

DigiFest Africa 2026 Programme

Building Africa's Digital Future



ACWICT's flagship virtual festival — delivered on Zoom Events with parallel keynotes, live panel rooms, hands-on masterclasses, an interactive exhibition village and a gamified festival layer.

3

LIVE DAYS

3

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3

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How to Read This Programme

This programme is built from the confirmed DigiFest Africa 2026 sessions — eight keynote addresses, eight panel discussions, nine masterclasses and the ACWICT Impact Showcase — in a multi-stage festival format: keynotes and panels run in parallel stages and rooms. All stage, room and track positions are now confirmed. This edition schedules the sponsor and exhibitor benefits from the Sponsorship, Exhibition & Partnership Prospectus into the running order, adds 5-minute transition buffers between session blocks, and creates a dedicated institutional platform for ACWICT's work alongside a designated space for development partners and donors.

01

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Masterclasses listed at 2–3 hours in the approved concept run here as 90-minute “Festival Editions” — condensed, hands-on introductions in which every participant leaves with a tangible first output — with the full-length versions offered as post-festival deep-dive courses. This protects the daily time budget while creating a natural post-event learning and revenue pathway for ACWICT.

02. AT A GLANCE

Three days, three arcs

DAY 1: 8:45 - 14:10

Intelligent Futures

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

- 4 KEYNOTE STAGES
- 3 PANEL ROOMS
- 3 MASTERCLASS TRACKS



DAY 2: 8:45 - 14:05

Hustle, Work, Earn

The Gig Economy + Future of Work. ACWICT Impact Showcase + Donors Platform + Exhibitor Spotlights.

- 2 KEYNOTE STAGES
- 3 PANEL ROOMS
- 2 MASTERCLASS TRACKS
- 1 INSTITUTIONAL PLENARY



DAY 3: 8:45 - 13:25

Create, Thrive, Connect

Creative Economy + Digital Trust. Career Connect + Grand Closing.

- 2 KEYNOTE STAGES
- 2 PANEL ROOMS
- 4 MASTERCLASS TRACKS



With 5-minute transition buffers scheduled, Day 1 runs longest (driven by its 90-minute panel block); Day 2 closes by 14:05 and Day 3 by 13:25. Transitions can compress to 3 minutes if the run of show is tight, recovering 6-9 minutes per day without cutting sponsor airtime.

03 - INSTITUTIONAL STRAND

The Institutional & Partner Platform

A dedicated strand for ACWICT to disseminate its work, and a designated space for development partners, donors, foundations and government agencies — concentrated on Day 2, the festival's peak-attendance mid-point.

DAY 2 • 9:50-10:25 • MAIN STAGE

ACWICT Impact Showcase

35-minute plenary: 25+ years of work and evidence, an impact film, an alumni fireside, programme announcements.



DAY 2 • 10:45-11:45 • PANEL ROOM C

Partners in Progress

Development Partners & Donors Dialogue - portfolios, priorities, and direct audience questions from founders and implementers.



ALL 3 DAYS • EXHIBITION VILLAGE

The Partners Pavilion

Booths for partners, donors, foundations & government agencies — evidence, funding calls, staffed every exhibition block, archived 30 days.



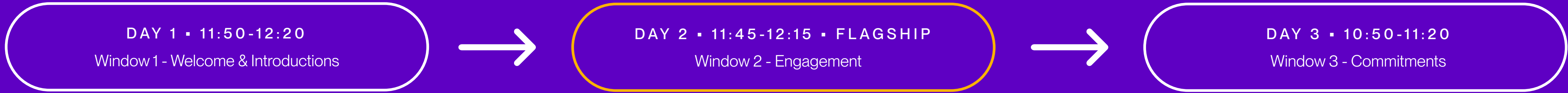
ALL 3 DAYS • 3 HOSTED WINDOWS

Partners & Donors Lounge

Invitation-based video pods, small groups of 4-6, pre-booked 15-min bilaterals in side pods.



THE LOUNGE ARC - MEET, ENGAGE, COMMIT



Anchored to each day's exhibition block so nothing in the programme competes with it - always hosted, never left open, since an empty room reads as a dead room to the audience the festival can't afford to lose.

04 - THE EXHIBITION

The Virtual Exhibition Village

A persistent, browsable space open throughout the festival - partners, employers, training institutions, innovation hubs, startups and ACWICT programme booths, plus the Partners Pavilion. Every day includes a dedicated 30-minute exhibition block.

WOVEN INTO THE PROGRAMME, FIVE WAYS

DAY 1

Grand Opening

Ribbon-cutting + hosted guided tour of the Festival Map.

DAY 2

Exhibitor Spotlights

Rapid-fire live pitches broadcast to the Main Stage.

DAY 3

Passport Stamps

Booth visits feed the leaderboard & prize draws.

DAY 4

Exhibitor of the Festival

Audience-voted award, crowned at Grand Closing.

DAY 5

Career Connect Finale

Employer meet-and-greet pods; archived online 30 days.

WHAT EVERY BOOTH OFFERS

BRANDED VISUALS & VIDEO

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

LIVE CHAT "MEET THE TEAM"

OPPORTUNITY LISTINGS

VIRTUAL BUSINESS-CARD DROP

The Festival Layer: Interactive Experiences

The elements that distinguish DigiFest from a conventional webinar - running through all three days.

FESTIVAL PASSPORT	Points for attendance, polls, booth stamps, networking & challenges; live leaderboard feeds daily prizes and a grand-prize draw at closing.
SPEED-CONNECT & MENTORS	Randomised video pods with guided prompts, plus drop-in tables hosted by founders, recruiters and coaches.
IMPACT STORY SPOTLIGHTS	Short, personal fireside stories — including the "I Was There" alumni fireside inside the ACWICT Impact Showcase.
PRODUCED SHOW FORMAT	Festival MCs, countdowns, sizzle reels, live illustration of panels, social wall and #AfricaDigiFest2026 hashtag challenges.
THE DAILY DOWNLOAD	Daily trivia, prize draws and a next-day cinematic trailer, closing out every day.

DAY 1: 8:45 - 14:10 EAT

Intelligent Futures

8: 45-9:00

FESTIVAL COUNTDOWN & WARM-UP
Partner reel, live map, MC icebreakers, Passport & navigation explainer

9:00-9:25

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY & EXHIBITION RIBBON-CUTTING
ACWICT welcome, guest of honour, sponsor title moments, Day 2 signposted

9:30-10:15

STAGE A
The Algorithmic Workforce

STAGE B
The AI-Powered Farm

STAGE C
From Side Hustle to Scale

STAGE D
Building the Intelligent Economy

10:20-11:50

ROOM A
AI & Emerging Technologies

ROOM B
Bridging the Digital Divide

ROOM C
Funding the Futur

11:50-12:20

EXHIBITION VILLAGE - GRAND OPENING TOUR + PARTNERS LOUNGE (WINDOW 1: WELCOME)
Ribbon-cut booths, Partners Pavilion first walk-through, speed-networking pods

12:25-13:55

TRACK A
Smart Farming - AI-Powered Farm

TRACK B
From Idea to Startup

TRACK C
Building AI-Powered Applications

13:55-14:10

THE DAILY DOWNLOAD
Cross-stage recap, trivia, Passport leaderboard reveal, Day 2 trailer

DAY 2: 8:45 - 14:05 EAT

Hustle, Work, Earn

8:45-9:00

WARM-UP SHOW

"Overheard at DigiFest", leaderboard check-in, theme poll

9:05-9:45

STAGE A

Gig Economy & Tomorrow's Workforce

STAGE B

Working Without Borders

9:50-10:25

THE ACWICT IMPACT SHOWCASE - MAIN STAGE PLENARY

25+ years of work & evidence, impact film, alumni fireside, programme announcements

10: 45-11:45

STAGE A

Building Africa's Gig Economy

STAGE B

The Skills Gap Is Real

STAGE C

Partners in Progress - Donors Dialogue

11:45-12:15

EXHIBITION + MENTOR MATCH + PARTNERS LOUNGE (WINDOW 2: ENGAGEMENT - FLAGSHIP)

Booth demos, staffed Partners Pavilion, mentor tables, pitch-your-hustle challenge

12:20-13:50

TRACK A

Earn Without Borders - 4 sector breakouts

TRACK B

Work Smart - Digital Productivity

13:50-14:05

THE DAILY DOWNLOAD

Masterclass artefacts, trivia, leaderboard update, Exhibitor Award reminder, Day 3 trailer

DAY 3 8:45 - 13:25 EAT

Create, Thrive, Connect

8:45-9:00

WARM-UP SHOW

Community shout-outs, highlights reel, final leaderboard tease, last Award votes

9:05-9:45

STAGE A

Future of the Creative Economy

STAGE B

Mind at Work - Mental Health

9:50-10:50

STAGE A

Beyond the Content

STAGE B

Securing Africa's Digital Future

10:50-11:20

EXHIBITION FINALE + CAREER CONNECT + PARTNERS LOUNGE (WINDOW 3: COMMITMENTS)

Passport stamps & Award entries close, employer meet-and-greet pods, bilaterals

11:25-12:55

STAGE A

Build Your Own Podcast

STAGE B

Visual Storytelling

STAGE C

AI for Creatives

STAGE D

E-Sports & Streaming

12:55-13:25

GRAND CLOSING CEREMONY

Exhibitor & Passport awards, ACWICT closing statement, partner thanks, photo mosaic

Every confirmed session, at a glance

8 Kenynotes

- THE ALGORITHMIC WORKFORCE - D1•A
- THE AL-POWERED FARM - D1•B
- FROM SIDE HUSTLE TO SCALE - D1•C
- BUILDING THE INTELLIGENT ECONOMY - D1•D
- GIG ECONOMY & TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE - D2•A
- WORKING WITHOUT BORDERS - D2 B
- FUTURE OF THE CREATIVE ECONOMY - D3•A
- MIND AT WORK: MENTAL HEALTH - D3•B



8 panels

- AL & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES - D1-A
- BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE - D1•B
- FUNDING THE FUTURE - D1•C
- BUILDING AFRICA'S GIG ECONOMY - D2A
- THE SKILLS GAP IS REAL - D2 B
- PARTNERS IN PROGRESS (DONORS DIALOGUE) - D2•C
- BEYOND THE CONTENT - D3•A
- SECURING AFRICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE - D3•B



9 Masterclasses

- SMART FARMING (AL-POWERED FARM) - D1•A
- FROM IDEA TO STARTUP - D1•B
- BUILDING AL-POWERED APPLICATIONS - D1•C
- EARN WITHOUT BORDERS - D2•A
- WORK SMART - D2•B
- BUILD YOUR OWN PODCAST - D3•A
- BUSINESS OF VISUAL STORYTELLING - D3•B
- AL FOR CREATIVES - D3•C
- E-SPORTS & STREAMING - D3•D



Removed per team decision: The Gig Economy Unfiltered panel and the Freelance, Deliver, Create masterclass (superseded by Earn Without Borders). The standalone Impact Story Spotlight is now delivered inside the ACWICT Impact Showcase.

Production & adaptation notes



Roles to cast early

2 Festival MCs • music curator • live illustrator • moderators & technical producers per parallel room • track facilitators • exhibition manager • play-back operator • ACWICT partnerships lead & protocol host • community manager



Running parallel stages

Every parallel stage/room needs its own moderator, technical producer and Q&A/poll operator. All sessions recorded, published within the hour. Equal Passport points either choice.



Advertising operations

Assets due 21 days out, compiled into a daily air-time plan by tier: Platinum 60s daily, Gold 30s x2 days, Silver 30s x1 day, Bronze 15s. Ads never play inside sessions.



Platform & tooling

Virtual event platform with multi-stage + booths + networking, live polling (Slido/Mentimeter), Passport points system, and a bilateral scheduler (Calendly or equiv.) for the Lounge.



Masterclass track sizing

Day 1 carries 3 tracks, Day 2 carries 2, Day 3 carries 4. Day 1 is the heaviest production day (4 keynotes → 3 panels → 3 tracks). Earn Without Borders (Day 2•A) needs 5 facilitators - 1 plenary lead plus 1 per sector breakout room.



Certificates & pathways

Eligibility tied to Passport thresholds (all 3 Main Stage blocks + 2 masterclasses + 5 booth stamps). Certificates carry the Certificates & Post-Festival Pathway Sponsor's logo; Grand Closing launches the full post-festival pathway.

See you at the festival.

01

CONFIRM THE RUN OF SHOW

Sign off this v15 schedule with stage, room and track assignments.



02

CAST & BRIEF THE CREW

MCs, moderators, technical producers and the ACWICT partnerships lead.

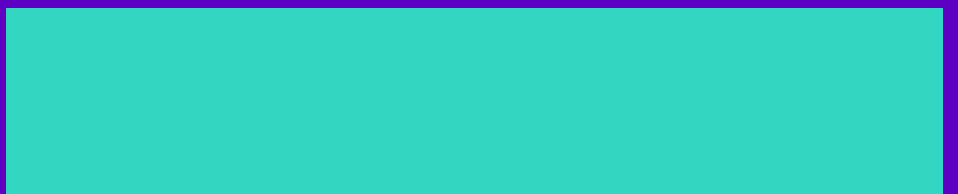
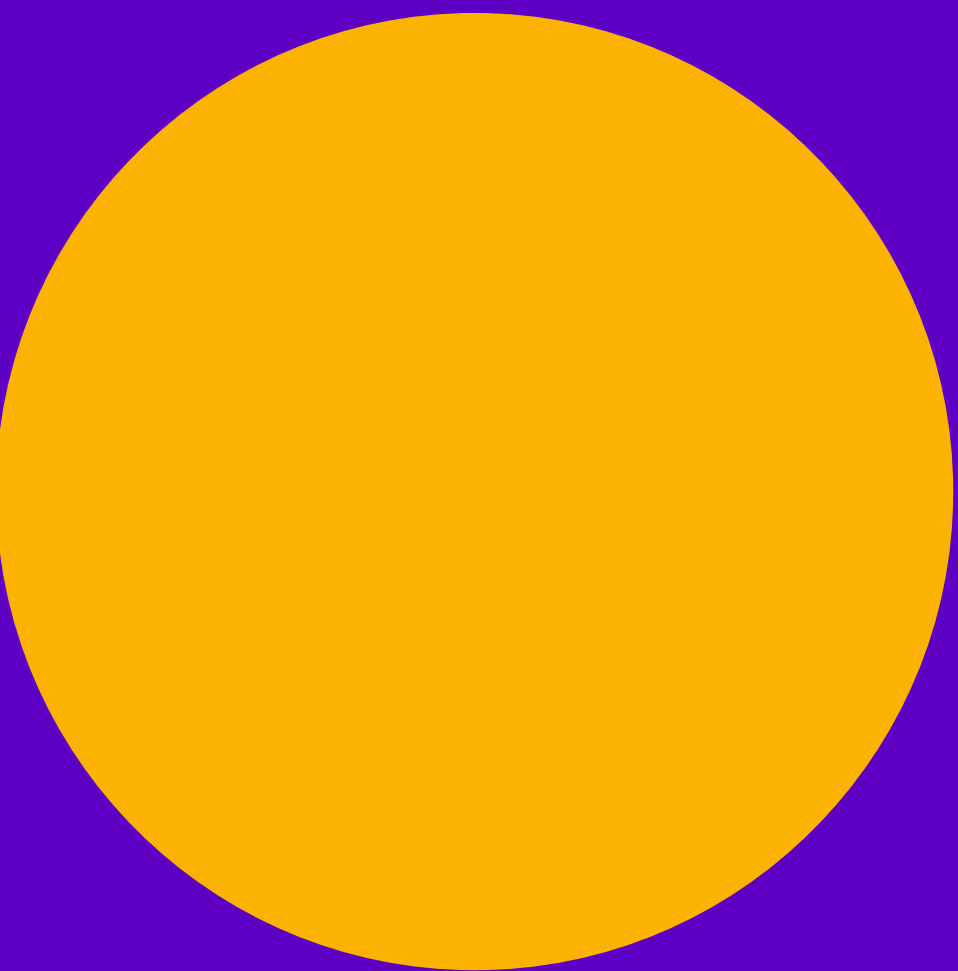


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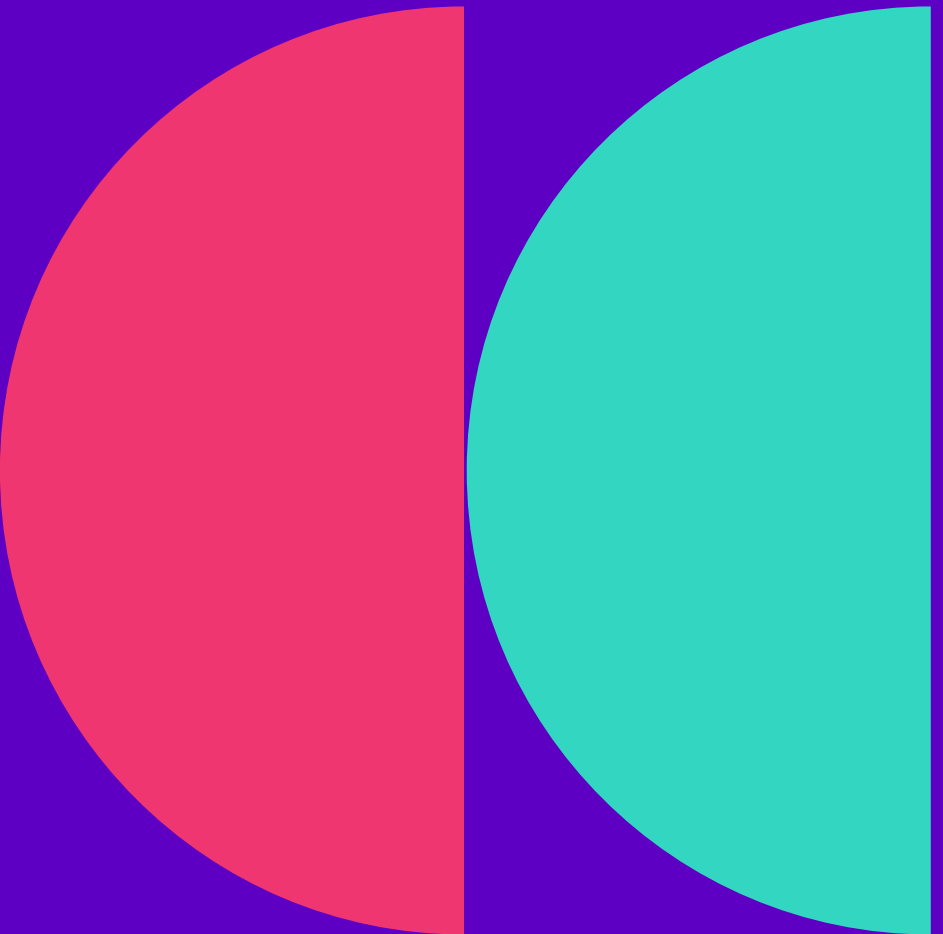
OPEN REGISTRATION & AIRTIME

Sponsor assets due 21 days out; booths configured 2 weeks ahead.

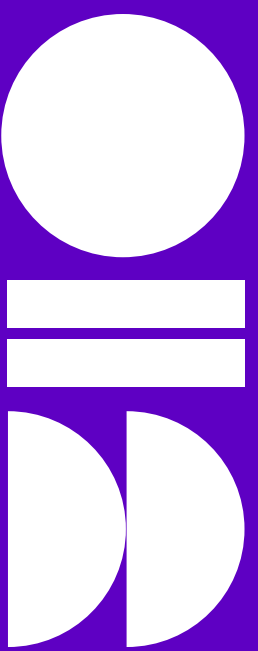




DigiFest
2026.



Building Africa's Digital Future
Skills • Innovation • Opportunities





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

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