LAGOS INDEX

A CITY, SIX WAYS IN.



Galleries, reading rooms, stages.

A few good places to get curious.

Find your way in.

03 **A pool. A stage. A public city.**
The opening note

04 **Pictures carry history.**
On looking

05 **The city on a sleeve.**
On listening

06 **The Lagoon Fold**
Neighbourhood diagram

07 **The place index**
Six spaces to begin

08 **Sources & imprint**
How this edition was made

A small independent selection. Read a note, find a place, then confirm the current visit details with the venue.

A pool. A stage. A public city.



J. Randle Centre / 2024 / photo credit on p. 08

In Onikan, the J. Randle Centre's story begins with an act of public provision. Its account records that Dr. John Randle built a swimming pool in King George V Park in 1928, then handed it to Lagos Town Council with money for upkeep.

That history changes the way the place can be read. A pool is a shared resource, not just a landmark. The present-day centre connects Yorùbá heritage with sound, storytelling, performance and participation, carrying cultural knowledge into a public setting.

On Victoria Island, Terra Kulture takes another form. Established in 2003, it combines a gallery, food, education and a 400-seat performance Arena. Bolanle Austen-Peters' work across stage and screen sits within that wider cultural project.

These places offer different ways into Lagos: one through heritage and civic space, another through the programme and the stage. Choose the encounter that interests you, then use the venue's own details to plan it.

Pictures carry history.



Yemisi Shyllon Museum / 2020 / photo credit on p. 08

An exhibition can begin with something already familiar. At CCA, Lagos, the 2007 opening programme included Fela, Ghariokwu Lemi and the Art of the Album Cover. A record sleeve became a route into visual culture and the public language around music.

Founded by Bisi Silva that December, CCA gives this edition a curatorial history as well as an address. Its archive makes the question concrete: what changes when an image travels from a record shop into an exhibition?

The December 2023 Moments in Monochrome catalogue at Alliance Française offers a different example. Seyi Akinwumi's Little Red uses black-and-white sheets with small red accents, retelling a familiar story through a female protagonist. A limited palette can carry a sharp change of viewpoint.

At the Yemisi Shyllon Museum, the 2026 Freedom Bird survey brings Chika Okeke-Agulu's artworks together with poems, diaries, photographs and archival material. The documents widen the story around the finished image.

These are named entry points, not interchangeable gallery tips. Follow the linked records, then check the current programme before choosing which room to enter.

The city on a sleeve.



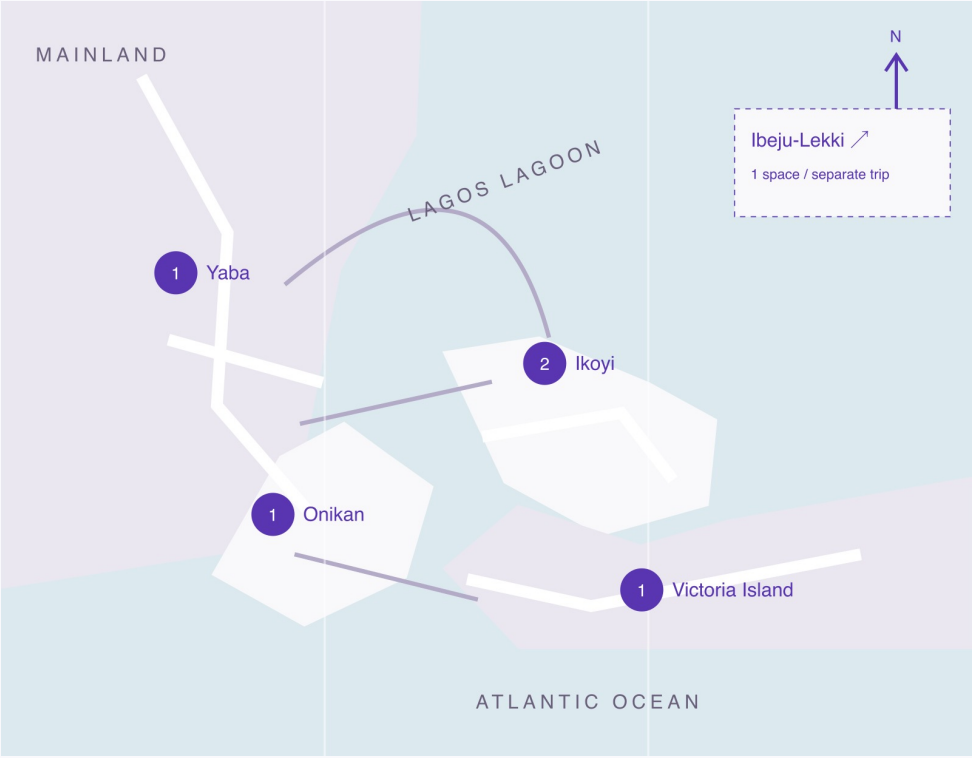
The Jazzhole's book-and-record pairing has a bookselling lineage. The Vinyl Factory's 2017 profile traces Kunle Tejuosho's shop to Glendora, the bookshop business founded by his mother, and describes a collection centred on African music and literature.

A sleeve can be read as closely as a page. The artist, designer, musicians and label all leave names worth following. Place a book's imprint beside those credits and browsing becomes a way of finding connections rather than simply choosing an object.

There is a connection elsewhere in this edition. CCA, Lagos opened in 2007 with a programme that included Ghariokwu Lemi's album-cover work for Fela. The graphic surface of recorded music became a subject for looking, discussion and an exhibition publication.

The Jazzhole photo essay and CCA archive show two settings for a related curiosity: the shop shelf and the gallery record. Start with the one that interests you and follow a name into the other. Neither historical account is a promise of a live event today.

Across the water.



Five neighbourhoods. Six places. Numbers show the spaces in this edition.

This is an editorial diagram, not to scale. Ibeju-Lekki is shown as a separate inset. No venue coordinates, travel times or route are implied. Use current maps and each venue's own details for the journey.

Six spaces to begin.

LI-01 / ONIKAN

J. Randle Centre

A public pool, a living cultural centre.

LI-02 / YABA

CCA, Lagos

Bisi Silva’s legacy, from Fela sleeves to archives.

LI-03 / IKOYI

The Jazzhole

Glendora’s bookshop roots, with records beside them.

LI-04 / VICTORIA ISLAND

Terra Kulture

Bolanle Austen-Peters’ cultural centre and stage.

LI-05 / IKOYI

Alliance Française

An exhibition room, a cultural meeting point.

LI-06 / IBEJU-LEKKI

Yemisi Shyllon Museum

An artist’s work, and the archive around it.

Tap a place to open its source. Confirm the programme, opening, admission and access arrangements directly before travelling.

Keep looking.

J. Randle Centre / public-pool history

jrandlecentre.com/about-johnrandle

CCA, Lagos / 2007 exhibition archive

ccalagos.org / 2007 exhibition archive

The Jazzhole / 2017 photo essay

thevinylfactory.com / Jazzhole profile

Terra Kulture / institution and Arena

app.terrakulture.com/about

Alliance Française / catalogue

afnigeria.org/lagos / December 2023 catalogue

Yemisi Shyllon Museum / Freedom Bird

ysma.pau.edu.ng / Freedom Bird

PHOTOGRAPHY

J. Randle Centre: Isaacayodele32 / CC BY-SA 4.0

Museum exterior: Yemisishyllonmuseum / CC BY-SA 4.0

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