

Cover

UK/Nigeria 2015 –16

End of Programme Report

Inside Cover

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Message from the Country Director

New figures released by the International Monetary Fund in October 2016 showed that Nigeria is Africa's biggest economy. The GDP rebasing of 2014 that first recognised this position, uncovered the contribution by newly incorporated fast-growing sectors including telecoms and creative industries into the data. The Nigerian creative industries notably music and film but also fashion and other sectors are increasingly recognised as an important expression of Nigerian creativity and a powerful contributor to Nigeria's economy.

The creative industries are also one of the UK's great strengths. Official statistics published in February 2014 revealed that the UK's creative sector is now worth £71.4 billion per year to the economy, generating almost nine million pounds every hour.

UK/Nigeria 2015–16 aimed to build on this shared strength in the creative industries to engage with new audiences and create more opportunities for artistic expression and creative enterprise.

The resulting programme which we have profiled in this document shows the immediate outcomes of the programme. While it is too soon to say what the lasting impact will be, the evidence we have already shows new collaborations; better skilled artists and young people; stronger understanding between UK and Nigerian creatives; and more audiences for arts and culture. These are all factors that will contribute to increased prosperity for artists and creative entrepreneurs in both countries and more stable communities for us all.

Connie Price, August 2017



Connie Price, Country Director Nigeria, British Council and guest at the UK/Nigeria 2015-16 Programme Launch in Lagos

Message from the Programme Director

Many times in 2014 and 2015, I found myself explaining to people that I didn't in fact live in Abuja but in Lagos but that I was attending as many arts events in Abuja as I could to try to understand how things worked, who the key players were and how they operated. Several 7.00am Lagos to Abuja flights later, I did find out that more happens in the Abuja arts and cultural scene than we first thought; but still far less than would be expected in a city so large and diverse.

Through our research and programming we found that many cities outside of Lagos, Calabar, Enugua and Ibadan, have bubbling arts and culture scenes with talented, innovative young people doing amazing things from visual arts to photography to spoken word to film. We found that young people, artists and arts organisations in the UK were keen to connect with their peers in Lagos but also with others in Jos, Bayelsa, Port Harcourt and Abeokuta.

Therefore, our UK/Nigeria 2015–16 programme sought to create exciting new connections in the arts and creative industries, draw out these 'underground' arts movements in cities outside Lagos that while vibrant, still had so much scope to grow and build new audiences, reach new people, create new livelihoods and forge new connections between different kinds of people. Our committed partners in the public and private sector worked with us to help curate the programme, co-fund projects and achieve the programme aims.

Did we succeed? Well this report outlines what we did and what we have achieved but we are aware and committed to the idea that the journey to create prosperity for artists and lasting connections between Nigeria and the UK is a concerto by a symphony orchestra not a pop-up solo performance - a marathon not a sprint. We continue to work with various partners and collaborators to build skills, facilitate networking and connect artists in both countries and by so doing, contribute to a better world that is full of music, art and colour.

Ojoma Ochai, August 2017



Ojoma Ochai, Programme Director, UK/Nigeria 2015-16 season delivering a speech at the programme launch in Abuja

About British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.

We create friendly **knowledge** and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries.

We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society.

Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications.

Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

We have been in Nigeria since 1943 and have offices in Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt, delivering programmes across Nigeria.

Every year, our programme engages with thousands of students, educators, policymakers, academics, researchers, creatives and entrepreneurs in Nigeria.



About UK/Nigeria 2015–16

UK/Nigeria 2015–2016 was a programme that aimed to engage with forty million young Nigerians (aged 18 – 35) by building new audiences for UK and Nigerian arts and culture.

It took place from September 2015 to March 2017 in cities across Nigeria including Lagos, Calabar, Abuja, Kaduna, Abeokuta and Jos, and in the UK in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff and Brighton.

By increasing access to arts and culture from the two countries, the programme sought to build mutual understanding among young people in both countries and reaffirm the UK's position as a partner for the growth of the arts and creative industries in Nigeria.

Activity Map (Nigeria)



Activity Map (UK)



UK / Nigeria 2015-16 Objectives

UK / Nigeria 2015-16 was designed to:

- Build new audiences for arts and culture
- Stimulate new collaborations between artists and arts organisations in the UK and Nigeria
- Strengthen relationships between both countries

The programme had the following themes:

- **Young People and Innovation** which focused on building digital, technical and entrepreneurial skills and promoting creation of new work by young people in new, non-traditional arts spaces while facilitating creative enterprise
- **Public Space and increasing access to the arts** focused on presenting art in public space to promote community engagement with arts and culture and boosting awareness and capacity around programming both performing and visual arts in public spaces
- **Collaboration** between Nigerian and UK artists and arts organisations was at the heart of the programme, building capacity and relationships to stimulate ongoing artistic collaboration between both countries



Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) and Ugoma Adegoke, Managing Director, LifeHouse at the opening reception of Yinka Shonibare's Wind Sculpture VI exhibition



Audience member at Lagos Theatre Festival's I dream of Lagos



RoundHouse on mass Showcase at MUSON centre

UK/Nigeria 2015-16 in Brief

Create infographic with this

- 9 Art forms
- 31 Projects
- 25 Grants awarded
- 179 policy makers reached through conference, seminars, workshops and events
- 7,135 artists and creative entrepreneurs attended training, seminars or workshops
- 446,015 people attended performances, exhibitions or festivals
- 79 UK and Nigerian partners involved in collaborations facilitated by the programme
- 198,451,089 people reached through publications and broadcast from the programme
- 199,032,000 people reached by the programme through face-to-face, online and broadcast channel

Acting Together

A project to use performances in public spaces as a mechanism to stimulate dialogue about communities' approaches to conflict resolution. We supported five arts organisations in Kaduna, Jos, Port Harcourt and Calabar with grants to create new performance pieces.



Carol Moore, one of the facilitators of the Acting Together project with a participant, Patrick Jude-Oteh, Artistic Director, Jos Repertory Theatre

Creative Cities

A project to stimulate year-round arts and culture events in Abuja and Calabar by training, mentoring and supporting current and future creative producers in deliver exciting cultural events through grant funding.



Participants of Creative Cities Project during a workshop in Abuja

Creative Hustle

A seminar series to build young people's awareness of livelihood opportunities in the creative industries. In partnership with National Theatre.



Audience and speakers at various Creative Hustle events in Lagos, Abuja and Calabar

Creative Industries Conference and Expo

A conference that featured high level speakers and panels from Nigeria and the UK to support the development of a national strategy for the growth of the creative industries in Nigeria was delivered in partnership with Federal Ministry of Information and Culture



His Excellency, Paul Arkwright (CMG) , British High Commissioner and Alhaji Lai Mohammed, Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture at the Creative Industries Conference & Expo in Abuja

Creative Industries Exhibition

An education fair to promote undergraduate, post graduate and continuing professional development study opportunities to the public in Abuja and Lagos. It featured an online competition to raise awareness of career opportunities in the creative industries and master classes from leading Nigerian and UK creative sector professionals.



Cross-section of audience at the Creative Industries Exhibition in Lagos

DisFix

A project that brought together UK dance company Candoco and Nigerian dancers Qudus and Ijodee to explore in a series of performances what happens when different cultures and bodies meet. The project featured disabled and non-disabled artists in ground-breaking dance performances in a public park in Lagos, challenging perceptions about the aesthetics of dance.



Candoco performing at the DisFix Showcase in Lagos



Dayo Liadi (Ijodee Dance Company) performing at the DisFix Showcase in Lagos

Fashion DNA: Image-Makers

A series of master-classes, collaborative workshops, and public events delivered in partnership with Lagos Fashion and Design Week to provide training and insight for budding Nigerian fashion creatives, guided by experts from UK and Nigeria's fashion image-making industries. Delivered in partnership with Lagos Fashion and Design Week.



Fashion DNA Image Makers Photoshoot

Gateway Nigeria

In partnership with Boiler Room, this project explored the contemporary music scene in Lagos and the connections between UK and Nigerian music culture through a series of films and features released via Boiler Room and The Guardian (UK), featuring contributions and performances from Tony Allen, Giggs, Moses Boyd, Don Jazzy and Mr Eazi, among others.



British rapper, Giggs at *Gateways Nigeria* event

Go Woman Go

A project to strengthen textile and printmaking traditions in Nigeria through textile design and printmaking workshops for women and a public art installation in Abuja. In partnership with Nike Arts Centre Abuja and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs Abuja.



Public Art (Building Wrap of Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development building as part of Go Woman Go!)

Lagos Theatre Festival

Lagos Theatre Festival, founded by British Council in 2013, is a festival to present performing arts from Nigeria and the UK every February in Lagos. It has a part focus on presenting site specific work.

As part of UK/Nigeria 2015–2016 we added an open-source, fringe element to increase the number of companies performing in the festival from four to thirty seven.



A collage of Lagos Theatre Festival Shows

Maker Library

We supported the set-up of two maker libraries in Lagos and Abuja as spaces for making, designing and thinking.

The Maker Library Network was a British Council project that connected designers and makers around the world. It facilitated knowledge and skills exchange amongst professionals and encouraged public engagement with making.

Maker library Lagos at Stranger



Pottery making classes at House 33 Maker library Abuja



On Mass: An initiative from Call to Create, the Roundhouse's international creative youth network, to build connections between young musicians from Ukraine, Nigeria and South Africa. It culminated in a performance at the Roundhouse in London.



Performers during RoundHouse on Mass performance in Muson Centre, Lagos

Open House Lagos

The first Open House event in Africa was designed to stimulate public interest in the built environment by showcasing old and new architecture through building tours and open house events in Lagos.

Delivered in partnership with Legacy 1995.



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Open House Lagos

29 April – 1 May

Playable City Lagos

A series of creative labs bringing together artists, producers and technologists from Nigeria and the UK to work together to create playful, creative prototypes which tackle some of the issues people face in Lagos. The public tested and fed back on the prototypes in a series of open installations in Freedom Park in Lagos. Playable Cities was delivered in partnership with Watershed (UK).



Playable City Lagos project participants displaying one of the project prototypes 'Danfone'

Script Junction

A project to bring together, inspire and motivate a cohort of contemporary screenwriters from Nigeria and the UK to explore, develop and create screenplays. We did this through a range of workshops, talks and mentoring delivered by top industry professionals and visiting guest experts. In partnership with Edinburgh International Film Festival, National Film and Television School, Africa International Film Festival and Nigerian Film Institute.



Script Junction project participants at a break-out session with one of the project facilitators, Ishaku Gumut

Story Forms

A literature project that explored a new generation of writing and writers, supporting them with pathways to publishing. It included writing and publishing workshops, discussions and seminars and an online audience development competition. Delivered in partnership With Lagos Book and Arts Festival and Ake Book and Arts Festival.



Kadaria Ahmed moderating the discussion 'Whats eating the North' with Elnathan John and Abubakar Adam Ibrahim during Lagos Book and Arts Festival

Wind Sculpture VI Exhibition

An installation of Yinka Shonibare's iconic Wind Sculpture in a public park in Lagos. This was the first major Yinka Shonibare MBE(RA) exhibition in Nigeria.



Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) and his work, Wind Sculpture VI

Your Ad Here

A project to increase the profile of creative organisations, events and businesses in Nigeria through a series of outdoor and digital adverts. Delivered in partnership with Create London and A Whitespace Creative Agency, Lagos.



Billboards from Your Ad Here Project

Affiliate Programme

UK/Nigeria 2015 -16 funded 13 projects through a grant scheme that awarded between £5,000 and £10,000 to UK or Nigerian artists and arts organisations to deliver projects in line with the programme aims.

Projects awarded were:

Big 60: Lagos and London

Lifestyle and Cultural installation that showcased a cross-cultural blend of food, film, art, illustration

and music in Lagos and London to promote cultural exchange. By A Whitespace Creative Agency Lagos, Stranger Lagos, Afropop Live, Pidgin Perfect and The Africa Centre



Photo Credit: A White Space Creative Agency

Building Artists Communities

A pilot artist residency program for an international artist to investigate art, culture, identity and immigration in Nigeria's changing multicultural landscape through interaction with a local community to understand its existing artistic structures and establish partnerships with the local artists to produce new work of art specific and relevant to Nigeria. The final product of the residency was a film which was screened at an outdoor exhibition.

By Fiona Whitty



Photo Credit: Fiona Whitty

Creative Lagos

A series of activities including a digital magazine and interactive map and roundtable discussions to link creative communities in Nigeria and the UK for collaboration and exchange.

By Pidgin Perfect and Andy Young



Photo Credit: Pidgin Perfect

GidiJand

Pop-up recording and video shoots of musical performances across public spaces in Lagos to celebrate the diversity and richness of music and place. This content was then made available for digital delivery format within www.gidijand.org

By Soundthread and Yemi Alade-Lawal



Photo Credit: Soundthread

I dream of Lagos

An immersive theatre piece, based on real locations in a Nigerian city, experienced by the audience through a mobile phone app.

By Invisible Flock



Love at War (Shakespeare Lives)

A project in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death featuring a travelling theatre troupe bringing stories from within the rich and varying cultures of Nigeria, to life through Drama, Music and Dance. The troupe travelled Lagos, Calabar and Abuja to tell these stories and offer workshops to young performers in each location culminating in a public performance. By Jan Williem Van De Bosch and Segun Adefila



Photo Credit: Nick Cavanagh

Nigerian-Scottish Film Odyssey

Two Nigerian filmmakers supported to make short documentaries which were distributed through UK broadcaster, Africa Movie Channel. The documentaries were also screened at Africa-in-motion, an annual film festival in Scotland, now in its 10th year. The screening was accompanied by discussions around the state of independent filmmaking including production, funding, distribution and possible co-productions between the two countries



Photo Credit: Africa in Motion Film Festival

Oliver Tweest

A choreographed flash mob in Lagos to form a part of a UK Afrobeats Musical production – Oliver Tweest
By Yinka Ayinde and Yemisi Mokuolu



Photo Credit: Akwaasi Photography

Naija Street Stories

Young Nigerian and British film makers telling real life Nigerian stories through a documentary focusing on Jos and Kaduna. The produced film 'Laraba the Rockbreaker' showcased digitally and through screenings and broadcast.

By Hatch Africa Productions Ltd and Triggshot Productions Ltd



Photo Credit: Hatch Africa Solutions Ltd.

Reimagining Nollywood: Reclaiming History, Unveiling Nollywood

A project to present, through archive digitisation, phases and facets of Nigerian film through from pre and post-independence Nigeria to stimulate discussions about how films and archives and present collective history.

By Lagos Film Society



Photo Credit: Lagos Film Society

Snapped Nigeria

Nigeria's first Snapchat movie. Created by award winning British-Nigerian writer Bola Agbaje, working with young Nigerians to create Snapchat movies using their mobile phones.



Watch Yourself

A multi-channel video installation of scottish-based artistes in Nigeria, by Justine Atkinson in collaboration with Video Arts Network, Lagos



Photo Credit: David Dale Gallery

UK / Nigeria 2015 – 16

Some of the Impact So Far ...

GO WOMAN GO!

In November 2016 the British Council unveiled Go Woman Go! two exhibitions resulting from a collaboration between British Artist Laura Aldridge and women in Abuja. The year-long project aimed to showcase British art and strengthen the Nigerian textile design, ceramics and printmaking industries through a series of collaborative workshops.

Go Woman Go! culminated in two public exhibitions: a building wrap of the Headquarters of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Abuja with a unique pattern inspired by the textile workshops; and an installation of ceramic vessels at House 33, Abuja commissioned from local ceramicists in Giri.

“Now somewhat neglected, the textile industry was a major source of income and development in Northern Nigeria; in a bid to rekindle it we have signed an MOU with the British Council to promote Nigerian culture.”

Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed

Go Woman Go! was opened by Aisha Alhassan, the Honourable Minister for Women’s Affairs and Social Development. Participants from the workshops have gone on to use skills acquired through the project as a source of income. One such beneficiary is Doofan Kwaghol who has started selling her textile designs and also teaches skills acquired through the programme to other artists and craftspeople.



British Artist, Laura Aldridge during the textile workshop in Abuja facilitated by the Nike Arts Centre

YINKA SHONIBARE IN LAGOS

In November 2016 the British Council unveiled Wind Sculpture VI, the first ever public work in Nigeria by Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) at Ndubuisi Kanu Park in Ikeja, Lagos. Wind Sculpture VI was supported by GT Bank, in collaboration with the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery.

“The importance of such an exchange can never be underestimated as it forms the basis for our mutual peace and prosperity through Art.” Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA)

More than 400 people visited Wind Sculpture VI in the opening weekend where Yinka held a series of talks and workshops with local students. He also outlined details of his plan to open up a space in Lagos to support young artists in their professional development. Over 115,075 people visited the sculpture over two months and the project trended on Twitter in Nigeria reaching more than one million people.

Nigeria is among Africa’s fastest growing economies. This is driven by significant growth in key sectors like the creative industries, telecoms, financial services and retail. We contribute to the development of Nigerian creative industries by exchanging and showcasing quality Nigerian and British artistic content, as well as providing skills training.



Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) and his work, Wind Sculpture VI

Lagos Theatre Festival

When British Council introduced the Lagos Theatre Festival in 2013, the idea was to build capacity in the Nigerian theatre sector by mitigating the dearth of performance spaces through the use of nonconventional spaces like open spaces, cars parks, restaurants, etc, and turning them into a stage – not by remodelling them to look like conventional theatres, but by adapting the performances to them, the way they are.

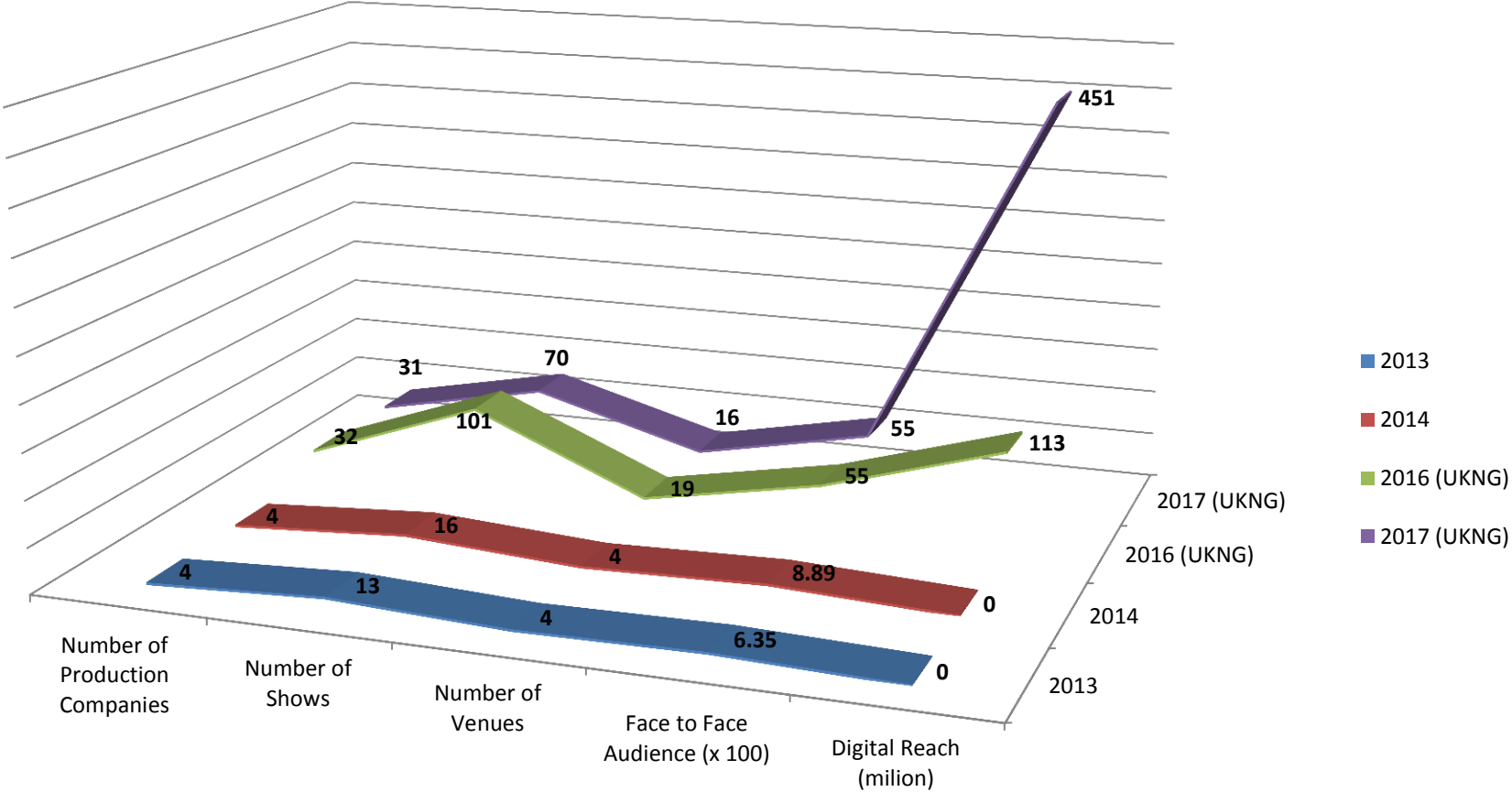
4 festivals and 5 years after, the Lagos Theatre Festival has become a landmark event in Nigeria's annual art calendar and has become the vehicle through which many artists have achieved their dreams of performing to an appreciative audience and going on to build solid careers in the field.

From just 4 theatre companies in 1 venue in 2013, through a significant expansion in 2016 through the UK / Nigeria 2015-16 programme which saw the addition of an open source, fringe element to the festival, by 2017 the Lagos Theatre Festival was averaging over 70 performances in 16 venues across Lagos, Nigeria's economic capital.

Beyond the theatre performances, we have through Lagos Theatre festival built capacity in the Nigerian theatre sector through the various workshops that have given hundreds of young people the opportunity to get training on various aspects of theatre. Set designers, sound engineers, script writers, arts journalists, and many others, have been able to learn from world class teachers and are now practising their craft and contributing to the growth of the sector.

The question used to be how to build capacity in a sector that was suffering from a dearth of performance spaces and manpower, but now the question is how to expand the successes garnered in Lagos to other cities in Nigeria.

Lagos Theatre Festival Growth 2013 – 2017



UK/Nigeria 2015–16 Collaborators

What's Next...?

We have identified three main areas of focus for our work from now to 2020:

- Skills and capacity building programmes that result in better skilled young artists and creative entrepreneurs with enhanced capacity to sustain creative livelihoods and connect, share and exchange with each other and with their contemporaries internationally.
- Programmes that facilitate stronger formal and informal networks and communities of young artists that have a stronger voice in, and for their communities and can engage in more institutional local and international partnerships that are mutually beneficial and to scale.
- Showcasing activity that presents more up-to-date and diverse awareness and representation of Nigerian arts in the UK and vice versa.

Learn more about our work

Keep up to date with our activity:

- Twitter: ngbritisharts
- Facebook: britishcouncilnigeriaarts
- Instagram: ngbritisharts
- Email: arts.nigeria@ng.britishcouncil.org

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