

OPEN CALL FOR CURATORIAL PROPOSALS FOR A MUSEUM EXHIBITION

About the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA)

The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA), Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) is an educational museum at the service of the university and the whole community. At the center of YSMA's mission is a desire to help our audiences learn about art through art and educational programs.

YSMA believes that fine art, besides allowing viewers to experience multiple forms of beauty, meaning, and skill, can be an excellent educational resource to help persons of all ages engage, discover and learn about a range of topics including the history and culture of Nigeria.

With this mission of service, the YSMA engages diverse audiences through its exhibitions and their resultant programmes. Previous exhibitions such as 'Making Matter' and 'Mirroring Man' and 'The invincible hands' have helped audiences learn about history, materiality and women in art, attracting thousands of visitors in the process. These exhibitions have also led to the launch of a full-day program for secondary school students, titled '**Precolonial Societies in Nigeria.**' The program is museum-based and uses 'object-based learning' methodologies. Using artwork from Ile-Ife, Nok, Igbo-Ukwu and Benin currently on display at the museum, participants in the program will be able to learn about four significant historical periods and social systems that have shaped the cultural and societal heritage of Nigeria as we know it today. The very successful program has been useful in engaging thousands of secondary school students from across the country.

PAU offers transformative educational experiences and has the integral formation of the individual and the advancement of responsible citizenship as their core mission. YSMA is committed to contributing to the achievement of this goal by offering PAU students, faculty, staff and visitors a valuable resource to develop a deep appreciation for the visual arts. The YSMA supports temporary exhibitions of works from the permanent collection of the museum and from loans from other museums, artists or collectors.

Opportunity

With the aim of encouraging and supporting the development of curatorial practice among emerging Nigerian curators, YSMA is launching, for the first time, an OPEN CALL FOR CURATORIAL PROPOSALS for an exhibition at the museum in the second half of 2023. This call will offer one young curator the opportunity to realize an innovative exhibition in a museum setting.

YSMA invites young Nigerian curators, artists and art professionals to submit proposals for a museum exhibition at the museum from October 1, 2023 till September 30, 2024. The main role of the selected curator is to curate and deliver a one-year exhibition at the museum, working closely with YSMA's exhibition team.

YSMA wants to involve emerging independent curators/artists/art professionals to co-create with the museum team a one-year exhibition at the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, Nigeria, opening in the second half of 2023. We are looking at an exhibition with a clear curatorial concept. Proposals that offer innovative and socially relevant curatorial approaches and content from which can be derived robust educational programmes will be encouraged. YSMA favours exhibitions that enhance the way its visitors experience visual arts. The open call for proposals encourages applicants to present curatorial narratives that, using works from the permanent collection of the museum and from artists and collectors, are responsive to current realities in Nigeria and globally and that are able to engage the community.

The selected curator will receive an honorarium and will work with a production and promotion budget previously approved by the museum. YSMA encourages applicants to submit exhibition proposals that are realistic and deliverable within the available production budget. Aimed at individuals who want to develop their curatorial practice, the exhibition at YSMA is an opportunity to present works from the large and rich permanent collection of the museum and to bring to the public some other works in private collections and artists' studios rarely show publicly.

YSMA is looking for innovative proposals that will create meaningful connections with the Pan-Atlantic University community and young, non-art audiences in Lagos and beyond. In addition to the exhibition, proposals may include a public programme with educational, participatory and community activities.

Guidelines

- Proposals must be conceptually rigorous and focus on artists, ideas, and themes that are innovative, challenging and engaging. YSMA encourages proposals that contribute to the museum's effort to engage the university and local community. Extra consideration will be given to proposals that present curatorial narratives that are not well-represented in the commercial sector and from which can be derived robust educational programmes .
- YSMA will give priority to exhibition proposals that are presented in a manner and language easily understandable by wide audiences. For this reason, the Exhibition

presentation and content must appeal to visitors with diverse cultural and social backgrounds. The exhibition should be especially attractive to young audiences. Extra consideration will be given to those in the beginning stages of their curatorial careers.

- The selected curator, working with the museum exhibition team, will select the works to be displayed in the exhibition and will coordinate the communications with all lenders of works. Exhibition design and installation decisions (including any substitutions that may appear necessary) will be made collaboratively by the museum and the Curator. The Museum Director shall have final authority over all such decisions.
- The selected Curator will receive a ₦600,000 unrestricted honorarium
- The selected curator will work closely with the YSMA team to develop the exhibition and public programme, in accordance with YSMA exhibition guidelines. The curator will work within an exhibition production budget of ₦3,400,000. The exhibition production budget will cover all expenses, including materials, fabrication, installation, logistics, promotional material and events, exhibition catalogue, insurance and fees for any portion of this work contracted out. The curator's honorarium is not included in this budget. Applications should propose exhibitions and public programmes that can be executed within this budget.
- The exhibition will cover the whole of the ground floor of the museum. The available exhibition space is 145 linear meters of wall. They provide a total surface area of 340sqm.
- The selected Curator will not be allowed to include his/her own work in the exhibition. Proposed exhibitions already shown elsewhere will not be considered. The curator will be responsible for resolving any copyright issues and other liability issues related to archives and images in order to avoid infringement of any third party's copyrights and other intellectual property rights.
- If you have any questions, please write to: ysma@pau.edu.ng

Submission requirements

The proposal, submitted in a single PDF, will include the following:

1. A description of the proposed exhibition including;
 - Title of The Exhibition
 - Short synopsis of proposed exhibition that could be used as introductory wall panel (50-100 words)

- Detailed exhibition proposal. It should include the background and main curatorial narrative, with indication of the central ideas that the exhibition will communicate to visitors; a short explanation of what is important in the exhibition and what are its main learning objectives and a preliminary plan for the exhibition (1,000-1,200 words)
- If feasible, a preliminary list of works from the permanent collection of YSMA that could be included in the exhibition and which ones could be added from loans from artists or collectors.
- Possible participatory-based public programmes that could accompany the exhibition.
- A draft breakdown of the exhibition budget including, but is not limited to, the expenses for production, Gallery painting and preparation, transportation, insurance, equipment, wall panels and labels, curator's honorarium, external consultants' fees, exhibition installation, design, promotion and exhibition digital catalogue, etc.) The curator's honorarium and the costs of a possible public programme should not be included in the draft budget. The total amount specified in the draft budget proposed by applicants should not exceed the amount approved by the museum for this exhibition (N3,400,000).

2. A one-page curator's resume or curriculum vitae.

The deadline for the CALL FOR CURATORIAL PROPOSALS is December 30th, 2022. The documents must be sent in a single PDF document to: ysma@pau.edu.ng

Eligibility. Who can participate

The CALL FOR CURATORIAL PROPOSALS is open to all Nigerian curators, artists and art professionals residing in Nigeria. Please note that the project will not be able to cover travelling and accommodation costs for successful applicants coming from locations distant from the museum.

Though the call for proposals is aimed primarily at emerging curators, artists or art professionals, YSMA is looking for applicants who already have been actively engaged in curatorial practices for years.

Applicants must live and work in Nigeria and reside in Lagos or be capable of making living arrangements in a location not too distant from the museum for some periods during the preparation and installation of the exhibition.

Evaluation and Selection process. How proposals are selected

Proposals will be evaluated on the merit of the proposal, its capacity to engage audiences and adherence to the call guidelines.

The YSMA will set up a selection committee, led by the Museum Director, and composed of members of the museum, the university and the Nigerian art community. The composition of the selection team will remain confidential until the selected curator is announced.

The Call for proposals is judged in two stages. First, the selection team will screen the applicants for eligibility and select a shortlist of proposals from among the submissions. Then, shortlisted applicants may be invited for an interview during which they can present a more developed explanation of their proposals. Finally, the selection team will meet again and select one curatorial proposal from among those shortlisted.

Applicants will be notified of results before January 31, 2022.