



5th WORLD SUMMIT ON ARTS & CULTURE MELBOURNE 2011

3 – 6 October 2011



Farai Mpfunya

With a 10+year track record in arts and culture development and strategy, Farai has built competencies in and expertise that encompasses African intellectual property, small organisation capabilities development, film festival management and not-for-profit trust start-up and fund-raising. In addition, he has worked as a project evaluation consultant, leadership training facilitator and professional mentor for arts and culture practitioners.

Farai started his career in electronics engineering at Thomson CSF in Paris and the Civil Aviation Authority in Zimbabwe. He changed careers in 1998 after working in IT in London for about six years returning to Zimbabwe. There, he took up documentary filmmaking before taking charge of an international film festival trust he helped found. He returned to London in 2004 for post graduate studies focusing on small organisation strategies and knowledge management. Farai's current passion and occupation is the Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust, a not-for-profit organisation of which he was a founding trustee. The Trust is one of the biggest funding organisations in Zimbabwe's arts and culture sector. It has awarded over 1000 grants in various disciplines since 2004 and prides itself for innovation and boldness in promoting ideas that can create sustainable wealth in Zimbabwe.

Prior to the Culture Fund, Farai led the transformation of an international film festival into a regional Trust; the Zimbabwe International Film Festival Trust (ZIFFT). He led business model development centred on an annual film festival, capacity building master classes, short film production and outreach audience development projects. His work focused on developing the organisational strategies that included fund raising for the four business units.

Prior to ZIFFT, Farai founded a consulting and creative industries firm called ramafa design. Building on the interior design course he took part-time in London, he used his creative experience to advise clients as well as the trusts he helped build. For clients such as the Dutch Hivos Foundation, he has helped strategy formulation of the Centre for Creative Arts in Durban South Africa.

In his capacity as the Director of the Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust, he has worked closely with artists and cultural practitioners across the different genres, advising them on personal managerial effectiveness, enabling them to develop the skills and strategic acumen for building sustainable business entities while encouraging their innovation and creativity.

Following Arterial Network's cultural policy seminar in Nairobi in November 2009, a Cultural Policy Task Group was established to devise a generic cultural policy for African countries based on numerous existing international and African cultural policy documents that can then be adapted to the conditions within each country. Farai Mpfunya was nominated to the Task Group that will also devise a Cultural Development Index to monitor and evaluate the 53 African countries in terms of their implementation of key cultural plans such as the Nairobi Plan of



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Action on Cultural Industries adopted by the African Union's ministers of culture in Algiers in 2008.

Farai Mpfunya sits on several Boards including chairing the Culture Values Ethics and Development Committee of the National Code on Corporate Governance, a project of the Zimbabwe Leadership Forum and the Institute of Directors. He was one of the African speakers during the World Summit on Arts and Culture held in 2009 in Johannesburg, the first time the world conference was held in Africa. In 2010 he was awarded the National Contribution Award by the Zimbabwe Institute of Management. He sits on the board of directors of Art Moves Africa, the pan-African mobility Fund for the Arts and Culture.

Farai studied French language at CAVILAM Foch, Vichy, France before reading Electronics Engineering and Industrial Information Processing at the University of Pau and Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse. He also holds an MBA with the Middlesex University Business School, London and is an alumni of the British Council Strategic Leadership courses for emerging African leaders. A creative, multi-lingual (Shona, English, and French) professional, Farai is a knowledge-worker with a strong belief that Africa is on the verge of a new era based on old and new knowledge systems

He currently resides in Harare, Zimbabwe and is married with 3 children.