

# URBAN HERITAGE AT RISK SYMPOSIUM

## Entanglements of Heritage, Commerce and Modernisation in West African Marketplaces

Markets embody intangible cultural heritage through their social and economic functions, represent a community's living history. They are a critical part of a city's identity and vital for sustainable development, even though they are often not protected like other forms of historic built environment heritage.

Markets have metamorphosed over time from traditional places operating on a cycle of days to daily sites of commerce; from physical spaces to digital marketplaces, and from local community outposts to global conglomerates. While some of the changes have been organic, others have been facilitated by public legislation and other interests. They have also resulted in various consequences for local communities and sustainable livelihoods across West African primate cities.

Drawing on insights from six West African cities, this symposium will discuss the socio-spatial, cultural and political impacts of globalisation and modernist urban visions on how markets are conceived, developed and transformed.

In this symposium, we wish to

- I. showcase the value of urban markets as living heritage.
- II. interrogate the increasing vulnerability of urban markets as places of social interaction, livelihood and heritage value.

**JUMOKE SANWO**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**24  
MARCH  
2026  
10 AM – 3 PM**

JOHN RANDLE CENTRE FOR YORUBA  
CULTURE AND HISTORY, ONIKAN,  
LAGOS, NIGERIA



Registration & Details  
<https://rb.gy/1tb1b4>