AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA
A NEW GLOBAL POWER?

WORKING PAPER
Prepared by Paula Moreno, President of Visible Hands
(www.manosvisibles.org)

ORGANIZER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
“There are many reasons why we must feel proud to be black.

**We are** part of a population that remains and becomes its self-esteem voice.  
**We are** a community, an extended family, a body that sings and dances to celebrate their own identity, a diaspora that fights, proposes and shares.  
**We are** a neighborhood in which there are to build brotherhood and commitment.  
**We are** an ancient soul, which deserves to be heard, admired and respected.  
**We are** a silence that shouts very loud, without fear today to be heard.”

Reflections 2016 of **Rafael Palacios**, choreographer Colombian, National Dance Prize, Director of the Dance Company SANKOFA. Member of the “Manos Visibles” Network.
AFROINNOVA: text and context

AGENDA: ¿WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? ¿WHY?

¿WHO IS WHO?

THE ORGANIZERS

ANNEXS  AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA: IS IT A NEW GLOBAL POWER?
SUSANA EDJANG
“I AM BECAUSE WE ARE”

UBUNTU’S PROVERB
“That’s why a platform like Afrolinnova - offering visibility options, create links and helps transform the narrative between African descent within and outside Africa – it is a pioneer and necessary. A platform like this can help us to look beyond what is in front of us, to think big, to identify groups or individuals that may trigger this transformation, and thus present a more balanced, more complex reflection of Africa in its diaspora and vice versa.”

“Power is the ability you have to take something out, based on brute force, intellectual capacity, resources (financial, networking, materials, etc). The power of the African diaspora exists, but to be a global power, the African diaspora must be recognized and find common areas of action to improve, grow and change”.

Reflections **Susana Edjang** 2016, Afroinnova Member in launching this initiative in the framework of Afro-Colombian Day
AfroInnova is an initiative of the “Manos Visibles” Corporation that with the support of the Spanish Cooperation seeks to promote strategic connections between organizations and innovative leaders of the African diaspora, within the framework of the UN decade for Afrodescendants 2015-2024.

Since 2015, we have carried out a process of mapping, analysis, and reflection concerning the dynamic relationship between the African diaspora in the world, looking at mechanisms that strengthen the links and power relations to rethink new forms of influence in the decade of Afrodescendants. For this reason, we have convened a group of 25 leaders and organizations with experience, who are interested in the processes of empowerment of Africa and its Diasporas at the global level. At the end, what interests us is the promotion of an International Afrodiasporic Power, which is based on the recovery of the diaspora and their contributions to streamline structural changes through strategic connections.
Our motivation is to show the African diaspora and its roots as sources of inspiration and assets of power, to thus allow in a collective exercise to promote effective actions to improve the knowledge base and the living conditions of people of African descendants and African communities.

For this first Meeting in Cartagena, we hope to generate a process of reflection on individual experiences, which allow us to analyze similarities and keys processes of change, in order to reflect together on the following axis from which we approach community innovation as a main component of AfroInnova:

Study the changes that various initiatives and leaders have promoted to generate power and actual impact, for the advancement of the Afro community.

Analyze the mechanisms that have helped or can help transform imaginary limiting around the ethnic groups that are not associated to innovation, to development and to power.

Take advantage of the leadership and our resources, promoting the co-creation and collaboration.

Produce effective change (results), through concrete action, incubated in a process of collective thinking between group of leaders and organizations with the same motivation and vision, pragmatic visibilization and dynamism in this decade, as an advance of African descendants.
With the support of the Spanish Cooperation and the Ford Foundation, Afroinnova will have three meetings. This first 1st Meeting in Cartagena, will focus on “The power of the African diaspora”. Each of the leaders and experiences that have been selected and invited to take part in this working group will be shared during the three days during this meeting.

1. Reading of reality:
¿What happens in African countries and in countries with higher afrodescendant population? ¿What is the situation today? ¿What have been advances or setbacks?, ¿How do the participants read the situation at the national or regional level?

2. Who is Who?
What happens in African countries and others with large afro descendant populations? What is the situation today? What have been some advances or setbacks? How do the participants understand the situation at the national or regional level?

• Personal trajectories that bear witness to a cause, that without doubt seek from different spaces human dignity, and in particular the advance of the Afro descendant population.

• The innovative ideas have proven that the solutions are not only external but that there are good practices in the African Diaspora and in Africa, which help to inspire global solutions to common challenges.

• The organizations or institutions that allow generating structures of influence, thought, implementation, and national power at regional and global levels.

3. Analysis of power and incidence
The AFROINNOVA agenda must be based on the ability to generate specific actions to begin to weave strategic connections and practices that we can meet and which constitute a shared paradigm.

Accordingly, the Meeting I of the Group of community innovation for the African Diaspora has a working agenda motivated to enliven and generate relationships, from which to build a base of global collaboration. Similarly, the structure seeks to optimize participants’ time and the level of the expected results.
### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, CENTER OF THE SPANISH COOPERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
<th>SEGMENT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPECTED RESULTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>The map:</strong> reading of the reality of African Descent and African</td>
<td>Meeting of pairs per country or subregion accompanied by cooperation agencies.</td>
<td>Memories reflections national, subregional and regional levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Global Map:</strong> territorial sharing visions</td>
<td>Each country, region or subregion presents its prospects. Analysis of points in common.</td>
<td>Shared and common trends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 a 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Who is who? “¿Quién es quién?”</strong></td>
<td>Panels with individual presentations by line of action: (i) Youth and prevention of violence (ii) Communications and Culture (iii) urban development and economy (iv) Academy and leadership</td>
<td>Map of leaderships, initiatives and leaders per line of action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. a 7:00</td>
<td><strong>Cartagena:</strong> Tour of identity</td>
<td>Walking the historic city, recalling the enslavement and their meanings with Pedro Blas (Poet Cartagenero)</td>
<td>Tour Afrodisporico and memories of the enslavement</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Cartagena:</strong> Identity Dialogue (dinner)</td>
<td>A roundtable discussion with Alfonso Múnera and Moises Alvarez. Historians and Afro-Colombian leaders</td>
<td>Map of a local reality</td>
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### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, CENTER OF THE SPANISH COOPERATION AND “LA BOQUILLA”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
<th>SEGMENT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPECTED RESULTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 to 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>The power of the African Diaspora: And what follows? Professor Philip Thompson MIT</td>
<td>Facts, questions and alternatives to rethink the power of the diaspora and their connections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Strategic connections: Dayna Cunningham, Director MIT CoLAB</td>
<td>Map of similarities and actions. What can we learn and exchange in the short term?</td>
<td>Map of initial connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>International agencies: ¿Where will this agenda go? Paula Moreno Manos Visibles</td>
<td>Presentations and dialogue between banks, foundations and international agencies invited to Afroinnova</td>
<td>Map of international action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AfroInnova: ¿What comes next?</td>
<td>Dialogue on the agenda of continuity of this initiative</td>
<td>Conclusions and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Local Afroinnova</td>
<td>Visit the Gold Museum and Center of Regional Studies- Bank of the Republic</td>
<td>Readings of ancestry and ethnic and regional research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Local Afroinnova: Travel Community Council “La Boquilla” Circle of diasporic drums - “Cabildo” School (“La Boquilla”)</td>
<td>Cultural expressions, encounter in a black district of Cartagena</td>
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### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, PALENQUE DE SAN BASILIO

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<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
<th>SEGMENT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPECTED RESULTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Road to Freedom: Historical Tour San Basilio de Palenque</td>
<td>See logistical guide on Palenque</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Cultural shows and meeting of knowledge: Africa alive</td>
<td>See logistical guide Palenque</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 a 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closure and celebration</td>
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METHODOLOGY

You will be presented with the form as that was developed in the first meeting. The objective is that from now on the participants prepare their participation and interaction.

Exercise 1

The map: reading the reality of African Descent and African.

The aim of this exercise is to generate a dialogue between participants of the same origin, to analyze their similarities and differences in relation to the understanding of their local reality, sub regional or regional levels. At the end of the year, the group will have an initial perspective of reading in each context and at the end, a map of the common challenges.

The groups will analyze the reality by country, by region or sub region. This space will be summarized by the following elements: (i) Figures or specific data that demonstrate the current situation of the African population or Afro-descendants; (ii) more meaningful progress of the Afro-descendant community or Africans; (iii) major challenges.

The groups and the sub regions selected are the following:

- **Africa:** Abiola Oke, Ivan Laranjeira, Ifeanyi Awachie and Susana Edjang
- **Brazil:** Adriana Barbosa, Edgard Gouveia, William de Almeida and Judith Morrison
- **Europe and Spain (in particular):** Lucia Mbomio and Pedro Martin
- **United States:** Philip Thompson, Dayna Cunningham, Bisila Bokoko, Zakiya Car Johnson, Judith Morrison and Sofia Lafargué.
- **Andean region (Panama and Colombia):** Aurora Vergara, Hugo Wood, John Jaime Sanchez, Moises Medrano and Maria Roa.
- **Oceania:** Heritier Lumumba

Each working group shall have a space of 15 minutes for the discussion of the conclusions that summarize the three points of discussion in 3 slides. Subsequently, there will be a group analysis of the elements in common.
Exercise 2
¿Who is who? – Quién es quién.

This exercise seeks for each participant, according to their line of work, to describe to the group their field of action, approach and the keys of their power and influence. Previously, in the months of October and November, the participants will receive a newsletter “Who is Who in the African Diaspora”, that will allow them to know individuals, organizations, and leaders that integrate Afroinnova. Consequently, in this presentation of ten minutes, we will present the insights of the participants and their organizations, since its intentionality, strategy and what they are intended to change or in what they have advanced. This presentation will be a maximum of 4 slides and may include short videos.

In November, we will send a suggested format. The thematic lines and initial distribution of the groups are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMATIC LINE</th>
<th>INDIVIDUAL</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMY &amp; LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>Aurora Vergara</td>
<td>CEAF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dayna Cunningham &amp; Philip Thompson</td>
<td>MIT CoLAB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paula Moreno</td>
<td>Manos Visibles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susana Edjang</td>
<td>Africa 2.0 – Royal African Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS &amp; CULTURE</td>
<td>Abiola Oke</td>
<td>OKAY Africa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adriana Barbosa</td>
<td>Feira Preta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ifeanyi Awachie</td>
<td>Africa Salon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ivan Laranjeira</td>
<td>IVERCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECONOMY</td>
<td>Bisila Bokoko</td>
<td>The Bisila Bokoko Project for literacy and sustainable Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>María Roa</td>
<td>Presidente Unión Trabajadoras Domésticas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peter Martin</td>
<td>Afroiberoamérica</td>
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<tr>
<td>LÍNEA TEMÁTICA</td>
<td>INDIVIDUO</td>
<td>ORGANIZACIÓN</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>Hugo Wood</td>
<td>Panama government and NGO Young States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moisés Medrano</td>
<td>Populations leadership - Ministry of Culture (Government Colombia)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sofía Lafargué</td>
<td>Congressional Black Caucus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zakiya Carr Johnson</td>
<td>U.S. Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH &amp; PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE</td>
<td>Edgard Gouveia, Jr</td>
<td>“Comum- Unidades” (Common - Unity) Escola de Guerreiros sem weapons (UAV) Elos Institute</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Heritier Lumumba</td>
<td>Australian Football League (AFL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jhon Jaime Sánchez</td>
<td>Son Batá</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William de Almeida</td>
<td>AfroReggae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES</td>
<td>Eva Buendía – Carlos Cavanillas</td>
<td>AECID (Spanish Cooperation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emil Rodríguez</td>
<td>Andean Development Corporation (CAF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Judith Morrison</td>
<td>The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Luis Fernando Pérez</td>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
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Foto: Grupo Cultura AfroReggae
Exercise 3. Strategic Connections
The academic team of the MIT CoLAB will prepare, on the basis of the agenda for the 1st day, an exercise, to begin to see the initial connections of the working group, which would be deepened in the second meeting of Afroinnova.
¿Who is who?

**Abiola Oke (Nigeria/United States)**
@abiolaoke
Okay Africa www.okayafrica.com
@okayafrica
CEO of OKAYAFRICA, the leading media company of its kind connecting a global audience to the African continent through compelling content and high-profile cultural events. Abiola Oke holds a bachelor’s degree in Economics with a focus in Finance from the City University of New York’s City College. Prior to joining Okayafrica, Abiola spent over 10 years in the financial services industry holding senior executive positions at Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, TD Ameritrade, and Barclays PLC. As a passionate activist, Abiola serves on the board of various not-for-profit organizations including the Brooklyn YMCA, FACE Africa and MoCADA. He is a member of the United Nations Association, New York Chapter and is a participant in the next generation of leaders & philanthropists supporting the Clinton Foundation.

**Adriana Barbosa (Brazil)**
http://www.feirapreta.com.br/
@feirapreta
Cultural producer and management which works by converting the Afro market in a new model of development for the black population of Brazil. Founded in 2002 by Adriana Barbosa, leader in ethnic entrepreneurship, this institute launches an annual Fair aimed at the promotion of cultural expressions, products and services from the black populations of their country. In addition to having done the Trophy creditor Zumbi of Palmares (Nov/2006), and the prize Expedition Artemisia - Social Entrepreneurs, Feira Preta has been awarded by the State Secretariat of Culture of São Paulo (2008), thanks to its contribution to the social equity in Brazil. Adriana Barbosa, listed as one of the 1,000 influential women by Goldman Sachs.

**Aurora Vergara (Colombia)**
Sociologist/Director of Centre for Afro-diasporan Studies CEAF – U.ICESI
http://www.icesi.edu.co/ceaf/en/ @CEAFICESI
Founder and director of the first and only Center of Afro-diasporic studies in Colombia (CEAF), Aurora Vergara Figueroa -only 28 years old- holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts. Aurora is also the third person of the country awarded with the Martin Dinsky distinction in conference category, for her work ‘Race, gender and property in Colombia: a historical ethnography of the Afro-Colombian struggles for land tenure’. The current director of CEAF, which belongs to the University ICESI, in Cali - Colombia, has also received recognition from the mayor of this city, due to its notable contribution to the advance of Afro-Colombian communities.

**Bisila Bokoko (Spain)**
Entrepreneuer
www.bbalp.org @BisilaBokoko
Born in Spain of Equatoguinean parents and raised in the United States, Bisila Bokoko is nowadays one of the most outstanding businesswomen on a global scale. Following her performance as director of the Chamber of Commerce of Spain – United States, she is considered one of the most influential women of Valencia, due to her contributions to the economy of this region. She also founded The Bisila Bokoko Project for literacy and sustainable development, as well as a collaboration with the Disney Company that increased the demand of wines exported from Valencia to the United States by 25%. She will also speak at Zinc Shower Meeting Show of Creative Transformation in Madrid.

**Dayna Cunningham (United States)**
Directora Ejecutiva MIT Co-lab
http://colab.mit.edu/ @MITCoLab
Executive Director of CoLab and attorney by training, Dayna has a large trajectory on promoting democratic participation and addressing social marginality. Through the ELIAS Project, an MIT-based collaboration between business, NGOs and the government, she
worked with leaders using profound innovation processes to create multi-sector initiatives for economic, social and environmental sustainability. Dayna was also an Associate Director at the Rockefeller Foundation supporting efforts to explore changing racial dynamics in the U.S., as well as civil rights legal innovation. Prior to the Rockefeller Foundation, Dayna worked as a voting rights lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

**Edgard Gouveia, Jr. (Brazil)**  
Architect and University Professor  
@edgardgouveiajr  
An architect and university professor, Edgard Gouveia brings together favela residents and architecture students to design relevant, useful, and appropriate public spaces, in order to improve living conditions in these marginal areas. Edgard has created two programs through the Elos Institute to address these issues: Universidade de Aberta: Escola de Guerreiros sem Armas (UAV) and Comum-Unidade (Common-Unity). The UAV program brings 60 architectural students into favela communities for 30 days to work with community members to design and build a community-chosen project. After the 30 day trial period the Comum-Unidade program ensures sustainability by working with the community to continue the projects and build on that momentum to start new community-led projects.

**Emil Rodríguez (Dominican Republic)**  
Andean Development Corporation - (CAF) www.caf.com  
BA in Architecture from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (2002, Dominican Republic) and European Master in Urban Planning from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (2009, Spain). In 2010 was awarded the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship (Fulbright) that allows you to become certified in the SPURS program at MIT. He has spent more than 12 years working in development and project management of design and urban planning at an international level, taking charge of the development of urban improvement plans (PMU) and special plans in Barcelona (22 @) and various urban design projects in areas of expansion in various developing countries. Among 2012 and 2015, the Dominican Republic was responsible for planning the comprehensive project for retrofitting the neighborhood La Barquita for the Presidency of the Dominican Republic. He was a founding member of the Laboratory of Dominican Architecture (LAD), equipment curator of the first Dominican pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2014. He has been visiting critic at the GSAPP of Columbia University and AHO-The Oslo School of Architecture, professor of urbanism in UNIBE. He is currently an official of the Institutional Development of CAF in Buenos Aires.

**Heritier Lumumba (Australia)**  
Athlete and activist Australian Football League  
www.heritierlumumba.com  
@heritierlumumba  
Heritier Lumumba is a rare athlete that continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership on and off the field. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1986, to a Brazilian mother and a Congolese/Angolan father, Heritier immigrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1989 and spent most of his childhood in Perth, Western Australia. He was recruited from the Claremont Football club in the WAFL with pick 20 of the 2014 AFL rookie draft. Heritier has played 223 total career games and is currently in his second season with the Melbourne Football club. Off the field, Heritier continues to leverage his influence to effect positive change. He has collaborated with world leaders in thought, politics and religion such as Deepak Chopra, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and the Marley family.

Heritier has reached a transnational audience and has fostered an influence in Brazil, the United States of America and Australia. He has spoken at international events such as the United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Government Organizations Conference and Harvard World Model United Nations.

**Hugo Wood (Panama)**  
Lawyer, founder of NGO United Youth for Dialog  
@hugowoody  
Hugo Wood is a lawyer who completed an LLM (Master’s of Law) in Law and Development at Tulane University Law School & the Payson Center as a member of the inaugural cohort in 2013/14. In 2014, he became the Executive Assistant to the newly elected Panamanian Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado. Passionately involved in public service, Hugo is the founder and first President of the NGO, Jóvenes
United Youth for Dialog (Unidos por el Diálogo). In 2009, he organized the biggest national debate competition in Panama that has now become an annual event. Hugo is involved in the World Economic Forum - Global Shapers Community, a network of hubs developed and led by young people with exceptional potential, achievement and drive to contribute to their communities.

Ifeanyi Awachie (Nigeria/ United Kingdom/ USA)
Creative & Visual thinker - African Salon
http://www.africasalon.org/#africasalon
@ifeanyiawachie
Based in New Haven, CT, Ifeanyi uses photography as a means of storytelling. Determined to find images of Nigeria she sensed were missing from mainstream media, she traveled alone to the country for the first time since birth to start the multimedia project Summer in Igboland, aimed at documenting Nigeria in a nuanced way and rebranding it in a positive light.

Ifeanyi is a writer of different genres such as poetry, fiction, and nonfiction; she also curates Literary Happy Hour, a reading and performance series for diverse local writers, and AFRICA SALON, Yale University’s contemporary African arts and culture festival, which she created as part of her work at the Yale Africa Initiative.

Ivan Laranjeira (Mozambique)
Leader and Tour Guide - Director
IVERCA  http://www.iverca.org/  @AssociacoIVERCA
Ivan has always had a passion for the arts, culture and speaking, having produced and acted in films, theater pieces and radio soap operas. Seeing the needs of the impoverished community of Mafalala, where his parents grew up, Ivan wanted to combine tourism with culture and thus contribute to the development of Mafalala through tourism, integrating the local community in the process. He is currently working as a Tour Guide in the neighborhood, where he organizes the Mafalala Festival, Mafalala Walking Tour and the Communitarian museum of the Mafalala. He also coordinates the activities of the Association IVERCA Tourism, Culture and Environment, of which he is a founding member and director. Currently a member of Mandela Washington Fellowship-2016, part of Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

J. Phillip Thompson (United States)
Urban Planner and Political Scientist
MIT Departamento de Planeación Urbana
@MITCoLab http://colab.mit.edu/
Mr. Thompson is an urban planner and political scientist. He received a PhD. in Political Science from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 1990. He has worked as Deputy General Manager of the New York Housing Authority, and as Director of the Mayor’s Office of Housing Coordination.

He is a frequent advisor to trade unions in their efforts to work with immigrant and community groups across the United States. Phil’s most recent academic work includes a 2004 review (written with Arline Geronimus), entitled “To Denigrate, Ignore, or Disrupt: The Health Impact of Policy-induced Breakdown of Urban African American Communities of Support”. He is currently the head of the Housing, Community and Economic Development Group at MIT.

Jhon Jaime Sánchez (Colombia)
Son Batá Leader
http://www.sonbata.org/  @Sonbatac13
John Jaime, along with Jhon Freddy Aspriilla and Carlos Alberto Sánchez started the Son Batá Collective in the Comuna 13 neighborhood of Medellin, Colombia in 2005. In the wake of years of violence, the group was started as an alternative space for youth to learn and practice music, art, and dance. Today, Son Batá is an art collective as well as an arts organization run by artists, musicians and community organizers. This collective is also a winning Hip Hop group, achieving recognition like winning the Petronio Álvarez Festival Award in Cali, Colombia and opening for the Red Hot Chili Peppers in Bogota. Their music blends Afro-Colombian music Chirimia with Hip Hop, and working with groups and organizations, they hold workshops and events with the Afro-Colombian community to explore the roots of Afro music in the Pacific, their identity, and culture.
Judith Morrison (United States)
Main advisor of the Division of Genre and Diversity (GDI) BID
www.iadb.org
She is responsible for leading analytical and development initiatives to fully incorporate marginalized communities in lending strategy and operations. Morrison previously served as regional director for South America and the Caribbean at the Inter-American Foundation. She also served as executive director of the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America (IAC) that is dedicated to promoting development policies for marginalized communities in Latin America. A frequent participant at the Conference on World Affairs, Morrison has presented throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, South Africa, and Europe, and has published articles and book chapters on equity and development for the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the U.S. Government, and the academic and popular press.

Lucía Asué Mbomío Rubio (Spain)
Journalist (Afroféminas, Radio Melanina, among other initiatives).
https://afrofeminis.com/ @luciambomio
With a degree in documentary direction, she now works as a reporter of TVE1 Spain in an environmental show called “Earth Calling”. Before that, she worked in the TV Show “Spaniards around the World” with which she obtained various awards from the Spanish Television Academy. Following this role, she worked for a year in Equatorial Guinea directing documentaries about HIV and early pregnancy. Along with her TV career, she has volunteered in the African Film Festival of Córdoba, Film Africa London (as editor, camera team and interviewer), UNICEF (teaching in workshops about media and HIV) and Amnesty International press. She has recently released a documentary about the Cañada Real Galiana, the biggest illegal settlement in Europe, which has given her two international awards and was showcased at the Rivas Vaciamadrid World Migration Forum. In 2010, she was chosen as a Reference Young Afrodescendant in Spain and in 2013 did Lloyds Banking Group and Thomson Reuters elaborate part of the top 30 of Afro-Europeans ranking.

Luis Fernando Pérez (Colombia)
Ford Foundation
www.fordfoundation.org
Psychologist with Mphil in Latin American Studies of the University of Georgetown. He has focused on the management and implementation of higher education projects for vulnerable populations and at-risk areas in Latin America. He worked at universities in the area of cooperation and public-private partnerships for higher education. He has been linked to the national government in the implementation of alternative development programs for farmers in transition toward legality.

María Roa Borja (Colombia)
President of Union of Domestic Service Workers
http://www.trabajadorasdomesticas.org/ @empleadas_hogar
María Roa is the president of the Union of Domestic Service Workers, UTRASD, which is advocating for a bill that makes Christmas and vacation bonuses compulsory for housekeepers. She has been a speaker in several forums, including an event organized by the Rockefeller Center for Latin American studies of Harvard University. Her leadership began when she went to Medellín for the first time and started working as a housekeeper, but saw the discrimination, exploitation and lack of labor rights for women working in this sector. As a victim of forced displacement, this situation motivated her to fight for these rights and to become a leader who sought the entities that could help to bring about change. The main goal of the collective is to show that women should have goals and not settle for anything less than what is legal. Today they have achieved the promotion of housekeepers’ rights to have protections against occupational hazards, the minimum wage as their salary and social security benefits.

Moisés Medrano (Colombia)
Director of Populations Office at Ministry of Culture
www.mincultura.gov.co @moisomedrano
Moisés is the Director of Populations Office at the Ministry of Culture in Colombia. He is a professional in the social sciences and has taught in universities about topics such as conflict,
humanitarian action and vulnerable populations. He has a wide experience in matters like international cooperation and development as a result of the work he has developed with diverse organizations in the ambiances of genre, ethnic groups, planning and international cooperation resources management. Additionally, he has been a permanent guest in national and international events on African matters due to his deep knowledge on the topic. His academic work includes topics on the humanitarian matters that affect immersed vulnerable populations in armed and social conflicts, in Kosovo, ancient Yugoslavia; Maria’s Mounts in Colombia or Huancavelica in Peru.

Pedro H. Martín (Spain)
Engineer, Consultant of Strategic Management Afroiberoamerica
http://afroiberoamerica.com/
Pedro is a telecommunications engineer with training in Marketing and International Relations. Since 1999, he has developed his professional activity as a Spanish government employee, consultant of Information Technologies and consultant of Strategic Management. He advocates for cooperation in the Caribbean and has worked with the United Nations in the Brazilian northeast, focusing in the rescue of the afro descendent culture, the politics of racial equality and the black movement. He currently collaborates with the Spanish structure of the UNESCO in initiatives for the study and diffusion of the cultures with African roots. Currently he is the director of the organization Afroiberoamérica, specializing in Management and Innovation Consultancy.

Sophia Lafargue (United States)
Team head of Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congressional Black Caucus member. @lafarguesophia
For longer than a decade, Lafargue has actively supported the progress of all the commercial legislation in the US Congress. Her portfolio of consulting includes mainly policy on international trade and foreign affairs issues in emerging economic systems and linkages between geopolitical and economic policy. Since 2005, Lafargue has been the main commercial counselor of Congressman Meeks, who is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee of the White House. Sophia is a graduate of Queens College in New York City and Harvard University.

Susana Edjang (Equatorial Guinea)
International Counsel in Health ONU Africa 2.0 and Royal African Society @susananuages
Susana Edjang is an international development and global health policy expert. She currently works for the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) in the Economic, Social and Development Unit. Susana is on the Governing Council of Africa 2.0 as a member of the Ebola strategy division, “Zero Ebola”, which aims to mobilize civil society and youth groups as well as to increase the visibility of the African response to Ebola; she is also the member of the council of the Royal African Society and a 2014 Yale World Fellow. Originally from Equatorial Guinea, Susana worked to promote partnerships for mutual benefit, between UK health institutions and their counterparts in Africa (e.g. Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania) and Asia, and led the strategic involvement of African Diaspora organizations working on health. She also co-founded the Zambia-UK Health Workforce Alliance and is co-author of Working in International Health (OUP 2010). Finally, she is certified as a Development Economist from the School of Oriental & African Studies in London.

William de Almeida Reis (Brazil)
Project Coordinator – AfroReggae http://www.afroreggae.org/ @afroreggae
William is 30 years old and he was born and grew up in a favela of Rio de Janeiro. He graduated in physical education and was the coordinator of diverse programs at the Cultural Group AfroReggae since 2011. Among others, he has coordinated sports events with young people in several favelas in Rio de Janeiro, managing resources with the support of Red Bull, Santander and Coca-Cola. Additionally, since 2013, he has been in charge of coordinating programs to empower the African inheritance inside AfroReggae, in order to rescue the pride of African origin and promote the African history in Brazil. At present, William coordinates the project CAMINHO MELHOR JOVEM in 10 favelas of Rio de Janeiro and is planning to attend university and study history.
Zakiya Carr Johnson (Estados Unidos)
Director of the Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs U.S.
Zakiya Johnson coordinates with U.S. embassies and interagency partners in the region to support efforts to address race, ethnicity, and gender issues as part of Department of State’s social inclusion policy. For 17 years, Ms. Carr Johnson has worked with marginalized communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has also written articles and coordinated dialogues on the inclusion of ethnic and minority groups, economic, social and cultural rights-based development and diversity. She earned her B.A. in Communications and Spanish at Howard University and a M.A. in International Relations at Syracuse University.

The Organizers
Spanish Cooperation

Eva Buendía
(Spain)
Head of the Department of Cooperation with the Andean countries and Southern Cone of the Spanish Agency for Cooperation. Currently is responsible of the African descendants program in Colombia.

Carlos Cavanillas
(Spain)
Carlos Cavanillas Alonso is the general coordinator of the Spanish Cooperation in Colombia. For 25 years he has worked in cooperation and development, 20 of which has been linked to the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development, AECID, in different destinations in Latin America and Africa.

Mercedes Flórez Gómez
(Spain)
Currently director of the Formation Center of the Spanish Cooperation in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. She has a master's degree in Corporate Social Responsibility Studies, Planning and Project Management of Cooperation for the Development and Information and Procedures. She is a Specialist in Inequality, Cooperation and Development and has a BA in Geography and History. Mercedes has a wide experience in the project management and initiatives with the Spanish Agency of Cooperation for the Development in countries like Colombia and other countries of Latin America like Guatemala and Bolivia between others.

Andreiza Anaya
Afroinnova Technical Coordinator
She has been a field correspondent, publisher, and presenter in the public channel of Cartagena University and cultural producer at the radio station UDC in Cartagena. She works in social communication towards development, currently she is a director of her own organization, “My Color Communications”, correspondent of the Musical Magazine in Cartagena and regional leader of the process of the Union of the Musical Sector in Colombia – USM. There took part in the production of documentary Cartagena, “Piel de Cimarrones”. It was a Communications coordinator in Visible Hands Corporation. At present, she is the producer of the space Afrocolombia in the National Colombian radio station.

Cristina Vargas
Afroinnova Technical Coordinator
Environmental engineer from the University of the Andes and Master in Social Anthropology at the same University. In 2015 conducted an academic exchange in the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), with headquarters in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. She has experience in qualitative research over socio-environmental conflicts in rural zones, also as teacher assistant in social science statistics in the group of Medical Anthropology of the University of the Andes, and currently coordinates the process of project design, communication and management of Afroinnova.
Diana Restrepo Berrio  
Manos Visibles Vice President  
Bacteriologist of the School “Mayor” of Medellín, she worked more than 20 years in pharmaceutical marketing and public relations. Between 2007 and 2010, she served as Private Secretary of the Office of the Minister of Culture. Manos Visibles Founder and Vice President. She resides in Medellín.

Esteban Palacio Castrillón  
Manos Visibles Communications Coordinator  
Communicator with emphasis in communication for development and organizational communication. Experience in research, process management, management of media, consultancies, management and project management of organizational communication and community. He has worked on community projects focused on the communication component to the Planning Department of the Municipality of Medellín and community processes developed by the School of Communications of the University of Antioquia.

John Fory  
Manos Visibles Community Manager  
Publicist of the University of Santiago de Cali and native of Caloto in the north of the department of Cauca, he has developed his professional experience in advertising agencies such as Rapp Colombia doing relational marketing for Exxon Mobil, Gazel and Fepasde; in TBWA Colombia to Cementos Argos and ING pensions; Netbangers digital agency for UNICEF Colombia, Terpel Nutresa Foundation and Group. He is currently in charge of social media for Manos Visibles Corporation In addition, specialized in photography at the National University of Colombia.

Natalia Santiesteban  
Technical Manager  
She is an associate researcher with the CEAF (Center for “Afrodiaspóricos” Studies) of the Universidad ICESI. Professional in Languages and Sociocultural Studies of the University of the Andes and Master in Gender Studies, of the National University of Colombia. Translator, Interpreter and university teaching. Natalia is a former fellow of the Japan Foundation and is currently studying for her doctorate at the University of Cornell, she was manager of Afroinnova until June 2016.

Paula Moreno  
Manos Visibles President  
She is a Colombian industrial engineer and graduate in Italian language and culture, Mphil in philosophy of management of the University of Cambridge, with studies in urban planning and leadership at MIT and Yale University. Former Minister of Culture in Colombia, the youngest in the history of the country and the first woman Afro-colombian to hold ministerial office. In 2013, she was recognized by the BBC as one of the 100 women world leaders, has received multiple awards for a number of organizations such as the Association of Black Mayors people in the United States, the Council of the Americas, the BMW Foundation, the World Economic Forum, the Government of Mexico and the Colombian Government, among others. She founded Manos Visibles in 2010 and since then she has presided over this organization. It is currently one of the 15 members of the Board of Directors of the Ford Foundation.
SOME OF OUR LOCAL HOSTS

Alfonso Múnera
Cartagena de Indias.
Alfonso Múnera was born in Cartagena, Colombia. He has written several articles about Caribbean Colombian coast history in diverse national and foreign magazines, and he is the publisher of a selection of essays between XVIIIth and XIXth centuries written by local authors. Also he has written articles about the history of the education in Colombian Caribbean coast during the XIX century. He was graduated in Law and Political Sciences in the University of Cartagena. In 1991 and later in 1995, he obtained a Master’s degree and a Doctorate degree in History of Latin America and Caribbean coast, from the University of Connecticut in United States. He was dean of Human Sciences faculty at the University of Cartagena, where he teaches history since 1981. From 1999 to 2003 he was Ambassador of Colombia in Jamaica. Currently, Alfonso is the Vicerrector of Investigations and chairman of the International Institute of Studies of the Caribbean coast at the mentioned university.

Moisés Álvarez Marín
Cartagena de Indias.
During thirty years, Moisés Álvarez, chairman of the Museum and Historical File of Cartagena de Indias, has dedicated its life to the management of the Patrimony in the city, increasing its historic value and helping the recovery of its historical memory. He was graduated in Social Sciences Studies at the University of Magdalena and also, he has studies in librarianship from the University of Antioquia. Moisés has a wide experience as university professor, professional at Technical Secretariat of the Council of Monuments and currently is member of National Council of Culture and member of the board at the Regional Institute of Culture.

Rafael Ramos Caraballo
Cartagena de Indias
Chairman of the Cultural Market of Caribbean Coast and currently director of cultural corporation “Cabildo” and the cultural organization “Escuela Taller Tambores” headquartered at local borough “La Boquilla”. There are more than 80 kids taking the courses offered in music, instruments and human rights. Rafael is traditional musician, percussionist and manager of traditional music of the Caribbean coast. He has produced several pieces like “Changó Kankamajan” an allegory to Manuel Zapata Olivella and its work; and the CD “Si yo fuera Tambo”, that is a recognition to writers and black poets, raizales and palenqueros of Colombia. He has been a manager of local artists like Totó La Momposina, Petrona Martínez, Creole, Cholo Valderrama, Graciela Salgado and Etelvina Maldonado. Also, Rafael has developed processes of ethnic strengthening from the music in entities like the Ministry of Culture.

Dorina Hernández
San Basilio de Palenque
She holds a bachelor in Educational Management, a master’s degree in Community Education from the University Pedagógica Nacional and is currently doctoral student in Educational Sciences from University of Granada in Spain. She is pioneer in the management and strengthening of the Palenque’s language, as pioneer at the social movement around Blacks Communities in Colombia due to the establishment of Law 70/1993. She was regional and national coordinator in “Etnoeducación” - ethnic education- for afrocolombian people. Currently, Dorina is the chairman of the collective microenterprise called ASOPRADUCE from Palenque, making traditional candies, cultural tours, agriculture and working with local “peinadoras” – hairdressers –. She was winner of the Citi-microentrepreneur 2016 award and she was speaker at the Declaration of Palenque as Oral and inmaterial patrimony of Humanity – UNESCO 2005.
Rafael Cassiani Cassiani  
San Basilio de Palenque 
He was born and raised in San Basilio de Palenque, is the founder of group “Sexteto de Tambalá” one of the most important groups of traditional music in Colombia. During all his life, he has worked on the promotion and diffusion of traditional oral music from Palenque. Her father was “gaitero” and her uncle was compositor and founder of “Sexteto Habanero” from Palenque. Rafael has been playing this music during his all life, first singing and playing “maracas”, later and currently as compositor and director of the “Sexteto Tabalá”. His voice has been supporting the most difficult moments for his people in Palenque.

Traditional Hip-Hop Group From Palenque Kombilesa Mi  
San Basilio de Palenque  
Kombilesa Mi headed by Andris Padilla was founded in 2011 with the integration of several Hip Hop artists at Palenque. Its sound and rhythm are based on traditional Palenque music: Sexteto, Mapalé, Pavo, Bullerengue, Chalupa and Chalusonga. All musicians play traditional instruments like: Tambora, Tambor alegre, Marímbula, Tambor llamador and Maracas, mixing contemporary with folkloric music. The lyrics are written in Palenque’s language and Spanish. Kombilesa Mi was nominated to Shock awards 2016 as Best New artist. The group is currently the most important artistic expression in Palenque, members: Andris Padilla Julio (Afro Netto - Leader), Keila Regina Miranda Pérez (KRMP), Ali Fernando Navarro Salas (MC PM), José de Jesús Valdés Salas (MC Ukibe), Martín Elías Maza Simarra (MC Okoro), Edwin José Valdez Torres (Lempito), Orlís Manuel Reyes Cañate (OMR), Kendry Esperanza Cassiani Casseres (la reina de la tambora) and Edinson Sabino Miranda Padilla (Lindo).
www.manosvisibles.org/afroinnova
@afroinnova