

## WHV – Youth Action for Protecting Cultural Heritage

### **Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana**

#### **PROJECT DATES**

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1979)

09 - 29 August 2025.

**THE SITE** - These fortified trading posts, founded between 1482 and 1786, and spanning a distance of approximately 500 km along the coast of Ghana between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, were links in the trading routes established by the Portuguese in many areas of the world during their era of great maritime exploration. The castles and forts were built and occupied at different times by traders from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany and Britain. They served the gold trade of European chartered companies. Latterly they played a significant part in the developing slave trade, and therefore in the history of the Americas, and, subsequently, in the 19th century, in the suppression of that trade.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims to promote Ussher Fort as a colonial cultural heritage site and an educational platform, fostering community engagement and a sense of ownership. It seeks to ensure the preservation of the site's historical and aesthetic value through active community and stakeholder engagement, sustainable maintenance efforts, and advocacy campaigns. By building on previous initiatives, the project will empower youth and volunteers with practical skills in heritage conservation while deepening their understanding of the site's significance. Additionally, the project will leverage the influence of art and cultural festivals to amplify awareness and inspire broader participation in the preservation and promotion of Ussher Fort.

**ACTIVITIES** - The project will involve painting and cleanup of Ussher Fort, engaging volunteers and local youth to maintain the site's appearance and integrity. Workshops and forums will be organized with stakeholders to discuss sustainable preservation strategies and encourage community-led initiatives. Educational outreach programs will target schools to create heritage ambassadors among students. The CHALE WOTE and WOMBA Street Art Festivals will serve as platforms for art exhibitions, storytelling, and performances at the fort, highlighting its historical significance and promoting heritage preservation messages. Local and international volunteers and artists will collaborate to create murals and installations inspired by Ussher Fort's history. Advocacy campaigns, reenactments, and cultural activities during these festivals will amplify awareness of the fort's legacy while engaging a wider audience.

**PARTNERS** - Ussher Fort, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, James Town Community, Aid of Accra, Youth Groups.

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