

African Diaspora Awards

applause
Africa
initiative

STILL WE RISE  2012 Theme

This initiative aims to identify and celebrate exemplary individuals who have made a significant difference in the African community in the United States.

“THE AFRICAN DIASPORA ARE PEOPLES OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND HERITAGE LIVING OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND WHO REMAIN COMMITTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTINENT AND THE BUILDING OF THE AFRICAN UNION.” African Union

A Message From The Founders

Applause Africa strongly believes that it is important to celebrate leaders of today in order to inspire leaders of tomorrow.

Over the past ten years, Applause Africa has committed time, energy and resources to identify and celebrate Africans in the Diaspora who have made a significant difference in African communities and sectors around the world. Applause Africa's success and committed track record is a testament of our quest to highlight the efforts of deserving role models in the African community and serves as the passion behind the birth of the African Diaspora Awards.

The African Diaspora Awards joins the list of projects and programs created by Applause Africa which seek to empower Africans in the Diaspora and render positive messages that empowers them and their community. The African Diaspora Award will prove to be as competitive as the Applause Africa Magazine which is reputed as Africa's most respected leadership platform.

“THE FINANCIAL POWER OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES IS EVIDENT THROUGH REMITTANCES, PRIVATE AND INSTITUTIONAL PHILANTHROPY, INVESTMENT PROJECTS, AND PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS. DIASPORA COMMUNITIES ARE ARTICULATE ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN ACROSS GENERATIONS.”

- USAID Report

Background

In 2003, the African Union decided to recognize the African Diaspora as the sixth region of the Africa Union. This has never been done before. The decision was an encouraging sign of corporation and growing ties between Africa and the African Diaspora.

The new breed of African leaders seek closer ties with Africa. They are fed up with the media that focuses negative aspects of Africa such as Africans involved in internet fraud, waiting at the embassies to leave the country, HIV/AIDS, poverty and so on.

The Diaspora has thousands of Africans who serve as positive role models and add value to their society. We believe it is our duty to celebrate and raise awareness of such role models to further change the narrative of Africans and to inspire their generation.

“DIASPORA REMITTANCES ARE A KEY FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER FOR AFRICA WITH US\$40-BILLION FLOWING FROM THE WEST ANNUALLY... AND IS GROWING AT 15% PER YEAR.” Eric Guichard (CEO) Homestrings

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF AFRICA OR YOUR AFRICAN ROOTS, AFRICA HAS A RICH HISTORY, AND A PROMISING FUTURE - Kenneth Kaunda

Mission

The African Diaspora Awards is a special initiative that aims to celebrate exemplary individuals who have made a significant difference in the African community in the United States.

The awards are particularly aimed at motivating young and accomplished African Diasporian professionals to become the change they wish to see in Africa

The African Diaspora Awards aims to identify and celebrate notable Africans that have genuinely excelled in various spheres of life, as well as individuals in society who have contributed to the advancement of Africans in the Diaspora and Africa as a whole.

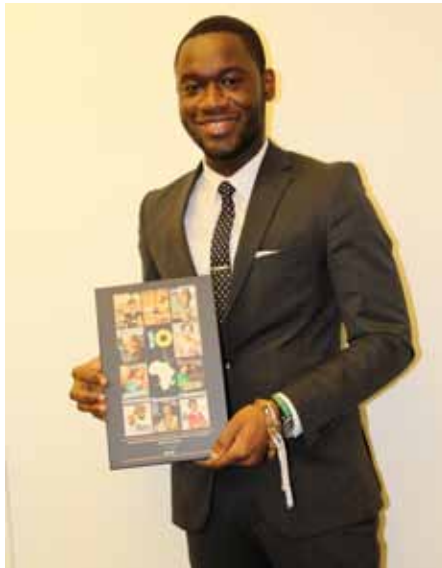
**“THE SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICAN REGIONAL
ECONOMIC OUTPUT IS
PROJECTED TO EXPAND
BY OVER 5% IN 2012
AND 2013 DESPITE THE
NEGATIVE FACTORS
PULLING DOWN
GROWTH IN ADVANCED
COUNTRIES.”**

**The International
Monetary Fund (IMF)**

Core Values

Our values is to empower the Africans in practical ways – through the various trainings, workshops, seminars, trainings, symposia, conferences, internships, networking opportunities, town halls and mentorship programs – especially towards entrepreneurship, enterprise and value creation, with a 2023 target for the present cadre of Africans in the diaspora to be able and equipped to take charge of crucial sectors of the Africa’s economy and polity.

We are also passionate about ensuring that employers and talent scouts, including corporate, governments and development organizations in Africa, are able to have access to a well-skilled pool from the Africans in the diaspora.



Projects

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Applause Africa collaborated with CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, which is the fourth-largest university system in the United States. We are proud of this relationship because CUNY boasts the largest African students enrollment in the education industry in New York.

AFRICAN EXCHANGE

African Exchange is about devoting ideas to an attitudes and lives of African and African in diaspora. African Exchange inspire the thinking of new generational leaders, committed to active and meaningful and engaging in dialogue that will change Africa.

AFRICAN DAISPORA AWARDS.

To commemorate our 10th year anniversary, Applause Africa launched an award ceremony tagged African Diaspora Awards in 2011.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual or a non-profit promoting a social or economic cause in Africa – either in terms of capacity building, activism or promotion. There must be a proper structure, accountability and proof of impact. The advocacy efforts must be at least 3 years old.

Eddie Bergman

SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual recognized for their immense contribution to Africa Scholarship. The scholar must either be a published PhD candidate, Professor, or author of scholarly articles, critical reviews and books on Africa. **Dr. Mamhood Mamdani**

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual that has created and is running a sustainable business for the African market. The business must have a number of employees proportional to its operations. The business must be at least 3 years old. **Jason Njoku**

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

This award is for an actor who has acted in a number of notable movies, TV shows, or plays. She/he must have at least three years of experience in the industry.

Gbenga Akinngbe

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual or group whose music is popular amongst Africans everywhere. The musician(s) must have performed in major concerts and must also be trending.

Nneka

CREATIVE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual in the arts, such as painters, photographers, producers, deejays and writers. The artist must have a respected portfolio. **Tony Okungbowa**

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

This award is for the designer in fashion who combines running a viable business with high-wired creativity. Their work must be of distinctive value and must be original in concept and global in application. Peer acclaim is a plus.

Loza Maléombho

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

This award is for an African Ambassador in the United States who is outstanding to its Diaspora citizens; in terms of accessibility to press, organizing and supporting initiatives, passport applications, etc., while offering great customer service. **George Monyemangene**

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This award is for a corporate entity based in the United States who has offered continuous and unwavering support to Africans and African initiatives. This business takes social responsibility especially in Africa seriously and dedicatedly.

The Whitaker Group

This year's awards will focus on SIX broad sections: ADVOCACY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT, FASHION, EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE, AND PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Categories

Categories

FACE AFRICA

The award is for a model who is established in the industry –the US and Africa. This model exhibits the truly meaning of African beauty, such as character, humility and grace and true love for Africa. This is our ambassador for Africa.

Oluchi Onweagba

FRIEND OF AFRICA

This award is for a non-African individual who utterly demonstrates his/her commitment to the development, empowerment and/or emancipation of Africa. This person could be a philanthropist, the head of a business or a non-profit. **Krista Krieger**

PERSON OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual that has blazed a trail and achieved mind blowing success in any field, thereby becoming an ultimate role model of talent and hard work for millions of young people. This person must have visible leadership skills, project positive values that Africans can connect with, and has been a keynote speaker at a major African event. This award is the biggest of all the awards!

Lola Ogunniake

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award is for an individual who is seen as a strong pillar in his/her community in the US. This person is usually a leader of a local African non-profit organization or someone who devotes their time to activities empowering Africans in the US.

Marcus Samuelsson

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is for an individual who is the founder or head of an African non-profit organization in the US; that has successful annual fundraisings for projects in Africa with credible results. The organization must be at least 2 years old. **Liya Kebede**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is for an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community and the world at large. A role model with a long-standing record of service to the community. The award is intended to confirm a proven reputation.

Angelique Kidjo

Audience

ADA participants will comprise of ADA nominees and their friends and families; Delegates from the African embassies in the US; Representatives from Academic Institutions; Representatives of US based African Professional Organizations; Representatives of Community based Civic Associations and Religious Institutions. Progressive members of the New York community, who are friends of Africa.



GENERAL

Applause Africa magazine is a quarterly published lifestyle magazine for the progressive African in Diaspora. Applause Africa focuses on the people, cultures, philosophies and successes of Diaspora Africa. Applause Africa started as a hobby 10 years ago, in Nigeria, was re-introduced in the United States about three years ago.

Applause Africa is one of very few publications in the US that focus on disseminating positive news on Africa and celebrating exceptional Diaspora African professionals who continue to make Africa proud. Applause Africa is committed to continue to raise the consciousness of African professionals about their collective responsibility and efforts to help build a better Africa by becoming the change they envision.

APPLAUSE AFRICA

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