



For Immediate Release

1st April 2024

CultureTree launches Yoruba heritage walking trails and mural project in Southwark

An interactive walking trail that tells the untold story of the Yoruba community and how they have contributed to Southwark borough was launched this March by CultureTree – the first of its kind in the UK.

The themed interactive Yoruba Heritage walking trails will help people explore the rich history and heritage of the Yorubas in Southwark borough. The walking trails cover a wide range of places, themes, and ideas of interest to tourists and locals alike. It covers streets and buildings, change-makers, true stories, meet the locals, answers burning questions about Yoruba culture, and explores delicious Yoruba cuisine in Peckham, fondly known as Little Lagos.

On Saturday 30th March 2024, CultureTree unveiled a giant mural in Peckham Square that was developed through engagement and consultation with school children, residents, and local community groups across the borough of Southwark. The mural has a QR code, taking visitors to a video explaining the themes explored in the mural, and an online oral history archive, where they can hear interviews from Yoruba people living in Southwark.

Renowned Muralist Polly Alakija was commissioned in an advisory role on the creation of the mural with a group of talented Nigerian-British Artists.

Polly Alakija said: “When Gbemisola told me about this project I was excited to be part of it because I have been involved in empowering young artists in Nigeria for many years and so this is a perfect opportunity to bring my experience from working with young people in Nigeria to the UK. And of course, I am very interested in seeing what needs to be done to support greater recognition and representation of London’s diverse communities most particularly those coming from Nigeria.”

CultureTree partnered with Graphenstone Paints on the implementation of the mural. The mural was created using Graphenstone’s Eco-paints, which are the most certified harm-free, mineral eco-paints in the world. The base coat used was Ambient Pro+, a photocatalytic paint which absorbs carbon and actively cleans the air too. On top of the base coat, their Grafclean Premium paint was used.



“Graphenstone is delighted and proud to have been chosen to contribute paints from our mineral, purifying range, for this highly original and colourful project. The Yoruba story in Southwark is an important one which deserves wider recognition. What better way to tell it than via a mural designed by the super talented Polly Alakija.” said Patrick Folkes, Managing Director of Graphenstone.

The project received funding from the Mayor of London’s Untold Stories fund (part of his Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm) and Southwark Council’s Cultural Celebrations Fund to deliver the Yoruba Heritage Walking Trails free to residents, Tourists, and visitors to Southwark throughout April 2024.

Gbemisola Isimi, CEO of CultureTree said: "This project has been a massive team effort from the very start, from the support of all our stakeholders to the tenacity of the team of Artists who worked to bring the vision to life. I’m excited for everyone to see the mural and join the Yoruba Heritage Walking Trails across Southwark.”

For more information please visit www.yorubaheritagetrails.com

About CultureTree

[CultureTree](http://www.culturetree.co.uk) is a pan-African organisation promoting and preserving West African languages, arts, and culture. They make tangible impact through community initiatives and online content, connecting people, bridging cultures, and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

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