists often reached out directly to our founder when they needed help, and these experiences revealed a consistent pattern: artists did not lack commitment or ideas; they lacked the support required to keep going.

From inception through 2024, LAF’s giving was largely responsive, grounded in trust and proximity, and focused on practical needs. In 2025, this approach became more structured. While responsive support remains important, LAF is now focused on building systems that can sustain artists and institutions over time, without losing the flexibility that first defined our work.

At its core, LAF’s philosophy reflects a simple belief; that culture is sustained not only through expression, but through consistent support, shared responsibility, and care across generations.

Total
Number
of Grants
Provided

(FY 2022–2025)

22

2022	—	4
2023	—	3
2024	—	6
2025	—	9

2022

PROJECT NAME	WHAT WE SUPPORTED	OUTPUT TYPE	GRANT AMOUNT
Salone Satellite Exhibition	Lani Adeoye’s participation in Salone Satellite during Milan Design Week, enabling presentation of her work on a major international design platform.	Award-Winning Exhibition	\$ 5,000.00
Frieze Collectors Engagements	A stakeholder dinner and collectors’ cocktail to foster dialogue and connection among artists, patrons, and cultural leaders.	Stakeholder Dinner & Collector’s Cocktail	\$ 6,704.00
Dada Magazine Issue 2	The production of a print issue spotlighting Black contemporary artists and youth culture.	Book	\$ 2,682.00

2023

GAS Foundation Residency Sponsorship	Okiki Akinfe’s residency at GAS Foundation, enabling research, exchange, and professional development in Lagos.	Residency	\$ 5,000.00
Sotheby’s Fundraiser for the Bisi Da Silva Centre	The renovation and continuity of the Bisi Silva Centre through participation in a Sotheby’s fundraising auction.	Renovation of CCA HQ	\$ 10,000.00
Yussuf Aina Exhibition Catalogue	The production of an exhibition catalogue accompanying Yussuf Aina’s solo presentation for Retro Africa.	Award-Winning Documentary	\$ 1,000.00
Venice Architecture Biennale Sponsorship	An immersive research-based presentation on Lagos markets at the Venice Architecture Biennale.	Immersive experience at the Venice Architecture Biennale	\$ 2,682.00

2024

Master’s Degree, Royal College of Arts	The pursuit of a Master’s Degree	Master’s of Fine Arts	\$ 1,341.00
Master’s Degree, Royal College of Arts	Partial tuition for postgraduate study in fine art at the Royal College of Art.	Masters Degree (In-Progress)	\$ 1,341.00
Yemisi Shyllon Musuem of Art, Collector’s Exhibition	A flagship exhibition examining contemporary art collecting in Nigeria through selected private collections.	Collector’s Exhibition	\$ 1,055.00
Dr. Jareh Das Book	The production of a scholarly publication on Black women, ceramics, and contemporary art.	Mbari Kola Foundation Building	\$ 1,341.00
Christie’s Auction Donation for MOWAA Building	Institutional development for MOWAA through a strategic auction-linked contribution.	Trip to Cairo, Egypt for 2 artists	\$ 8,000.00
London Design Biennale, Nigeria Pavilion	Nigeria’s debut participation at the London Design Biennale through exhibition-related funding.	Exhibition Catalogue	\$ 1,341.00
Tobi Onabolu Documentary	The production of an award-winning experimental documentary film.	Award-Winning Documentary	\$ 1,341.00

2025

PROJECT NAME	WHAT WE SUPPORTED	OUTPUT TYPE	GRANT AMOUNT
Belgian Embassy, Old Masters by New Masters Workshop	An intensive painting workshop for Nigerian artists focused on historical Flemish and Dutch techniques.	Artist Workshop for 24 Nigerian Artists	\$ 10,000
GAS Foundation Patron’s Dinner	A convening designed to deepen patronage and long-term support for the GAS Foundation’s residency program.	Fundraising Dinner for GAS Residency Program	\$ 5,000.00
6 Decades of Vision	A landmark exhibition tracing six decades of printmaking through the legacy of Bruce Onobrakpeya.	Issue 2 of Dada Magazine	\$ 1,401.00
Dada Gallery Opening Dinner	The opening dinner for DADA Gallery’s Lagos space, creating a forum for dialogue and community engagement.	Gallery Opening Dinner	\$ 1,401.00
Mbari Kola Foundation HQ	The development of Mbari Kola, a new cultural space supporting arts, dialogue, and patronage.	MOWAA Physical Building	\$ 20,000.00
Asiko Scholar Sponsorship to Cairo	Participation in the Àsikò Art School program in Cairo.	Trip to Cairo for CCA Executive Director	\$ 500.00
Champagne Brunch for Alayode Arts Consultancy	A curated brunch during Lagos Art Week to connect German collectors with Nigerian artists and cultural leaders.	Nigeria Pavilion Screening Room	\$ 2,000.00
The Smart Money 2 Viewing Party	A public screening and discussion of a series focused on financial literacy and women’s empowerment.	In-Person Screeing of the Smart Money Woman Season 2 Premiere	\$ 400.00

Voices From the Ecosystem

Impact is not always best measured in numbers. It is often felt in the ability to finish a project, to take an opportunity, to deepen a practice, or to sustain an institution that holds shared memory. These voices offer a window into how LAF's support has been experienced across the creative ecosystem

05

Extending Knowledge and Scholarship

Dr. Jareh Das

FORTHCOMING BOOK

“The support from LAF means that this timely and important scholarship on Black women artists, particularly the legacy of Ladi Dosei Kwali (1925–1984), Nigeria’s most celebrated potter and ceramicist, will reach a new global audience. It ensures that this work can be produced to the highest standards and remain accessible for generations to come.”



Enabling Creative Work to Reach the World

Tobi Onabolu

DOCUMENTARY FILM

“Fundraising for a film production is hard work and often sits outside the typical remit of an artist. We were therefore grateful to receive the support of a number of organisations, including LAF. This contribution was important in helping us create a high-quality, award-winning project.”



Tosin Oshinowo

VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE SPONSORSHIP

“The funding support came at a much-needed time, enabling us to showcase the research project on Lagos markets at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The project went on to receive a Special Mention award at the exhibition, and we are very appreciative of the support.”



Validation, Confidence, and Professional Growth

Lani Adeoye

SALONE SATELLITE EXHIBITION

“The support was both practical assistance and meaningful affirmation at a critical stage in my career. Institutional backing from respected patrons like Niyi Adenubi reinforced confidence in my work and provided encouragement beyond financial consideration. I experienced it as an endorsement of my practice and a signal of trust in my creative direction, particularly within an emerging design discipline.”



Skills, Exchange, and Long-Term Development

Sandra Alonge

OLD MASTERS BY NEW MASTERS WORKSHOP

“This workshop came from a very personal place for us. We wanted to create space for artists to slow down, to really sit with technique, and to individuate their work in a way they rarely get the chance to. LAF’s support made it possible to bring that vision to life, in collaboration with the Belgian Embassy, and to do it with care and seriousness. Knowing that this kind of depth mattered to others too was incredibly affirming, and the experience changed how many of the 23 artists who participated think about their work long after the workshop ended.”



Sustaining Institutions That Hold Cultural Memory

Artistic & Executive Director, Bisi Silva Centre for Contemporary Art

SOTHEBY’S FUNDRAISER

“The support came at a moment when sustaining the Centre really mattered. LAF donated a work from its collection for the auction hosted by Sotheby’s and helped secure the future of a space that has supported artists, researchers, and students for years, often with very limited resources. The auction raised more than \$1m and being able to renovate the building and continue the work as the Bisi Silva Centre has meant continuity of programs and of memory and community, and that will have a lasting impact.”



Partnerships & Collaboration

06

The Legacy Arts Foundation works through partnership. The Foundation collaborates with cultural and institutional actors that shape how art is taught, made, shared, and preserved, recognizing that lasting impact in the arts depends on strong, interconnected systems.

Photo: Prof. Stephen Olusoji, the pioneering Dean of the newly established Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Lagos (UNILAG) and Adeniyi Adenubi, at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Unilag and LAF. April 2025.



LAF partners with universities and art schools to deliver the scholarship program, working alongside faculty and administrators to support students. Beyond education, we collaborate with museums, embassies, independent art organizations, and foundations to enable exhibitions, residencies, publications, workshops, and professional exchange.

These partnerships help extend access to expertise, platforms, and audiences, while ensuring that support remains grounded in local context. They also play a critical role in strengthening cultural infrastructure. Through contributions tied to fundraising initiatives, auctions, and capital projects, we have supported institutions that provide long-term stability for artists, researchers, and the wider public.

Across all collaborations, LAF acts as a connector, aligning partners around shared goals while respecting institutional independence. This approach reflects our commitment to cooperation and long-term stewardship as the basis for a resilient African arts ecosystem.

Photo: Adeniyi Adenubi, Founder of LAF; H.E. Pieter Leenknecht, Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria; and Osahon Okunbor, Founder of The Osahon Okunbor Foundation (TOOF), at the opening of the “Old Masters, New Masters Workshop,” sponsored by LAF, TOOF, and the Embassy of Belgium in Nigeria. September 2025.

Selected Cultural & Institutional Partners

- Yaba College of Technology (YabaTech)
- University of Lagos (UNILAG)
- Embassy of Belgium in Nigeria
- G.A.S. Foundation (Guest Artist Space Foundation)
- The Osahon Okunbo Foundation (TOOF)
- Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos / Bisi Silva Centre
- Museum of West African Art (MOWAA)
- Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA)

Looking Ahead: Stewardship & Governance Architecture

07

Looking ahead, we are focused on extending our support beyond individual initiatives, to strengthen the wider arts ecosystem in a more coordinated and lasting way.

A key part of this vision is the future creation of a Patron’s Council, a community of patrons who already support artists and institutions and who want to channel that generosity into a more sustained, collective effort. The Council would help align resources and support initiatives that strengthen artists, institutions, and cultural infrastructure over the long term.

We believe individual patronage is powerful, but its impact grows when coordinated. By bringing patrons together around shared priorities, we hope to support the full lifecycle of artistic practice.



Leadership & Stewardship

Founder



Niyi Adenubi

FOUNDER

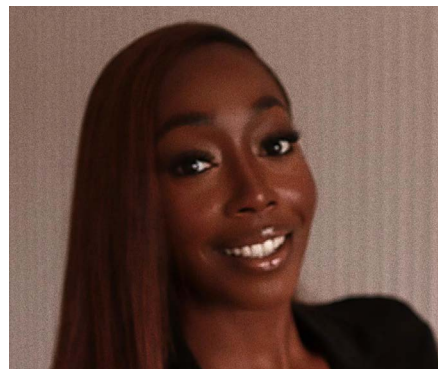
Adeniyi “Niyi” Adenubi is a financier, investor, and governance expert with over 20 years of leadership in institutional and corporate banking, investment management, and consulting. He is a Co-Founder and Non-Executive Director of Institutional Business and Investor Relations at VFD Group Plc, a sector-agnostic investment management firm with holdings in retail banking, asset management, real estate & hospitality, technology, and more. His personal investment firm, Paragon Partners, is evolving into a family office.

Team



Vivianne Thomas

PROGRAM MANAGER



Nikky Samuel

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



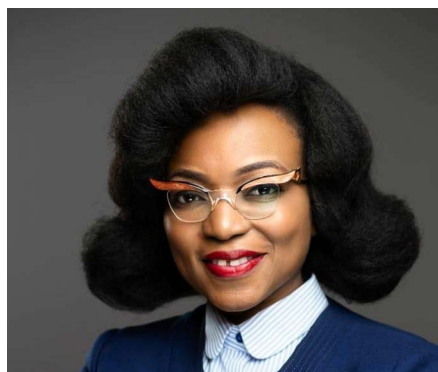
Temiloluwa Adefolu

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Trustees



Bolanle Omisore



Bola Obileye



Boyo Nwakaego

Learning & Accountability

What We Learned from Early Grantmaking

When Legacy Arts Foundation began, much of the support happened through relationships. Artists reached out directly, and we responded. The work moved forward, even if it was not always formally recorded. Over time, we learned that while this kind of support matters, it cannot stand on its own. Informal generosity, by itself, does not create continuity. If this work is meant to last, beyond individuals and moments, it has to be visible, trackable, and able to evolve.

A Commitment to Improvement

This understanding has shaped how we now approach learning and accountability. We are becoming more deliberate about how we document what we do, how resources are used, and what those efforts enable. As the Foundation grows, this commitment helps ensure that decisions are thoughtful, informed, and grounded in experience.

Strengthening Documentation

This first Impact Report marks an important moment for us. It looks back at what has been done since the Foundation’s early days and sets a baseline for how we will continue to learn and improve.

Photo: L-R: Chibuzor Okpala, Head, Business Development, Bvndle; Adeniyi Adenubi, Founder, LAF; Chibundu Eodzie, Principal, BGL Ltd.; Nonso Okpala, Group Managing Director, VFD Group, at a G.A.S. Foundation Patrons Dinner, hosted by Adeniyi Adenubi. October 2025.



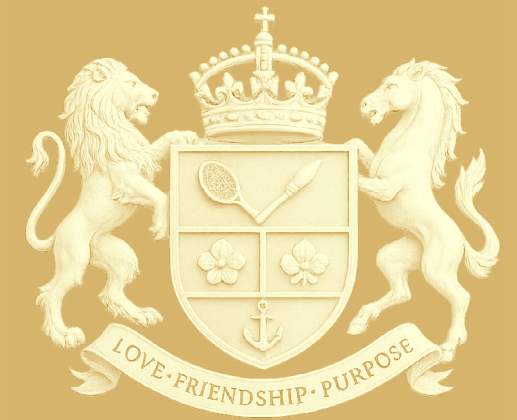
Closing Reflection

This work has only been possible because of the artists, educators, institutions, and partners who have trusted Legacy Arts Foundation along the way. We are deeply grateful to the artists who have shared their work and their time, the institutions that have opened their doors and collaborated with care, and the partners and patrons who have supported this work in ways both visible and behind the scenes.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains long-term. LAF was founded on the belief that African artistic talent deserves more than moments of attention, it deserves systems that endure. That belief continues to guide how we support artists, strengthen institutions, steward cultural assets, and build connections across Nigeria, Africa, and the diaspora.

We see this work as collective. The future of African art will not be built by any one individual or institution, but through shared responsibility and sustained collaboration. LAF invites artists, patrons, educators, and partners to continue shaping this future together, by contributing time, resources, insight, and care to the ecosystem we all share.

Legacy, for us, is intentionally built and passed on. We look forward to the work ahead, and to building it together.



Legacy Arts Foundation

**LEGACY PLACE
A2 GODWIN RICHARD CLOSE
UPDC/ELF ESTATE
LEKKI. LAGOS STATE.**

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