The National Cultural Heritage Awards
2018 ...

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was awarded for the preservation of traditional Kiganda dances such as Bakisimba, Aamaggunju and Nankasa.

2016 ...

St. Peter’s Secondary School Nsambya
was awarded for the preservation of the Fort Jesus building (1895 and 1907) found on its premises.

2013 ...

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spearheaded the promotion of the Kikiga culture and language and has written many books in Rukiga.
Uganda’s cultural heritage is under threat!

Whether tangible (buildings, landscapes, monuments) or intangible (skills, crafts, traditions) our heritage is not effectively protected, even when listed. There is little incentive to preserve it. Historical buildings are for instance vanishing because the economic motive that prevails is one of quick profits (e.g. a cheap concrete structure), while our social and cultural norms go unrecognised.

Salvaging our future...

In 2013, CCFU initiated the National Heritage Awards to provide a missing incentive - social recognition, publicity and money - through a Heritage Prize awarded to individuals and organisations for their outstanding contribution to preserving and promoting our heritage. So far, eighteen awards have been made. This has now become a bi-annual activity.

The awarding process...

The Foundation solicits nominations from the general public and heritage experts. An independent jury reviews entries and selects heritage champions who are later awarded at a grand ceremony. The bi-annual awarding ceremony is well publicised and provides a centre for discussion by cultural enthusiasts, government, media and the academia on issues relating to cultural heritage preservation in Uganda.

Your role...

Please make a contribution to the Heritage Awards: preserve our nation’s heritage, nominate outstanding efforts for recognition, express your interest in the selection of the jury or even make a financial contribution to this exciting process.

Cover photo: The Madhoani Building, main street, Jinja, 2018 heritage awardee
Annet Nandujja was awarded for the preservation of traditional Kiganda dances such as Bakisimba, Aamaggunju and Nankasa. — 2018...
At the 3rd National Cultural Heritage Awards, presided over by Hon. Godfrey Kiwanda (see photo, right), Minister of State for Tourism, six heritage champions were recognised.

The Management of Villa Maria Church (formerly a Cathedral), home of the first African Catholic priests in Uganda, for safeguarding and renovating the structure without compromising its original architectural designs and integrity.

Taga Nuwagaba for his comprehensive compilation of the Totems of Buganda.

Robert Rukahemura for his remarkable effort to preserve traditional medicine and associated values in Bunyoro.

The Mugula family for preserving, defending and maintaining Entebbe za Mugula. Historical and cultural site in Entebbe.

Fr. Richard Kayaga Gonzaga of Jinja Catholic Diocese for promoting and preserving Lusoga language and culture.
St. Peters’ Secondary School Nsambya was awarded for the preservation of the Fort Jesus building (1895 and 1907) found on its premises.
‘...anyone who questions whether heritage is useful for us is questioning whether we are useful in this world’ (Stephen Rwangyezi, during the 2nd National Heritage Awards, at which 6 winners were recognised)

Cwinyaai Atya Richard for his remarkable contribution to the preservation of Alur music, dance and dramma.

Dr. Albert Ssempeke family for their contribution to the preservation and promotion of the traditions of Kiganda music.

The Madhivani family for preserving several historical properties owned by the family in Jinja, especially the building on the Main Street.

PROMETRA Uganda for the preservation of Buyijja forest as a centre for traditional medicine knowledge and healing practices.

The Ndote family for preserving and promoting Kisoga traditional music by making, playing and training youth to play Kisoga musical instruments.
As a retired teacher, Mugurusi Festo Karwemera spearheaded the promotion of the Kikiga culture and language and has written many books in Rukiga.

2013...
In 2013, the Foundation held the first National Heritage Awards ceremony during the International Conference of National Trusts in Entebbe where Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut (left), the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development officiated.

The awardees were:

The Benghani family for preserving in the 1923 Masindi Hotel and running it as a successful business enterprise.

The Soroti District Local Government for preserving and renovating the colonial-era District Hall.

Mr. Petero Ssemwezi and family for preserving the skill of barkcloth making. In 2015, the art of bark cloth making was proclaimed a “Masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity” by UNESCO.

Mwalimu Austin Bukenya conceived and initiated the teaching of oral literature (orature) together with his former teacher, the late PioZirimu, in 1969 at Makerere University.

The Ham Mukasa Family for the preservation of the Akwata empola, Ham Mukasa’s residence in Mukono, a 1905 treasure open to the public.
As Ugandans, we firmly believe that it is our urgent responsibility to help safeguard the remnants of our built and intangible heritage. This is vital to help define the nation of the future.

We call upon our leaders in various sectors to put Culture on the national agenda; we need a Ministry of Culture. We need to promote cultural tourism. And we need to spend more than 0.002% of our public resources on culture.

To support the next 2020 the National Cultural Heritage awards, please contact CCFU at 0393 294 675 / 7
Coming up ...

The National Cultural Heritage Awards - 2020

Be part of it!

Contribute to saving our vanishing heritage!

Please nominate an individual, group or organisation eligible in your opinion for a heritage award and send us details (including a photo where appropriate)

All nominations will be vetted by a jury and winners awarded at a grand ceremony during the World Culture Week (18th-22nd, May 2020)

Deadline: 31st March 2020

Email or deliver your nomination to:

The Executive Director, The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda
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Tel: +256 - 393294675
ccfu@crossculturalfoundation.or.ug, www.crossculturalfoundatio.or.ug

Supporters of the previous National Cultural Heritage Awards