21TH JULY
2023

FROM

DIASPORA INVESTMENT DESK, **GIPC**

THE DIASPORA SPOTLIGHT

ISSUE 19

Paul Ninson
the CREATIVE

GHANA INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTRE

THE DIASPORA

SPOTLIGHT

Paul Ninson
the CREATIVE

DID Can you please introduce yourself and tell us about your work?

PN I am Paul Ninson, a photographer, curator and visual storyteller. I am the Founder and Executive Director of the Dikan Center, a visual education institution with the mission to make visual education accessible in Africa. Dikan is educating the next generation of creative leaders to transform Africa. Our center trains photographers, filmmakers, writers, artists, and creatives to develop their skills, express their perspectives, and contribute to the cultural and social fabric of the continent.

DID How long have you been working in this field?

PN I have been working in the field of visual education and storytelling for over six years.

DID What inspired you to pursue this career path and start Dikan Center?

PN My inspiration for starting the Dikan Center stemmed from the need to educate the next generation of Africa's creative leaders who will amplify African voices in the field of photojournalism and visual storytelling. Witnessing the underrepresentation of African photographers and a lack of access to photography resources in Ghana, I was driven to create a space that empowers and supports emerging talents while fostering a sense of community.

DID Which sector of the Ghanaian economy does your work primarily focus on?

PN Dikan is the visual education. Dikan Center also operates within the creative and cultural sector of the Ghanaian economy. We believe in the power of arts and culture to drive social change, contribute to economic development, and enhance the cultural identity of Ghana.

THE

DIASPORA

SPOTLIGHT

PAUL NINSON
the CREATIVE

DID **What factors influenced your decision to work in Ghana, despite being based in US?**

PN Despite being based in the United States, my decision to work in Ghana was influenced by a strong desire to contribute to the development of the creative sector in my home country. Ghana is rich in cultural heritage and artistic talent, and I wanted to create a platform that nurtures and supports the growth of the creative community here.

DID **Could you please tell us more about the specific products and services offered by Dikan Center?**

PN We offer a range of products and services. Our core offerings include full-time visual education programs and workshops, community and public programming in the arts, exhibitions, and community engagement events aimed at the creative arts community in Ghana. Our facilities include a comprehensive library with an extensive collection of books on African photography and visual arts, gallery spaces to showcase exhibitions, and state-of-the-art classrooms, studios and labs for teaching and learning. We also facilitate cultural events and collaborations with local and international partners.

DID **What notable accomplishments have you achieved since being the Curator and Director of the Dikan Center?**

PN Since the establishment of the Dikan Center, we have achieved several significant milestones. These include successfully opening a world-class photography library and gallery, hosting impactful exhibitions, facilitating educational workshops and mentorship programs, and building a vibrant community of photographers and creatives. Additionally, we have received recognition for our efforts in promoting African visual arts and storytelling.

DID What challenges did you face while navigating Ghana's business environment, and how did you overcome them?

PN Navigating the business environment in Ghana has presented its fair share of challenges. These include bureaucratic processes, infrastructure limitations, and access to funding and resources. However, we have overcome these challenges through strategic partnerships, effective networking, and leveraging technology to expand our reach and operations.

DID What are some of the positive outcomes you have experienced from investing in Ghana so far?

PN Investing in Ghana has yielded positive outcomes for the Dikan Center. We have witnessed the growth of a vibrant creative community, the emergence of visual storytellers, and an increased appreciation for African visual arts. Our collaborations and partnerships have fostered cross-cultural exchange, and we have contributed to the development of Ghana's cultural and creative landscape.

DID What words of encouragement do you have for other members of the diaspora who are interested in returning home or investing in the vast opportunities that Ghana has to offer?

PN To fellow members of the diaspora interested in returning home or investing in Ghana, I encourage you to seize the vast opportunities that Ghana has to offer. Ghana is experiencing a cultural renaissance, and the creative sector is riped with potential. As you leverage your skills, expertise, and resources, you can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Ghana's creative economy. Embrace the challenges, collaborate with local talents, and be a part of the transformative journey that Ghana is undertaking. I strongly believe visual education can transform Africa.

Dikan Center on SOCIAL MEDIA

@dikancenter
Dikan Center
Dikan Center
www.dikancenter.org

THE DIASPORA SPOTLIGHT

diasporaspotlight
diasporainvestmentdesk

Ghana On the go!
Grow in Grow with Ghana
Spark up
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
GHANA BEYOND AID

Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
A1 Rangoon Lane, Cantonments-Accra,
GhanaTel: +233 302 665125-9
Email: info@gipc.gov.gh
www.gipc.gov.gh

ghanagipc
gipcghana
Ghana Investment Promotion Centre

GET IN TOUCH