

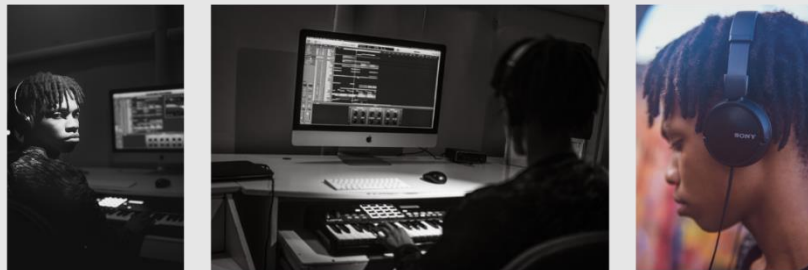
All about the CTS Skills Exchange

At the beginning of this year Changing the Story ran an online Skills Exchange for young people across the network. We were inspired by the work young people who participated in CTS projects were up to and wanted to offer workshops and knowledge around specific skills that have been integral to specific CTS projects that young people from other projects could benefit from. We were keenly aware that because of the COVID pandemic, engagement and knowledge sharing between projects were limited and knew this would be a great way to bridge the gap. The Skills Exchange took the form of a series of online workshops using various art forms for social change.

We started out with a needs analysis questionnaire that was shared with young people on what skills they would like to learn more about. After this, we reached out to the network to source facilitators for the sessions who put together a wonderful list of workshops that would meet the needs of the participants. Below, I list the different workshops and share some of the outputs from the young people who participated.

1. How to transform the world, photograph by photograph – facilitated by Robert Golden

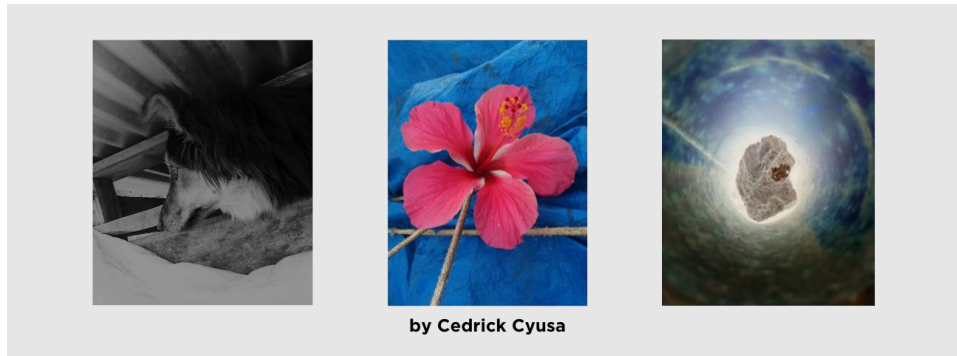
This workshop was facilitated by the award-winning filmmaker Robert Golden who was involved in the [Izazov](#) project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of this workshop was to help young people become more thoughtful about the nature and content of their work and communicate with people on an emotional level. The photos submitted tell a story about something they found interesting and something they would like others to know about.



by Ntwali Pacific



by Patrick Mukiza



by Cedrick Cyusa

Feedback

"I enjoyed meeting my instructor and Helene. It was valuable to me for the first time I met them for a warm welcome. I enjoyed learning through Robert's experience and how enthusiastic he was willing to give all he can from what he has learnt in his career." Cedrick Cyusa

2. Making documentaries to transform the world – by Robert Golden

This workshop was also facilitated by the award-winning filmmaker Robert Golden who was involved in the [Izazov](#) project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This workshop provided ideas for young people in creating films. The focus was on the filmmaker's role in the world and how they can contribute to a better world. This is all about the fundamental substructure of documentary making.

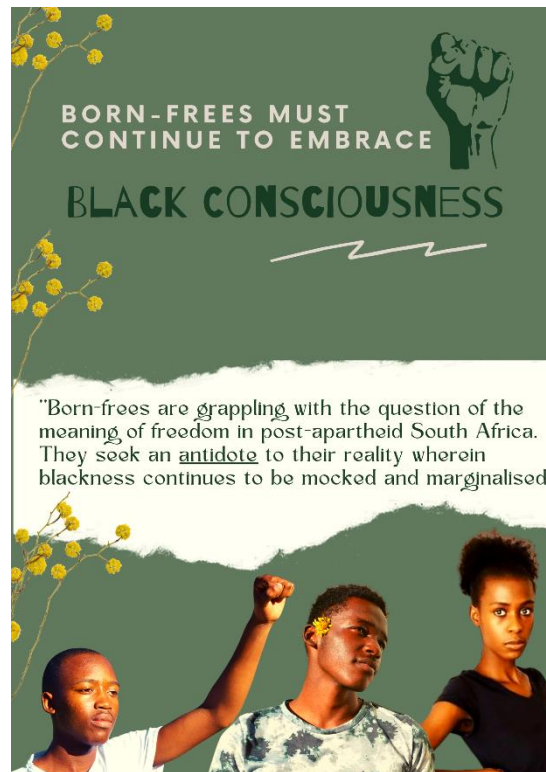
Feedback:

"It was amazing to be with Robert the experienced one in photography and documentaries. I enjoyed how he produced his works using any tool we have access to, I enjoyed the way he produces the documentaries by getting the stories, doing research, and scripting the final work" - Patrick Mukiza

"I can start with working on short documentaries myself. Tell stories of ordinary people around my community and take it from there." - Anonymous

3. Engaging Young People through Visual Art: Comic strip and Collage – by Harla Sara Octarra and Vina Puspita

This workshop was facilitated by Harla Sara Octarra, lecturer at the Faculty of Psychology – Atma Jaya Catholic University and Vina Puspita, an art practitioner and PhD student at Lincoln University they are both involved with the CTS project partner, [Mobile Arts for Peace](#). Harla and Vina facilitated a session using the mediums of comic strips and collages, two forms of visual art that were used in the Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP) project in Indonesia to engage young people and local leaders in peacebuilding dialogue. They also taught about participatory processes used with young people to develop comic strips as a dialogic research tool, and to create digital collage art as an advocacy tool to raise awareness on social problems. This workshop space was open and welcoming and shared amazing tools that young people can use with other young people in their communities.



Collage by Taahirah Hoosain

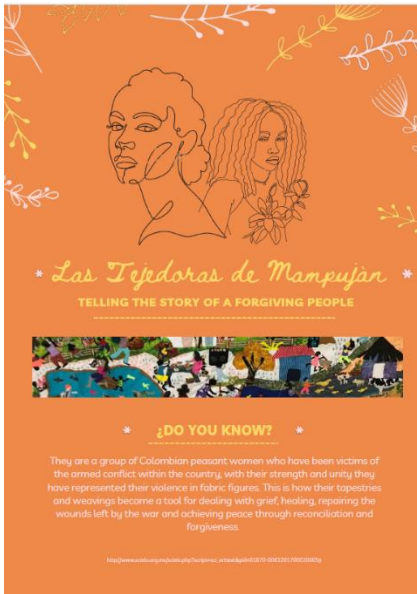
Feedback:

“I think I can start by telling my community and my colleagues about this methodology, after listening to and learning about the work done by the researchers, I think it is valuable to start discussing, using, and replicating these artistic methodologies that link the youth of my country as participants and promoters of social change.” - María Fernanda Trujillo Santiago

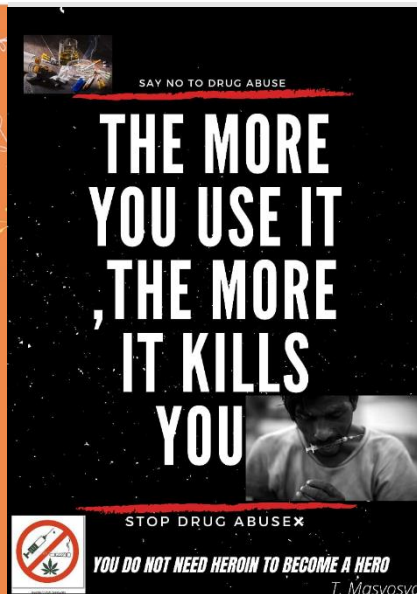
4 & 5: Graphic Design: A lever for change – by Oli Muhizi

This workshop was facilitated by Oli Muhizi a graphic artist at Africa Digital Media Academy and was involved in the [ReSpace](#) project in Rwanda. In these workshops Oli started teaching fundamental principles in graphic design and using everyday tools like Canva. He engaged with the students as changemakers by setting a task to create a poster that promotes social change and provided feedback on everyone’s designs. The young people designed some amazing posters bringing awareness to issues important to them.

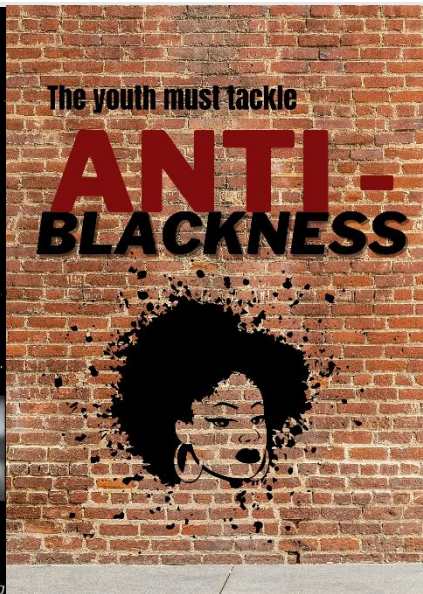
Posters by participants:



By Maria Trujillo



By Talent Masvosva



By Taahirah Hoosain

Feedback:

“Although I had previously had the opportunity to use Canva, I now know other tools and other ways to search for specific elements within the application. “ - Anonymous

6. First steps in social entrepreneurship by Andreana Drencheva and Wee Chan Au

This workshop was facilitated by Andreana Drencheva and Wee Chan Au from the project [Youth-led Social Enterprises in Malaysia](#). Andreana Drencheva is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Entrepreneurship at King’s Business School. Wee Chan Au is a Lecturer in the Department of Management at Monash University Malaysia. This workshop focused on the role of social entrepreneurship as a sustainable path for change. The workshop was thorough and practical. The workshop was done in a way that felt empowering as participants worked through tools during the workshop and were able to contribute and gain feedback throughout the session. The workshop provided a good framework and first steps for participants to take their ideas for social change further.

Feedback:

“The inclusion of women entrepreneurs created a great impact in my life, being advised from a woman like You, lives you with a great motivation, and I enjoyed being with different women in the workshop and me being among them.” Primrose

“I enjoyed the multiple breaks and activities, to me was an opportunity to improve and implement what I learned.” - Cedrick Cyusa

“The content of the workshop was wonderful, I think it was very valuable to learn from our own examples and interests to change social issues and mobilize us to take advantage of all the resources and valuable skills of people to build safe spaces that improve the quality of life of communities. “ - Maria Trujillo

7. Young people for PAR using visual arts with other young people - Tendayi Marovah

This workshop was facilitated by Tendayi Marovah an early career researcher from Midlands University in Zimbabwe who was involved in the project, [Street Art to Promote Representation and Epistemic Justice among Marginalized Rural Zimbabwean Youth](#).

In this workshop participants explored tackling injustices that show up in our communities. They learnt about using Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) as a tool for change. They learnt what it is, how it is used, the praxis cycle, considering ethical issues and using visual arts in YPAR. This was a practical and well thought out workshop that established the building blocks of using YPAR in communities.

“Now I can give a name to a process that I have experienced through so many projects that I took part in the past. I look forward to trying it out as a facilitator” - Anonymous

8. Peer Exchange

The final session was led by the young participants of the Skill Exchange. Each participant shared a topic they feel strongly about or a skill with their peers. The group used different mediums to share this via photographs, films and presentations.

Presenters and titles:

Talent Masvosva - Youth's life matters

Ntwali Pacific - Using cinematography and animation in delivering messages to young people

Taahirah Hoosain - Knowledge of Self

Giovani Senga - Impact of money in society, how easy life is when you have it and how difficult life is when you are poor

Maria Trujillo - Muralism: construction of collective memory and good living.

Tahn-Dee Matthews - A Cry for Change

The Skills exchange was a meaningful time spent together with various project partners. The skills shared were invaluable to the participants who are changemakers in their communities. The only downside is that we could not do this together in person, but the connections made, and the skills exchanged were an enriching experience for all.