Preamble

The creative industry is steadily receiving recognition as a key contributor to the national economy in Kenya as elsewhere in the world. This is an industry that has for a long time thrived on the creative prowess and sheer resilience of youth, who form the vast majority of its practitioners. In Kenya, as elsewhere in Africa, there is continuing recognition of the role of education as crucial for ensuring a skilled workforce for wealth generation. Higher education has not succeeded in tooling this segment of industry, thereby frequently exposing the higher education-industry gap. Moreover, for a long time, due to lack of recognition and negligence of this creative sector, government planning did not make specific or substantial provision for its development through policy articulation. It is expected that a closer link among higher education, government planning and industry practice should yield beneficial information towards tooling of the industry. The youth who heavily contribute to this industry are often unschooled in the parent disciplines. This is a consequence of educational planning that is skewed to science and technology and lack of policy for arts education. Whereas most of the players in this sector learn by watching others, some are taken in for training by firms that need specific skills and abilities to perform specific tasks. These training sessions and industry-based academies operate in ways that offer models for effective training that should equip the youth with relevant knowledge and skills to perform effectively in the creative industry.

The current research project selects theatre, film, music and dance as the focus of interrogation to develop models and strategies for training of youth for the creative industries. It further endeavours to bring together policy makers, practitioners and educators in a triad that will provide up to date information on the activities and training needs of the industry, towards developing and implementing teaching and learning activities. This carries forward the conversations around Arts, Education and Community Engagement.

Call for papers

Under the Arts, Education and Community Engagement Trialogue banner, the Enhancing Creativity for Youth Empowerment and Community Development conference is scheduled from 7th - 8th February 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference will provide a platform for academia, industry and administration to disseminate results of scientific research, industry practice and policy deliberations that inform the development of the creative and cultural industry. Issues of specific interest are:

i) Development and implementation of plans and policies that enable capacity building for Music, theatre and film;

ii) Quality and meaning in music, theatre and film practice;
iii) Art and artist development for the industry;
iv) Community engagement through the creative arts;
v) Arts research and related methodologies;
vi) Communicating a research agenda in the creative disciplines;
vi) Emerging trends in arts scholarship and practice;
vii) The entertainment industry and the SDGs and AU2063 agenda;

The conference organisers welcome participation through presentations in the categories above and encourage submissions as follows:

1. **Paper presentation.** These will present
   a. findings from completed research,
   b. reports from ongoing investigation or
   c. case studies and experiences from the industry.
2. **Art work presentations** – adequately curated/produced exhibition/recital of an artist’s original work;
3. **Symposium** – a team of 2-3 presentations on a common theme.

**Submission Procedure:**

1. An abstract of not more than 300 words that clearly articulates the theme, title and type/format of presentation, to include 5 key words should be submitted by the 31st August 2018;
2. Submission of concept for the Exhibition/recital by 30th September 2018;
3. Full paper of accepted abstracts to be submitted for peer review and publication by 30th November 2018

All papers must be submitted in English and should not have been submitted to other conferences or journals. All papers will be subject to a double-blind peer-review evaluation.

**Important Dates:**

- Abstract submission deadline: 31st August, 2018
- Paper acceptance notification: 30th September, 2018
- Art Work Concept submission: 30th September, 2018
- Art Work Acceptance Notification: 31st October, 2018
- Full Paper submission: 30th November, 2018
- Conference dates: 7th – 8th February 2019

**Communication:**

Abstracts and Concept submission should be made to BOTH creativity4empowerment@tuk.ac.ke; creativity4empowerment@gmail.com

For more information, please contact Chair of the Conference: Prof. Emily Achieng’ Akuno at emily.akuno@tukenya.ac.ke; emilyakuno@gmail.com