

# Olakunle JoelAdewale

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## Profile

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A dedicated and passionate humanitarian artist, social development and an arts in health practitioner. For over 10 years, 'Kunle's leadership and commitment have been towards arts for health, well-being and social change with diverse populations and professionals across the world, including Ireland, the United States, South Africa, the UK, Canada, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Botswana, Belize, Scotland and Egypt among many others. Seeking to use arts and creativity to uplift spirits and inspire social development across the globe through collaboration, cultural exchange, and community engagements.

## Education

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2007 – 2010	<b>Bachelor of Arts (Hons.), Fine Arts (Painting and Arts History), <i>Obafemi Awolowo University</i></b> Second Class Upper Division	Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria
2004 – 2005	<b>National Diploma, Painting and General Arts,</b> <i>Auchi Polytechnic</i> Upper Credit	Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria

## Courses

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2020	<b>Certificate in Arts in Health Research Intensive,</b> <i>University of Florida</i>	USA
2020	<b>Certificate in Understanding Arts and Dementia,</b> <i>University College London</i>	United Kingdom
2020	<b>Effective Fundraising and Leadership in Arts and Culture,</b> <i>University of Leeds</i>	United Kingdom
2019	<b>Medicine and the Arts: Humanizing Healthcare,</b> <i>Capetown University</i>	South Africa
2018	<b>Certificate in Summer Intensive Arts in Medicine Program,</b> <i>University of Florida</i>	USA
2015	<b>Certificate in Civic Engagement Leadership,</b> <i>Tulane University</i>	

## Professional Experience

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2021 – present	<b>Founder/Executive Director, <i>Mental Health Fellowship</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruited the team members of the Mental Health Fellowship who work in different capacities to ensure the smooth operation of our program in Nigeria.</li><li>• Facilitated training for the team to enable them to understand the entire scope of the organisation.</li><li>• Recruited the faculty members from the fields of social development, leadership, education, the arts, art therapy, neuroscience, public health, marketing, and communications of the Fellowship who are professionals and the experts in our organisation.</li><li>• Oversaw 100 young adults from the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria to be part of the inaugural cohort of the fellows.</li><li>• Designed, managed and implemented the 10 week course content and projects for thr Mental Health Fellows who carried out community projects that reflected mental health advocacy, education, and engagement in the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria.</li><li>• Liased with media to prepare press releases that feature our organization's programs and projects.</li><li>• Managed the Organisation's Social Media Platforms through branding, content sharing, graphic designs, content marketing and promotions.</li></ul>	Nigeria
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2018–present

**Founder/Executive Director, Arts in Medicine Fellowship**

- Facilitated training for the team members in the Arts in Medicine Fellowship to enable them to understand the entire scope of work.
- Recruited Board and faculty members of the Fellowship who are professionals and the experts in our organisation.
- Played an active supervisory role in recruiting over 800 participants from 40 countries since the Arts in Medicine Fellowship was founded in the year 2018.
- Responsible for Program Design and Implementation of 11-week course content of our programs.
- Worked with the media and communication team to make a press release that features our Arts in Medicine Fellowship programs and projects.
- Assisted media and communication team to manage Arts in Medicine Fellowship's Social Media Platforms through branding, content sharing, graphic designs, content marketing and promotions.
- Curated over eight successful art exhibitions since 2018.
- Sourcing for grants, I have secured grant support from the U.S Mission and the Rhode Trust/Atlantic Institute in the UK for the Arts in Medicine Fellowship since it was founded in 2018.

2016–present

**Founder/Executive Director, Arts in Medicine Projects**

Nigeria

- Designed and implemented programs for arts in medicine and social development.
- Implemented 15 art in medicine programs that benefited over 10 hospitals, health centres, and community members in Nigeria.
- Designed and created the first Arts in Health Hub in Nigeria, located within the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital in Nigeria.
- Curated over 4 art exhibitions on mental and brain health in Nigeria and the United States of the Arts in Medicine Projects to educate the public through awareness, advocacy, and engagement.
- Secured grant support from the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Society and the Global Brain Health Institute, University of California San Francisco, to run a pilot project focused on Arts for Brain Health for people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in Lagos, Nigeria.

**Publications**

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2020 **ATUNBI, the grit, the guts, the glory (Memoir of Kunle Adewale),**  
*Independently published*

2014 **Why Sit we here till we die? A tale of 4 lepers**

**Projects**

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2020 **Diary of Frontliner: A Photography Exhibition on COVID-19**

2020 **Mental Health through the Lens of Arts**

2020 **Arts for Brain Health**

2017 **Arts for Sustainable Development Goals (ARTS4SDGs) United Nations Information Centre Lagos**

2015–2016 **Artbility Arts Exhibition for Down syndrome Foundation Nigeria**

2016 **Healing Hearts to Commemorate World Sickle Cell Day**

2016 **Africa4Her Art Exhibition**

2018 **Uplifting Spirits 1 (Arts in Medicine Exhibition) Terrakulture Gallery**

2018	<b>Uplifting Spirits 2 (Arts in Medicine Exhibition) National Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria</b>	
2015	<b>Arts Council of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. EXCHANGE Program</b>	
2018	<b>Arts for Alzheimer's Workshop and Exhibition GABI Williams Alzheimer Foundation</b>	

## **Organisations**

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2013–present	<b>Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria</b> Volunteers annually with a local NGO, Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria, through advocacy for children and adults living with Sickle cell disease.	Lagos State
2019–2020	<b>Arts for Brain Health Memory and Aging Center, UCSF, Facilitator</b>	
2013–2018	<b>Children Living with Cancer Foundation</b> Volunteered quarterly with a local NGO, The Children Living with Cancer Foundation, by teaching children and young adults to use art as a therapy.	
2015–2017	<b>International Coalition For Eradication Of Hunger And Abuse (ICEHA)</b> Facilitated Art Therapy (Healing through Art) For Survivors of Terror attacks in Nigeria and vulnerable population in West Africa.	North East and Lagos, Nigeria
	<b>Down syndrome Foundation Nigeria</b> Facilitated art programs for persons living with disabilities and also helped fundraise for NGO'S through art exhibitions.	Lagos State, Nigeria
2018	<b>Art Therapy for Survivors of Terror Attack and Prison Inmates organized by US Embassy, Co-Facilitator</b>	Abuja, Nigeria
2020	<b>Virtual Arts for seniors living with Early Dementia, Facilitator</b>	
2015	<b>Donation of Artworks</b> Presented 2 paintings to the U.S State Department to be a part of the U.S State Department Future Diplomacy Center.	USA

## **Awards**

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2022	<b>Exceptional leader for the inaugural Inspirers Award, Leadership of Advance Conference and RCCG Lagos Province</b>	
2021	<b>Royal African Youth Leadership award, Ooni of Ife. Honoured by His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Oguwusi II , Ooni of Ife for his leadership in Africa</b>	
2019	<b>Atlantic Fellow For Equity in Brain Health, Global Brain Health Institute , University of California San Francisco</b>	
2019	<b>Kunle Adewale Day, Mayor of Cincinnati</b> Honoured by John Cranley, the Mayor of Cincinnati Ohio, who pronounced every August 2nd as Kunle Adewale Day in the United States.	
2017	<b>Honorary Award for Contribution to Africa's Development through Social Innovation and Leadership, Ideation Hub</b>	
2016	<b>Certificate of Recognition for investing in women and Girls (Africa4Her Initiative), Young African Leaders Initiative</b>	
2016	<b>Award for Understanding the Rights of Girls and Women, Young African Leaders Initiative</b>	
2016	<b>Commonwealth Youth Worker Award Winner, Commonwealth Youth Programme Awards for Excellence in Development Work (Final Four from Africa Region)</b>	
2015	<b>Young African Ambassador for Arts &amp; Culture, Arts Council of New Orleans, Louisiana. U.S.A</b>	
2015	<b>Mandela Washington Fellow, Young African Leaders Initiative YALI Flagship Fellowship of President Barack Obama) USA</b>	
2015	<b>Sickle Cell Advocate of the Year 2015 Award, Sickle Cell 101, San Francisco USA</b> Runner Up Candidate	
2015	<b>Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Enthusiasm and Passion for the Arts, Art Council of New Orleans</b>	

2015	<b>Special Recommendation for Art and Healing,</b> National Museum of African Art Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C
2014	<b>Global Teacher Prize,</b> Varkey Foundation United Kingdom Nominated for Global Teacher Prize 2014 and 2016
2009	<b>Meritorious Award,</b> Department of Fine And Applied Arts Obafemi Awolowo University

### Global Fellowship Awards

2015: President Barack Obama, Mandela Washington Fellowship, United States of America

2019: Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health, Global Brain Health Institute, University of California, United States

### Global Media Coverage and Mention of 'Kunle Adewale

- UK Guardian
- Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Journal
- France 24
- Reuters
- Aljazeera
- TRT World
- BBC
- Weltspiegel Germany
- Africa 54, Voice of America Washington DC
- Europenewsok
- Taiwan Plus TV
- CBC Canada
- TV5 Monde , France
- VD News Germany
- EAC News Cambodia
- DW Deutsche Welle News, Germany
- Global Business Outlook

### Additional Leadership Positions and Capacity

- Championed the First Arts in Health Conference in 2021. Chaired the First National Arts in Health Week in Nigeria, 2022
- Co-lead the Social Therapeutic Horticulture Project for Seniors Living with Dementia in Nigeria
- Panelist/Speaker: Co-Creating Arts for Brain Health - a Global Perspective organized by Arts4Dementia UK and Global Brain Health Institute Trinity College Dublin 2022.
- Guest Speaker: Digital Equity for Nigerian Seniors and Global Arts in Health Programs, organized by Kings College London, 2022
- Guest Speaker: Global Arts in Health Programs, organized by University College London, 2022

### Expertise

- Arts and Creativity for Child Health
- Arts and Creativity for Mental and Brain Health
- Arts and Creativity for Alzheimer's and Dementia Care
- Arts for Social Development
- Arts in Health Festivals
- Arts and Creativity for Persons living Disabilities
- Arts and Creativity for Displaced People and Refugees
- Arts and Technology (MetaVerse) for Good Health and Wellbeing
- Arts and Creativity for general health and wellness

## **MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS**

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/meet-the-young-man-using-art-to-help-patients-in-nigerian-hospitals-28795>

<https://www.beingpatient.com/kunle-adewale-vr-dementia-care/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/may/30/the-technical-tunes-getting-elderly-nigerians-up-and-digitally-dancing>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/08/08/building-bridges-with-arts-for-cultural-diplomacy/>

<https://www.alz.org/blog/alz/june-2020/humanitarian-artist-kunle-adewale-is-uplifting-spi>

<https://www.dw.com/en/bringing-art-therapy-to-hospitals-in-lagos/video-63371462>

<https://www.globalbusinessoutlook.com/virtual-reality-elderly-nigerias-retirement-homes/>

<https://www.codaworx.com/projects/rainbows-in-the-clouds-lagos-university-teaching-hospital-pediatric-mural/>

<https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idOV595205052022RP1>

<https://tv.guardian.ng/entertainment/entertainment-news/vr-brings-nigerias-stars-into-care-homes/?>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(22\)00352-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(22)00352-2/fulltext)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxFn0tqLX30>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BRMtw3hiXw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFIE08mEA2E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tar7nXthJ6k>

<https://kunleadewale.com/>

<https://guardian.ng/art/adewale-touching-lives-soothing-pains-with-his-palette/>

<https://alumni.state.gov/highlight/using-arts-heal-bring-joy>

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/kunle-adewale-heals-art-3713116>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/05/28/kunle-adewale-at-40-a-celebration-focused-on-children-and-community/>

<https://yali.state.gov/serving-nigerias-health-care-workers-through-art-focused-programs/>

<https://www.legit.ng/1353081-us-city-marks-kunle-adewale-day-a-year-declaration.html>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/08/16/august-2-declared-as-kunle-adewale-day-in-ohio-usa/>

Frontliners Musical in COVID <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxe3zxiX0ZI>

Arts and Health Innovation Hub Nigeria : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKGQjDy6eL0&t=110s>

National Arts in Health Conference, Nigeria <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1Tg6DzJP2M&t=64s>

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/us-mayor-honours-a-nigerian-for-using-arts-for-social-change/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/08/08/at-kunle-adewale-day-change-makers-call-for-active-engagement/>

<https://tribuneonlineng.com/kad-2021-explores-arts-for-cultural-diplomacy/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunle\\_Adewale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunle_Adewale)

<https://guardian.ng/news/first-mental-health-fellowship-inaugurated-in-nigeria/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/05/14/inaugural-national-arts-in-health-conference-holds-in-lagos/>

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/10/first-mental-health-fellowship-births-in-nigeria/>

<https://tribuneonlineng.com/artist-marks-world-mental-health-day-launches-fellowship/>

<https://www.legit.ng/1438572-artist-who-celebrated-us-city-every-august-2-launches-1st-mental-health-fellowship-nigeria.html>

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/saving-victims-of-nigerias-boko-haram-with-art/>

<https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/can-art-heal-how-a-lagos-creative-group-is-using-art-as-therapy/#.Xnl4O1NKhQI>

<https://www.facebook.com/7382473689/posts/10157886457643690/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/04/15/when-art-meets-medicine/>

<https://mobile.reuters.com/video/watch/healing-through-art-in-nigeria-id629862823?edition-redirect=uk>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/01/25/healing-power-of-arts/>  
<https://guardian.ng/art/nigerian-artist-kunle-adewale-gets-special-day-in-u-s/>  
<https://guardian.ng/art/at-tender-art-young-female-artists-get-empowerment/>  
<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/10/04/in-atunbi-kunle-adewale-tells-it-all/>  
[https://interactive.america.gov/iip\\_event/mentortalks-art-health/](https://interactive.america.gov/iip_event/mentortalks-art-health/)  
<https://africans-in-america.com/2020/08/04/kunle-adewale-nigerian-artist-gets-special-day-in-cincinnati/>  
<https://oneglobalvoice.it/tag/disability/>  
<https://briefly.co.za/74401-us-city-marks-kunle-adewale-day-a-year-declaration.html>  
<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/afrika/Nigerian-artist-gets-his-own-celebratory-special-day-in-Cincinnati-1029016>