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CHIME & ARTOLUTION: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



On World Refugee Day in 2018, Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE proudly announced a new partnership with the global nonprofit organization Artolution to help bring public arts programming to refugee and vulnerable communities around the world. As part of a three-year partnership, these collaborative arts projects promote reconciliation, healing and inclusion among women, children and families from socially excluded and displaced communities.

With this support from Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE, Artolution has now established year-round programming in Bangladesh, Uganda, Jordan and Colombia, and trained 58 artists worldwide to run collaborative art-making programs. To date, Artolution has implemented more than 400 projects in communities across 30

countries, serving more than 6,000 refugee children and internally displaced communities around the world.

Here are some highlights from Artolution's progress in fostering positive social change through interactive art projects globally:

Jordan

In Jordan, Artolution programming at the Azraq refugee camp provides Syrian children with a safe platform for creative expression and trauma relief, and Syrian refugee artists have the opportunity to work in their field and engage youth in their community. In the past year, Artolution has successfully trained and expanded their local artist team in Jordan, helping to respond in crisis-affected communities. Art murals included the Art is Inclusive project, a public arts project in which local artists convened to show solidarity with community members with disabilities.



“We are like butterflies. We love life.” – Nur, a female participant with Artolution in the Azraq refugee camp.

Uganda

In 2019, Artolution expanded its art-making initiatives to Uganda after teaming up with CHIME FOR CHANGE and **Action in Africa** to paint a mural at the Nakuwadde Community Center to empower youth with the message that their passions can become their careers. Since then, the local Artolution team has provided more than 1,100 displaced youth in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, the world’s second largest refugee camp, with public arts projects to promote resilience and self-expression. Additionally, through the Foundstrument Soundstrument program, participants created the “Elephantstrument,” a large-scale sculpture doubling as a percussion instrument made from durable trash and recycled materials in their community.



"It's like light where all dark will remove. We were not allowed to even touch paint inside Myanmar but today, I am painting along with my kids. With freedom and a wish. It makes me happy." – Emi Beggum, Model mother mobilizer working with Artolution.

Colombia

In Colombia, where more than 7.7 million internally displaced people arrived in 2019, Artolution completed 26 mural projects centered on displaced youth and diversified their art programs with dance and theater performances, sculpture, photography and yoga and meditation workshops. The local team also conducted a virtual exchange project that connected youth participants in Colombia with Syrian refugee peers in Jordan. With support from CHIME FOR CHANGE, Colombia has become one of Artolution's key regions for ongoing programs, adapting to the needs of the community.



They wanted to tell a story about nature, violence and humanity. About how we are all capable of good and bad things. How everyone is capable of change. And tell that story, they did.” – CJ Thomas, Artolution’s Head of Performance working with “Las Apaciondas” performance group in Santa Marta, Colombia.

United States

With support from CHIME FOR CHANGE, Artolution also completed collaborative mural projects in New York, California, Illinois and D.C. in 2019. In New York, Artolution collaborated with 15 young participants from Central America seeking safety in the U.S. to design its first augmented reality mural. Through the Beyond the Wall project, immigrant and refugee youth fleeing violence in Central America designed and painted a large-scale public mural to reflect on their experiences. The final mural combines art and technology to share their collective stories in an innovative form.







