

## ResiliArt Kenya 2



## DEMOCRATIZING THE DIGITAL SPACE

Crafting and Reshaping the Creative Economy for Resilience and Sustainability in the context of COVID-19



The Unesco Regional Office for Eastern Africa, the Kenya National Commission for Unesco, the Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, the Creative Economy Working Group, Twaweza Communications, the Godown Arts Centre and the Alliance Française de Nairobi have partnered to organize ResiliArt – Kenya, a digital platform of virtual debates involving stakeholders from the culture and creative industries.

UNESCO launched ResiliArt as a global movement to raise awareness about the serious disruption of COVID-19 on the arts and culture sector. It seeks to mobilize solidarity among artists and professionals in the creative sector while ensuring their voices are heard at the policy level to address existing gaps and needs.

The first discussion brought together leading voices from the cultural sector to consolidate thoughts and ideas on the impact of Covid-10 on the sector and identify opportunities to strengthen and support practice in the sector. The full discussion can be followed here: <https://urlz.fr/cWT5>

This second ResiliArt debate will focus on Democratizing the Digital Space. It will discuss the opportunities and challenges within the digital space, taking a long-view approach on how to ensuring inclusivity, accessibility and affordability, how to bridge existing digital divides; exploring opportunities for creatives to monetize through this space; as well as creating favorable frameworks and policies that nurture the growth of creative expression in the digital space.

We invite you to register here <https://urlz.fr/cFZI>



### MODERATOR

**Joy Mboya** is the Executive Director of the GoDown Arts Centre, a leading non-profit multidisciplinary arts facility in Nairobi that provides subsidized space for Kenyan artists and presents a diverse range of programs for local audiences. It also spearheads entrepreneurial capacity building programs and creative sector discourses for artists in the East Africa region. Joy has wide experience in the Kenya cultural sector, having served on the boards of many different arts organizations in film, theatre, music and dance.



### PANELISTS

**Charles Murito** is Country Manager, Google Kenya and Director of Policy & Government Affairs, Sub Saharan Africa. For nearly two decades, Charles has worked with some of the world's leading technology, media, and entertainment companies, including Turner Broadcasting Ltd, WarnerMedia & MTV Networks Africa. Charles is also passionate about creating platforms that spotlight and showcase African talent in the visual and performing arts.



**James Wamathai** is a writer, online publisher and digital rights activist. He serves as the Director (Partnerships) at the Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE) and is also the founder and CEO of the news website, hapakenya.com.



**Nanjira Sambuli** is a researcher, policy analyst and advocacy strategist interested in and working on understanding the unfolding impacts of ICT adoption and how those impact governance, media, entrepreneurship and culture, with a keen focus on gender implications. She is currently a Commissioner on the Lancet and Financial Times Global Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030, a board member at The New Humanitarian, Development Gateway, Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) and a member of DFID's Digital Advisory Panel. She is also a Ford Global Fellow.



**Dr. Njoki Wamai** is an actor, writer and Assistant Professor of International Relations and Politics at the United States International University-Africa (USIU-A) in Kenya. She obtained a PhD in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar in 2018. Her research focuses on everyday politics of international intervention, African politics, African feminisms and the politics of knowledge production of Africa. Her opinions and commentaries have appeared in international news sites including: Huffington Post, Pambazuka, This is Africa, The Conversation, All Africa and The Daily Nation.



### MUSIC

**Makadem**, a vibrant Kenyan performing artist, will share his Nyatiti Trap song "Plandemic". His stage presence, charismatic persona and powerful vocal delivery makes him a distinctive musician.



### VISUAL ART

**Michael Soi** launched his practice in 1995 after completing his studies in fine art and art history. Most of his work is social/satirical commentary inspired by the city of Nairobi that addresses issues that Kenyans would rather not talk about in public. In his work, he tackles current issues in politics, and offers a satirical take on the topics that occupy our public imagination. He has developed a distinct visual language that combines bold lines and bright colours to create playful compositions.