

The Kwacakworo Foundation for Culture, Peace, and the Arts

Concept Paper

Preamble:

Dr. Conradin Perner (aka Kwacakworo) has spent a lifetime promoting humanist ideals as a professor of literature, an ethnographer, a delegate for peace with the International Red Cross in many parts of the world, and as an author who published extensively on the ethnography of the people of South Sudan. His publications include books on comparative and oral literature, ethnography including an eight-volume monograph on the Anyuak and a four-volume Anyuaa-English dictionary, biography on research and adventures, and numerous reports on culture and peace missions. Kwacakworo worked as a Commander of the international Joint Military Commission (JMC) in the SPLA-section of the Nuba Mountains and for many years as the Senior Peace Advisor of the Swiss Government in Sudan. He dedicated more than thirty years of his life in research and service in South Sudan. In 1993 Kwacakworo played a decisive role in the epic escape of more than ten thousand child-soldiers from an impending massacre and helped moving them from the Ethiopian border to Northern Kenya. Among the many awards he received is an honorary citizenship of South Sudan presented to him by President Salva Kiir Mayardit on behalf of the people of South Sudan for his

outstanding services to the peace process in South Sudan.

Purpose:

To honour the legacy of Kwacakworo, a group of scholars and friends are working to establish The Kwacakworo Foundation. The group will coordinate with the Town of Davos and the University of Zurich in their effort to establish Haus Perner as a centre of culture and education in Davos.

Mission:

The mission of the Foundation is to engage scholars, artists, researchers, authors, and activists to work in unison to promote peace and justice in the world.

Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the Foundation is to create bridges of communication and collaboration between indigenous communities across the world in education, cultural exchange, the arts, and peace building.

The objectives of the Foundation are to:

- * Enrich cultural exchange through the preservation of Kwacakworo's spiritual, immaterial, and material heritage.

- * Use the comprehensive documentation of Kwacakworo' writings and other activities to educate the young generations of students, researchers, and

activists about literature, anthropology, ethnography, and African and Asian cultures.

- * Establish links between the higher education institutions in South Sudan with universities and cultural and scientific institutions abroad, such as the University of Juba, the University of Zurich, Winona State University, and the Town of Davos.
- * Create and build cultural and social institutions in South Sudan in collaboration with the Ministry Education, universities, and the school system.
- * Develop scholarship programs for students majoring in education and for teachers to complete their studies and training and return to teach in their communities in South Sudan.
- * Obtain grants to build and equip schools in the Anyuak land and other areas of need.
- * Develop historical documentation of the 150-year-old Kwacakworo' family house (Haus Perner) which will be the Foundation Center to entice researchers and artists to visit and use the Center in Davos (<https://www.musethno.uzh.ch/static/perner/>).
- * Develop a comprehensive homepage (in English and Deutsch) to provide access to Kwacakworo's life and work to current and future students, researchers, scholars, and the public across the world.

* Use the upper floors of the house as a temporary residence for artists (writers, painters, musicians etc.), researchers and scholars in order to provide them with time, energy and inspiration. These residents will be selected by the Board of Directors and representatives from the Town of Davos, and member universities.

Governing Body:

Board of Directors: Currently the founding group consisting of *Professor Beckry Abdel-Magid, Ms. Joane Holliger, and Mr. Gai Jok (aka Napoleon)*, are working on raising funds and establishing the Foundation. Once the Foundation is established, a board of directors will be selected to run the Foundation. The board of directors will include representatives from the *Town of Davos, the University of Zurich, Winona State University, the University of Juba, and other members from the arts, culture, and peace organizations*. The Board of directors will establish the By Laws and Policies of the Foundation.

Budget:

Initial Funds:

The goal of the founding group is to raise \$200,000 as an initial budget to commence the major activities of the Foundation. An initial \$55,000 are needed to establish the Foundation and register it as a legal entity in Switzerland.

Location:

The group will be working with Kwacakworo, the Town of Davos, and the University of Zurich to establish an office for the Foundation. Branches of the Foundation will be established at the University of Juba, Winona State University, and other interested institutions.

Fundraising:

The Founding Group extends its invitation to various organizations and world leaders to donate generously to this noble cause that the world needs so much at this critical time of history. A bank account has been established in Davos to receive donations and to run the business of the Foundation.

Founding Group:

- *Beckry Abdel-Magid*, PhD, PE, Professor of Composite Materials Engineering, Winona State University, USA, Beckry@winona.edu
- *Joane Holliger*, Senior Program Officer, Center for Security Studies (CSS) ETH Zurich, joane.holliger@sipo.gess.ethz.ch
- *N. Adok Gai*, Director General, National Communication Authority, Republic of South Sudan, nadok@nca.gov.ss