

Call for Participants

Roots & Roofs: Pan African Indigenous Skills Development Program (PAID)

The **Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC)**, in collaboration with the **National Troupe of Nigeria**, the **Institute of African and Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos**, and members of the **EUNIC Cluster Nigeria**, invites applications for a dynamic cultural program.

The immersive program explores **Africa's architectural heritage** as a living archive of cultural identity, environmental wisdom, and community values. Through **design thinking** and **storytelling**, participants will engage in hands-on workshops, collaborative design labs, and performative explorations that bridge architecture, craft, and the performing arts.

Program Objectives:

- **Preserve and Promote Heritage:** Integrate traditional African architectural knowledge into contemporary design education and practice.
- **Document Living Traditions:** Capture and archive heritage through storytelling, photography, and videography.
- **Foster Innovation and Enterprise:** Apply traditional knowledge to modern technologies and creative industries, including digital design.
- **Stimulate Local Economies:** Support rural development through community-based projects using local materials.

By targeting **young creatives with professional experience and cultural curiosity**, the program aims to build a new generation of **skilled designers and architects, artists, photographers and videographers** who can preserve, adapt, and promote African-inspired architecture and performance traditions in ways that are both **locally grounded and globally relevant**.

Program Details

Duration:

- **First Phase:** from end of January 2026
Design Thinking and Storytelling Workshops
- **Location:** online and on-site in Lagos / Abuja
- **Second Phase:** February – June 2026

Individual community-based projects in the 6 Nigerian geopolitical zones and FCT

- **Project Presentations:** July 2026

Support:

- Stipend
- Accommodation and local transport during workshop
- Limited travel grants
- Production material

Who Should Apply

A team of two creatives from the same geopolitical zone in Nigeria and the FCT

- one architect, interior or exterior designer, urban designer, visual artist or craft practitioner interested in sustainable and indigenous design, heritage and material culture, passionate about cultural preservation and innovation.

together with

- one photographer, videographer and / or storyteller interested in sustainable and indigenous design, heritage and material culture, passionate about cultural preservation and innovation.

Geopolitical Zones:

- 1. North Central:** Niger, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, Nassarawa and Kwara
- 2. North East:** Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe.
- 3. North West:** Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara.
- 4. South East:** Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo.
- 5. South South:** Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers.
- 6. South West:** Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo.
- 7. Federal Capital Territory** Abuja.

Eligibility criteria

- Age: 18-35
- Five years of relevant work experience
- English language skills, local language proficiency for later dissemination
- A team must comprise an architect/designer and a photographer/ visual storyteller from the same geo-political zone in Nigeria.

Submission of Application (all documents together in ONE pdf).

1. A one page project proposal
2. Biography or CV with Artist Statement
3. 2 References
4. Any three links to your artistic work or portfolio you think are relevant to this application.

Application Deadline: 3rd January 2026

Late or individual submissions will not be considered.

Send your application to **paid_rootsandroofs@cbaac.gov.ng** with the subject line –

“Geo-political zone - Roots and Roofs”

(for example; **“North East - Roots and Roofs”**)

Apply Now and be part of a Pan-African movement to preserve, reimagine, and activate Africa’s architectural legacy!

PARTNERS



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