



# DigiFest Africa 2026

Building Africa's Digital Future: Skills, Innovation & Opportunities for the Digital Economy.

# How to Read This Programme

Three days. Parallel stages. Practical learning. One connected festival experience.

8

KEYNOTE SESSIONS

8

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

10

MASTERCLASSES

3

EXHIBITION BLOCKS

1

ACWICT IMPACT SHOWCASE

DigiFest Africa 2026 runs from 9th to 11th December 2026 as a multi-stage virtual festival. Keynotes, panel discussions and hands-on masterclasses run across parallel stages, rooms and tracks, supported by dedicated transition windows, sponsor airtime, the Virtual Exhibition Village, the ACWICT Impact Showcase, networking experiences and a produced daily wrap.

01

Main Stage

Warm-up shows, ceremonies and plenaries bring all participants together.

02

Parallel Sessions

Participants choose between simultaneous keynote stages, panel rooms and masterclass tracks.

03

Festival Passport

Attendance, exhibition stamps, challenges and participation feed a gamified points journey.

04

Exhibition Village

Dedicated hosted blocks connect participants with exhibitors, partners, employers and opportunities.

DAY 1

# Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

PROGRAMME ARC

## Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official  
Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

# DAY 1 – Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

| TIME (EAT)                                        | SEGMENT                                               | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIN STAGE — ALL PARTICIPANTS                     |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 8:45 – 9:00                                       | Festival Countdown & Warm-Up                          | Doors animated countdown, rolling partner reel (all sponsor tiers; Platinum premier placement) and a live “where are you joining from?” map. Festival MCs run icebreaker polls and shout-outs as the virtual lobby fills. The Festival MCs will also run a Festival map walkthrough for the participants. Also includes the 2-minute Festival Passport explainer: the gamified points system, exhibition booth stamps, prize draws and platform navigation — plus a 60-second guide to choosing between the parallel stages and rooms. Purpose: signal from minute one that this is a festival, not a webinar.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:00 – 9:25                                       | Official Opening Ceremony & Exhibition Ribbon-Cutting | High-energy opening: welcome by ACWICT leadership, guest of honour remarks, and the ceremonial “ribbon-cutting” that officially opens the DigiFest Africa 2026. Sponsor moments: “DigiFest Africa 2026 — Powered by [Platinum Partner]” title moment and premier verbal recognition of the Platinum Festival Anchor Partner; verbal recognition of Gold and Silver partners and group mention of Bronze supporting partners; Exhibition Village Naming Sponsor associated with the ribbon-cutting (“The Exhibition Village powered by [Brand]”); Access Partners recognised on stage. Development partners and donors present are welcomed by name from the stage, with the Day 2 ACWICT Impact Showcase and Development Partners & Donors Dialogue signposted to the whole audience. |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN              |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:25 – 9:30                                       | Transition I: To the Keynote Stages                   | Branded holding screens and transition slides (sponsor logos per tier-day allocation) while MCs direct participants to their chosen stage. Ad roll: Platinum 60-sec spot (daily) + one Gold 30-sec spot. On-screen countdown to the keynotes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PARALLEL KEYNOTE STAGES — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:30 – 10:15                                      | Keynote Stage A                                       | The Algorithmic Workforce: How AI is Redefining What It Means to Be Employable (45 min incl. 10 min lightning Q&A via moderated live chat and upvoted questions). Sets the tone for the festival: from “AI will take our jobs” to “AI will redefine our value.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:30 – 10:15                                      | Keynote Stage B                                       | The AI-Powered Farm: Transforming Agriculture Through Data, Intelligence, and Innovation (45 min incl. 10 min lightning Q&A). How Artificial Intelligence is transforming agriculture through smart advisory services, precision farming, climate forecasting, market intelligence and data-driven decision-making — and how AI can help farmers improve productivity, resilience, profitability, and access to agricultural services and markets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:30 – 10:15                                      | Keynote Stage C                                       | From Side Hustle to Scale: Building Digital Ventures in Emerging Markets (45-min block incl. lightning Q&A). Founder stories and emerging-market playbooks that reframe entrepreneurship as a viable, scalable path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

# DAY 1 – Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

| TIME (EAT)                                     | SEGMENT                           | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 – 10:15                                   | Keynote Stage D                   | Building the Intelligent Economy: How AI and Emerging Technologies are Shaping Africa's Digital Future (45 min incl. lightning Q&A). How AI, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, IoT, Cybersecurity, Extended Reality, Robotics and other emerging technologies are converging to power intelligent digital ecosystems — transforming industries, creating new economic opportunities, and challenging participants to move beyond consuming technology to becoming creators of innovative digital solutions that drive inclusive growth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN           |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:15 – 10:20                                  | Transition II: To the Panel Rooms | Branded holding screens while participants move to their chosen panel room. Ad roll: Gold 30-sec spots; sponsored Festival Passport flash poll (Platinum/Gold benefit) pushed to all participants in transit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| PARALLEL PANEL ROOMS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:20 – 11:50                                  | Panel Room A                      | AI & Emerging Technologies: Building Africa's Intelligent Future. Moderated multi-stakeholder conversation on how AI, automation, robotics and data science are reshaping industries, governance, agriculture, healthcare and entrepreneurship across Africa. Interactive layer: live audience polls every 15 minutes, an open “hot seat” question round, an anonymous “ask anything” box, and a visual live-illustration board capturing key insights in real time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10:20 – 11:50                                  | Panel Room B                      | Bridging the Digital Divide: Practical Pathways to SME Digital Adoption. Ecosystem players, technology providers, SME leaders, policymakers and digital transformation experts explore practical strategies for accelerating digital adoption among small businesses and social enterprises — addressing real-world challenges including affordability, connectivity, digital skills gaps and resistance to change, with lessons learned, successful case studies, collaborative models, and the role of public-private partnerships, subsidies and ecosystem support in enabling widespread technology adoption. Outcomes: actionable recommendations for improving SME digital adoption, insights into ecosystem collaboration and partnerships, and identification of policy and investment priorities for digital inclusion. |
| 10:20 – 11:50                                  | Panel Room C                      | Funding the Future: Unlocking Capital for Digital Startups. Access to capital — especially for women and youth founders — is one of the biggest barriers to growth; this panel demystifies funding options so founders can pursue the right capital at the right stage. Panelists map the full funding landscape (grants, angels, VC, revenue-based financing, debt), reveal what investors actually look for in a digital startup, and share knowledge of local funds, programmes and how to access them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| VIRTUAL EXHIBITION HOUR — GUIDED EXPERIENCE    |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

# DAY 1 – Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

| TIME (EAT)                                                                             | SEGMENT                                                           | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:50 – 12:20                                                                          | Exhibition Village: Grand Opening Tour + Partners Lounge (30 min) | Opens with the daily Exhibitor Advert Roll: Spotlight Exhibitor 60-sec adverts, Standard Exhibitor 30-sec adverts, and the shared Startup/Community sizzle reel (active-day exhibitors), plus the Bronze sponsor 15-sec spot. Exhibition Village branding throughout carries the Village Naming Sponsor (“The Exhibition Village powered by [Brand]”). Then the hosted, guided tour: MCs “walk” participants through featured booths live on the main stage, with 60-second exhibitor introductions (Spotlight Exhibitors guaranteed; sponsor-tier booths included), then release participants to explore freely — visit booths, collect exhibition passport stamps, chat live with exhibitors, download resources and drop business cards. The tour includes a first walk-through of the Partners Pavilion (development partners, donors, foundations, government agencies and ACWICT programme booths). Optional parallel lounge: 3-round speed networking in randomised video pods (5 min per round, guided prompts; branded by the Networking & Mentor Tables Sponsor) and the #DigiFestAfrica2026 community social wall. Running in parallel — Partners & Donors Lounge, Window 1: Welcome & Introductions. Hosted room in which development partners, donors, government representatives and sponsor executives are introduced to ACWICT leadership and to one another ahead of tomorrow's Impact Showcase and Donors Dialogue. Pre-booked 15-minute bilateral meetings run in side pods. |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN                                                   |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:20 – 12:25                                                                          | Transition III: To the Masterclass Tracks                         | Branded holding screens while participants join their selected track. Ad roll: Silver 30-sec spot (allocated day) + remaining tier spots per the daily airtime plan. MCs remind participants that masterclasses run three hours with a scheduled mid-point comfort break.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PARALLEL MASTERCLASS TRACKS — 3 HOURS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE (HANDS-ON, CAMERAS-ON) |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:25 – 15:25                                                                          | Track A                                                           | The AI-Powered Farm — Smart Farming in the Digital Age: Leveraging AI and Technology for Productivity and Market Access. Full-length practical masterclass: the digital agriculture landscape; live walk-throughs of AI-powered tools for crop management, weather and climate forecasting, pest and disease diagnosis, soil and input decisions, digital financial services and market access platforms; guided hands-on exercises in which participants set up and test tools on their own or a case farm; and a build-your-own digital farm plan session. Participants leave with a complete digital toolkit and a farm or agribusiness action plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12:25 – 15:25                                                                          | Track B                                                           | From Idea to Startup: Designing and Launching Ventures for the Digital Economy. Full-length venture design sprint: problem discovery and validation, customer interviews and segmentation, value proposition and business model canvas, revenue and pricing basics, MVP scoping, and a pitch clinic. Participants work in breakout teams throughout and close by pitching one-slide venture concepts to the room, with the best posted to the community wall for audience reactions. Participants leave with a validated concept, a completed business model canvas and a pitch outline.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12:25 – 15:25                                                                          | Track C                                                           | Building AI-Powered Applications with Modern AI Tools: From Concept to Prototype. Full-length hands-on build: the modern AI application development ecosystem — today's leading AI tools, platforms, APIs and low-code environments; identifying and framing a real-world problem; designing the solution; then guided prototyping with facilitator support, testing and iteration. No advanced machine learning expertise required. Participants leave with a working prototype and a roadmap for taking it further.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

# DAY 1 – Intelligent Futures

AI & Emerging Technologies + Innovation & Entrepreneurship | Official Opening + Exhibition Grand Opening

| TIME (EAT)                    | SEGMENT            | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DAILY WRAP — ALL PARTICIPANTS |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 15:25 – 15:40                 | The Daily Download | Fast-paced recap show reuniting all stages and rooms: cross-stage highlights on screen, masterclass builds and artefacts showcased, live trivia quiz on the day's content (points + instant prizes), Festival Passport and exhibition-stamp leaderboard reveal with daily verbal credit to the Festival Passport & Prizes Sponsor, community shout-outs, and a 60-second cinematic trailer for Day 2 (which previews the ACWICT Impact Showcase). Exhibition Village remains open for 30 minutes after close for free exploration. |

DAY 2

# Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

PROGRAMME ARC

## Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

# DAY 2 – Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

| TIME (EAT)                                                     | SEGMENT                                  | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIN STAGE — ALL PARTICIPANTS                                  |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 8:45 – 9:00                                                    | Warm-Up Show                             | “Overheard at DigiFest”: hosts read the best chat moments and social posts from Day 1; leaderboard check-in; quick-fire poll on today's theme. Rolling partner reel plays as the lobby fills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN                           |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:00 – 9:05                                                    | Transition I: To the Keynote Stages      | Branded holding screens and stage navigation. Ad roll: Platinum 60-sec spot (daily) + Gold 30-sec spot (second allocated day).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| PARALLEL KEYNOTE STAGES — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE              |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:05 – 9:45                                                    | Keynote Stage A                          | Navigating Today's Gig Economy and Tomorrow's Workforce by Turning Skills into Income (40 min incl. lightning Q&A). As technology reshapes the workplace, the gig economy is creating new opportunities for income generation and employment — this keynote explores emerging work trends, digital and freelance opportunities, and the skills needed to thrive in a flexible workforce, with practical pathways to sustainable income and career growth.                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:05 – 9:45                                                    | Keynote Stage B                          | Working Without Borders: How African Talent Can Win in the Global Remote Economy (40 min incl. lightning Q&A). Remote work has turned geography from a barrier into an advantage — this keynote explores how African professionals are landing global roles without leaving home: the rise of borderless hiring, global talent platforms, and Africa's emergence as a remote-work talent hub, alongside the practical realities of positioning yourself for international employers, pricing your skills globally, navigating time zones, payments and contracts, and building a reputation that travels. |
| 9:45 – 9:50                                                    | Transition II: Reunite on the Main Stage | Both keynote audiences return to the Main Stage. Branded holding screen with sponsor logos; 60-second festival-highlights bumper.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ACWICT IMPACT SHOWCASE — ALL PARTICIPANTS (MAIN STAGE PLENARY) |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:50 – 10:25                                                   | The ACWICT Impact Showcase (35 min)      | DigiFest Africa's institutional centrepiece: a produced, story-led plenary in which ACWICT disseminates its work to the full festival audience — participants, employers, exhibitors, development partners and donors in one room. Development partners and donors in attendance are acknowledged from the stage. Session is recorded, published on demand, and the impact deck and one-pager are pushed to every participant's resource centre and the Partners Pavilion.                                                                                                                                |

# DAY 2 – Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

| TIME (EAT)                                     | SEGMENT                                     | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:25 – 10:40                                  | Exhibitor Spotlight (Live from the Village) | Rapid-fire main-stage segment: 3 × 4-minute live pitches broadcast from exhibitor booths — products, opportunities, internships and programmes on offer — judged by audience emoji reactions (slots allocated with priority to 3-day Spotlight Exhibitors and sponsor-tier booths). Votes count toward the Exhibitor of the Festival Award announced at the Grand Closing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN           |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10:40 – 10:45                                  | Transition III: To the Panel Rooms          | Branded holding screens and room navigation. Ad roll: Silver 30-sec spot (allocated day); sponsored Festival Passport flash poll (Platinum/Gold benefit).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PARALLEL PANEL ROOMS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10:45 – 11:45                                  | Panel Room A                                | Building Africa's Gig Economy: Unlocking Sustainable and Inclusive Opportunities for the Future Workforce. Multi-stakeholder discussion on how governments, private-sector employers, digital platforms, educational institutions, development partners and gig workers can collaborate to build a more sustainable, accessible and inclusive gig economy — expanding access to digital work, strengthening workforce readiness, promoting fair labour practices, enhancing digital infrastructure, and shaping policies that enable more Africans to thrive in the future of work. Interactive layer: live polls, anonymous “ask anything” box and dedicated moderator. Recorded and available on demand.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10:45 – 11:45                                  | Panel Room B                                | The Skills Gap Is Real: What Employers Wish They Could Tell You. Employers, recruiters and career coaches in a candid dialogue; anonymous audience question box, live “myth or fact” polls, and a real-time CV red-flag rapid round.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10:45 – 11:45                                  | Panel Room C                                | Partners in Progress: A Development Partners & Donors Dialogue. The festival's designated platform for development partners, donors, foundations, government agencies and implementing organisations. Representatives share what they are funding and why in Africa's digital skills, youth employment and gender-inclusion agenda; what evidence and results they look for; how they assess and select partners; and where the next generation of funding is heading. Format: a moderated dialogue in three movements — (1) 5-minute “partner spotlights” in which each participating development partner or donor introduces their portfolio and open opportunities; (2) a moderated exchange on effective partnership models, co-funding, local ownership and measurement; (3) an open audience round in which youth-led organisations, social enterprises and implementers put questions directly to funders. |
| VIRTUAL EXHIBITION & NETWORKING BREAK          |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# DAY 2 – Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

| TIME (EAT)                                                                             | SEGMENT                                                      | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 11:45 – 12:15                                                                          | Exhibition Village + Mentor Match + Partners Lounge (30 min) | Opens with the daily Exhibitor Advert Roll (Spotlight 60-sec, Standard 30-sec, Startup/Community sizzle reel — active-day exhibitors) under Village Naming Sponsor branding. Then choose your own adventure: (a) explore the Exhibition Village and collect booth stamps — today featuring live booth demos, “meet the team” chats and staffed Partners Pavilion booths where development partners and donors answer questions on programmes and funding calls; (b) drop-in mentor tables (small-group video pods hosted by founders, gig-platform managers and career coaches; branded by the Networking & Mentor Tables Sponsor); or (c) the #DigiFestAfrica2026 pitch-your-hustle 30-second video challenge. Running in parallel — Partners & Donors Lounge, Window 2: Engagement (flagship window). The hosted, invitation-based networking room where ACWICT leadership, development partners, donors, government representatives and sponsor executives meet in small video pods to build on the morning's Impact Showcase and Donors Dialogue — the day the conversations have the most substance behind them. Pre-booked 15-minute bilateral meetings run in side pods. Hosted by the ACWICT partnerships lead with a protocol host managing introductions. |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN                                                   |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12:15 – 12:20                                                                          | Transition IV: To the Masterclass Tracks                     | Branded holding screens while participants join their selected track; remaining tier spots per the daily airtime plan. MCs remind participants that masterclasses run three hours with a scheduled mid-point comfort break.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PARALLEL MASTERCLASS TRACKS — 3 HOURS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE (HANDS-ON, CAMERAS-ON) |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12:20 – 15:20                                                                          | Track A                                                      | Earn Without Borders: Building a Successful Career in the Digital Gig Economy. Structure: 60-minute plenary on the gig economy landscape, emerging work opportunities, personal branding, digital platforms and sustainable-income strategies; 90 minutes in four sector breakout rooms — Administrative & Business Support, Sales & Marketing, Transport & Logistics, and Creative Services — covering sector-specific platform recommendations, live demonstrations, profile building and client-acquisition tactics; then 30 minutes of Q&A, action planning and networking. Every participant leaves with a live profile and a personalized income action plan for their chosen service category.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 12:20 – 15:20                                                                          | Track B                                                      | Work Smart: Building Productivity Habits for the Digital Workplace. Full-length employability and productivity intensive: digital productivity tools and workflows (Notion, Slack, Google Workspace), AI-powered workflow strategies, personal branding and professional profile building, CV and cover-letter clinics with live feedback, and mock interview practice in breakout pairs. Participants leave with a completed professional profile, an optimised CV and a personal productivity system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DAILY WRAP — ALL PARTICIPANTS                                                          |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# DAY 2 – Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work | ACWICT Impact Showcase + Development Partners & Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights

| TIME (EAT)    | SEGMENT            | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15:20 – 15:35 | The Daily Download | Recap show: best masterclass artefacts showcased, cross-stage and cross-room highlights, live trivia + prize draw, Festival Passport and exhibition-stamp leaderboard update with daily verbal credit to the Festival Passport & Prizes Sponsor, Exhibitor Award voting reminder, Day 3 trailer. Exhibition Village remains open 30 minutes after close. |

DAY 3

# Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust | Career Connect + Grand Closing

PROGRAMME ARC

## Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust | Career Connect + Grand Closing

# DAY 3 – Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust | Career Connect + Grand Closing

| TIME (EAT)                                        | SEGMENT                             | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIN STAGE — ALL PARTICIPANTS                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 8:45 – 9:00                                       | Warm-Up Show                        | Community shout-outs, festival-highlights sizzle reel, final leaderboard standings tease and last call for Exhibitor Award votes. Rolling partner reel plays as the lobby fills.                                                                                                                                   |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN              |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:00 – 9:05                                       | Transition I: To the Keynote Stages | Branded holding screens and stage navigation. Ad roll: Platinum 60-sec spot (daily) + remaining tier spots per the daily airtime plan.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARALLEL KEYNOTE STAGES — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:05 – 9:45                                       | Keynote Stage A                     | The Future of the Creative Economy: Building Sustainable Careers and Businesses in the Digital Age (40 min incl. lightning Q&A). How creators can transform skills, content and ideas into sustainable careers and businesses.                                                                                     |
| 9:05 – 9:45                                       | Keynote Stage B                     | Mind at Work: Mental Health & Well-being in the Modern Workplace (40-min block; 30-min intimate hosted conversation + extended audience exchange). Burnout, anxiety, imposter syndrome and workplace stigma — with a guided 3-minute collective reset exercise and a downloadable personal well-being action plan. |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN              |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:45 – 9:50                                       | Transition II: To the Panel Rooms   | Branded holding screens and room navigation. Ad roll: Gold 30-sec spot (allocated day); sponsored Festival Passport flash poll (Platinum/Gold benefit).                                                                                                                                                            |
| PARALLEL PANEL ROOMS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE    |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# DAY 3 – Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust | Career Connect + Grand Closing

| TIME (EAT)                                                                             | SEGMENT                                                                    | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:50 – 10:50                                                                           | Panel Room A                                                               | Beyond the Content: Building Sustainable Careers and Businesses in the Digital Content Economy. Digital content creation has evolved into a powerful avenue for entrepreneurship, employment and wealth creation — this panel explores how creators are leveraging YouTube, podcasts, social media, streaming and emerging technologies to build audiences, generate income and create sustainable businesses, with panelist insights on monetization, personal branding, audience growth, emerging trends and the future of digital content creation in an increasingly competitive and AI-driven landscape.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:50 – 10:50                                                                           | Panel Room B                                                               | Securing Africa's Digital Future: Solving the Cybersecurity Talent Gap in the Age of AI. Multi-stakeholder discussion on how governments, academia, industry, development partners and the private sector can address the growing cybersecurity talent gap in an AI-driven digital economy — raising awareness of cybersecurity careers, strengthening education and skills development, aligning training with industry needs, and building inclusive career pathways for Africa's future cybersecurity workforce. Same interactive layer: live polls, anonymous question box and dedicated moderator. Recorded and available on demand.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| VIRTUAL EXHIBITION FINALE & CAREER CONNECT                                             |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:50 – 11:20                                                                          | Exhibition Village: Final Tour + Career Connect + Partners Lounge (30 min) | Opens with the final Exhibitor Advert Roll (Spotlight 60-sec, Standard 30-sec, Startup/Community sizzle reel — active-day exhibitors) under Village Naming Sponsor branding. Last chance to explore the Exhibition Village and the Partners Pavilion — booth passport stamps close at 11:20 and final entries lock for the Exhibitor of the Festival Award. Employer and recruiter booths host live meet-and-greet pods; mentor tables run in parallel (Networking & Mentor Tables Sponsor branding); community challenge entries close. Running in parallel — Partners & Donors Lounge, Window 3: Commitments & Next Steps. Final hosted window in which follow-ups, introductions and collaboration intentions arising across the three days are agreed and logged while goodwill is high, with pre-booked 15-minute bilateral meetings in side pods. Outcomes feed the post-festival partnerships follow-up list. |
| TRANSITION & SPONSOR AIRTIME — 5 MIN                                                   |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:20 – 11:25                                                                          | Transition III: To the Masterclass Tracks                                  | Branded holding screens while participants join their selected track; final tier spots per the daily airline plan. MCs remind participants that masterclasses run three hours with a scheduled mid-point comfort break, and that the Grand Closing follows immediately.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| PARALLEL MASTERCLASS TRACKS — 3 HOURS — PARTICIPANTS SELECT ONE (HANDS-ON, CAMERAS-ON) |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:25 – 14:25                                                                          | Track A                                                                    | Build Your Own Podcast (BYOP): From Idea to Impact. Full-length production intensive: concept and brand development, format and audience definition, recording and editing fundamentals with live tool demonstrations, distribution and platform set-up, audience growth and monetization models, and a guided studio session in which participants record and review a short pilot segment. Participants leave with a podcast concept, and a publishing roadmap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# DAY 3 – Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust | Career Connect + Grand Closing

| TIME (EAT)                                | SEGMENT                | EXPERIENCE & FORMAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:25 – 14:25                             | Track B                | The Business of Visual Storytelling: Building a Career in Photography, Videography & Digital Media. Full-length career intensive: visual storytelling fundamentals and composition, shooting and editing walk-throughs, portfolio development with live critique, pricing and packaging services, client acquisition and pitching, and contracts and rights basics. Participants leave with a portfolio plan, a service and pricing sheet, and a client outreach roadmap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11:25 – 14:25                             | Track C                | AI for Creatives. Full-length hands-on labs: prompt engineering foundations, Generative AI for content creation, research, marketing, design and video, workflow automation for creative businesses, ethics, disclosure and rights considerations, and a team “prompt battle” with audience-judged outputs. Participants leave with a personal AI creative workflow and a prompt library.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11:25 – 14:25                             | Track D                | E-Sports, Streaming & Building a Career in the Digital Gaming Economy. Full-length career intensive: the esports and gaming ecosystem and its roles beyond playing, channel and stream set-up with live demonstrations, audience-building and community management, monetization models (subscriptions, sponsorship, tournaments, content), and a live streamer demo and Q&A. Participants leave with a channel plan and a personal roadmap into a gaming or streaming career.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:25 – 14:25                             | Track E                | Cyber Ops: Inside the Security Operations Centre — Detect, Investigate & Respond. A hands-on technical masterclass that takes participants inside a Security Operations Centre (SOC) to experience cybersecurity as it is actually practiced — not just discussed. Framed around a simulated cyberattack on an African fintech, e-commerce platform or SME, participants monitor threat alerts, analyse logs to hunt for suspicious activity, investigate an active incident, and make real-time decisions on containment, remediation and recovery. The session closes with a short team-based Cyber Ops Challenge in which participants apply what they have learned under time pressure. Includes a 10-minute comfort break at the mid-point. Note for participants: this is a technical track — a laptop and stable connection are recommended, though no prior SOC experience is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| GRAND CLOSING FESTIVAL — ALL PARTICIPANTS |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 14:25 – 14:55                             | Grand Closing Ceremony | Festival finale: highlights film, the Exhibitor of the Festival Award (audience-voted) presented in the name of the Exhibition Village Naming Sponsor, Festival Passport grand prize draw conducted with the Festival Passport & Prizes Sponsor, top-leaderboard recognition, community pledge (“my next step” wall), certificate announcements with the Certificates & Post-Festival Pathway Sponsor, and post-festival pathway announcements (masterclass recordings and resource packs, mentorship community, resource hub, exhibition booths archived online). Institutional recognition: ACWICT closing statement setting out what happens next and how participants and organisations stay engaged; formal thanks to development partners and donors named from the stage. Sponsor recognition: premier thanks to the Platinum Festival Anchor Partner (“Powered by” association through to the closing photo mosaic), verbal recognition of Gold and Silver partners, group mention of Bronze supporting partners, and Access Partners recognised on stage. Closing remarks and thank-yous — ending on music and a group virtual photo mosaic. |



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# See you at the festival.

Building Africa's Digital Future: Skills, Innovation & Opportunities for the Digital Economy.

Organized by ACWICT

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