

# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE OPEN CALL



## ARTIST BRIEF

Legacy  
Jaekel House, Lagos



### History of the site

Legacy - The Historical and Environmental Interest Group of Nigeria is a non-profit interested in promoting and preserving the character of Nigeria's cultural heritage. At Legacy, we aim to protect and conserve historic buildings and monuments in Nigeria and provide a legacy for future generations. As a member organisation, we promote education and awareness raising about Nigerian heritage, as well as maintaining a number of sites in Lagos open to the public.

In 1998 the Nigeria Railway Corporation celebrated its centenary, this 100th anniversary was pivotal for LEGACY, as four sites within the historic Railway Compound, three buildings and a running shed, were handed over to a joint NRC/Legacy Committee in perpetuity.

One of the buildings, circa 1900, at the time derelict property but still a fine example of colonial style architecture, was Quarter 17. Its restoration was completed in 2010, when it was renamed Jaekel House after Francis Jaekel, a former Chief Superintendent of the NRC who wrote a comprehensive three volume history of the Nigerian railways. The building contains a mini-museum and serves as the Legacy Secretariat.



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## Context to this commission

Legacy is working with British partners National Trust Wales and INTO to revitalise the experience of visitor to Jaekel House by commissioning a piece of art. The project will take place within the framework of the British Council #GoDigital Sub Saharan Africa-Wales Creative Projects, a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The commissioned art will be developed as part of a six-week residency and will lead to a combined digital and physical output. We are open in terms of style and medium. The output should reference Jaekel House's railway heritage, and Legacy's mission to promote heritage and historic buildings. It should be relevant and accessible for a younger audience, including the thousands of Lagosian school children who visit the site every year.

## Audience Profile

Jaekel House contains a mini-museum and is open to the public. Visited by tourists and many other visitors, the site has an expansive garden and is available for school visits. Yearly it plays host and welcomes thousands of schoolchildren on school excursions. Jaekel House is now a beautiful landmark in Lagos and an inspiration to others who want to save historic buildings. We want the art piece to be educational and accessible for this audience, while remaining interesting and relevant to an adult audience as well.



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## The Commission

Jaekel House is looking for an artist who will, during a residency, use imagination and creativity to produce a new dynamic digital and physical artwork that will be housed on a long term basis at Jaekel House and use innovative means to create a digital representation of its collections and Legacy's aims and objectives, so as to promote, share, and showcase awareness of heritage through artistic work and practice.

This piece should respond to the role of the railway in bringing together the regions of Nigeria, but also in exporting and exploiting the richness of Nigeria's resources that were taken out of the country. The final output will be owned by Legacy.

The artist will need to collaborate with our international partners in Wales and England to strengthen the richness of research outputs with a series of virtual meetings and the opportunity for significant engagement with international materials and practices. This will include a research process in the collections at Jaekel House, and archives accessed via our partner institutions (see more under support below)

The commission will be shown to the public on a long-term basis on the ground floor of Jaekel House. We would like there to be physical and digital elements. Whatever form the final output takes, it will need to be reasonably mobile to allow display in a variety of contexts around Jaekel House. We anticipate that the main area for display will be outside, on the veranda, and will therefore need to come in at night.

The commissioned artists will also need to commit to delivering a minimum of two public engagement sessions, one during the residency and one after, including one in conversation with our international partners.

Legacy is open to all kinds of media in the output, provided that there are digital and physical elements. In your response to this brief, please provide details of the kind of work that you envision as the output for your residency.



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## The support we can offer

The Jaekel House Facility Manager and an Assistant Curator will be on hand to explain Legacy's history, aims and objectives in its 25th year, the mini-museum collections and the purpose of the school visits, as well as any other useful information. The facilities manager and Assistant Curator will support the process of installation and provide access to Jaekel House for the duration of the residency. We will expect the artist to complete the majority of the residency at Jaekel House.

We will provide access to an archive of historic documents and promotional materials related to the Nigerian railway, including those held in Bristol England and in Lagos by Legacy. The artist will also have access to mentorship from Welsh experts in heritage sites via our partnership with National Trust Wales and INTO.

This artwork will be created within the framework for a wider collaboration with our international partners. We intend to celebrate the installation at the house with an international event at Jaekel House in November, to which we would invite the artist.

## Budget

The available budget is 700,000 Naira

The budget includes materials, installation, fees any travel costs. Legacy will meet costs reasonable costs required to display the digital artwork.

Responses to this brief should include an approximate indication of how the budget will be used by the artist.

Please note that in order to be eligible, artists should be local to Lagos as accommodation is not offered within the scope of this brief.



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## Timescale

The residency will begin in September 2021, with a planned duration of six weeks.

6 September 2021	Residency begins at Jaekel House
6 - 17 September 2021	2 week research & development phase Presentation to Legacy team for feedback on proposed art work
20 - 24 September 2021	Revisions in line with feedback Presentation of final concept
27 September - 15 October 2021	Creation of artwork Participation in event at Jaekel House

## Selection process

Artists must complete the online form available at [www.into.org/go-digital-art-residency](http://www.into.org/go-digital-art-residency) by 16 July.

A panel will select a pool of potential artists to attend an interview at Jaekel House, which will include interviewers joining remotely via videolink from abroad.

In order to be eligible, artists must meet the following criteria:

- established artist with at least five years of experience, including experience of working to an audience that is relevant for this project;
- familiarity with Jaekel House or able to visit before the deadline;
- local to Lagos;
- track record of similar projects (a link to your portfolio);
- available for the residency September - October 2021;
- excellent English skills, both written and oral; and
- have their own equipment and software and be able to work self-sufficiently (for example: Canon DSLR camera, adobe suite and i5 processor laptop).

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Interviews will take place on Thursday, 29 July at Jaekel House.

Details we need from you

To apply for this opportunity, artists should complete the form available at [www.into.org/go-digital-art-residency](http://www.into.org/go-digital-art-residency) by 16 July.

You will be asked questions about the above criteria, as well as a short description of your initial thoughts for responding to the brief, including an idea of the budget.

If you are invited to the second stage of the process, you will be asked to share the following:

- links /pdf of full portfolio;
- short CV of no more than 4 pages; and
- Responses to any clarifications that we need to ask.

For any queries about this brief please email [info@into.org](mailto:info@into.org)