



Archives in motion: An artistic and digital odyssey

Overview

Main partner

Mandji is a diaspora organisation working for human and cultural development by promoting African heritage. Since 2011, it has been supporting migrant women in Belgium through innovative training programs, and for the past two years, it has been expanding its work in Senegal to female artists. It builds bridges between continents by promoting African and diaspora artists and organising cultural events that raise the visibility of African communities.



Associate partner

Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) is a research center dedicated to Black Africa, which conducts and disseminates scientific work in the fields of humanities, languages and civilisations, animal biology, botany, and geology. It has six laboratories, specialised collections and archives, as well as three major museums, contributing to the promotion of African heritage.



Budget

€ 45,938

Duration

13 months (July 2025 - July 2026)

Sustainable development goals



Project design

Context & needs

In Senegal, preserving cultural heritage and creating opportunities for youth in the cultural and digital sectors are recognised national priorities, reflected in the Sénégal Numérique 2025 strategy. Although less than 30% of African cultural archives are digitised and only 5% of museums on the continent have an online presence (UNESCO), initiatives are underway to bridge this gap. This project complements these efforts by preserving and digitalising the archives of the 1966 Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres, in partnership with IFAN and the Théodore Monod Museum, while enhancing local capacity through specialised training in digitisation and archive management.

General objective

Preserve and promote African cultural heritage, particularly the archives of the 1st Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres, by strengthening local skills in digitisation and artistic creation, while promoting equitable access to culture.

Specific objectives

- Preserving and promoting African cultural heritage by digitizing 100% of the Festival's identified archives.
- Training young people and staff members to develop their professional skills in the cultural and digital sectors.
- Promoting artistic creation and intercultural dialogue through an artistic residency.
- Engaging local and international communities by attracting at least 1000 visitors to the exhibition and 500 to the artistic performance in Senegal.
- Evaluating and ensure the sustainability of the project through interim evaluations as well as a final evaluation.

Target groups

- 20 young people (50% girls).
- Ten IFAN staff members and other partners trained in digitisation.
- Eight artists (50% women) from Senegal and the diaspora.

Programme of activities

Activity 1.1

Raising awareness among young people

Activity 1.2

Selection of archives from the World Festival of Black Arts (1966)

Activity 2

Training in digitisation and digital archiving

Activity 3

Two artist residencies

Activity 4

60th anniversary of the International Festival of Black Arts

Activity 5

Interim and final project evaluations