



IKENGA DAY 2023

A EUROPEAN IGBO FESTIVAL

AfricaFora is proud to present the latest of its series of Black and African celebrations: **Ikenga Day 2023 – A European Igbo Festival** will be held on September 24th, 2023 in Paris. **Ikenga Day** is AfricaFora's annual celebration and reflection on Igbo culture, a get-together of sorts for Ndigbo, Igbo descendants and their friends to promote, celebrate and honour the culture, people and traditions.

Join us this September to celebrate and learn more about Igbo culture and traditions. Activities will include panels, cultural displays, food sales and more. A detailed programme will be released shortly but AfricaFora is happy to confirm the following speakers. For more information or to become a partner, contact us at admin@africafora.com.

Speakers

Dwij David Gittens

Guest of honour

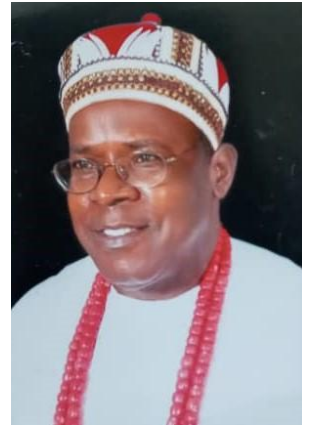
Dwij David Gittens is a self-taught innovator, artist, designer and entrepreneur. His work include a UNICEF sponsored solar-heated community shower system for an indigenous Guatemalteca community, designing the stage set for the fiftieth anniversary of the UN at the New York Secretariat, and innovative playgrounds designed for California schools. He is also the creator of the acclaimed Ikenga automobiles, Ikenga catamaran boat, voice-controlled furniture. Gittens' award-winning 1988 Ikenga 530Z Autogiro aircraft is exhibited at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. A retired State of Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator in the Florida judicial system, Gittens' project-of-heart in his senior years is the Only Hearts Art Peace Project, an open source international educational interactive exercise that gives students a creative voice towards how they will manifest change in the world.



His Royal Majesty Ambassador Dr. Lawrence Agubuzu

Royal Father of the day

His Royal Majesty, Igwe, Ambassador Dr. Lawrence Agubuzu is the current Chairman of South-East council of Traditional Rulers, after serving as the Chairman of Enugu State Council of Traditional Rulers. Igwe Amb Agubuzu became the Traditional Ruler of Ezema Olo kingdom in Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State in the year 2006 after over thirty years of service as a foreign service officer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which he ended as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the United Nations; Republics of Zambia and Malawi and the Organisation of African Unity/African Union. Igwe Amb. Agubuzu is a recipient of the National Honours of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) and Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR).



Hon. Collins Nweke

AfricaFora Patron

Hon Collins Nweke is the first naturalised Belgian to be elected to political office in West Flanders, where he is executing his third mandate. Former chief executive and chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora in Europe, Nweke has been active in consultancy and advocacy in the field of socio-economic development for Nigeria and for Africa in general. He is the co-founder and current Vice President of the *Rebuild Nigeria Initiative*.



His Excellency Ambassador Jean R. Pillard

Ambassador Jean R. Pillard served as US Ambassador to Haiti and is currently CEO of Crosswave Global Partners LLC, where he provides innovative solutions for clients navigating the complexities of the global marketplace. With expertise in international relations and cross-cultural dynamics, Amb. Pillard empowers administrations to overcome cultural differences. Amb. Pillard Previously served as Principal at Pillard Consulting LLC, specialising in International Relations. Notably, he established the first Haitian Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, earning the title of Honorary Chairman. In 2014, he led the Diplomatic Mission at the Embassy of Haiti, re-establishing diplomatic ties with the UK and forging strong alliances. Pillard also founded the Life Skills Haiti Foundation, empowering underprivileged Haitian youths through education and employment opportunities.



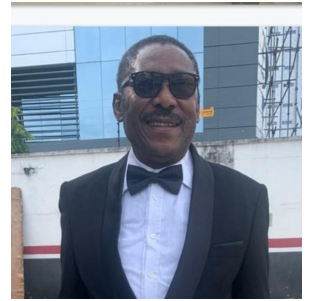
Professor Chidi G Osuagwu

Professor Chidi G Osuagwu is a philosopher and scientist, former professor of Biomedical Sciences, with special interest in diseases of the African peoples. He has special interest in scientific exegesis of Igbo and African cosmology and its applications for a more natural and Just World order. Osuagwu is community leader and truth-justice activist for economic development that is measured in increased life expectancy, he is a campaigner for Global Igbo Linkages.



Ogbueshi Delly Ajufo

Ogbueshi Delly Ajufo is a risk analyst and insurance consultant as well as a current affairs analyst and member of Peter Obi's presidential campaign council. Qualified in manufacturing technology, Ajufo was a founding member of Liberal convention, a foremost political movement annulled by Babangida and of the Anioma Redemption Group. He is the founder and currently Chairman of the Association of professional practising Insurance Brokers of Nigeria.



Amaopusenibo Bobo Sofiri Brown

Amaopusenibo Brown is the Managing Consultant & CEO of GRAIN Consulting, a strategic Stakeholder Relations and Brand management PR consultancy. Brown was the first Political Editor of the TIDE Group of newspapers in Nigeria in 1979, and later became Editor of Nigerian TIDE. His career also includes posts as PR manager for MW Kellogg in Texas (USA), a member of the international management team in NAFCON (Nigeria) and Manager for Public Affairs-East at SHELL Nigeria. A former President of Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Brown is also Founder and Managing Director of SUNRAY Newspapers and magazines (with over 20 international offices).



Ositadimma Agu

Moderator

Ositadimma Agu is a creative artist, writer, branding consultant, and social change activist. Trained as a fine artist at the Enugu Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), he since worked with a few advertising agencies before veering into marketing and management of events. Agu has been part of several landmark events in Nigeria including World Refugee Day 2000. Agu was also part of the revolution in the entertainment industry, as well as initiated The SIND 2 DA HEART PROJECT, to assist the Kanu Heart Foundation. Agu is the Business Development Director at Desgraf & Mart Limited, and a member of Alaigbo Development Foundation, Nzuko Umunna, Greater Igbo Nation Foundation. Agu is passionate about Igbo Culture and preservation.



A word from AfricaFora's patron

An ideal world order for us at AfricaFora is one where all people own their culture, traditions and story, without becoming an island. Ikenga is about strengthening the ties between Ndigbo, Igbo descendants and their friends to promote a connectivity of mutual benefits. As Patron of AfricaFora, I invite you to help us make Ikenga 2023 – a European Igbo Festival a resounding success.

Hon Collins Nweke