



*Kwakwio Association*

# Annual Report 2025



# 2025

*Note:* During 2025, a comprehensive website was set up. Created by Kwacakworo and designed by Davos-based web designer Daniel Krähenbühl, the website provides insight into the history, organization, and management of the Kwacakworo Association, mentions the numerous visitors to the House of 57 Spears, reports on the various events organized by the association, and provides information about the first residents of the Kwacakworo Residency for Artists and their activities during their stay in Davos.

The name of the website is [kwacakworoassociation.org](http://kwacakworoassociation.org).

**The website** also features a kind of “diary,” where visitors, events, meetings, and activities are listed chronologically; the “diary” forms the basis for the following annual report.

Since the history of the association can now also be traced on the website, the following annual review is limited to background information, the planning of future activities, and the measures necessary for the association to continue.

## A brief look back at the year 2025

At the end of 2025, the Kwacakworo Association can look back with satisfaction on a wonderful and inspiring time and be pleased with what has been achieved so far: the people of Davos and students at *the* SAMD (*Davos Middle School*) enjoyed unforgettable encounters and conversations with impressive people from all over the world at the House of 57 Spears.

### Highlights:

Among the highlights of the year were the Artists in Residence who travelled from Uganda, Minnesota/USA, and South Sudan—courageous women who are committed to their countries as artists, teachers for traumatized refugees, peace educators, or poets for peace, art, and a more just world in general.

Kwacakworo's personal “highlight” was the entry made by the poet *Irene Graf* in the guest book, a wonderful poem in which she describes her impressions of visiting the house.

Particularly gratifying and therefore also worthy of mention as a “highlight” was the willingness of Ms. *Sonja Gut* to take on the administrative tasks of the association as secretary, and of Ms. *Jolanda Tam* to act as manager of the Kwacakworo Residency, looking after the apartment and the well-being of the artists.

## Visitors to the House of 57 Spears

### Number of visitors.

In 2025, over 300 people visited the house, either individually or in groups, including students from SAMD and almost all of the members of the Davos municipal council (friends from Davos are not included in the visitor numbers).

### Guest book

The guest book was continued; it contains photographs and comments from guests. An exceptionally beautiful entry was made by the poet *Irene Graf*, a gynaecologist from Sirnach (October 30, 2025):

#### *Room of encounter (Meeting Place)*

Past precisely counted spears  
Through an open door  
Across a bright yellow ornamental garden  
You turn and turn  
at hats, paint pots, knitting needles  
Up the stairs  
This narrow palm frond path,  
closely entwined with faces,  
all of whom still want –

On the middle floor, a warm bolero made of wine  
and a caftan made of tobacco, when you  
take off your coat  
Soon palm hands pull you up  
You pause only briefly before the upper floor  
And touch your forehead –

To enter the room of friendship,  
a chain must be loosened,  
then you are there – a circle,  
a fire that burns according to its own rules  
and illuminates animal spirits  
You hippos, how reliable you are  
like the deaf, mute and the blind,  
who guard the fire –  
guard the stories,  
guard the storyteller  
even on sleepless nights,  
hyenas must stay away

## Open House

This year, the "Open House" was held in mid-November, in beautiful, warm weather, but without the opportunity to admire the magnificent flowers in the "magic garden" in front of the house and the fascinating wild "fern garden" behind it. In contrast to the previous two years, there was little interest among the locals in getting to know the interior of this very special house in Davos; apparently, those interested in foreign cultures and local history had already visited the house once; *after all, over the past two years, there had been well over a thousand visitors!* This year, there were only *four* curious visitors: a married couple (*Fritz and Therese Schlatter*), *Marianne Agulera*, and a young Davos resident (*Nando Tam*). All other visitors were old friends of the house (*Walter Dürst, Maria von Ballmoos, Ursula Kohl*, as well as *Daniela Ambühl-Losa, Jolanda Tam, Nicole Wantschina*, and *Jean-Claude Cornut*). *Jolanda Tam* organized the aperitif, and *Sonja Gut* announced the open house in the *Davoser Zeitung* newspaper.

The organization of an "open house" for *second-home owners* in Davos was planned but not realized; this idea will be taken up again for next year.

Participants in the World Economic Forum could also be invited to visit the house; the "Davos Task Force" is thinking not only of business managers, but also of their companions and representatives of the NGOs present.

## Activities

The association's activities were diverse and extensive:

Six public events at the House of 57 Spears:

These consisted of so-called **theme evenings** (on medical hypnosis, with *Dr. Hans Wehrli* from Winterthur; on fairy tales, told by *Elisabeth Tschudi* from Basel); two **readings of original poetry** (*Jürg Kesselring* and *Minagano Kape*); and three **encounter events** (discussions with *Margaret Trott*, a teacher for traumatized refugees from the United States; with *Maria Olivia Nakato*, a young artist from Uganda; and with *Minagano Kape*, a poet and peace worker from South Sudan).

Public painting workshop on Arkadenplatz in Davos

During her visit to Davos, *Maria Olivia Nakato*, the artist from Uganda who had travelled from Ghana, organized a workshop on Arkadenplatz in Davos: numerous visitors (and their children) were able to have flowers or grasses they had picked themselves printed onto fabric or paper using the sun.

Several events for SAMD students:

Various SAMD teachers organized a visit to the house, each with discussions with Kwacakworo. As part of the “Africa” project week, 22 students visited the house and filmed an interview with Kwacakworo.



*Maria Olivia Nakato*, the artist from Uganda, organized two workshops at the middle school. *Margaret Trott*, the experienced teacher from Winona, Minnesota in U.S., gave two presentations at the school about her work with traumatized refugees, and *Minagano Kape*, the peace worker from South Sudan, talked about her work as a peace worker in South Sudan as part of the “Africa” project week.



Public event with the Ugandan Artist *Maria Olivia Nakato*  
(in the Farngarten behind der House, in Juli 2025).

*Featured in this picture: Maria Olivia Nakato, Andres Flütsch, Martin Schneebeili, Jürg Kesselring, Heidi Yanki, Annamaria Melcher und Nicole Wantschina).*

## Work at the House of 57 Spears

The “House of 57 Spears” is getting on in years and requires constant maintenance. *Maria KÜchler, Nicole Wantschina, Jean-Claude Cornut* and *Sheila Metzke* have been taken care of the exterior and interior appearance of the house for many years and are the most important and reliable pillars not only of the building but also of Kwacakworo's personal life. Now getting on in years himself, Kwacakworo would undoubtedly not have been able without the strong friendships with the aforementioned individuals to maintain the spiritual strength and the joy necessary to cope with the many tasks, to remain confident and continue to believe in the long-term meaning of the “Association” project. The Association and the many visitors to the house therefore owe Maria, Nicole, Jean-Claude, and Sheila a debt of gratitude.

### Practical housework

Gardening: This time-consuming task was carried out by *Maria KÜchler*. Flowers were purchased in Klosters or Filisur with the help of *Nicole Wantschina* and *Jean-Claude Cornut*. The association was not charged for this work, which was considered a contribution of support.

Preventive winter work: *Christian Grünig* built a snow shelter for the firewood room and positioned the roof supports for the “Pavillon des Plaisirs.” Kwacakworo cleared away chairs and tables, protected the statues, etc.

Work inside the house: After Kwacakworo's father and grandfather's workshop was repurposed by the heirs (the painting workshop was closed), the “display case” had to be cleared out and other objects or pictures removed. Since the local history museum (heimatmuseum) showed no interest in these artifacts of Art Nouveau craftsmanship, these stencils, sketches, paints, and brushes were hung or placed in the entrance area of the house (in the “Art Nouveau room”) and at the entrance to the “fern garden” behind the house. At the entrance to the “fern garden,” pictures and paintings by Kwacakworo's father and grandfather and by their successor Jean-Claude Cornut (also in a picture painted by Uschi Cornut) can now be seen. *Pascal Mauchle, Nicole Wantschina, and Jean-Claude Cornut* supported Kwacakworo in this work.

Furnishing the “residence” (apartment on the ground floor): In anticipation of guests, the residence was refurnished with a double bed and a precious old antique desk from *Kwacakworo*, as well as a double bed and two armchairs from *Jean-Claude Cornut*.

### Publication of a guide of the House of 57 Spears

At the end of last year, all rooms in the house were labelled and a colorful “house ‘Guide’ was created; the illustrated brochure was designed by Kwacakworo and converted to C5 format by Joshua Wada. The “Guide” was printed in January of this year (in German and English) and can be purchased for 10 francs.

After four more rooms were given new names (“*Room of Love for Craftsmanship*,” “*Stefanie’s Elephant Cellar*,” “*Room of Glasses*,” and “*Room of Encounter*”), a new edition of the “Guide” is being considered.

Joshua's idea to create a video guide to the house (with Kwacakworo's explanations of the objects and pictures on display) is in the plans for next year.

### Website, books, and documentaries

Thanks to the efforts of *Michelle Kläger and Beckry Abdel Magid*, the new edition of the book “*Why Did You Come If You Leave Again?*” consisting of two volumes in color, was published in early 2025 and is now available in bookstores.

The black-and-white edition is no longer in print.

### Creation of a comprehensive website

Until now, Kwacakworo's homepage [www.kwacakworo.com](http://www.kwacakworo.com) seemed to meet the Association's needs, but as the scope of the Association's activities increase, it is becoming clear that the Association should have its own website for independent and continuous existence. From February 2026 onwards, information about the association's activities can be found on the website [www.kwacakworoassociation.org](http://www.kwacakworoassociation.org), where photographs can also be viewed.

The website was designed by Daniel Krähenbühl of Webdesign Davos and, in addition to information and pictures of the various events, it also contains a separate section on the “Residency Program.” An application form for the Residency Program is available for interested artists, writers, activists, and socially engaged individuals.

The website will be continuously updated and will also provide information about upcoming events.

### Cataloging of Kwacakworo's library

Last year, two Davos high school students, Siro Caruso and Markus Denz, brought joy to the Kwacakworo Association. They catalogued the poetry collections in the “Room of Gods and Demons” and clearly enjoyed the experience so much that they both wanted to become members of the association. At 20 years of age, they are the youngest members (both still at the beginning of their higher studies).

Unfortunately, the important project of cataloguing the books in the house came to a standstill: no students could be found for this work.

## The Residency Program

### *Purpose:*

The residence for “artists, authors, and humanitarian activists” was founded to keep the “House of 57 Spears” *alive* even after Kwacakworo's passing, to save the old, unique house from demolition, and to fill it with new artistic creativity: the house is to become a place of encounter and humanity. The beneficiaries of this program are not only the guests in residence, but also the residents of Davos, locals, and visitors, who find a meeting place with the whole world here and can enrich and delight themselves in this place of peace and consciousness.

### *Location:*

For the time being, the residence is located on the ground floor, between the “magic garden” in front of the house and the “fern garden” behind it.

The start of the program was made possible by *Christian Grünig's* generous offer to make his apartment (which is little used in the summer) on the ground floor of the Association's house available free of charge.

In order to adapt the private apartment to the requirements of a residency, some of the furniture was replaced (with beds and armchairs) and a desk was added. A “Residency Manager” is responsible for the furnishings and cleanliness of the apartment.

### *Program Manager:*

The long search was finally successful: in Jolanda Tam, a qualified and enthusiastic successor to the temporary *Margrit Hänggi* was found as manager of the residence. Jolanda Tam sees her work as a personal contribution to the Kwacakworo Association.

As manager of the residence, Jolanda Tam was accepted onto the board (she attended her first meeting on November 26, 2025).

### *Financial Support:*

It was only thanks to the support of the *Davos-based Meuli Brothers Foundation* (CHF 5,000) and a deficit guarantee from the *Graubünden Office of Culture* (CHF 4,000) that the residence program could become a reality.

Further applications to local banks and organizations (*Heimatschutz des Kantons Graubünden*, the *Graubündner Kantonalbank* and UBS) did not respond although *Davos Tourismus* was cooperative in practical matters.

The search for sponsors will be one of the biggest challenges for the coming year and thus for the future of the Residency Program.

### *Promotion of the Program and Recruitment of Residents:*

The problems with the offer for creative artists lie not only in the search for financial support, but also in the search for qualified residents. Kwacakworo's friend Dr. Thomas Laely made it possible for the Kwacakworo Residency to be listed on the Artists in Residence website created by *Wenzel A. Haller*, where it is now accessible worldwide. In order to be able to put the residency in Davos on his website with all the necessary information and a registration form, Wenzel Haller visited Kwacakworo in Davos and got his own impression of the Kwacakworo Residency Program.

### *Recruitment and Participation of Artists, Scholars and Activists:*

Thanks to Dr. Thomas Laely, who curated an exhibition at the University of Zurich's Botanical Garden, an artist from Uganda was invited. Prof. Beckry Abdel Magid's personal relationship with an American teacher and Joane Holliger's friendship with a peace worker and poet from South Sudan led to two more women being invited to the residency.

The residency program led to the formation of a subgroup of the “Davos Task Force”, a group of people who support the artists, advise them, accompany them, and introduce them to other locals; these are *Jolanda Tam, Nicole Wantschina, Daniela Ambühl-Losa, Ladina Alioth, Joshua Wada, Margrit Hänggi, and Anja Reuter-Albers*; only the latter two are not on the Association's Board of Directors.

### **Residents of Summer/Fall 2025**



*Maria Olivia Nakato*  
(Uganda)



*Margret Trott*  
(Minnesora, U.S.A)



*Minagano Kape*  
(South Sudan)

The first residents were ***Maria Olivia Nakato***, an artist from Uganda, ***Margaret Trott***, a teacher for traumatized refugees from the US, and ***Minagano Kape***, a peace worker and poet from South Sudan.

The stay of these three scholars was an unforgettable experience, not only for the artist, poet, and teacher, but also for the residents of Davos, who were able to meet with them at various events. In particular, the students at Davos Middle School were able to enrich their knowledge with a wealth of life experience, information, and art that the women shared with them, thus broadening the students' horizons.

*(Information and souvenir photos can be found on the website [kwacakworoassociation.org](http://kwacakworoassociation.org).)*

The visit to Davos was also rewarding, enjoyable, and inspiring for the artists themselves, whether during hikes in the mountains or conversations with locals.

The following thank-you note from the poet Minagano Kape is representative of all the entries in the guest book:

*Guest book note - by Minagano Kape*

“What an honor to experience this space, your space whose doors you have warmly opened for creatives, friends, and curious souls. What an honor to experience you, Kwacakworo, as a person, as a friend. Your hospitality, kindness, and passion in what you do, did, and believe in is quite inspiring!

As a creative, this has been one of the most wonderful opportunities for me to get inspired by the incredible creations that have found home in your house, to reconnect with myself through nature and to create. I know for sure the noble vision of the Kwacakworo Association and the artist residency program will eventually be successful!

This space has a “soul” and that is what makes it priceless!

Thank you for the beautiful hikes and walks in nature. I cherish the many nights by the fire in the Room of Friendship - Cheers to good health!

Looking forward to more beautiful moments in the Room of Friendship!

Until next time – cheers,

Minagano.”

## Relationships

### **Connections to South Sudan**

Contact with board members Napoleon Adok Gai and David Vincent Nyuol remained sporadic and limited to virtual board meetings.

After the *Likikiri Center* in Juba (in the presence of Napoleon Adok Gai and Interior Minister Angela Teny), the **University of Juba** also organized a large celebration (on May 9, 2025) to honor Kwacakworo's scientific work in South Sudan.

Further contacts were made with *Amaliya Omot* and close relations with *Minagano Kape*.

At the end of October, the prominent South Sudanese politician **Prof. John Gai Yoh**, accompanied by a member of the South Sudan Mission in Geneva, met with Kwacakworo and Minagano Kape there; both Prof. Gai Yoh and his companion *Yousef Bor* became members of the Kwacakworo Association.

### **Connections to the municipality of Davos**

The **cultural commission of the municipality of Davos** has also pledged a contribution of 7,000 Swiss francs for 2025 and reimbursed the expenses at the end of November. A new application or extension will be submitted for the coming years.

**Dr. Christoph Luzi**, *head of the cultural department of the municipality of Davos*, attended one of the events at the “Fern Garten” and assured Kwacakworo of his help and advice in writing applications for financial support.

On August 14, 2025, the **Grand and Small Council of the municipality of Davos** visited the house with its President, Ladina Alioth, and learned about the Kwacakworo Association. The reception (with aperitif) took place in the “Fern Garten” in good weather. Also present as a member of the cantonal parliament was the President of the canton of Graubünden for 2025, Ms. Valéry Favre-Accola; she became a member of the association on the same day and posted an enthusiastic entry on Instagram.



## **Connections to universities, museums, and other cultural or scientific institutions**

- Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to maintain connections with the University of Zurich (Rector Prof. Schapman) – occasional greetings excepted.
- After Michelle Kläger completed her master's thesis at the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich, relations resumed with the museum (which houses all of Kwacakworo's research material, such as documents, dictionaries, photographs, audio recordings, etc.).
- In 2025, the Musée Ethnographique de la Ville de Genève organized a public exhibition at the museum on “*Afrique Sonore*” and also displayed items from the collection it had received from Kwacakworo (a postcard depicted “garè,” Anyuak dance bells was published by the museum).
- The University of Juba in South Sudan organized a celebration to thank Kwacakworo for his gift of his Anyuak monograph to the university library.

Since scientists are hosted by the scientific institutes of Davos, it has been decided to dedicate the “Kwacakworo Residency Program” to artists, writers, poets, peace activists, and socially engaged individuals.

## **Internal: Association matters**

### Executive Board

Due to their residences being located far from Davos, the members of the Executive Board were involved to varying degrees; most events were organized by the “Davos Task Force” lead by *Daniela Ambühl-Losa, Ladina Alioth, and Joshua Wada*.

*Dr. Hans Wehrli and Prof. Jürg Kesselring organized their own events (medical hypnosis and poetry readings), Sonja Gut and Michelle Kläger met with artist Maria Nakato and teacher Margaret Trott in Davos, while Joane Holliger spent two days in the company of her friend, poet Minagano Kape. In Davos, the stay of the foreign guests was made easier, more enjoyable, and enriched by Uschi Cornut, Martin Schneebeli, Janine Schweizer, Maria von Ballmos, Barbara Bachmann, Daniela Ambühl-Losa, Ladina Alioth, Maargrit Hänggi, and Jolanda Tam.*

In addition to the president, the secretary, and the Davos Task Force, Joane Holliger was particularly committed to the association's goals. The South Sudan

Task Force has not been quite active this year but they seem poised to do better in 2026.

The new website, designed by Daniel Krähenbühl, is already filled with content by Kwacakworo.

#### Two new board members

- Ms. *Sonja Gut* from Wädenswil: took after Arif Hizlan as the treasurer and membership coordinator on the Board of Directors.
- Ms. *Jolanda Tam* from Davos: serves as manager of the Residency Program (replacing Ms. Margrit Hänggis, who was temporarily helping out.)

#### General Assembly

The *second* General Meeting of the Kwacakworo Association took place on March 22, 2025, in Davos (again at the Green Hub).

All nominated board members were elected, and all their proposals were approved.

The thirs General Assembly is planned for March 14, 2026.

#### Number of members

At the end of 2025, the association counted almost 100 members.

Of the numerous people who were members last year (2024), 43 did not renew their membership. The reasons for this are unknown; major donors (from 2023, before the official founding of the association) may have understood their gift to be a one-time donation (but this automatically made them members for 2024) and did not necessarily want to become/remain members, while others may have simply overlooked/forgotten to renew their membership, and yet others may have had their own reasons for withdrawing.

In 2025, the association received some small donations (most of them paid 100 instead of 50 francs; the 50 francs were considered a donation); these donors automatically became members.

People who did not renew their membership will be contacted again in 2026 to remind them to renew if they wish.

#### Meetings of the board members

Physical meetings of the board only took place during the general assembly. Andres Flütsch, Daniela Ambühl-Losa, Ladina Alioth, and Joshua Wada from the “Davos Task Force” met during various events and on the occasion of meetings with the artists. Andres Flütsch, Jürg Kesselring and Hans Wehrli participated in various events and met local members of the board there.

In 2025, there were *four* Zoom meetings (on January 14, May 29, August 26, and November 26).

### Connections to the members of the Association:

- o All members were informed about all events and invited to participate.
- o At the beginning of the year, all members received a Christmas/New Year's card designed by *Joshua Wada*, with greetings from the Association.

At the end of the year, most members have received the 2026 annual calendar, which features 13 of Kwacakworo's pictures from South Sudan. For shipping reasons, members from very distant countries have received the Christmas/New Year Card only.

### **Finances:**

*For details, see the report by administrator Sonja Gutc; the report will be presented at the next General Assembly.*

### **Income**

At the request of *Ladina Alioth*, the **Culture Commission of the Municipality of Davos** renews its annual contribution of **7000 Swiss francs**.

The Davos **Meuli Foundation** contributes 5000 Swiss francs, and the **Office for Culture of the Canton of Graubünden** provides a deficit guarantee of 4000 Swiss francs. Both amounts relate to the costs of the “Kwacakworo Residency Program.”

The Association is proud for its contributions to Davos secondary school through an engaging painting workshop, three lessons by residents at the school, a group tour of the house, and a long interview of Kwacakworo by students. The Association hopes to be acknowledged by the school and to receive a copy of the interview and other documents about the events.

### **Expenses**

Most of the expenses were related to the “Kwacakworo Residency Program” and its residents (travel, visa, insurance costs, events, and invitations).

Other expenses included costs for visitors to the open house, various themed evenings, and the painting workshop. the visit of the district administrator of the municipality of Davos, the production of calendars and Christmas cards, postage costs for sending the calendars, etc.

### **Credit balance**

Of the pictures exhibited last year at the Davos Cultural Center, six are still with the photographer *Walter Dürst*. Perhaps they could be exhibited again next year

in Bad Ragaz, on the occasion of a dialogue evening between Jürg Kesselring and Kwacakworo and offered for sale.

## *Looking Forward*

After a successful year, the Board of Directors and the Associations members and friends look forward to an active and engaging programs and events in 2026. This can be achieved by the dedication and hard work of the board and the members. The planned projects including the Residency Program, social and cultural events, teaching and learning workshops, and sharing the experiences of artists and scholars with the people of Davos will be realized with continuous fundraising, and the continuing financial support of members, the *municipality of Davos*, and the local institutions and foundations that share the mission and goals of the Association. Therefore, the major challenge in the coming years is to find a steady stream of funds to keep the Association and Haus Perner as a beacon of light, a source of knowledge, a center of creation of art, innovative ideas for peace and hope for Davos.

In closing, the Association would like to thank Ms. *Daniela Ambühl-Losa* for her great engagement and wish her all the best in her long trip around the world starting early 2026. We will miss her badly; fortunately, Daniela will be back in 2026. Thanks as well to Mrs. *Ladina Alioth* for her courage and her hard work for the Association, with best wishes for a soon and complete recovery!



*The South Sudanese Poet Minagano Kape in the Valley of Sertig in October 2025*