



CALL FOR CHAPTERS: BOOK PROJECT

APPLIED ARTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MALAWI

Publisher: Routledge

Editor: Dr. Zindaba Chisiza

Preface by: Professor Nyovani Madise

OVERVIEW

As Malawi advances toward the Malawi 2063 vision, the arts are increasingly emerging as critical drivers of social transformation, civic engagement, and economic innovation. Central to this transformation are young people, positioned not merely as beneficiaries of development but as active agents shaping Malawi's national development agenda.

This edited volume explores how applied arts—including Theatre for Development, Theatre in Education, Drama in Education, stage drama, storytelling, culture, puppetry, dance, music, film and television, festivals, radio, digital media, animation, podcasting, and technology-enabled arts—are being used with and by young people to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Malawian context. Applied arts are understood here as creative and participatory practices used to engage communities as tools for stimulating dialogue, challenging inequalities, and promoting social change.

Scholars, practitioners, activists, and students are invited to contribute chapters that critically examine how arts-based methodologies are addressing contemporary social, cultural, political, educational, environmental, and economic challenges in Malawi.

This volume is intended for scholars, students, practitioners, policymakers, development organisations, and cultural institutions interested in applied arts and social transformation in Africa. It is framed within the Sustainable Development Goals as an analytical lens for understanding how applied arts contribute to development, justice, and social transformation in Malawi.

THEMATIC PILLARS

Contributions should align with one of the following four sections:

Part 1: Health, Wellbeing, and Quality Education (SDGs 3 & 4)

Focus: Public health and pedagogical innovation.

Key areas:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Mental health and psychosocial well-being
- Maternal health
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

- Creative methodologies in formal and informal education
- Arts-based approaches to youth empowerment and health communication

Part 2: Gender, Masculinities, and Equality (SDGs 5 & 10)

Focus: Gender equality, gender-transformative approaches, and social justice.

Key areas:

- Harmful cultural practices
- Masculinities and rigid social norms
- Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention
- Minority rights and disability inclusion
- Arts-based feminism and activism
- Dismantling structural inequalities through creative practice

Part 3: Climate Action and Sustainable Institutions (SDGs 13 & 16)

Focus: Environmental resilience, civic dialogue, and governance.

Key areas:

- Climate change adaptation and environmental awareness
- Natural disasters and displacement
- Material and immaterial cultural loss
- Community resilience and recovery
- Civic engagement and accountability
- Strengthening resilient local and national institutions through the arts

Part 4: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9)

Focus: The creative economy, digital transformation, and cultural infrastructure.

Key areas:

- Critical analyses of arts festivals (e.g., the UNIMA Theatre Festival, Art in the Park, Sand Music Festival)
- Intangible cultural celebrations (e.g., Mulhako wa Alhomwe and Umthetho),
- Digital activism and creative technologies
- Animation, podcasting, and new media
- Cultural entrepreneurship and innovation
- Professionalisation of the creative industries as a driver for economic growth

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

1. Academic Chapters (Core Research)

Target contributors: Academics, PhD candidates, and senior researchers.

Length: 5,000-6,000 words.

Objective: Rigorous analysis and theoretical engagement with applied arts methodologies, practices, and outcomes.

2. Practitioner Snapshots (Field Reflections)

Target contributors: BA and MA students, early-career practitioners, and grassroots activists.

Length: 1,000 – 1,500 words.

Objective: Reflective accounts of specific projects, interventions, or community-based experiences.

Submissions are encouraged to include high-resolution photographs, script excerpts, workshop tools or methodologies, and visual documentation where relevant.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Abstracts should be approximately 300 words.
- Include a short biography of no more than 100 words.
- Academic chapters should follow the APA 7th edition referencing style.
- Submissions must be original and not under consideration elsewhere.

KEY DEADLINES

- Abstract Submission (300 words + 100-word bio): **31 July 2026**
- Notification of Acceptance: **31 August 2026**
- Full Manuscript Submission: **January 2027**

SUBMISSION AND INQUIRIES

Please send all abstracts and inquiries to:

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ABOUT THE EDITOR

Dr. Zindaba Chisiza is an Associate Professor in the Department of Drama

and Theatre Studies at the University of Malawi. A scholar-practitioner specialising in Theatre for Development (TfD) and gender-transformative approaches, he has spent over a decade utilising arts-based research to engage marginalised communities.

He is the author of *Arts for Development, Masculinities and Gender in Malawi* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2026) and the editor of *Theatre and Media for Social Change in Malawi* (Routledge, 2025), alongside several forthcoming volumes on community arts, applied arts, and young people in Southern Africa.

Beyond his research, Dr. Chisiza is actively involved in building cultural infrastructure in Malawi and founded the UNIMA Theatre Festival in 2023 to bridge the gap between amateur, university, and professional theatre sectors. He holds a PhD from the University of Leeds and is a prominent voice in arts for development, masculinities, and youth empowerment in Southern Africa.