

YEMISI SHYLLON  
**MUSEUM OF ART**  
PAN-ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

YEMISI SHYLLON MUSEUM OF ART  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025**



# Mission Statement

To serve and engage the university, the art world and local communities as an educational museum, offering programs and exhibitions that inspire dialogue, foster critical thinking, spark interdisciplinary exploration, and deepen understanding of the world.

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# Letter from the Director



2025 was an extraordinary year for the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA) and Pan-Atlantic University. The Museum continued to solidify its reputation as the leading university museum in West Africa, advancing its mission as both a cultural and academic institution. Through impactful exhibitions, innovative educational initiatives, and strategic partnerships, YSMA deepened public engagement and fostered a greater appreciation of Nigeria's rich artistic heritage.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our community, donors, and partners. Last year, we reached new heights, welcoming close to 10,000 visitors—a testament to YSMA's growing recognition as a vibrant cultural hub. Our collection also expanded significantly, thanks to the generosity of artists who enriched our holdings with their works. These additions further strengthen YSMA's role as a vital repository of Nigerian art and cultural memory.

Beyond exhibitions, YSMA intensified its educational and outreach efforts. Our targeted awareness campaign positioned the Museum as a preferred academic partner for art-related programmes. From engaging secondary schools and introducing object-based learning across the Pan-Atlantic University campus and community secondary schools in Ibeju-Lekki, to hosting our annual HSE Campers' Camp, YSMA Open Camp, and organising a collaborative workshop for artists, school teachers, and women from the Itamakpako community—in partnership with ECS and Zabalketa—our initiatives continue to inspire, educate, and empower. These efforts are firmly cementing YSMA's position as the leading educational museum in West Africa.

Our 2025 programming commenced with a collaborative workshop titled "Empowering Artists: Navigating Legal and Contractual Issues in the Art World." This was followed by three major exhibitions: Philosophical Objects; Mirror: Man and the Other; and later in the year, Collecting Now 2: Evolving Views on Contemporary Art Collecting in Nigeria, which opened in October 2025 and will run until February 2026. Collecting Now 2 offers an intimate exploration of the stories, motivations, and perspectives of six prominent Nigerian collectors: Femi Akinsanya, Tayo Odunsi, Bimpe Nkontochou, Nonso Okpala, Ifeyinwa Momah, and Yemi Ogunbiyi.

Looking ahead, YSMA remains committed to expanding its collection, fostering meaningful academic collaborations, and enhancing its role as a hub for contemporary art and cultural heritage. We are profoundly grateful to Prince Yemisi Shyllon, our supporters, and the Pan-Atlantic University community for their invaluable contributions. Your continued encouragement drives us forward, and we look forward with great optimism to what we will accomplish together in the coming year.

Jess Castellote, Ph.D  
Director, Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art



# YSMA & PAU

## Campus Integration & Academic Engagement



As a university museum located within Pan-Atlantic University (PAU), the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art plays a central role in enriching academic life, interdisciplinary learning, and campus culture. In 2025, YSMA continued to serve as a dynamic teaching and research resource, integrating art and object-based learning into university curricula and student experience.

Throughout the year, over 1,154 PAU students participated in Object-Based Learning (OBL) sessions at the museum, using artworks from the collection to explore themes in history, philosophy, communication, leadership, and cultural studies. These sessions encouraged critical thinking, visual literacy, and experiential learning beyond the traditional classroom.

YSMA also hosted guided tours and tailored workshops for PAU students and faculty, supporting coursework across multiple departments. Museum staff delivered guest lectures, facilitated interactive gallery sessions, and collaborated with academic staff to design learning activities using the collection as a teaching tool.

Beyond academics, YSMA contributed to campus cultural life by hosting exhibition openings, public talks, film screenings, and special events attended by students, staff, and university visitors. The museum also provided volunteer and internship opportunities for PAU students, offering hands-on experience in museum operations, communications, education, and research.

Pan-Atlantic University remains a key institutional founding partner in YSMA's growth, providing infrastructural support and strategic collaboration that enable the museum to function as both a cultural landmark and an academic resource within the university ecosystem.



# SUPERVISORY COUNCIL

- Prince Yemisi Shyllon - Chairman
- Prof. Chantal Epie
- Prof. Juan Elegido
- Dr. Nneka Okekearu
- Prof. Peju Layiwola
- Mrs. Polly Alakija
- Prof. Sola Oni
- Mr. Tayo Fagbule
- Mrs. Yetunde Aina



## ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Dotun Sulaiman - Chairman

Ms. Adaora Ikenze

Prof. Aderonke Adesanya

Ms. Charlotte Ashamu

Mr. Elo Umeh

Prof. Fabian Ajogwu

Mr. Gbenga Olaniyan

Mr. Gbenga Oyebo

Mr. Ibikunle Dashur

Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ighodalo

Mrs. Ifeyinwa Momah

Mr. Kola Aina

Mr. Jonah Adams

Mr. Jubril Enakele

Mr. Lere Awokoya

Mr. Niyi Adenubi

Mr. Nonso Okpala

Mr. Olumide Soyombo

Mrs. Titi Akinsanmi

Mr. Vincent Egbe

Mr. Yiannakis Christodoulou



## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Jess Castellote, Museum Director

Michael Oseghale, Museum Manager

Jessica Nzenwata, Research & Documentation

Solomon Nkwagu, Communications

Charles Udeh, Research & Education

Glory Okwara, Administrative Officer

Grace Aderele, MultiMedia Developer

Elvis Efiogbere, Grants Officer

# 2025 IN NUMBERS

**52**

Weeks open

**14**

Gifts/loans

**8,573**

Total visitors

**1,264**

Works in our collection

**254**

Tours

**37**

Volunteers

**6**

Publications

**1,154**

Students of PAU at OBL classes

**18**

School Programmes

**25**

Classes

**3**

Exhibitions

**6047**

Website visits

**11,762**

Social media followers

**22**

School Excursions

**1,347**

Email subscribers

**17**

Partners/sponsors

**8**

Full-time staff

# Artwork Donations



**Azeez AFEEZ**, *Ori Apere II (Inner self series)*, 2024, Underglaze on Clay, 27 x 21 x 9.5cm



**Joel MANGAI**, *Nok Woman with staff*, 2024, Acrylic on Canvas



**Adebesin ADEDAMOLA**, *Discipline*, 2025, Pastel and Acrylic on Canvas



**John OYEDEMI**, *Durbar Celebrities*, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas



**Damilola Opedun**,  
*Commonwealth*, 2024, Oil and  
spray paint on canvas, 170cm x  
150cm



**Olubunmi Atere**, *Rhythm of Life*  
- *Phasis*, 2022, Clay, Wax, 90cm x  
90cm



**Aisha Augie**, *Among Us II*, 2022, Mixed media on  
Canvas, 50cm x 45cm



**Aisha Augie**, *Among Us I*, 2022, Mixed media on  
Canvas, 50cm x 45cm



**Buki ANIMASHAUN**, *Legacy of Water*.  
2025, Mixed media on Canvas, 153cm x  
80cm each



**Chuu Krydz Ikwemesi**, *And the Spirit of  
COVID Hovers Around Us*, 2020-2024,  
Acrylics and fabrics on board  
52cm (diameter)



**Sor SEN**, *Samsara*, 2022, Mixed media on Canvas

# Artwork Donations



**Rabiu ABESU**, *Sango Statue*,  
Unknown  
Wood



**Rosemary ONADIPE**, *Gbeborun (Water Hyacinth)*,  
2025, Photography



**Slawn**, *Police & Thief*, 2025, Acrylic on  
canvas, 170 x 170cm

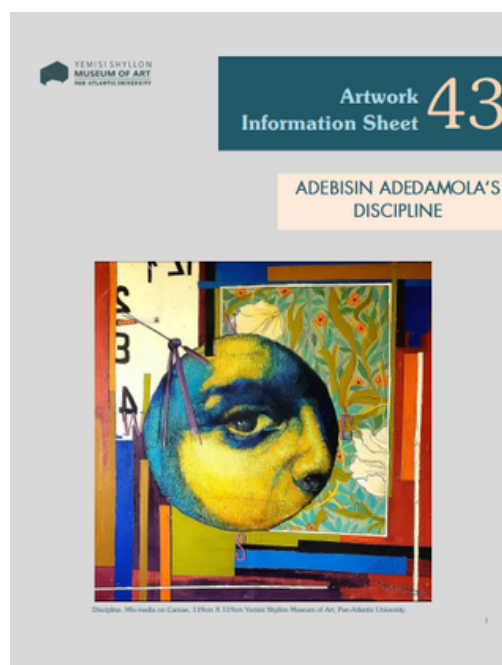
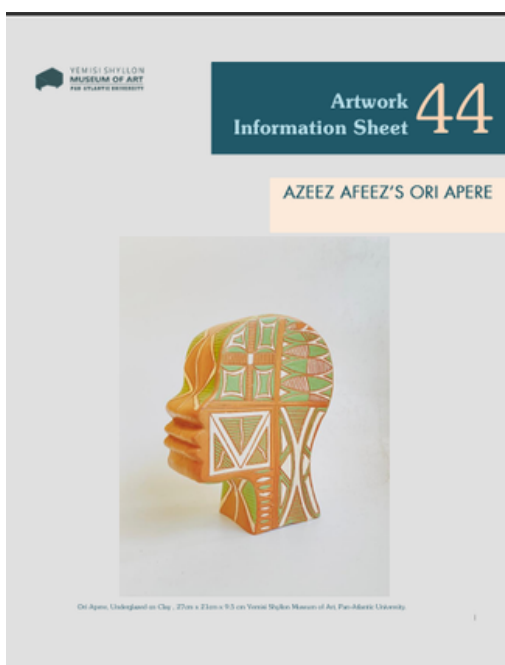
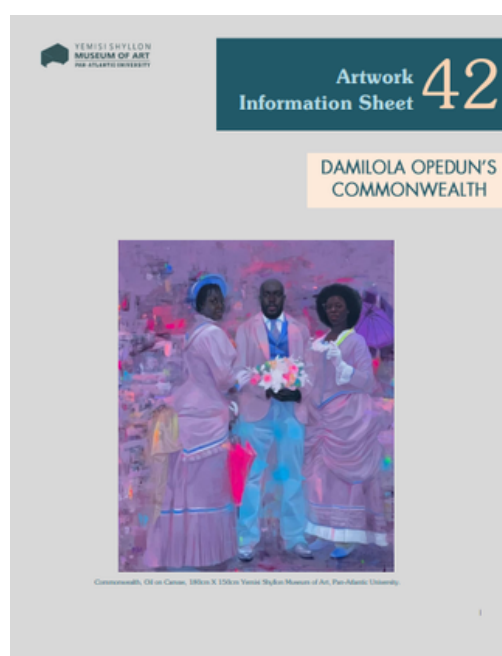


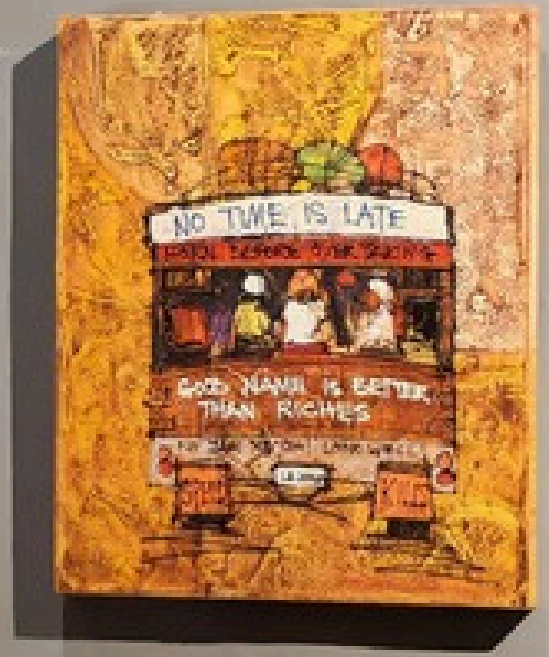
# Publications

## Artwork Information Sheet (AIS)

The Art Information Sheets (AIS) offer in-depth insights into selected artworks in the YSMA collection, covering their origins, artistic significance, and the artists behind them. These resources are published in PDF format and are accessible on the museum's website. In 2025, the museum published four Art Information Sheets.

- **Art Information Sheet Forty One - Meji's Eze goes to school**
- **Art Information Sheet Forty Two - Opedun's Common Wealth**
- **Artwork Information Sheet Forty Three - Adebisin-Adedamola's Discipline**
- **Artwork Information Sheet Fourty Four - Azeez Afeez's Ori Apere II (Inner self series)**





# Exhibitions



In 2025, the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA) continued to advance its mission as a teaching museum committed to critical engagement, art education, and cultural dialogue. Through a carefully curated exhibition programme, the museum presented three major exhibitions that explored the interconnected themes of collecting, society, and philosophical inquiry. Together, these exhibitions reflected YSMA's dedication to showcasing Nigerian and African artistic practices while fostering conversations around heritage, identity, and the role of art in shaping thought and memory.

## **Philosophical Objects: Man and the Other**

Exhibition Period: 15 March 2025 - 15 June 2025

*Philosophical Objects: Man and the Other* explored the intersection of art and philosophy, inviting visitors to engage with fundamental questions about reality, identity, and human relationships. The exhibition was organized around six philosophical themes: metaphysics, anthropology, aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, and transcendence.

Through this framework, artworks functioned as tools for reflection and inquiry, encouraging intellectual and emotional engagement. The exhibition reinforced YSMA's commitment to presenting art as both an aesthetic experience and a platform for critical thinking and self-reflection.



## **Mirror: A Visual Dialogue on Nigerian Society**

Exhibition Period: 1 July 2025 – 30 September 2025

*Mirror* presented a critical examination of the Nigerian society through artworks drawn from YSMA's collection and select loans from contemporary artists. The exhibition positioned art as a mirror to lived realities, addressing historical, political, social, and cultural themes.

Structured around five thematic sections—Power, Faith, Headlines, Women, and Legacy and Future—the exhibition explored governance, spirituality, media narratives, gender, and national identity. By linking local experiences with universal concerns, *Mirror* fostered dialogue on Nigeria's evolving socio-cultural landscape within a global context



## Collecting Now 2: Views of Contemporary Art Collecting in Nigeria

Exhibition Period: 11 October 2025 – 9 February 2026

*Collecting Now 2* marked the second chapter in YSMA's flagship exhibition series exploring art collecting in Nigeria, following the inaugural exhibition in 2024. The exhibition examined collecting as an act of cultural stewardship, highlighting its role in preserving heritage, supporting artistic production, and shaping historical narratives.

Featuring works from the collections of six notable collectors—**Tayo Odunsi, Bimpe Nkontchou, Ifeyinwa Momah, Yemi Ogunbiyi, Nonso Okpala, and Olufemi Akinsanya**—the exhibition brought together modern, traditional and contemporary Nigerian and African art alongside photographic forms. Through diverse media, *Collecting Now 2* encouraged reflection on legacy, advocacy, and the enduring influence of private collectors on public cultural life.



# Programmes



## **Pre-colonial Societies of Nigeria (PSN) Programme**

The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art continued its Pre-colonial Societies of Nigeria (PSN) Programme in 2025, offering secondary school students an object-based introduction to Nigeria's ancient civilizations—Ife, Nok, Igbo-Ukwu, and Benin. The programme uses artworks from these cultures to illuminate their histories, technologies, and belief systems.

As part of the initiative "Strengthening Capacities to Reduce Inequalities in Access to Cultural Education in Ibeju-Lekki," the museum delivered several PSN sessions to underserved students in the Ibeju-Lekki community, expanding access to meaningful cultural learning. The project was implemented with Mainel Foundation and funded by the Provincial Council of Albacete.

Through guided tours and interactive discussions, participants explored how historical artworks convey knowledge about governance, spirituality, craftsmanship, and daily life in pre-colonial societies. The approach enabled students to connect artistic objects with broader historical and cultural contexts.

Each session was supported with printed and digital learning materials, ensuring that the educational impact extended beyond the museum visit. The PSN Programme remains a key pillar of YSMA's mission to provide accessible, high-quality cultural education to young learners.



## **Art Appreciation Programme (AAP)**

The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art continued its Art Appreciation Programme (AAP) in 2025, offering children aged 8–17 a structured introduction to the elements of art—such as line, shape, form, colour, space, and texture—and how artists use these elements as a visual language for expression.

As part of the initiative “Strengthening Capacities to Reduce Inequalities in Access to Cultural Education in Ibeju-Lekki,” the museum delivered AAP sessions to underserved students in the region. These sessions complemented the museum's broader mission to extend access to high-quality art education beyond formal school settings.

Participants engaged in guided tours, interactive discussions, and hands-on creative workshops, enabling them to apply newly learned principles. Activities such as printmaking and exploratory drawing helped strengthen visual literacy and creative confidence.

Through these targeted sessions, the AAP continued to nurture curiosity and critical thinking among young learners, reinforcing YSMA's role as a vital educational resource and an inclusive hub for cultural enrichment.



## Acknowledgement of Support for Programmes

The Management of the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA), Pan-Atlantic University, extends its sincere appreciation to the **Mainel Foundation** and the **Provincial Council of Albacete** for their invaluable support of our 2025 school outreach programme in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos State.

Their partnership enabled YSMA to deliver cultural education to public secondary school students who rarely have access to museums or hands-on engagement with Nigerian art. Through guided tours and creative workshops, the programme, through **18 school visits**, reached **over 500 students** across **9 public secondary schools** enriching their understanding of Nigerian history, culture, and artistic traditions while strengthening the museum's relationship with local schools.

The grant provided by the Provincial Council of Albacete, through the Mainel Foundation, played a pivotal role in advancing YSMA's mission to use art as a tool for education, inclusion, and social development. It helped reduce barriers to cultural learning and ensured the sustainability and impact of our outreach efforts.

YSMA remains deeply grateful for this collaboration and looks forward to building on the insights, partnerships, and achievements of 2025 as we continue expanding access to meaningful cultural education.



## **SIPP Executive Immersion: YSMA as a Model of Strategic Cultural Philanthropy**

In 2025, the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art hosted participants of the Sustainable Impact Philanthropy Programme (SIPP) of the Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre for a curated learning experience designed to illuminate the museum’s role as a living case study in long-term, strategic philanthropy.

The visit provided an opportunity for emerging and established philanthropists to engage directly with YSMA’s governance framework, sustainability principles, and mission-driven operational model. Through guided dialogue and gallery-based reflection, participants explored how visionary leadership, structured investment, and effective institutional stewardship can translate cultural philanthropy into enduring social value.

The session underscored the museum’s relevance beyond its collections—positioning YSMA as an exemplar of how arts and cultural institutions can be built, sustained, and leveraged to drive community engagement, educational enrichment, and long-term societal impact.



# Summer Camps



## **HSE Cultural Art Camp 2025: Expanding Creative Horizons Through Heritage-Driven Learning**

In 2025, the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art once again served as the lead facilitator for the fifth edition of the HSE Cultural Art Camp, an initiative of the Wetland Cultural and Education Foundation. The six-day camp provided a dynamic platform for young participants to engage with artistic traditions, material exploration, and cultural heritage through carefully curated, hands-on learning experiences.

This year's camp reinforced the museum's commitment to nurturing creativity and cultural literacy among young learners. Through modules spanning ceramics, environmental art, textile traditions, and resist-dyeing, participants were introduced to foundational art-making skills while learning to appreciate the cultural narratives embedded within African artistic practices.

The programme emphasized experiential learning, encouraging participants to connect artistic processes with broader themes such as sustainability, identity, and heritage preservation. By integrating studio practice with cultural education, the camp strengthened the museum's role as an accessible hub for youth creativity and cultural engagement.



## **YSMA Open Camp 2025: Inspiring Young Minds Through Art, Culture, and Creative Discovery**

The 2025 YSMA Open Camp welcomed children from the Pan-Atlantic University community and the wider public for a two-week creative and cultural learning experience. The camp introduced participants to foundational artistic skills—including drawing, colour exploration, photography, pottery, and weaving—while nurturing confidence and visual awareness.

Complementing these studio activities were thematic sessions on precolonial Igbo, Yoruba, and Benin societies. Through gallery walks, documentaries, and guided discussions, children explored cultural heritage, symbolism, and historical narratives, deepening their understanding of Nigeria's artistic traditions.

The programme also encouraged environmental awareness through activities focused on sustainability and creative reuse of materials. A shadow-drawing masterclass further expanded participants' expressive range, integrating observation, storytelling, and imagination.

Across its two weeks, the Open Camp provided an accessible, enriching environment where children engaged with art, culture, and contemporary issues. The programme strengthened YSMA's role as a community-oriented museum committed to inspiring young learners and fostering cultural appreciation.



# Workshops



## Leadership Orientation Programme for Rural Women of Itamakpako

In partnership with the Educational Co-operation Society (ECS) and Zabalketa NGO, we hosted a "Leadership Orientation Programme: Cultural Inclusion through the Arts" for women community leaders from Itamakpako, Ogun State, on March 6, 2025 as part of activities to commemorate the "Accelerate Action" theme of International Women's Day (IWD) 2025.

The one-day programme brought together thirty-one rural women leaders in educative and engaging sessions on visual literary and cultural awareness, creative expression through art, leadership and service.

In line with the Accelerate Action theme, the initiative addressed core priorities of the global IWD 2025 movement including: expanding women's access to quality education and training; promoting the creative talent of women; and advancing women's leadership, service and impact in the society. It also reinforces YSMA's commitment to social inclusion and sustainable development through the arts, further integrating its mission of service, education, and impact within local and global conversations.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025, "ACCELERATE ACTION"

FEMES SHYLLON MUSEUM OF ART FOR ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

**ecs** **Zabalketa**

**LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION PROGRAMME: CULTURAL INCLUSION THROUGH THE ARTS**

Workshop for Itamakpako Women Community Leaders

March 6, 2025

UNIVERSITATIS YSMAE SOCIETAS COOPERATIONIS SOLIDARITATIS

EUSKO JAURLARITZA GOBIERNO VASCO




## Training of Primary School Teachers of Itamakpako

Themed “Art Education and Gender: Promoting Inclusive Learning Experiences in the Classroom,” the workshop was held in collaboration with the Educational Co-operative Society (ECS) and Zabalketa NGO.



The workshop offered a rich blend of insightful presentations, including a class on "Seeing with New Eyes: Art and Gender Awareness in Education," and a creative hands-on session on "Artistic Jewellery and Accessories." These activities invited educators to reflect on how art can be a catalyst for gender awareness, empathy, and inclusive pedagogy.

Participants engaged in group presentations and networking, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared learning.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all facilitators, organisers, and passionate educators who contributed to making the day such a success. At YSMA, we remain committed to empowering teachers and creating more reflective and inclusive learning environments through the power of art.



YEMISSI SHYLLON  
MUSEUM OF ART  
FOR ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES

**ART EDUCATION AND GENDER:  
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE LEARNING  
EXPERIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM**

Workshop for Itamakpako Teachers  
Community Leaders

May 22, 2025



## Legal Awareness Workshop for Artists

On January 17, 2025, the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, in partnership with the Guild of Professional Fine Artists of Nigeria (GFA) and Kenna Partners, hosted a workshop titled “Empowering Artists: Navigating Legal and Contractual Issues in the Arts World.” The session addressed critical gaps in the creative sector by equipping artists with essential knowledge of copyright, intellectual property protection, and art-specific contractual agreements.

Facilitators emphasized the importance of legal awareness in safeguarding artistic creations and ensuring fair professional practice. They noted that weak enforcement of these frameworks not only leaves artists vulnerable but also limits the broader economic and developmental potential of the creative industry.

The workshop reinforced YSMA’s commitment to supporting professional capacity-building within the art ecosystem and advancing structures that protect and empower Nigerian artists.



## Participation in Lagos Gallery Weekend 2025

The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art participated in the second edition of Lagos Gallery Weekend (LGW), held from March 28–30, 2025, following the opening event at the Gather House. The museum joined leading cultural organizations, museums, and private art galleries in this city-wide celebration of creativity, hosting its first-ever gallery talk event in the process.

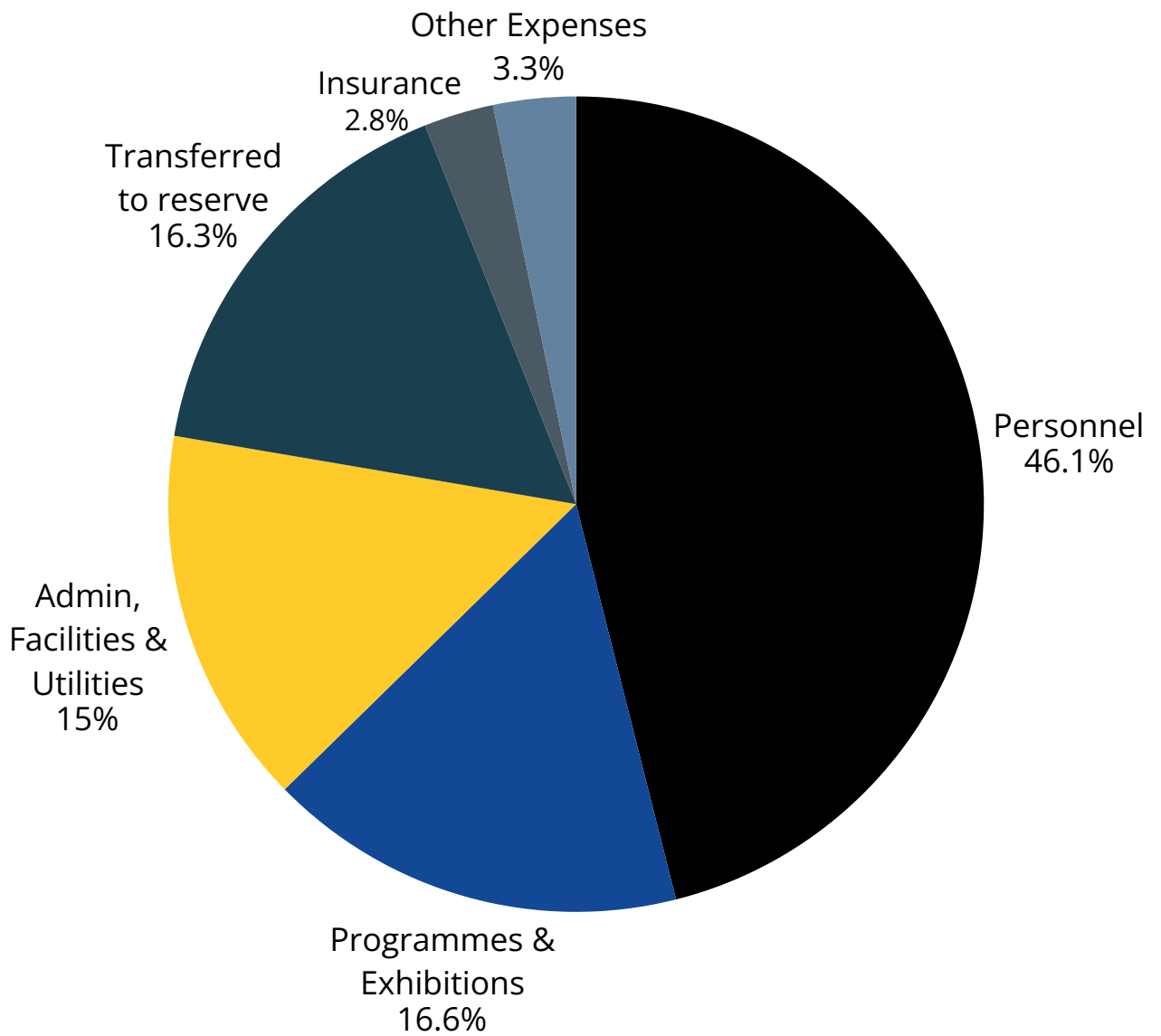
The 2025 edition of LGW highlighted the breadth and diversity of Nigeria's cultural landscape, showcasing twenty private art galleries and five museums and cultural institutions, including YSMA. As one of the featured institutions, YSMA contributed to shaping a vibrant programme that spotlighted Lagos as a dynamic hub for artistic expression and cultural engagement.



# FINANCIALS

## 2025 Expenditure

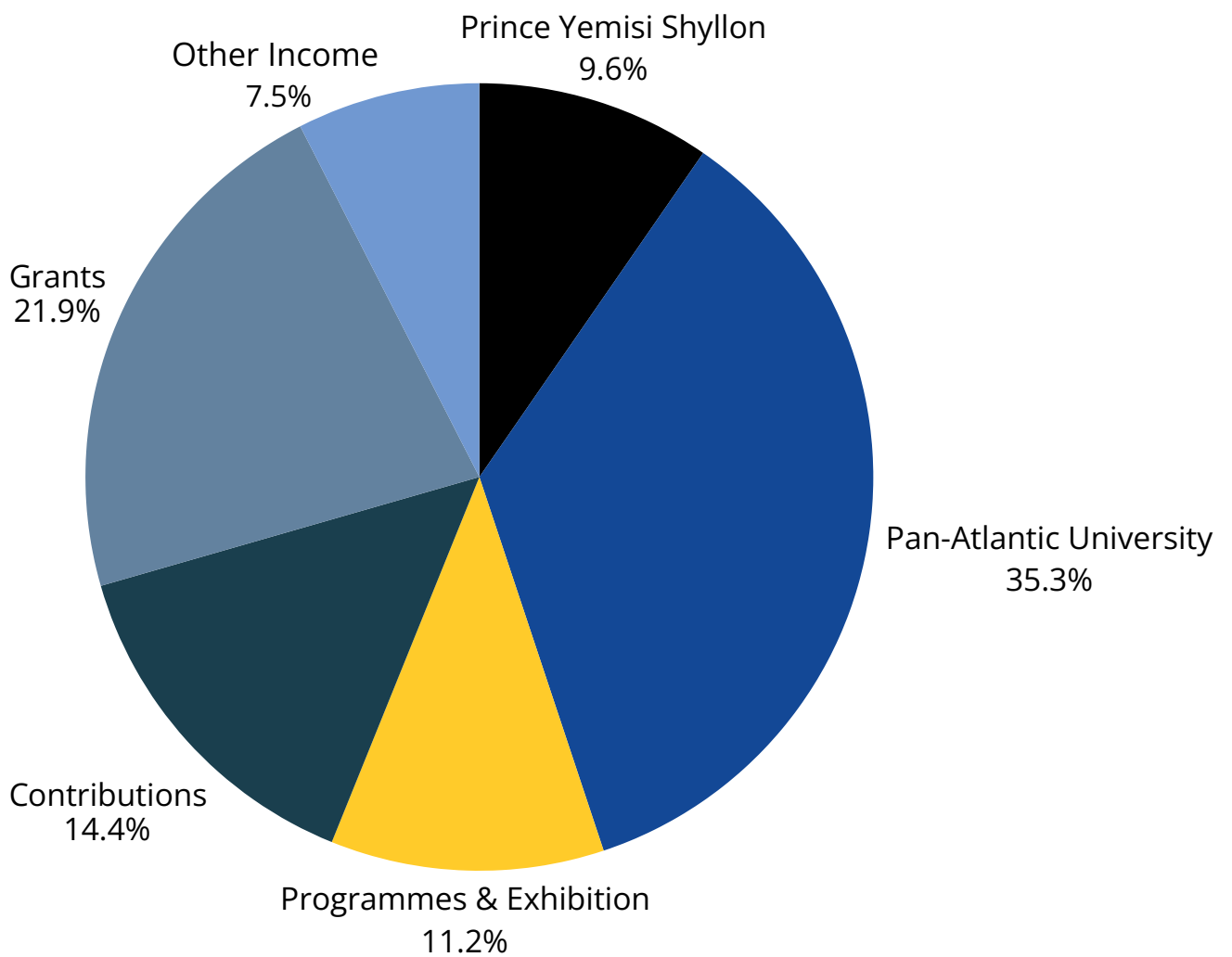
- Personnel
- Programmes & Exhibitions
- Admin, Facilities & Utilities
- Transferred to reserve
- Insurance
- Others



# FINANCIALS

## 2025 Income

- Prince Yemisi Shyllon
- Pan-Atlantic University
- Programmes & Exhibition
- Contributions
- Grants
- Others



# FOUNDING PARTNERS



PRINCE  
YEMISI  
SHYLLON



PAN-ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY

# OTHER PARTNERS



Toledo  
Museum  
of Art



Fundación  
Mainel

solidaridad y cultura transformadoras

McKinsey  
& Company



Google Arts & Culture

The Dashurs Foundation  
LACIT/No 102428



The LivingGreen CLUB



ART X  
LAGOS



LEGACY  
ART PROJECTS