OUR MISSION

1. TO CREATE DARING PERFORMANCES IN UNUSUAL SPACES, WHICH CELEBRATE THE ART OF EXISTENCE AND CREATE SHARED SPACES WHERE THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE.

2. TO UNITE COMMUNITIES THROUGH A PROCESS OF GIVE & GAIN, WHICH IS TRAIL-BLAZING, NON-HIERARCHICAL AND LIFE-AFFIRMING.

3. TO BRING TOGETHER YOUNG PEOPLE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT, AND PROVIDE A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS, GROW AND PERFORM.

We are a small yet highly ambitious organisation with collaboration and progression at the heart. Our executive team is supported by a diverse family of Associate Artists, Young Creatives, Youth Board and Board. We are all driven by the common desire to make high quality work that is fuelled by the diversity of those involved.

Our Board and Youth Board meet twice a year to make joint decisions about the future of the organisation, and we create spaces for our Young Creatives and Associate Artists to meet and share their practices.

We consider progression routes for the young people we work with in all projects that we deliver.

YOUNG CREATIVES ARE ALWAYS PAID WHEN WORKING WITH PHAKAMA

SUMMARY

2019/20 was a year of strengthening partnerships. Our wonderful six-month residency at Body & Soul came to a close, we performed at Graeae Theatre, ran workshops for students at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and School 21, and told stories with the London Early Years Foundation (LEYF).

We increased our Associate Artist and Young Creative’s pool, supporting more artists with their creative practice.

We reached greater and new audiences through exhibitions and film screenings, starting the year with Listen!, a month long exhibition at Body & Soul. Our Artist Bursary winner, Hussina Raja’s film ROOTS then premiered at the BFI London Film Festival and the year finished with Nurull Islam’s exhibition of his 2018 Artist Bursary project The Full English.

CREATED

20 PAID OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG CREATIVES

WORKED WITH

217 YOUNG PEOPLE

ENGAGED WITH

2158 PHYSICAL AUDIENCE MEMBERS

2158 PHYSICAL AUDIENCE MEMBERS
Talking Books at LEYF

In the autumn Jannat, Hayley and Tom joined us again as we adapted Talking Books to work with under 5s in a nursery setting. Rather than focusing on the parent/child dynamic, these sessions at LEYF used storytelling to enhance children’s literacy, speech development, confidence, resilience, and wellbeing.

We started the project by sharing different well-known stories, and as sessions progressed, the stories shifted from these fairy tales to incorporating the children’s own ideas and experiences – encouraging communication, creativity, and group work.

We finished the project with a final sharing day inviting families and friends and a wider public to hear these stories, giving the children a vital opportunity to perform a piece that was 100% their own.

Listen! – Body & Soul Residency
Talking Books and Final Exhibition

Talking Books was the last of three projects that we ran as part of the Listen! Residency. Over seven weeks throughout May and June Associate Artists, Tom Drayton and Hayley Konadu were supported by Young Creative Jannat Rahman to deliver this storytelling project, working with children under 7, and their parents.

During the project we explored stories from all over the world, traveling with peaches, learning from jackals, and escaping with pixies. The children and parents then began to tell each other tales, sharing their imagination to the group through drawings and stories.

Once upon a time there was a Queen and King. The King and Queen were relaxing, when they saw a spider and ran away to an island. The spider said ‘I’m sorry I scared you and just relax on the island,’ and they came out. Across the island they saw a crocodile swimming around and wanted to chew on the spider. That’s the end.

Talking Books Story

"This has changed me as a parent. Before I would be too tired and not give time to my daughter… Now I make more time for doing things with her and because I see the fun we have I am less harsh.”
Talking Books parent participant

An exhibition was set up in the Body & Soul foyer, to celebrate the end of our six-month residency. Work from all three projects, (Rise Up, Of All People and Talking Books) was exhibited, as was the triptych that Ellis Lewis-Dragstra was commissioned to create.

Once we finished the project with a final sharing day inviting families and friends and a wider public to hear these stories, giving the children a vital opportunity to perform a piece that was 100% their own.

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Talking Books Story

AN ESTIMATED

1,200
PEOPLE

will have seen the exhibition during the six weeks that it was on display for.
Rise Up Training

Over six months, five Young Creatives aged between 16–25, took part in 16 paid training workshops led by a team of Phakama staff and Associate Artists. The workshops covered a range of skills and techniques, improving their facilitation, project management, marketing, and production skills, equipping the Young Creatives with the tools needed to successfully run a weeklong participatory arts project.

"We really learnt a lot about facilitation, and facilitation in terms of creating a safe space, where people feel comfortable enough to be themselves."  
Rise Up Young Creative

**SKILLS WORKSHOPS**

**FACILITATION**  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**  
**MARKETING**  
**PRODUCTION**

Rise Up Intensive Week and Performance

In January–February 2020, the Young Creatives put their new skills into practice by recruiting a group of young people to be part of an intensive one-week cross-arts project focusing on the theme of IDENTITY.

Rise Up was an opportunity for a group of young people to create, learn, collaborate and express themselves using different art forms such as drama, music, spoken word and creative writing. The week, although led by the Young Creatives, was shaped around the individuals taking part in the project and culminated in a public sharing at Graeae Theatre.

"Where else other than Phakama are you going to find this kind of space where it’s safe and you can be vulnerable and you build a bond with people in five days? [...] It’s really impacted my career."  
Rise Up Young Creative

"We really learnt a lot about facilitation, and facilitation in terms of creating a safe space, where people feel comfortable enough to be themselves."  
Rise Up Young Creative
ARTIST BURSARIES

Bad Aunts

Eloise Poulton & Elinor Lipman were awarded the 2019 Young Artist Bursary, with their play, Bad Aunts.

This intergenerational comedy, discussing the underrepresentation and often reductive depiction of older women in mainstream entertainment, was performed to a sold-out audience at the Brighton Fringe, and went on to have a full run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Phakama’s involvement was to support the recording of a podcast and the delivery of a community focus group, both discussing “female aging in the arts” with women aged between 40 and 70. The findings from these sessions were used as material for script development.

Bad Aunts © Untoward Production

ARTIST BURSARY

Roots

The panel of Board and Youth Board members awarded Associate Artist and former Phakama Participant Hussina Raja the Artist Bursary to work on her short film, ROOTS, which had its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival 2019.

During her research for the project Hussina ran sessions with community members from Tower Hamlets, including a session with a group of sixth form students, to record their views on heritage and migration. These sessions inspired Hussina to create a second film, a documentary called Londoners, which is currently in production – ‘London, a melting pot, a hub of 9 million people living amongst one another. We hear the voices of the diverse population that makes London the most unique and international city in the world. But what actually makes a Londoner?’

Roots © Felix Schmilinsky

Hussina Raja

“ I’ve had the opportunity through this seed funding to try something new and I still can’t believe the outcome. It’s such a brilliant scheme, it’s opened me up to whole other medium, but more importantly, by selecting me as the bursary recipient for 2019, Phakama believed in my project and that belief has taken me very far from where I was a year ago.”

Hussina Raja

UP

UP is a youth-led training programme for businesses and partners, based on Give & Gain, that demonstrates what can be achieved when young people are supported to lead.

Young Creatives are given paid opportunities to lead workshops for creative industry professionals, offered platforms to speak publicly about their practice and lead projects to new partners and stakeholders. This year the UP Young Creatives led workshops in Give & Gain to 70 first year university students at QMUL, and to School 21’s year 12 pupils.

UP

A-P-L

Athens-Paris-London (A-P-L) is a transnational research project, designed to exchange knowledge, and apply and share new methodologies for engaging with refugee communities through creative action.

We have continued to strengthen our relationship with our A-P-L partners and plans were in place for Phakama to run games at the library in La Chapelle to coincide with the library’s environmental festival. Due to changing circumstances this will now have to be pushed back, but Phakama are keen for this work to continue as soon as possible.

 Glory Chan, Brandon Subanney

Loop’n’Link, Brandon Subanney

Athens-Paris-London (A-P-L)

UP

A-P-L
Creative Get Togethers

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have started hosting Creative Get Togethers. These are online opportunities, creating some time and space for us to all connect, catch up and share tips and tricks that have been getting us through this difficult period.

These are being trialled during the lockdown, and will be reviewed thereafter, with the potential to becoming a permanent way of keeping connected and creative.

Digital Artist Bursary

Seed funding of £500-£1000

For 20/21 we have adapted our usual Bursary schemes so that we could quickly respond to the difficult times that the artist and creative community are facing due to Covid-19.

The Digital Artist Bursary scheme will run from April and we will fund up to six projects, supporting artists to generate new ideas and encourage ways of staying socially connected.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020*

INCOME 2019/20

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable activities income</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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Expenditure 2019/20

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<td>Support costs</td>
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<td>Governance costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>139,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Provisional accounts awaiting independent examination

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