

National Arts Festival 2030: Collective Collage

- Thank you for taking part in our research project! For more information on the project and to submit your contribution, please see <https://www.future-festivals.org/National-Arts-Festival-Letters-from-the-Future.html>.
- Imagine that it is now the year 2030, and you have just attended the National Arts Festival. **Please tell us what your experience of the festival was like.**
- You can do this in any creative way you like:
 - Write a letter back to yourself in 2021 (it can be as short or long as you like)
 - Make an audio recording of your 'letter', speaking back to yourself from the festival in 2030
 - Write a poem about the 2030 NAF
 - Create an image of the 2030 festival such as a collage or drawing
- You **may wish to respond to some of the questions below**. These questions are prompts to consider (you don't have to answer them all). Please feel free to write or record your letter or create your poem or image in any way that you would like to, allowing your imagination of the 2030 festival to develop in perhaps unexpected directions. The questions are meant to spark your imagination, not to constrain it.

How would I like to experience NAF in the future? As a live festival? What is on the festival programme? How has NAF changed since the start of the pandemic?

What is the position of the 'audience'? How would you imagine an audience experiencing the work? Live or online or a combination of both? As a small intimate audience or a large one? Does the festival tour to a number of different locations? Is there an international audience joining you using online tools?

What kind of tools are making my experience of the festival possible? Is the festival partially online? Is the artist using new tools to connect with you?

What might artwork look like in ten years time? What form /format might it take? How do you create your work (using online tools, remote or hybrid working)? During your creative process, where are you physically working from (your home in a coastal town, your studio in inner-city Johannesburg, or perhaps you are mobile and work from a number of different locations)? Are you collaborating with other artists or technical specialists? How are you working with them? Why is NAF important to you as an artist? For connecting with other artists and creatives? For testing new creative ideas or works?

What might the spaces and environments look or feel like? For the audiences? For artmakers and producers? Where is the NAF 2030? Is it still in Makhanda or does it occur in a number of different locations? What is the role of the local Makhanda community in the NAF?

What kind of 'public' do you imagine engaging in the NAF of the future? Who is the audience and has it changed in terms of who the people are / the demographics? Do audiences

want different performance formats to those they enjoyed in the past? Are new audience behaviours developing? Create a 'future festival' version of yourself!

Who invests in the festival in 2030? Who are the sponsors or funders of the festival? How do they support the festival?

Perhaps you would also like to consider whether things have changed for the better, for the worse or both?

Aims

- The aims of this research activity are:
 - (1) To provide a creative way of understanding how people involved in NAF have experienced the pandemic, and how they anticipate it will affect the festival in the future.
 - (2) To provide an opportunity for people involved in NAF to creatively imagine new possibilities for the festival in the future.

Consent & Anonymity

- By submitting your contribution, you give consent to take part in the research project, and for us to make use of your contribution as part of further stages of the research project, including as a part of a larger artwork and in our research publications. You can choose the level of anonymity for your contribution as either being anonymous, using a pseudonym or using your name.

Next Steps

- Your contributions will form part of a collective visualizing of a future festival. Duduetsang Lamola (blk banaana) and Francois Knoetze will incorporate and draw from your contributions to create an immersive 360-degree video world of our future National Arts Festival. This video will be accessible online at the end of their final artistic process.
- The letters/images/audio recordings/poems etc are an important part of our data set for this research project. The findings will be published in project reports and journal articles.
- The Future Festivals South Africa project will also use these contributions as the basis for collaboratively developing ideas – alongside our festival partners – for practical steps that could be taken to enable South African festivals to survive and thrive.
- Please sign up to our mailing list to keep updated with project developments! <http://www.future-festivals.org/>
- If you have any questions please email us at futurefestivalssouthafrica@gmail.com