

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 Anyuak-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 plans to coordinate with the Town of Davos and the University of Zurich 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.

Goal and Objectives:

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

The objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Enhance cultural and scientific exchange through the preservation of Kwacakworo's spiritual, immaterial, and material heritage.
- Use the comprehensive documentation of Kwacakworo's writings and other activities to educate the young generations of students, researchers, and activists about literature, anthropology, ethnography, and European, African, and Asian cultures.
- Establish links between higher education institutions in Davos with universities and cultural and scientific institutions in Switzerland and across the world to work on and realize the mission of the Foundation.
- Develop historical documentation of the 150-year-old Kwacakworo's 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/>).

- Maintain and update the comprehensive Kwacakworo.com 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 temporary residences for researchers, scholars, and artists (writers, painters, musicians, etc.) to provide them with time, energy, and inspiration. These residents will be selected by the Board of Directors in cooperation with the Town of Davos, and member universities.
- Create branches of the foundation at other universities and institutions to facilitate cultural exchange among artists, authors, scientists, and activists across the world.
- Obtain grants to run the activities of the foundation, promote its mission and purpose, and publish annual reports and proceedings of its activities.

Governing Body:

Board of Directors: Currently the founding group consisting of Professor Dr. Med. Paolo Suter, Professor Beckry Abdel-Magid, Ms. Joane Holliger, Mr. Christian Grünig, and Mr. Gai Jok, is 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 may include representatives from the Town of Davos, the University of Zurich, Winona State University, other universities, and 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 50,000 CHF as an initial budget to commence the major activities of the Foundation.

Location: The group will establish an office for the Foundation in Davos. Branches of the Foundation may be established at member universities and institutions.

Fundraising:

The Founding Group extends an invitation to individuals and organizations to donate to this important project to establish the Foundation and attain its mission and goals. A bank account has been established in Davos to receive donations and to run the business of the Foundation.

Founding Group:

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