

A grassroots movement revives Nigeria's visual memory before it fades



CNN photo

In the bustling heart of Lagos, a group of Nigerian artists and archivists are racing against time to rescue thousands of forgotten photographs that document everyday life in Africa's largest city. From street vendors and schoolchildren to weddings and protests, these images offer a rare glimpse into the social fabric of Lagos across decades.

Many of the photos were found in abandoned studios, decaying albums, and family collections at risk of being lost to humidity and neglect. The initiative, led by local creatives, aims to digitize, restore, and exhibit these visuals to reconnect younger generations with their urban heritage.

Saving Lagos in Frames: Artists Rush to Preserve Forgotten Photos of City Life

***“Each photo is a portal — not just to the past, but to the soul of Lagos,”
says curator Tunde Owolabi.***



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