
Ojoma Ochai (Ms)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

15+ years progressive experience working with United Kingdom (UK) and local funding and delivery partners to design and deliver programmes that improve economic and social outcomes for young people across Africa.

SKILLS

- Stakeholder / Relationship Management
- Research and Insight Development
- Policy Advocacy
- Programme and Operational Management (including governance and team leadership, financial and human resource management)
- Public Speaking
- Strategic Planning
- International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy
- Partnership Development
- Matrix Working / Management

WORK HISTORY

Regional Arts and Creative Economy Programmes Director Sub Saharan Africa

July 2020

Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) of portfolio that Sub-Saharan Africa Arts and Creative Economy Development Programmes and Africa wide Narratives programmes.

Main programme themes include youth voice, improved foundational and soft skills, enhanced employability and enterprise capacity, creative expression and leadership development for young people. Responsible for overall programmatic oversight of programme and grant making.

Member, Regional Executive Team, Sub Saharan Africa contributing to shaping regional priorities.

Director Programmes, British Council

09/2018 to June 2020

Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) of portfolio that includes Nigeria Education and Inclusive Communities, West Africa Arts and Creative Industries and Africawide Narratives programmes. Main programme themes include youth voice, improved foundational and soft skills, enhanced employability and enterprise capacity, creative expression and leadership development for young people. Responsible for overall programmatic oversight of programme and grant making including:

- Strategic leadership of programme and leading dispersed and cross-cultural teams.
- Ensuring key insight and intelligence for portfolio is always up to date through commissioned research, relationship management and membership of relevant networks and communities of practice
- Management of key senior diplomatic, public, private sector and civil society relationships across Africa and in the UK.

- Fundraising and Partnership Development with local and international partners, public and private sector and civil society partners to enhance scale and impact.
- Ensuring that monitoring and evaluation frameworks, communications strategies, human resource management (Including consultants), financial management and programme governance are designed and implemented effectively and compliantly, working with cross-functional teams.
- Designed and developed funding proposal for creative industries development programme in Africa and secured funding from various donors

Director Arts West Africa, British Council

04/2017 to 08/2018

- Strategic, Operational and Artistic leadership of British Council Arts and Creative Economy (covering Literature, Film / TV, Fashion, Music, Performing and Visual Arts, Advertising, Architecture, Broadcasting, Software and Gaming sectors) with annual turnover of about two million pounds.
- Developing and building key senior public and private sector relationships to strengthen the creative sectors of target countries in West Africa and support more opportunities for young people in the region.
- Leading design and implementation of programme portfolio with activities across West Africa and the UK and online including: design and implementation of operating model (including financial management, monitoring and evaluation, staffing and resource management) for West Africa arts and creative economy programme, designing research and insight projects and activity to keep organisational knowledge up to date at all times
- Ensuring diversity and inclusion in programme across gender, disability, geography, and socio – economic backgrounds among others and on track to achieve 50:50 gender parity in programme by end 2020.

Director Arts Nigeria, British Council

05/2010 to 03/2017

Grew programme portfolio over tenfold over seven years to support young and emerging artists and creatives across Nigeria through education, employability and enterprise development programmes.

Responsibilities and achievements included:

- Developing local, regional and UK financial and non-financial partnerships across government and private sector to further British Council arts and cultural / creative industries programme in Nigeria.
- Facilitated Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Government of Nigeria to strengthen (cultural / arts) festivals' sector through training and other capacity development support for public sector and civil society.
- Strategic leadership and accountability for British Council Arts and Creative Industry programmes in Nigeria to strengthen the sector and develop international connections particularly with the UK.
- Design and implementation of a portfolio of programmes across the arts and cultural / creative industries (including financial and human resource management, monitoring, evaluation and learning, stakeholder management, fundraising, resourcing and others)
- Developed and led on implementation of annual Nigerian Creative Industries Expo for five years to influence public policy and contribute to development of the creative industries in Nigeria.

Director Diversity, Performance and Evaluation, British Council

11/2009 to 05/2010

- Development and implementation of strategy for Diversity in BC, including mainstreaming corporate standards in gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, etc.

- Development of evaluation strategy for BC Nigeria and leading on research and analysis to contribute to performance and product development.
- Leading on human resourcing and mentoring and coaching team and others as needed.

Connected Africa Arts Project Manager, British Council

11/2007 to 10/2009

- Managed a portfolio of products that advanced creativity, cultural expression and exchange for young people working with partners in public and private sector.
- Developed Creative Entrepreneurs Programme, a training programme to help young / emerging creatives to develop business skills across Africa. Trained up to 5,000 young creative entrepreneurs in Nigeria alone
- Won global staff awards in 'entrepreneurship' category for fundraising achievement for Entrepreneurship Prize.

Arts and Administrative Assistant, British Council

09/2006 to 10/2007

- Supporting Director Lagos and Arts Team with administrative and project management tasks

Abuja Coordinator, Computers for Kids Resources Limited (South Africa)

03/2005 to 08/2006

- Set up of Computer for Kids operations in Northern Nigeria

Public Relations Officer (II), Vision Pathways Abuja

10/2004 to 02/2005

- Project Management of Public Relations Projects

Sales Executive (ETOP), Map Infotel, Abuja

03/2004 to 10/2004

- Technical Sales and Project Management of related technical projects

Selected Consultancies, 2012 to 2019

2012 to Date: Member, UNESCO Expert Facility on 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2012 – 2015: Africa Panel. 2015 to Date: Global Panel)

- Contribute to UNESCO Convention secretariat approaches on participatory governance of culture (i.e. through cultural policy including for media), artistic freedom and human rights, cultural and creative industries especially in Africa and the global South through participation in fora, training of State Parties to the convention and as a member of the grant-making committee that selects beneficiaries of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity.

July 2014–June2016, Entertainment Specialist: World Bank (Growth and Employment Project)

Technical Assistance to the Nigerian Government, funded by World Bank that included:

- Design and implementation of entertainment cluster initiatives for sector growth and job creation
- Provision of sector market insight and consultancy to Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the entertainment sector Industrial Cluster Groups (ICGs).
- Conducted market studies; regulatory and legislative mapping/business environment analysis
- Supported first Digital Rights Management Conference, Designed Intellectual Property Toolkit project to increase copyright literacy of sector, designed training project to enhance technical skills in film industry.

January 2013–June 2014, Project Act Nollywood, Nigeria

Government of Nigeria funded Film / TV industry funding scheme

- Secretary of Steering Committee – member and secretary of committee that developed guidelines for \$20 Million Film Development (Grant) Fund managed by Federal Ministry of Finance Nigeria.
- Panel of Assessors for Capacity Building Grant Fund – member of panel of assessors for \$2 Million Capacity Building component of Project Act Nollywood Fund.

March–August 2013, Arterial Network South Africa

- Provided Nigerian element to research paper: Towards an Understanding of the Creative and Cultural Industries in Africa.

RELEVANT EDUCATION

Post Graduate Level Fellowship: International Arts Management, 2015

DEVOS Institute of Arts Management, University of Maryland, - United States of America

- Postgraduate level fellowship for middle management arts sector professionals.
- Coursework modules included The Arts Management Cycle, Strategic Management, Board Management, Marketing and Human Resource Management

Honours Diploma: Network Engineering, 2004

NIIT Abuja Centre - Abuja, Nigeria

Graduated with an average score of 90.5%

AFFILIATIONS

- Board Member, African Tech and Creative Group
- Associate Fellow, Nigeria Leadership Initiative
- Council Member, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

- HarvardX: Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies (2020)
- Dot Native – Digital Leadership Course for Senior Leaders (2019)
- International Trade Centre / ECOWAS Trade Facilitation Agreement Certificate: 2017
- Chartered Institute of Marketing: Marketing Certificate: 2017
- Association of Project Management UK: Project Management Certificate, 2008
- Various British Council Staff Learning and Development including: Information Management, SAP, Performance Management, Recruitment and Selection, Equal Opportunities, Programme Management - 2006–Date