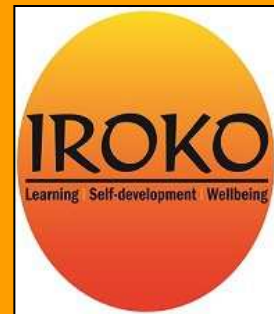
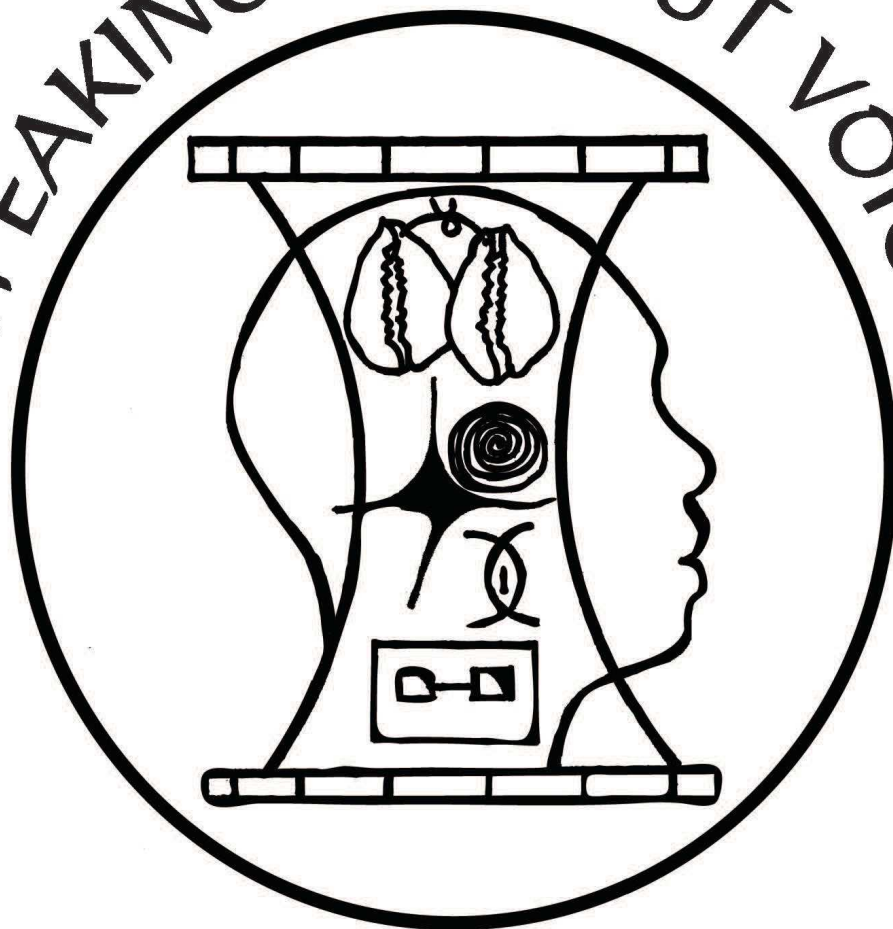


HERITAGE
FUND



SPEAKING WITHOUT VOICE



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PLANNING





We worked with strategic partners, to plan and discuss outputs and outcomes, and schedule activities.



Whilst preparing, we also explored different ways of presenting materials to aid the interpretation of the heritage.


PUBLICITY

To spread the word about the project we used a variety of traditional, digital and informal marketing tools: print media, television and radio, posters, leaflets, social media and reciprocal promotion with partners and other interested parties. We worked with a designer to produce publicity materials.

Speaking without Voice

(Exploring Nigerian and other non-verbal communication symbols and pictographs)





In partnership with Up Your Street, an information sharing service for seniors around East London, IROKO invites you to attend our fun-filled presentation and hands-on workshop, exploring Nigerian and other non-verbal communication symbols and pictographs. Full of fun and learning.

Refreshments provided!

Date: Thur. 26/09/19

TIME: 11.00 – 14.00

VENUE:
Stratford Library
 (Hopkins Room)
 3 The Grove
 London E15 1EL

Friday, 14 December - Thursday, 20 December 2016

News

Speaking without Voice wins National Lottery Support

IROKO Theatre Company is delighted to announce that it has received a National Lottery grant of £27,500 for an exciting heritage project, 'Speaking without Voice', based in Newham, London.

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the research project will focus on a variety of Nigerian precolonial non-verbal communication systems (Aroko, Nsibidi, Uli and the Talking Drums), their British Nigerian historical context, modern usage and especially how young British-Nigerians are using the heritage to underpin their cultural identity.

'Speaking without Voice' will offer training and volunteering opportunities to approximately sixty five people who wish to gain research, heritage and music technology skills. The project's research findings will be shared with members of the public through workshops, exhibitions and performances at The British Museum, various schools, libraries and also through digital means.

Nigerian precolonial non-verbal communication systems are valued because they portray a heritage that have been used over the centuries to inform, advise, motivate or incite community involvement.

The overwhelming lack of knowledge and understanding amongst people of the existence of the heritage, including its historical connections to Britain, makes the heritage of immense importance.

Commenting on the award, Alex Omu-Pan, Founder and Artistic Director of IROKO Theatre Company said: "We are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players and are confident that the project will help to raise awareness about the relatively unknown aspect of Nigerian heritage and its Nigerian-British history."

About IROKO Theatre Company IROKO Theatre Company use African theatre arts and heritage, incorporating oral storytelling, drama, music, dance, arts and craft, as a vehicle to advance education, skills health and wellbeing of members of the public.

To achieve this, we conduct research, exhibitions, workshops, performances, and provide resources and accredited training programmes. Our aim is to raise awareness, preserve and enhance knowledge of African arts, culture and heritage by taking our work to the wider community. For further information, please contact: Alex Omu-Pan, Artistic Director, 820 8522 1950, 07882 148 021, ACP@irokotheatre.org.uk Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



About the Heritage Lottery Fund Thanks to National Lottery players we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the architecture under our feet to the historic parks and build-

ings we love. From precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery

IROKO

Theatre Company

African Theatre, Music, Dance, Arts & Crafts

Launch of 'Speaking without Voice'

IROKO Theatre Company is delighted to invite you to the launch of its innovative new project, 'Speaking without Voice'. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the 18-months research project, will raise awareness of a variety of Nigerian precolonial non-verbal communication systems (Aroko, Nsibidi, Uli and Talking Drums), some of which were banned by the British colonial administration in Nigeria.

Come and find out more about the "strange language" that the British colonial administration could not decode, plus how young British-Nigerians are using the heritage to underpin their cultural identity. It promises to be a fascinating insight into an aspect of Nigerian-British heritage that is little-known. Demonstrations, hands-on experience, plus refreshments, provided!

Date: Friday 11th January, 2019
Venue: Stratford Library, 3 The Grove, Stratford, E15 1EL
Time: 6.00pm – 7.30pm
 IROKO are looking to recruit Volunteer Researchers and general Project Volunteers. For details, contact IROKO on info@irokothreatre.org.uk, www.irokothreatre.org.uk, quoting ref: HLF_SwV_01N.





SPEAKING WITHOUT VOICE

(exploring four Nigerian non-verbal communication systems)



SHARING DAY

IROKO is delighted to invite you to an informative, interactive, fun-filled, family-friendly day of **Talking Drumming** and **Creative Arts** workshops, plus **Exhibition Displays** and a **Musical Theatre Performance**.

Discover how for hundreds of years Nigerians have used sounds, rhythms, symbols and objects to communicate.



Learn all about these ancient languages, their modern equivalents and how you can use them to express yourself through fun, creative activities!

Workshops are free. You are welcome to attend one or

both, but booking is required with the library on: **020 8724 8710**. Spaces are limited!

PLEASE TURNOVER

FREE

VENUE: **Barking Learning Centre**
2 Town Square, Barking, IG11 7NB

DATE: Saturday 8th February, 2020

SCHEDULE: 11.30 – 12.50: Creative Arts Workshop
Talking Drum Workshop

13.20 – 14.40: Creative Arts Workshop
Talking Drum Workshop

15.10 – 16.10: Music Theatre Performance
(No booking required.)

16.10 – 16.40: Reflection + Refreshments

Suitable for age 7 and above.

Light refreshments, provided!



Enquiries, please call:
020 8522 1950
info@irokotheatre.org.uk

www.irokotheatre.org.uk



VOLUNTEERS AND RESEARCH



The project would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our volunteers. 93 people volunteered time helping with tasks from editing the e-Resource to collecting feedback at events.

We recruited and worked with thirteen research volunteers to gather knowledge on the heritage and produce the eResource Pack.



They compiled research, including interviews with experts and practitioners.

CREATIVE PROCESS

We wrote and rehearsed an original musical theatre piece - 'A Present for the Women of Uli' - inspired by the research findings. The story focused around a mother and son's relationship and featuring interactive elements, song and dance.





The production was brought to life by our performers and enjoyed by diverse audiences at our Sharing Days.

TRAINING



159 people of different professions and sections of the community - including music teachers from across London, postgraduate students and the elderly - took part in expert training, equipping them to gain skills in understanding, interpreting and adapting the heritage. Additionally, eight young people underwent sound recording and editing training and a further 20 people gained National Open College Network certification in Communications and Expressive Skills Development Programme.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We programmed activities, including a community trip to the Igbo compound at Liverpool's International Slavery Museum and workshops with Newham Dementia Support Group, to afford broad access to the heritage and enhance community cohesion.





SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Our school programme in schools, a supplementary school and online, reached 1,402 people - predominantly pupils but additionally parents, teachers, carers and families. They learned about non-verbal communication, boosting their confidence and creativity and instilling the younger generation with understanding and appreciation of the heritage.

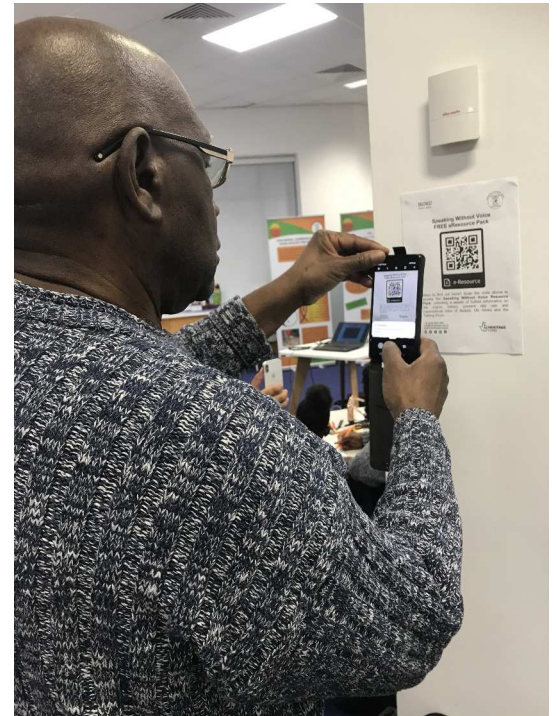




SHARING DAYS

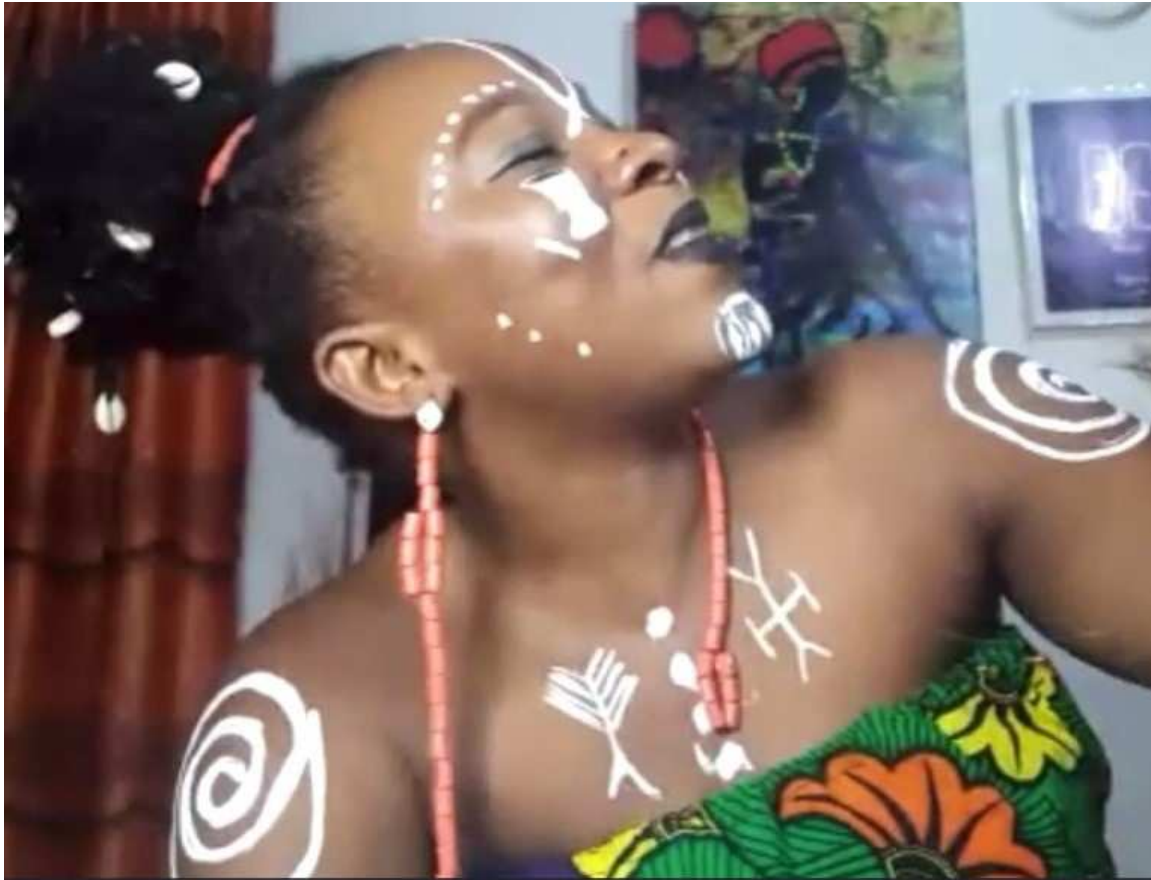
We programmed six public Sharing Days - four of which took place in local libraries across London with the final two online, due to COVID-19. Participants took part in a rich array of activities: interactive Creative Arts and Talking Drum workshops, perusing the exhibition and enjoying the performance.





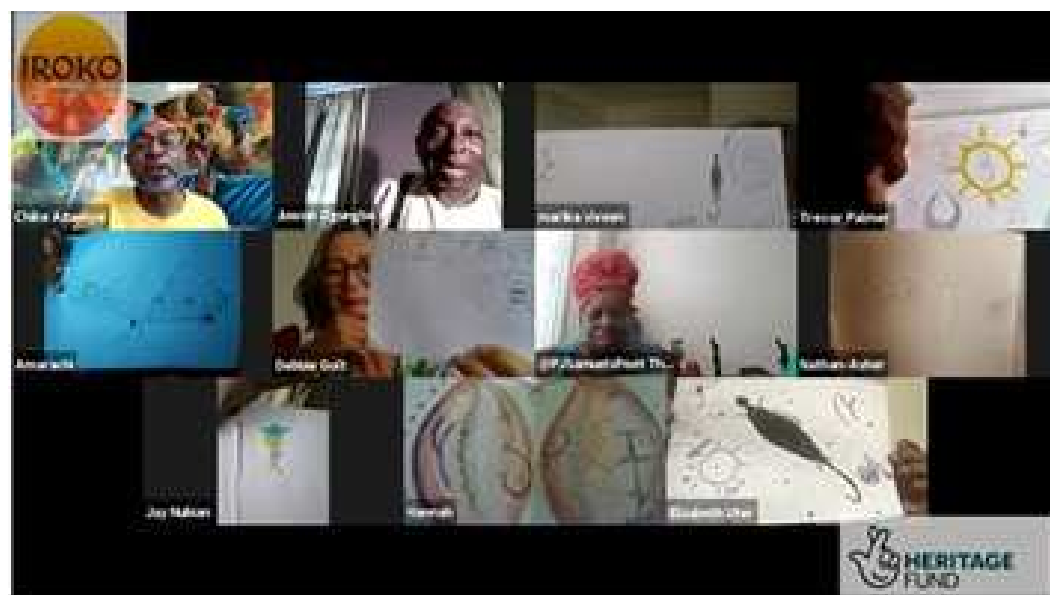
DIGITAL EVENTS

COVID-19 meant we were unable to go ahead with the final two Sharing Days. We decided to adapt the content and host them online, on Zoom.





Diverse digital audiences enjoyed a performance and creative workshop, rich with song, dance, musical theatre, discussion and lively audience participation.



FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

We gathered feedback throughout the project from participants and partners, in order to ascertain that our proposed outcomes were being met. Through both the feedback forms we gathered during events and activities and informal, anecdotal comments, we received exceedingly positive responses.

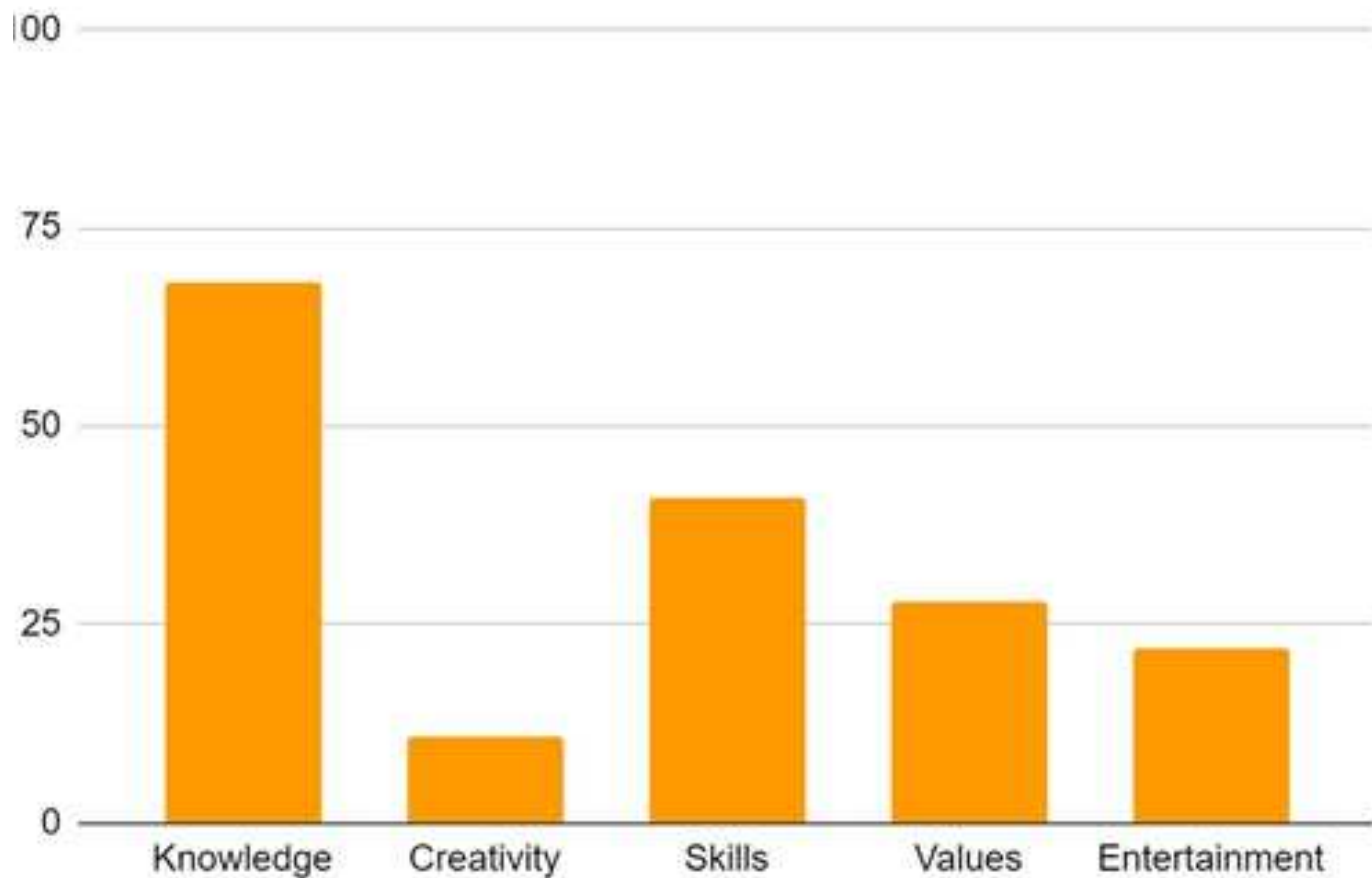
"A thoroughly enjoyable learning experience. Thank you IROKO Theatre for giving us the opportunity to have a go collaboratively, as well as allowing our creative juices to flow, demonstrating the positive strength in our community."

"I've learned that my culture and heritage are rich and that I need to learn to speak my own language, and learn much more about all facets of Nigerian culture."

"It's given the younger generation an opportunity to understand where they are from, their roots and also its given people of other ethnic minorities a chance to understand Nigerian culture more."

"Worked really well on Zoom, handled so finely, beautifully presented and acted, great balance between performance and audience interaction."

What did participants take away from attending activities?



Finally IROKO Staff worked with an external evaluator to collate quantitative and qualitative data to analyse the success of the project and glean lessons for our future work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IROKO would like to say thank you to the following organisations and individuals who have made 'Speaking Without Voice' possible.

Funders

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Partners

Nigeria Arts Society UK

The British Museum

International Slavery Museum Liverpool

UCL Culture

Newham Libraries

Hillingdon Libraries

Lewisham Libraries

Barking Learning Centre

Redbridge Libraries

Aston Mansfield

Soundabout / Music8London

The Village School

Goodenough College

African Community School

Positive Futures Group

Newham Partnership for Complementary Education (NPCE)

Newham Music

Alzheimer's Society Newham

Up Your Street

African Voice Newspapers

Individual Guidance

Rhonda Brooks (Redbridge Central Library)

Lara Marshall (Hillingdon Libraries)

Angelica Gedviliene (Barking Learning Centre)

Marilyn Moore (Lewisham Libraries)

Martin Pinder (Newham Partnership for Complementary Education)

Adam Duckworth (Liverpool Museums)

Zachary Kingdon (World Museum, Liverpool)

Angus Chukuemeka (Igbo Community Leader, Liverpool)

Jyoti Singh, Trevor Mbatha and Sandra Conolan (Stratford Library)

Harvinda Bahra (formerly of The British Museum)

Sarita Mamseri (Museum of London)

Emmerline Smy (The British Museum)

Workshop Facilitators

Chike Azuonye

Richard Olatunde Baker

Performance Cast

Richard Olatunde Baker

Sean Alayo

Lizzy Abiola Dosunmu

Juwon Ogungbe

Ruky Euba

Amarachi Attamah

Music Consultant

Juwon Ogungbe

Volunteer Researchers

Lois Dalphinis
Isobel Parkinson
Minna Graeber
Rachel Hunter
Aisha Parmenter
Chyrs Chijjutomi
Eva Vasil
Michelle Harewood
Juwon Ogungbe
Uché Aniagolu

-

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