

Carol Ann Dixon (Newcastle University, United Kingdom)

Thank you, Madam Chair, for this opportunity to contribute to the Forum's discussions. My name is Carol Ann Dixon, a post-doctoral scholar speaking on behalf of the Centre for Heritage, Newcastle University, and the Decolonial Dialogues collective of scholar-activists.

Our esteemed colleague Brother Kofi's powerful opening statement and call to invoke ancestral memories evidenced how compelling the words of our scholars, poets, and celebrated orators are. When our poets speak - we cannot help but listen!

I, therefore, reiterate the importance of including the voices and perspectives of academic AND non-academic creative and cultural producers of knowledge, educators and curators working across the visual, performing, literary and digital arts, and the heritage sector -- especially to augment the public dissemination of the Forum's work to wider communities of stakeholders and audiences world-wide.

It is important that independent knowledge producers and collectives of arts-activists and scholar-activists, who - by force or choice - work outside institutional structures, are also invited and encouraged to contribute to the Forum's work - esp. using the arts to communicate the pain and the trauma of our ancestral and contemporary lived experiences of racism, intersected forms of discrimination, oppression and violence.

I would like to propose that along-side the Forum's formal research visits - and the collecting and analysing of statistical and qualitative case study data - opportunities are also made available for artists-in-residence with African ancestry to document and interpret their lived experiences and observations through the power and poetics of the arts.

Thank you.