



The Africa Renaissance Hub @ AAYMCA

Innovation

Research

Design

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Terms of Reference

About us

The Africa Alliance of Young Men Christian Associations (AAYMCA) is the umbrella body of 22 chartered Country based YMCAs, hereafter referred to as National Movements (NM). The mandate and role of the AAYMCA in relation to its membership is two-fold – as a Secretariat and as a Technical House. The role of the AAYMCA as a Technical House is structured along the following:

- a) To ensure strategic alignment with the shared vision of ‘Empowering Young People for the African Renaissance’. A key part of this alignment is the foundational youth empowerment model, ‘From Subject to Citizen (S2C)’, which empowers youth to become active in transforming their communities.
- b) To ensure Programmatic excellence: In 2016, the AAYMCA led the development of the Y3.0 strategy for the future of the African YMCA Movement. Under the Y3.0 strategy, the YMCA launched the Powerspace¹. A key cornerstone to this is the increased organizational capacity for strategic innovation, with a focus on Human Centered Design (HCD) and related methodologies.

1. Human Centered Design & the AAYMCA

Between 2019 and 2021, the Africa Alliance of YMCAs implemented a 2-country research project in Kenya and Zambia titled “Sex Manenoz” to test the fecundity of using Design Thinking, Game Design and Gamification² to increase access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Services.

From the research project, the learning was that using both game design and Gamification made learning and access to information informative and exciting, mainly due to resultant interactivity. During the course of the prototyping phase of the project, it was noted that role-play and competitive elements add an immersive angle, which, if set up well, can enhance retention of information in a new, fun and interactive way. Findings from the prototyping and testing phase indicate that games were a vital tool in enhancing learning experiences for users as it made it easy for them to retain information that they got during the respective activities. It also created the opportunity to expand the prototypes with additional design elements on the go to compliment new learnings and knowledge-sharing approaches. Due to its practical nature of user-engagement, it additionally is easy to monitor and evaluate impact through the level of engagement and knowledge retention.

Secondly, between 2021 and 2023, the AAYMCA implemented the Powerspace methodology in 5 National Movements. The program was designed to provide opportunities for the empowerment for young people at in conflict with the Law using Design Thinking as a core skill provided to Youth and staff in the Movement. Through the project, AAYMCA established the foundations for the Africa Renaissance Hub, promoted Learning, Knowledge Management and

¹ The Powerspace is a 4 step iterative youth empowerment methodology involving attracting youth through engaging activities, facilitating self-awareness raising, building skills of participants and providing participants with linkage to opportunities. The Powerspace was co-created by young members of the YMCA and is in the process of diffusion into the Movement

² Game design is the process of creating and shaping the mechanics, systems, and rules of a game. Games can be created for entertainment, education, exercise, or experimental purposes. Gamification is the addition of game mechanics into nongame environments, like a website, online community, learning management system etc to increase participation. Gamification plays on the psychology that drives human engagement and its goal is to improve engagement with consumers, employees and partners to inspire collaborate, share and interact.

Innovation through activities that guided reflection, learning, evaluation and sharing impact in relation to youth in conflict with the law.

The AAYMCA also empowered the implementing YMCA movement staff and volunteers to better listen, inspire, advocate, and influence for systems change at local, National and continental levels.

Value Proposition

Recently, the organization has developed a Value proposition statement in relation to the National Movements. The value offer to the National Movements is that AAYMCA will contribute to the African Renaissance by building the Capacities of National Movements for Impactful Youth Empowerment in the continent. AAYMCAs will provide evidence-based customized solutions through co-creation, research, co-design and innovation approaches that are applicable to:

- a) Youth-based Intervention Models. These Models will primarily be based on the application of the PowerSpace methodology along 5 thematic Outcome areas: Youth Justice, Civic Action, Economic Renaissance, Transformative Masculinity and Sustainable Planet
- b) Improved competencies for programme implementation and Communication and Knowledge Management.
- c) Movement Sustainability, Effective Governance and Delivery Models.

1. The Africa Renaissance Hub Office Renovation

Youthful and Innovative Hub with Studio Space

1. **Introduction:** The Africa Alliance of YMCAs invites proposals for the renovation of our office space located in Nairobi. The renovation aims to create a youthful, exciting, and innovative environment that can accommodate at least 40 individuals for training sessions. We are particularly interested in incorporating modern technology and innovative design elements while ensuring accessibility and comfort for all employees, including persons living with disabilities. The renovation should also include a dedicated studio space for multimedia activities and presentations.

2. Objectives:

- Create a vibrant and energetic atmosphere conducive to creativity and collaboration.
- Incorporate cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions to enhance productivity and efficiency.
- Design the space to accommodate at least 40 individuals for training sessions and workshops.
- Ensure the office is brightly colored, soundproofed, and equipped with amenities such as a small kitchenette.
- Prioritize accessibility features to accommodate persons living with disabilities.
- Include a studio space suitable for various multimedia activities and presentations.

3. **Scope of Work:** The selected contractor will be responsible for:

- Conducting an initial assessment of the existing office space and the Rooftop and proposing a detailed renovation plan, which includes an integration plan for the rooftop for future development not necessarily covered under this current project.
- Designing and implementing a layout that optimizes space utilization and fosters collaboration.
- Integrating technology and innovation throughout the office, including interactive displays, smart lighting, and audio-visual systems.
- Installing soundproofing materials to minimize noise disruptions and create a conducive work environment.
- Constructing a small kitchenette area with essential amenities for employee use.
- Ensuring accessibility features such as wheelchair ramps, wide doorways, and accessible restroom facilities.
- Designing and outfitting a dedicated studio space suitable for multimedia activities and presentations.
- redesigning the rest rooms to modern washrooms that also provide more privacy and access for people living with disabilities
- Providing a timeline for project completion and cost estimates for materials and labor.

4. **Submission Guidelines:** Interested contractors are invited to submit proposals that include the following:

- Company profile highlighting relevant experience in office renovation and design projects.
- 3D render of Proposed renovation plan outlining design concepts, technology integration, and accessibility features.
- Detailed, itemized cost estimates for materials, labor, and any additional services (in the form of – but not limited to –Bills of quantities)
- Proposed timeline for project completion, including key milestones and deliverables.
- References and a portfolio from past clients or projects demonstrating successful office renovations.
- On request and if needed, AAYMCA staff shall provide the requisite floorplans

5. **Timeline:**

- Proposal Submission Deadline: 12th March 2024
- Selection of Contractor: 27th March 2024
- Project Commencement: 15th April 2024
- Project Completion: 15th June 2024

6. **Contact Information:** All inquiries and submissions should be directed to: The Project Manager– Africa Renaissance Hub Renovations Project, Africa Alliance of YMCAs, aaymcas@africaymca.org

7. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Adherence to project objectives and scope of work
- Creativity and innovation in design concepts
- Demonstrated experience and expertise in office renovation projects
- Cost-effectiveness and value for investment
- Ability to meet project timelines and deliverables

Thank you for considering this request for proposal. We look forward to reviewing your submissions and selecting a contractor who can bring our vision for a youthful and innovative office space, including a studio, to life for the Africa Alliance of YMCAs.