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# International Collaboration Grants

**Five case studies of  
partnerships across England,  
Scotland, Lebanon, Palestine,  
Sudan, Brazil, and Kenya**



# The International Collaboration Grants support UK arts and culture organisations to connect and collaborate with their international peers.

The grants programme is designed to support artists to make and develop creative artwork, and to deepen new and existing partnerships.

## The British Council

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

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### Researcher and consultant

Floresca Karanàsou

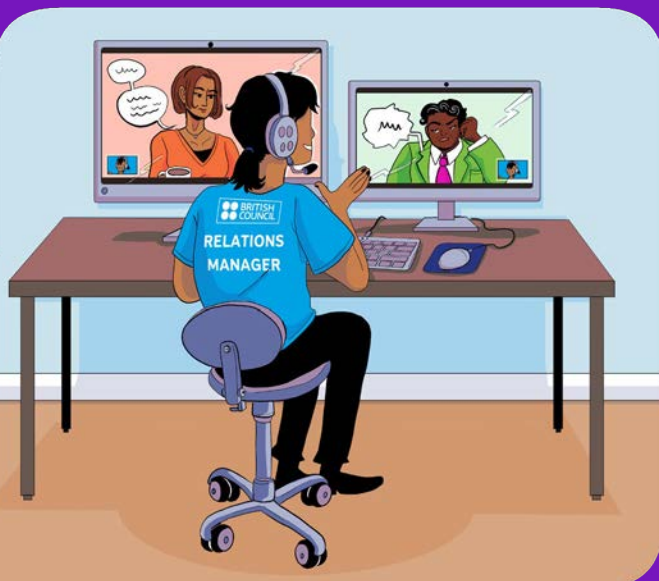
### Illustrator

Eileen Lemoine

**Floresca Karanàsou** is a consultant and researcher with many years of experience in international development programme evaluation and management and research in international cultural relations and human rights and accountability. As a Greek who has studied, lived and worked in different parts of the Middle East and the UK, and now based in Northern Ireland, she brings to this research her own long inter-cultural experience. This assignment was conducted through INTRAC (2022-23), where Floresca worked as a Principal Consultant from 2016 until 2023.

**Eileen Lemoine** is a French illustrator, comics artist and 2d animator based in Northern Ireland. She loves telling stories both in her self-authored and commercial work. She also has an interest in socially-minded practice with several of her stories conveying the importance of conservation and equality.

**With special thanks to each of the people and projects involved in this research project.**



# International Collaboration Grants case studies

## This is a series of five case studies

They illustrate the cultural relations experiences of partners collaborating through their International Collaboration Grants, and a cultural relations approach to arts grants funding. The case studies complement the longer, illustrated report 'Cultural relations in action. A research study on the British Council's International Collaboration Grants programme' by Floresca Karanàsou, with illustrations by Eileen Lemoine.

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A film project between Sudan Film Factory, England, UK; Native Voice Films, England, UK; and AYIN Network, Kenya Talal Alfifi, founder & director of Sudan Film Factory; Phil Cox, director of Native Voice Film; and Tom Rhodes, Managing Editor of AYIN Network Kenya	

# Reveal!



MSANII KIMANI

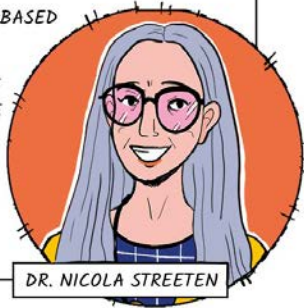


## KENYAN KYMSNET MEDIA NETWORK

A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS. IT AIMS TO HELP TRANSFORM KENYA AS WELL AS THE GREATER EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY THROUGH CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

## LD COMICS

A WOMEN-LED COMICS FORUM BASED IN THE U.K. IT STRIVES TO USE COMICS AS A TOOL TO CHALLENGE INJUSTICE AND INEQUALITY ON A GLOBAL SCALE.



DR. NICOLA STREETEN

REVEAL! SOUGHT TO GIVE VOICE TO WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN COMICS FORM.



THE PROJECT WAS OPEN TO WOMEN ARTISTS FROM KENYA, TANZANIA, RWANDA AND UGANDA

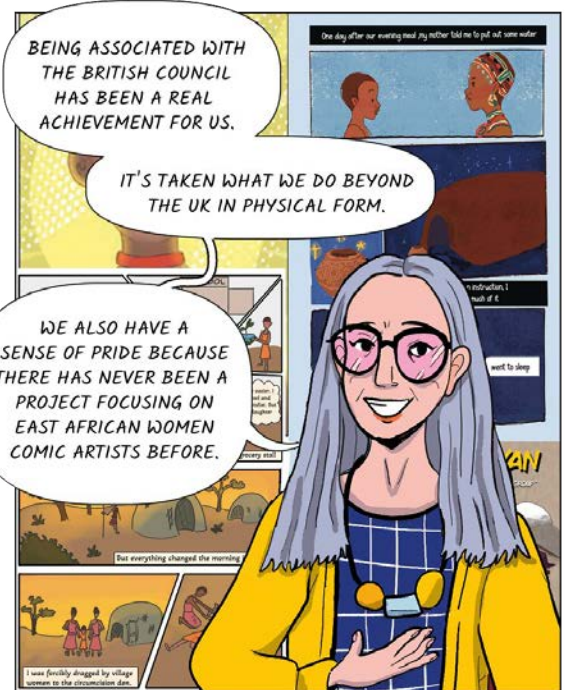
AS WELL AS UK-BASED WOMEN WITH AN EAST AFRICAN FAMILY HERITAGE.



ENTRIES WERE DISSEMINATED IN THE UK AND IN KENYA,

WITH FINALISTS PARTICIPATING IN A 4-DAY ONLINE RESIDENCY.

THE CREATED OUTCOMES WERE COMPILED INTO PUBLICATIONS TO SHOWCASE.



BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN A REAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR US.

IT'S TAKEN WHAT WE DO BEYOND THE UK IN PHYSICAL FORM.

WE ALSO HAVE A SENSE OF PRIDE BECAUSE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PROJECT FOCUSING ON EAST AFRICAN WOMEN COMIC ARTISTS BEFORE.

One day after our evening meal my mother told me to put out some water

In frustration, I took it to

went to sleep

but everything changed the morning

I was forcibly dragged by village women to the circumciser's den



THE LESSON THAT I TOOK FROM THIS PROJECT IS THAT PLANNING IS VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION.

A WELL-DELIVERED PROGRAM STARTS FROM A WELL-PLANNED PROGRAM.



INITIALLY WE WERE ONLY MEETING ON ZOOM, AND WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER WELL IN THAT TIME.

BUT THE RELATIONSHIP DEEPENED WHEN I GOT TO KENYA.

WHEN I SAW HOW MSANII WORKED AND INTERACTED WITH SO MANY PEOPLE, I UNDERSTOOD HIM BETTER.



FROM THE WORD GO WE STARTED HAVING AN OPEN DISCUSSION.

WE UNDERSTOOD HOW WE WORK AND HOW WE COULD BEST IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT.

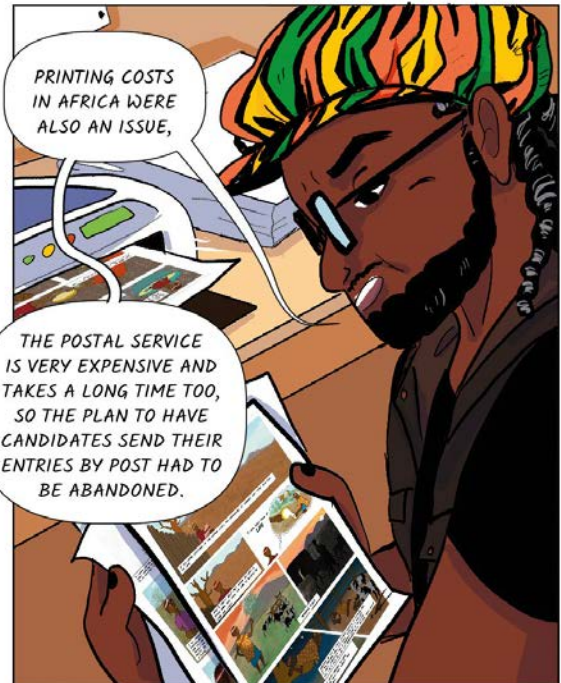
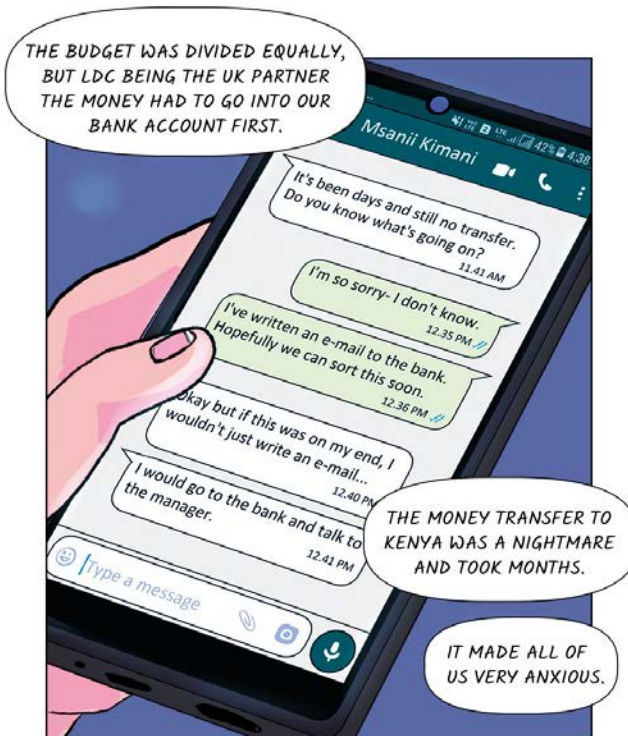
IT WAS EFFORTLESS BECAUSE WE HAD FUN!

I ALSO FOUND OUT THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE PAIRED WITH SOMEONE YOU'VE NEVER WORKED WITH BEFORE AND DEVELOP A COMMON UNDERSTANDING.



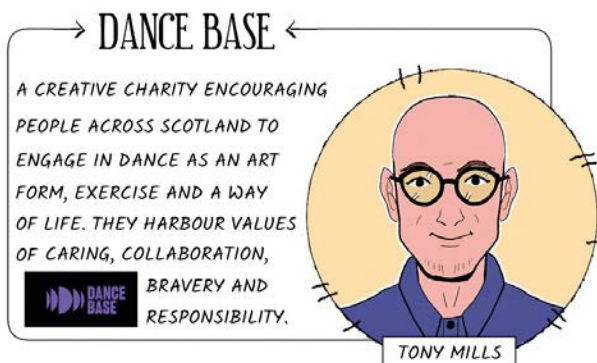
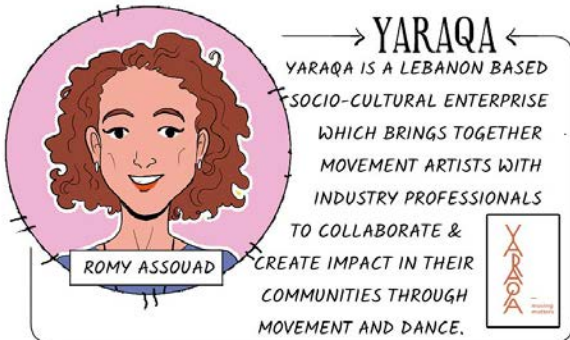
THERE WAS RECIPROcity OF WELCOME AND GENEROSITY WHEN WE VISITED EACH OTHER'S COUNTRIES

THIS GAVE THE RELATIONSHIP AN ASPECT OF EQUALITY.





# Precipitate











# Soil Futures

## THE ARTS CATALYST

A VISUAL ARTS ORGANISATION AND CHARITY BASED IN THE U.K. ENABLING PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN CREATIVE EXPERIENCES THAT INCREASE THEIR ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND POSITIVE SOCIAL ACTION.



ANNA SANTOMAURO



DANA ABBAS

## RIWAQ

(CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION, PALESTINE)  
AN ORGANISATION WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF PALESTINE IN ORDER TO HELP PRESERVE & PASS IT ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.



## OTHER PARTNERS



SAKIYA  
(PALESTINE)

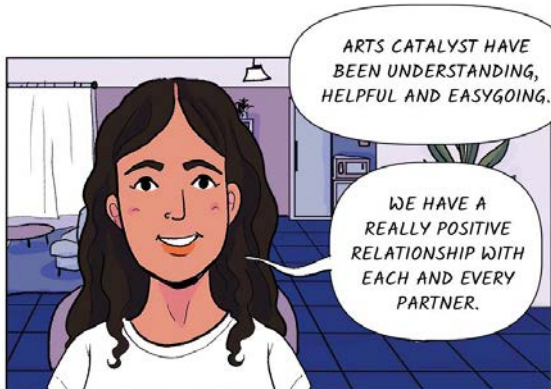
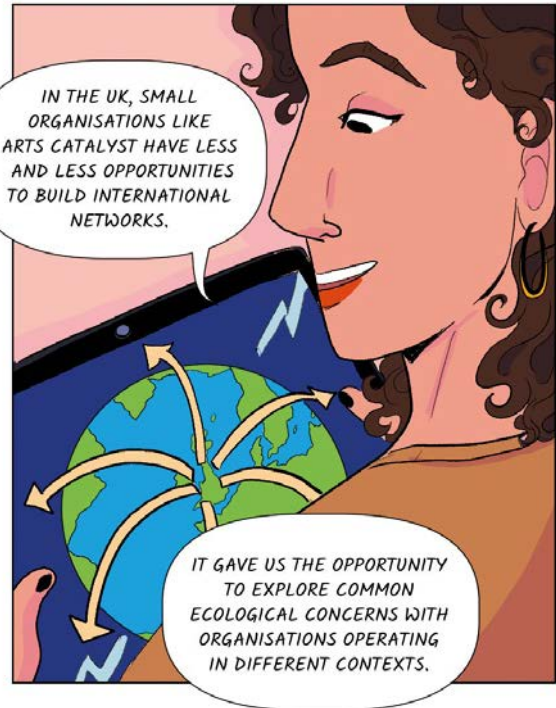
VESSEL ART PROJECT  
(ITALY)

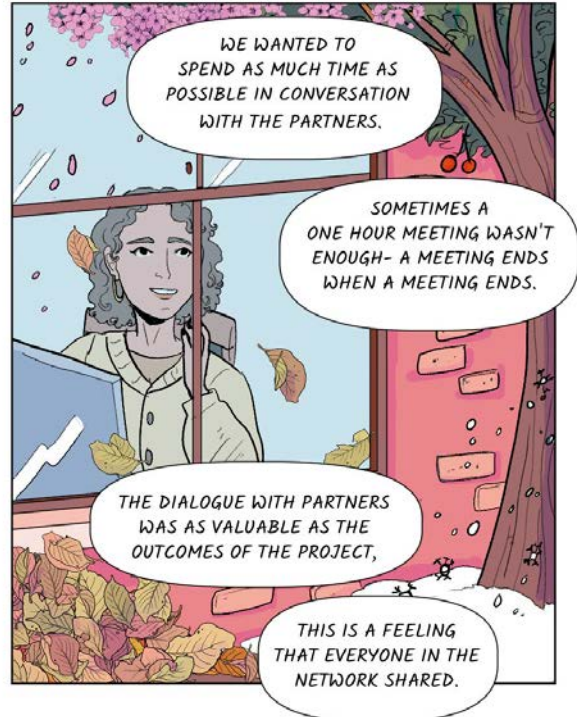


Struggles  
for Sovereignty

STRUGGLES FOR  
SOVEREIGNTY  
(INDONESIA)









# School of the Impossible

## PLATÔ CULTURAL

A BRAZILIAN ORGANIZATION SPECIALISING IN CREATING IMMERSIVE & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

THEY BRING TOGETHER NEW TECHNOLOGIES, IMMERSIVE THEATRE AND GAMIFICATION.



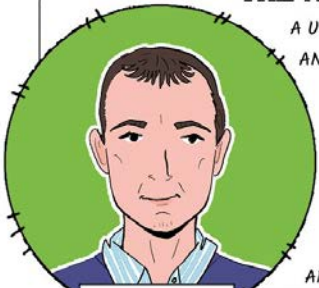
THEATRE AND GAMIFICATION.



FRANCINE KLIEMANN

## THE NECESSARY SPACE

A U.K. BASED ENTERPRISE WITH AN ETHOS OF STRETCHING THE POSSIBILITIES OF THEATRE & ART AS A SPACE WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS, IN ORDER TO HELP CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE VIEW THE WORLD AROUND THEM.



SIMON SHARKEY



SCHOOL FOR THE (IM)POSSIBLE IS AN EXPERIENCE FOR 8-10 YEAR OLDS

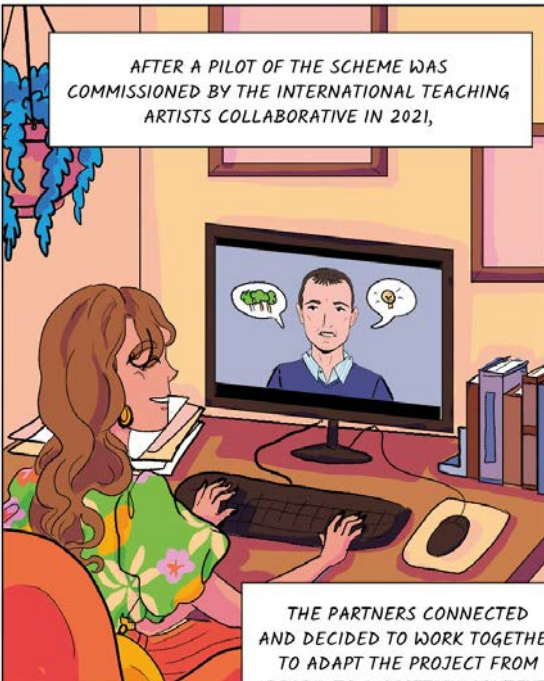


THEY INTERACT WITH A 'TIME TRAVELLING BOOKSHELF' IN THEIR CLASSROOMS:



IT ENGAGES THEM IN SENSORY CHALLENGES AND TEACHES THEM ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

WHILE GIVING VOICE TO THEIR PERSPECTIVES AND VISIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTUTRE.



AFTER A PILOT OF THE SCHEME WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ARTISTS COLLABORATIVE IN 2021,

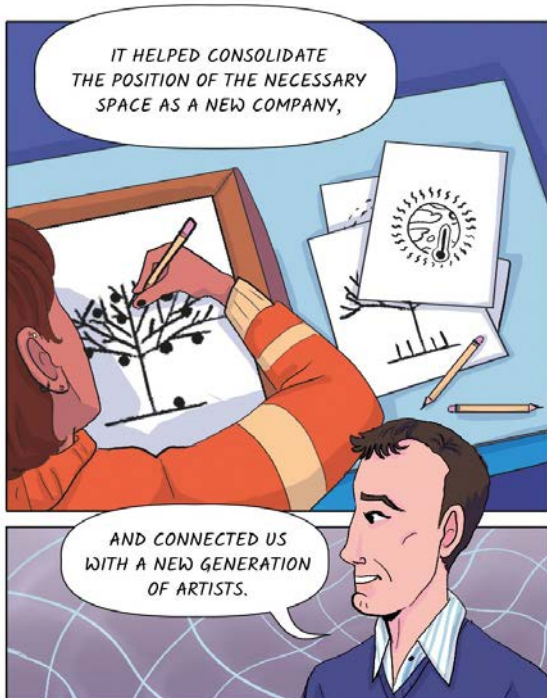
THE PARTNERS CONNECTED AND DECIDED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADAPT THE PROJECT FROM BRAZIL TO A SCOTTISH CONTEXT.



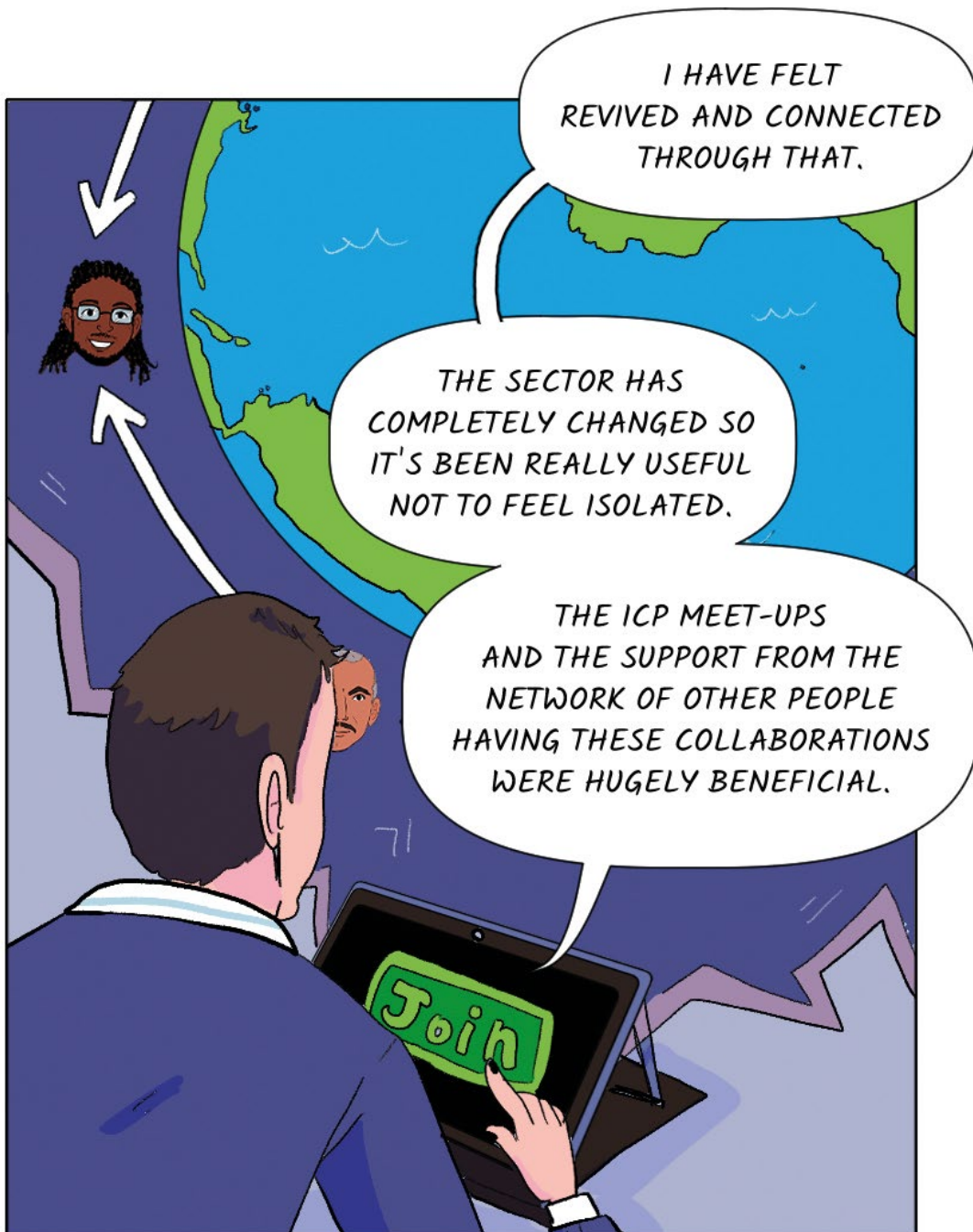
THE GREATEST BENEFIT FOR THE NECESSARY SPACE WAS TO REBOOT THE SECTOR'S AMBITIONS AFTER ITS DEVASTATION DURING COVID.

New Message  
To: Francine Kliemann  
Re: School of the Impossible Proposal  
Hello Francine,  
I love this suggestion and I think it would be a great way to translate the program to a Scottish context and deliver it to primary schools here.  
It would also help the Necessary space get back into facilitating projects after the sector was wiped out during COVID.  
Hope to hear from you soon.  
Simon











# Khartoum Bites




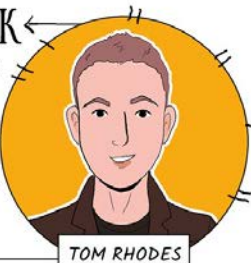
**TALAL AFIFI**

**SUDAN FILM FACTORY**  
 AN INDEPENDENT ART & FILM PRODUCTION HOUSE THAT BUILDS THE CAPACITIES OF SUDANESE TALENTS, PRODUCES FILMS, AND EXPOSES AUDIENCES TO FILMMAKING & CINEMA.



**AYIN NETWORK**

AN ORGANISATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE SUDANESE PUBLIC WITH ACCESS TO RELIABLE NEWS AND INFORMATION IN THE FORM OF FILMS, IN-DEPTH JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT.

**TOM RHODES**



**PHIL COX**

**NATIVE VOICE FILMS**  
 A COLLECTIVE OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS FROM THE U.K. WHO CREATE INNOVATIVE AND INTERACTIVE CONTENT FOR A GLOBAL AUDIENCE.




THIS UNIQUE COLLABORATION CALLED ON SUDANESE DIGITAL STORYTELLERS TO CREATE SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS.



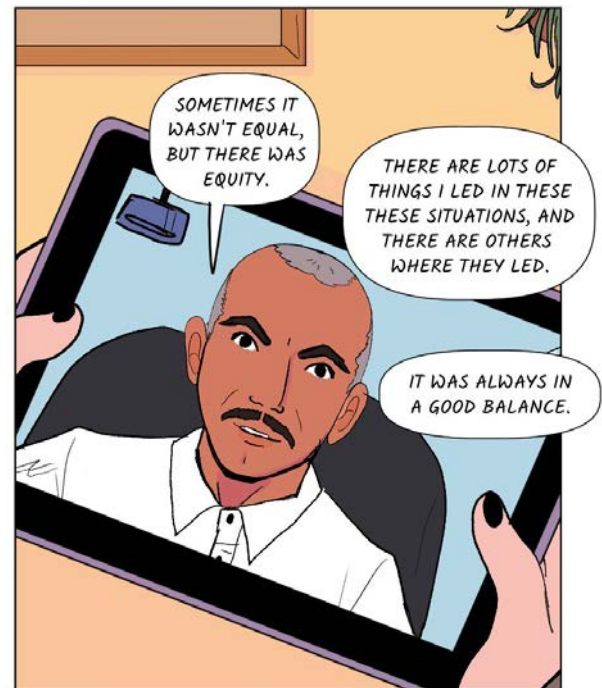
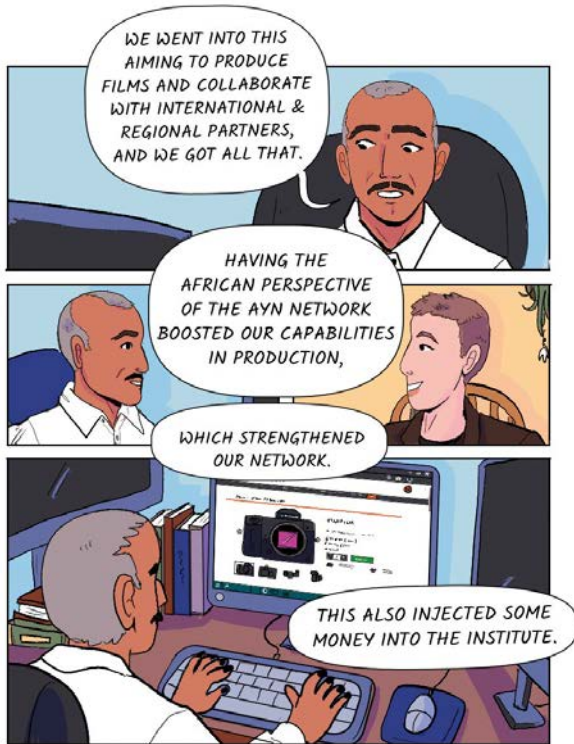
THEY TOUCHED ON GLOBAL ISSUES SUCH AS DISABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, AGEING & EQUALITY.

IN THE BEGINNING I WAS VERY NAIVE ABOUT THE WHOLE PROCESS, AND THE COSTS INVOLVED.

I'D NEVER MADE A FULL FEATURE FILM BEFORE AND I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MANY CONNECTIONS IN THE ARTS WORLD.

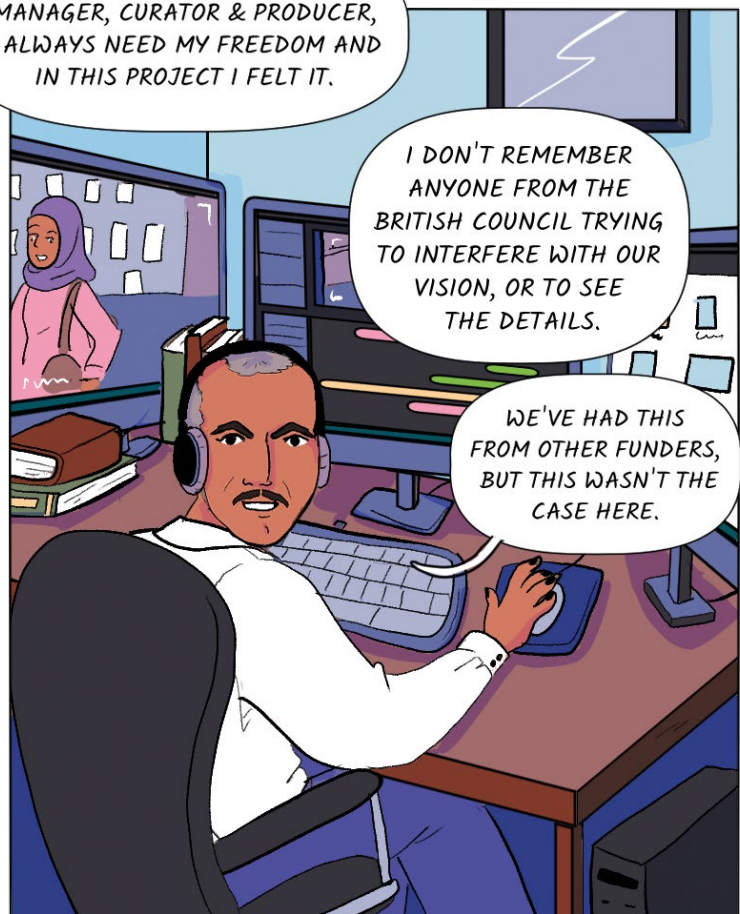
THE COLLABORATION WIDENED OUR SCOPE & QUALITY OF PRODUCTION,

AS WELL AS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF FILMMAKING TECHNIQUES.





AS A CULTURAL MANAGER, CURATOR & PRODUCER, I ALWAYS NEED MY FREEDOM AND IN THIS PROJECT I FELT IT.





**British Council 2024**

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.

**To find out more about arts and culture research please visit:**

[www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight](http://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight), and for more on the International Collaboration Grants visit [www.britishcouncil.org/arts/international-collaboration-grants](http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/international-collaboration-grants)