

Malawi Be Bold- a call to action by Malawi's Social Impact Incubator- Accelerate Award Winners

One of the things that the Social Impact Incubator- Malawi (SII) is has come to be known for across the development sector is challenging the status quo. The SII Malawi program takes locally-led organisations through a capacity and network building program annually, where they aim to amplify community-led development through their cohorts of community innovators from across Malawi. This year, SII ran an SII-Accelerate program enrolling organisations that were nominated specifically by diverse development sector actors- from international agencies to leading capacity development hubs.

Two SII- Accelerate graduates- namely, Zaluso Arts and For Equality- were specifically recommended as they carried the mantle of boldness and creativity in innovating community voice to socially and economically uplift their beneficiary communities.

Mac Ndalama- executive director of Zaluso Arts describes their team as innovators in Arts, Youth Communication, Tourism, and Entertainment. Since 2014, Zaluso Arts has been building an eco-system of creatives who are supported to develop the professional skills and networks necessary to boost local creative industry employment opportunities and thus harness the arts for both profitability and social impact. Ndalma likens the creative industry in Malawi to the wild wild west, "we operate in an industry that is in many respects a blank slate. In the efforts to define and develop the sector, we constantly face a high risk of failure. We have always known we would need to be bold and consistent as we contribute towards the design of youth inclusive policies and programs which



Zaluso Arts Team



For Equality: International Day of the Girl Child 2019. Discussion with 45 adolescent girls exploring the change they want, the solutions as well as opportunities



Zaluso Tee Shirt production

leverage the dynamics of the creative industry. We do this encouraged that one-day, others will come after us and find the torch still lit. SII has been a great space for us to find more inspiration and the links we need now to grow our presence and voice".

It did not surprise the rest of their graduate cohort to learn that Zaluso Arts had been voted as the SII-Accelerate Community Builders 2020, during the SII- Accelerate virtual graduation event yesterday. Their creative eco-system development drive also boldly

calls on their cohort peers to challenge and innovate how they communicate to especially their youthful audience. For Equality is one such peer who is rising to the challenge. As the SII-Accelerate 2020 Rising Star Awardee- For Equality, co-led by Executive Director Wilson Chivhanga- boldly stands for women leadership and participation to enable social and economic justice for all through voice and amplified action. Chivhanga, a professional rights advocate stresses the importance of boldness

and tact in For Equality's approach to advocacy. "Permitting yourself to boldly stand by your values and voice as an organisation is one of our most vital functions of leaders in community development. It is essential that we connect our efforts, hold each other accountable, and be bold enough to both question and support each other to succeed at sustainable development". For Equality believes women and girls should be put at the heart of development for true impact to be realized across development

agendas, as well as passed on from generation to generation. Their latest rebranding launch was attended and supported by Hon. Patricia Kaliati this November, who echoed the need for equitable access to opportunities for especially the vulnerable.

For Equality continue to strive towards raising the voices of women and girls- including the notable For Equality initiative, the #Shetalks program. "Our work is just beginning", notes Chivhanga- "we see 2021 full of advocacy

and policymaker engagement, and we urge all of you to stand with us as we take the ultimate stand to boldly demand a new standard of inclusive opportunities for all Malawians to thrive."

Meet more of SII- Accelerates 2020 Graduates this week by following us @SIIMalawi.

#Enough to learn more, and do more. @SIIMalawi- you also can learn more about SII-Accelerate 2020 graduates.