



# Fonds

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **2020 Principal Prince Claus Award goes to Ibrahim Mahama**

**The seven 2020 Prince Claus Laureates were announced today in an online ceremony. Prince Claus Awards honour individuals and organisations for their excellent, groundbreaking work in culture and development. The 2020 Prince Claus Laureates are:**

### **Principal Prince Claus Laureate**

Ibrahim Mahama (Visual artist, Ghana)

### **Prince Claus Laureates**

Açık Radyo (Independent radio, Turkey)

Diamantina Arcoiris (Fashion designer, Colombia)

Fendika Cultural Centre (Music and cultural centre, Ethiopia)

Tunakaimanu Fielakepa (Textile arts and cultural heritage expert, Tonga)

m7red (Architecture and activist network, Argentina)

### **Next Generation Laureate**

Hira Nabi (Filmmaker, Pakistan)

### **Online Awards Ceremony**

Due to Covid-19, the 2020 Prince Claus Awards took the form of an online ceremony. Viewers watching from around the world were invited into the Royal Palace Amsterdam. During the programme, His Royal Highness Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands, Honorary Chair of the Prince Claus Fund, and the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag spoke about the power of culture.

*“This year’s Laureates show us (again) that there is no minimum or maximum age for creativity, no group or culture or nation that holds a monopoly on inspiration. Everywhere there are artists and cultural practitioners whose positive work locally forms the thread that stitches their societies together.”*

*- HRH Prince Constantijn, Honorary Chair of the Prince Claus Fund Board*

Minister Sigrid Kaag also addressed the Prince Claus Laureates, stating their efforts “are needed this year, more than ever.”

*“Now that the world itself has been closed off, art is the strongest and truest way in which we still get to experience it. Because what is art, if not a rendition of experience? Of life itself: with all its imperfections and surprises, its hardships and its ecstasies, its ugliness and its beauty. Art is a lens through which we can try to understand life, to give it meaning, and to reshape it.”*

*- Minister Sigrid Kaag*

In addition to the [online ceremony](#), this year's Laureates will receive their Prince Claus Awards during ceremonies at the Dutch Embassies in their home countries.

### **About the 2020 Prince Claus Laureates**

For more information about the 2020 Prince Claus Laureates, please see the report from the 2020 Prince Claus Awards Committee. [princeclausfund.org/awards-laureates-2020](https://princeclausfund.org/awards-laureates-2020)

2020 Principal Prince Claus Laureate **IBRAHIM MAHAMA** (Ghana) is a visual artist who is actively involved in improving social conditions. His powerful artworks use provocative materials and sites to examine and expose histories, uphold the role of labour, challenge authorities and criticise mismanagement of resources. Directly addressing lack of opportunities and facilities in his home region, he has set up an open access cultural centre and other social projects providing employment, education, studio space and creative activities.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **AÇIK RADYO** (Turkey) is an independent, collectively owned radio station, run and programmed mainly by volunteers. Founded by Ömer Madra, a former professor of international law and human rights, 'Open Radio' fosters fundamental human freedoms and pluralist democracy. It provides critical in-depth news, local information and insight into a vast range of political, cultural and social topics, and encourages alternative voices, engaged debate and active listenership.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **DIAMANTINA ARCOIRIS** (Colombia) is a fashion designer who uses her knowledge and skills to help those marginalised by society. In the challenging environment of one of Bogotá's barrios, she has set up Fundación Rediseñándonos (Redesign Ourselves Foundation), which offers a welcoming community and inspiring workshops. Drawing on the therapeutic aspects of creativity and creative production, she is empowering people to explore alternative possibilities and redesign their lives.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **FENDIKA CULTURAL CENTER** (Ethiopia) is a cultural hub and vibrant creative hotspot in the heart of Addis Ababa. Owned and run by dancer and choreographer Melaku Belay, it is a melting pot of traditional and contemporary cultural expression, where artists of all generations experiment with new forms and reinvigorate old forms in all artistic disciplines, from music and poetry to visual arts and performance. It is a popular and unique catalyst for Ethiopian culture.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **TUNAKAIMANU FIELAKEPA** (Tonga) is a committed activist for Tonga's living cultural heritage, its language, traditions, values and customs. Alongside her lifetime involvement in education and community development, she is an expert on koloa, the textile arts of Tongan women. She works with communities to sustain and revitalise all aspects of this unique practice, and contributes through research, exhibitions and publications to maintaining and promoting koloa's social and aesthetic value in Tongan society.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **M7RED** (Argentina) is an independent network of socially engaged architects and spatial planners. They work with citizens, especially underrepresented communities, to counteract developments that impact negatively on communal spaces. Rejecting topdown processes of public decision making, m7red collaborate with stakeholders, network with relevant experts and create innovative tools that clarify power relations, vested interests and political pressures, thereby empowering people to claim their rights in public space.

2020 Prince Claus Laureate **HIRA NABI** (Pakistan) is a filmmaker and visual artist who examines the multiple elements of contemporary reality with political insight and poetic intensity. She explores in detail the local consequences of overarching issues such as globalisation and environmental degradation, boldly contrasting harsh fact, inventive narrative and lyrical imagery. Combining critical research and a personal aesthetic vision, she demonstrates the next generation's ability to resist mass populism and reclaim individuality.

### **About the Prince Claus Awards**

Since 1997, the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development has presented Prince Claus Awards to individuals, groups and organisations whose cultural actions have a positive impact on their societies, primarily

in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. In keeping with the Prince Claus Fund's guiding principles, the awards highlight significant contributions in regions where resources or opportunities for cultural expression are limited.

### **About the Prince Claus Fund**

The Prince Claus Fund supports, connects, and celebrates artists and cultural practitioners where culture is under pressure. <https://princeclausfund.org>

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### **Note for Editors:**

Press Kits with more information and visual materials can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ywuosv>

Additional information can be found here: <https://princeclausfund.org/awards-laureates-2020>

The 2020 Prince Claus Awards ceremony is available online: <https://www.youtube.com/PrinceClausFund>

For further information or interviews with the Laureates, please contact

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