



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA

A MORE CIVIL, PEACEFUL, & PROSPEROUS WORLD STARTS WITH YOU.



World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 1660
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Stay in touch with us at wacphila.org

AMERICAN MUSIC AND THE ECONOMY

WORLD AFFAIRS

As the region's largest and longest-running international nonprofit, World Affairs opens doors between Philadelphia and the world. From powerful speaker events and international exchanges to youth education, to professional development and curated travel programs, this is where continents, cultures, and ideas connect.

IVLP

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts.

ANGOLA



PATRICIA FARIA

Director/Musician
Casa da Cultura Rangel Njinga
Mbande

Patricia Faria is a widely-recognized Angolan singer and lawyer with a hugely influential voice in Angolan culture and politics. She is a trailblazer, finding success in the Semba music scene that was dominated by men, and uses her platform as an educator and radio host to foster social development.

CAMBODIA



SIN SETSOCHHATA

Singer/Song Writer
KlapYaHandz Music Label

Setsochhata Sin is one of Cambodia's most prominent young singer-songwriters. She rose to stardom with her debut single "Realization", which was featured in Rolling Stone magazine under the title "Sin Setsochhata's Moonlight Ballads" in 2021. Beyond her success as a solo singer, Setsochhata has become a trailblazing entrepreneur, leveraging the economic potential of music in both Cambodia and the United States.

FINLAND



SAARA EVERI

Head of Marketing and PR
PME Records

Everi oversees marketing and promotion for nearly thirty artists at PME Records, including prominent names like JVG – one of the most popular music groups in Finland. Her role involves developing marketing and promotional strategies and navigating the economic aspects of the music industry, such as branding, audience engagement, and revenue generation. Everi has been recognized in the Nordic Music Biz Top 20 Under 30 list by Nordic Music Export (Nomex), acknowledging top young music professionals in the Nordics. She has also received the PR or Marketing Person of the Year award at the Music x Media Industry Awards in 2023, an event organized by a premiere creative business conference and showcase festival based in Finland.

INDONESIA



ADI SURANTA

Program & Creative Director
ALL RISE Hip Hop Youth Community
Owner
PASBEL Chill Coffee

Adi Suranta (aka AQ Flow) is a North Sumatra-based emcee, producer, DJ, and one of Indonesia's most prominent Hip-Hop artists. He began his music career in 2006 as a rapper and started producing hip hop music a year later. He founded the Hip Hop NAD Syndicate in Aceh and 165 Hip Hop Nation in Medan, where he also helped establish the region's first beatboxing community.

MALAWI



SKEFFA MLONGOTI CHIMOTO

Managing Director
Real Sounds Band

Skeffa 'The Jamming Machine' Chimoto is an established Malawian musician with a large degree of influence among rural Malawians and youth who form majority of the country's population. He has over 20 years of experience as a recording artist in Malawi's music industry. Skeffa's target audience is mostly illiterate and from disadvantaged backgrounds hence more receptive to his music and call to action which is in a language they can understand.

MONTENEGRO



MARKO LUBARDA

Hip Hop Artist
Programming Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Water Management

Marko Lubarda is a multi-talented, high-achieving and influential individual. He has worked in civil society and government positions while also building a thriving career in hip hop. He has managed to establish himself as one of the most prominent and influential hip hop artists in Montenegro and the Balkans and is one of only a handful of rappers who rap in the Montenegrin language.

NEPAL



KIRAN NEPALI

Sarangi Maestro
Executive Director
Project Sarangi Foundation

Kiran Nepali, a self-taught Sarangi maestro and cultural entrepreneur, is a pioneering force in preserving and revitalizing Nepal's musical traditions. As the founder of Project Sarangi, he has transformed the traditional string instrument into a symbol of cultural pride and a tool for economic empowerment. His work demonstrates how music can drive innovation, create livelihood opportunities, and foster cross-cultural collaboration.

NEPAL



KOLIN BIKRAM RANA

Founder
Raw Barz Pvt. Ltd.
Founder/CEO
Amaravati Property Solutions

With over 14 years of professional experience in Nepal's hip-hop industry and a demonstrated track record of leadership, innovation, and impact, Kolin has positioned hip hop not only as a form of artistic expression but also as a powerful tool for community engagement, economic opportunity, and youth engagement.

NIGERIA



KOREDE KAREEM BELLO

Founder
Korede Bello Initiative
Musician/Composer
Casper Events Services Company

Korede Bello, the renowned Afrobeats superstar, has a multifaceted career that focuses on impactful engagement with community. He addressed over 4,000 young people, with several thousand more joining online and via cable networks, in collaboration with the Jamaican American electronic dance music and DJ trio, Major Lazer. His philanthropic efforts, including using personal funds to pay tuition fees and purchase school supplies for youth, have had a significant impact on their lives. In addition to his musical career, Korede is a trained journalist, writer, and poet.

SAUDI ARABIA



HAMZA ZAKARIA ALHAWSAWI

Singer / songwriter
X-Factor Winner

Hamza Hawsawi is an accomplished Saudi R&B singer and the 2013 X-Factor winner. His impact on the music industry and his commitment to leveraging music as a tool for community development has far surpassed that of his contemporaries. As a self-employed musician, songwriter, performing artist, and producer, Hawsawi has not only crafted a successful career in the competitive landscape of music but has also established a robust network within the Saudi Ministry of Culture. His connections have facilitated the enrichment of Saudi Arabia's cultural scene, making him a key figure in promoting and supporting the integration of music into communities.

SOUTH AFRICA



KHULI CHANA

Chief Executive Officer
Khuli Chana Foundation
Khuli Chana Studios
My Throne Group

Khulani Morule, known as Khuli Chana, is an award-winning rapper, songwriter, and music entrepreneur who pioneered Motswako, a rap genre blending Setswana and English with traditional sounds from Mahikeng. With over two decades in the industry, he has received multiple South African Music Awards (SAMAs), including Best Rap Album, Best Male Artist, and Album of the Year. Beyond his success as a performer, Khuli is deeply involved in the business side of music, mentoring young artists, leading industry workshops, and organizing an annual festival to support emerging talent.

THAILAND



PHARADON PHONAMNUAI

Founder
Meu-yen Muang-yen
North Gate Jazz Co-op
Thapae East Venue for Creative Arts

A Chiang Mai native, Mr. Phonamnuai is the founder of North Gate Jazz Co-Op and Mahoree City of Music, which are Chiang Mai's premier music venues that brings together local and international musicians. Through leading the North Gate Jazz Co-Op, he has worked to create an inclusive music economy that supports local musicians, encourages cultural exchange, and strengthens community engagement. The Co-Op has become a self-sustaining space where music is not just an art form, but a vehicle for economic opportunity and social engagement.

UGANDA



JULIANA KANYOMOZI

Musician/Performing Artist

Juliana Kanyomozi is one of Uganda's most decorated female artists, and she has been involved in the music industry since the early 2000s giving her profound impact on the cultural landscape. Her dedication to charitable endeavors, notably through the Keron Kabugo Foundation and the Training to Eradicate Rural Poverty in Uganda (TERPU) which aim to improve the lives of rural children by providing health care, education, and other essential services, and to provide education and vocational training in rural areas respectively, underscores her commitment to leveraging her musical career and further network with professionals involved in the business side of music.



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA

**WHERE CONTINENTS,
CULTURES, AND
IDEAS CONNECT.**

@WACPHILA



WACPHILA.ORG