

GLIMPSE

A Wona Collective Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 01

March 31, 2025



Letter from the Collective

Dearest Friends,

As we step into a new quarter, we want to officially launch the first edition of our newsletter: Glimpse. Before we get into what this newsletter entails, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the world we are currently living in, the growing pressures and the work we are all doing.

Nina Simone said 'An artist's duty is to reflect the times'. Wona Collective, as you know, is a feminist young women-led arts collective. Our work focuses on the stories of women and of marginalised groups. So as the tides change and the world's perception of diversity, equity and inclusion changes with it, we feel the essence of Nina Simone's words even more deeply because we know that not only is our work at risk, it is now even more important. It is our job to reflect the times - to us, this means standing strong and staying true to who we are and to the realities we face and never regressing in our values and what we believe. We stand strong in our feminism, we stand strong in our storytelling and we stand strong in creating spaces for other artists to also stand strong safely. We hope that the work we do and the things we create are reflective of not only the hardships and obstacles that we face but also the resilient nature of artists, advocates and activists.

If you are receiving this newsletter it is because you are part of our community and whether you are an artist, an activist, a changemaker, or simply a believer in a more creative and equitable world, you are putting in the work.

Who We Are?

Wona Collective was founded in 2019 as an arts collective and a communications consultancy. Our team consists of creatives that are dedicated to harnessing the power of art and media to inspire meaningful change. We strive to create spaces where creativity meets purpose, and where local voices are amplified on a global stage. Through our projects, collaborations, and community engagements, we are working to build a world where creativity is not only celebrated but also leveraged to address social, economic, and cultural challenges.

We see the resilience, passion, and unwavering commitment of everyone in our community; The journey of building, advocating, and creating can often feel heavy, now more than ever, but you are not alone.

As global development narratives shift, our focus remains on amplifying local voices; we must remain strong, rooted in our truth, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges. At Wona Collective, we see you! We see the work you are doing in spite of growing obstacles, we see late nights, the early mornings, and the tireless work that often goes unnoticed. We stand with you, offering not just solidarity but also inspiration. It is our strength and unwavering spirit that will continue to amplify grassroots impact and nurture the creativity that fuels lasting change. Together!

In this issue, you'll find glimpses of what we've been up to, a curated playlist to keep your spirits high, and an artist spotlight that we hope will ignite your creative spark. We invite you to explore, click through, and immerse yourself in this journey with us.

Together, we will keep moving forward; one story, one song, and one act of creativity at a time.

With warmth and solidarity,

Wona Collective

Through our projects, collaborations, and community engagements, we are working to build a world where creativity is not only celebrated but also leveraged to address social, economic, and cultural challenges.

Over the past 5 years we have worked on a number of creative projects. With our two identities of arts collective and comms consultancy, come two different types of work: [In-house passion projects](#) and [out-of-house commissioned projects](#). At the core of all of our projects though, is the use of storytelling as a tool for advocacy, education, and healing.

If you would like to work with a team of vibrant creatives, reach out to Alinafe Malonje (a.malonje@wonacollective.com) and Lerato Honde (l.honde@wonacollective.com).

What have we been up to?

► **And the Women Came**

There is a new podcast in town! Hosted by Lusungu Kalanga, 'And the Women Came' is a podcast focused on telling the stories of how women show up for each other time and time again. We spent this past month working with Lusungu on crafting the brand identity of the podcast.

Listen to the first episode [here](#).



► **Utawaleza Newsletter: Imagine Immensities**

The Imagine Immensities Creative Research program is a program by Utawaleza that brings together Malawian storytellers to re-imagine cultural research through art and collaborative storytelling.

Using creative research methods, the program creates a platform to explore various social themes through multi-disciplinary art projects. Last year we collaborated with Utawaleza on the program.



Images from the launch of the first cohort of Imagine Immensities in 2024

The Wona Hub was used for some of the sessions as it provides an intimate outdoor space that helps to fuel creativity. After the program, we worked together with Utawaleza to bring their newsletter to life.



Read the first issue of Imagine Immensities [here](#).

Our Essay for the Quarter:

Girls Dont Poop

We believe in storytelling that challenges norms, sparks conversation and advocates for authenticity. Our essays serve as a space for unfiltered narratives; stories that educate, make us reflect, laugh and most importantly make us see our true selves.

This quarter we feature, "Girls Don't Poop" by Wendy Hara, a sharp, witty and refreshingly candid essay that dismantles one of society's absurd taboos. With humour and unapologetic honesty, Wendy navigates the quiet shame surrounding bodily functions, the pressures of perfection, as well as the liberating power of embracing our humanity to the fullest. Yes, even in the bathroom!

Read the full essay, here: [Girls Don't Poop](#)

Playlist for the Quarter:

Womens Month Edition

In honour of women's month, this quarter's playlist is a curated collection of music from talented women. We've tried to compile a mix of soulful melodies, electrifying beats, and inspiring lyrics to accompany your everyday moments; whether you're starting your day with hope or winding down with reflection.

Listen to this quarter's playlist [here](#).

Artist Spotlight:

Tayamika

This quarter's spotlight is Tayamika. Tayamika is a bold and multifaceted Malawian artist whose creativity knows no bounds. From photography and videography to oil pastels, crochet, and music, she uses different mediums to tell powerful stories. Her musical journey started in church choirs and has since led her to perform at the Lake of Stars and share her work on global platforms. Now embarking on a new chapter in Psychology, she aims to fuse art with mental wellness, using creativity as a tool for healing and transformation. Deeply connected to her Malawian roots, Tayamika is on a mission to inspire change through art and storytelling. Follow her journey on Instagram [@tayamikaa](#) and Facebook [Tayamika Chilemba](#).



This is just a glimpse of what Wona does, if you want to see/learn more about our work follow us on socials or go to our website www.wonacollective.com.