

Terms of Reference for Data Tamasha Africa 2026 Curators

Data Tamasha Africa 2026 comes to Zanzibar on 19th - 21st August. We're looking for five Curators who will help us design, anchor, and animate sessions that reflect the lived realities and aspirations of Africans.

About Pollicy

[Pollicy](#) is a feminist collective of technologists, data scientists, creatives, and academics who refuse to accept the digital status quo. We work at the intersection of data, design, and technology to craft better life experiences and advocate for truly just societies. Grounded in Africa, we believe data and technology can liberate rather than oppress when harnessed with care, creativity, and collective power.

Our research sparks conversations. Our training transforms how communities engage with technology. Our storytelling breaks through digital noise to impact opinions and policy. We've grown from an upstart to a trusted voice on data governance, digital rights, and feminist technology in Africa by blending intellectual rigor with artistic expression. Make no mistake, our practice is anything but traditional. We breathe life into data through games, murals, animations, podcasts, and publications that challenge and delight. We meet people exactly where they are, whether in government offices or vibrant community street corners, building shared understanding around ethical data use that centres those traditionally pushed to the margins.

Data Tamasha Africa 2026 marks the seventh edition of the event and a strategic evolution under the theme Building with Data: African Innovations in Action. The 2026 edition adopts a products-first, people-centred approach, spotlighting ethical, deployable data tools and civic technologies developed by Africans for African realities, and testing them against regulatory, social, and feminist accountability frameworks. Since 2019, Data Tamasha Africa 2026 has grown into a continental community platform that interrogates how data systems shape power, access, and justice.

About the Curator Role:

Pollicy is looking for Curators to co-design and anchor thematic sessions at [Data Tamasha Africa 2026](#), a continental community event and platform advancing responsible and community-centred data use across Africa.

A curator is a community curator and co-designer. They are partners and individuals we seek to embed in the programme design process, bringing their networks, regional knowledge, and critical perspectives to shape Data Tamasha Africa 2026 into an event grounded in the lived realities and aspirations of Africans for a shared digital future. Curators are expected to contribute meaningfully before, during, and after Data Tamasha Africa 2026. They are the connective tissue between Pollicy's curatorial vision and the communities the event seeks to serve.

Pollicy Data Institute

Kampala Office:

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What are Curators Expected to do?

Programme design and curation

- Develop session formats that go beyond panels, including dialogues, demonstrations, labs, or creative formats grounded in community data needs and the African context.
- Align session content with the event's feminist, rights-based, and community-centred principles.

Speaker and participant recruitment

- Identify and recruit speakers, practitioners, community voices, and participants relevant to the Data Tamasha Africa 2026 community.
- Prioritise voices that are often underrepresented in data and technology spaces, particularly women, youth, informal workers, and grassroots leaders.

Advisory contribution

- Bring regional expertise and contextual knowledge to enrich programme planning.
- Participate in at least three planning calls with the Pollicy team before the event between May and August 2026.
- Provide inputs or reviews of session outlines, speaker briefs, or draft materials as requested.
- Flag emerging issues, community concerns, or contextual dynamics relevant to the Data Tamasha Africa 2026 community

Curators will be assigned to one or more of the five thematic tracks below. Applicants are invited to indicate their preferred track(s) and describe their relevant expertise or community connections. The Data Tamasha Africa 2026 tracks include;

- Data Products for Public Value with a focus on Civic technology, community-generated data systems, and digital public infrastructure grounded in equity
- Safe and Joyful Digital Futures focused on Technology-facilitated GBV prevention, ethical digital labour, digital safety, and platform accountability.
- Governing Data and AI in Practice with a focus on AI governance, regulatory sandboxes, data sovereignty, and cross-border governance frameworks.
- Feminist and Community-Led Innovation with a focus on feminist data methodologies, creative tech, storytelling, language inclusion, and locally grounded AI.
- The Afrofeminist Data Museum, with a focus on Immersive, participatory data experiences centring African voices, gender, governance, and urban systems

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Who are we looking for?

We welcome applications from across disciplines, sectors, and geographies. You do not need a formal title; you need a perspective, a community, and a commitment to showing up. We are particularly looking for people who:

- Have demonstrated engagement with data, technology, governance, or digital rights in an African context.
- Hold strong networks within one or more of the target communities, whether civil society, technologists, academics, creatives, government, or grassroots organisers.
- Are committed to feminist, rights-based, and community-centred approaches.
- Can contribute meaningfully to programme design
- Bring regional or linguistic diversity (Anglo-Franco and Lusophone) that broadens the event's reach and representation.
- Are available for the pre-event planning process (at least three planning sessions each lasting 2 hours) and to attend Data Tamasha Africa 2026 in Zanzibar, 19–21 August 2026.
- The curator will work with us over the period of May, June, and July. During this time, one session will be held each month, with each session lasting approximately two hours. The total level of effort shall not exceed a maximum of 10 hours across the three-month period.

The Curator role is a voluntary position, and one we believe is a genuinely rewarding one. Pollicy is committed to recognising the time, expertise, and community trust that Curators bring to Data Tamasha Africa 2026.

Selected Curators will receive full funding and access to Data Tamasha Africa 2026, including travel and accommodation support to attend Data Tamasha Africa 2026 in Zanzibar. Co-authorship credit in event documentation, reports, and public communications.

Beyond the practicalities, Curators gain the rare opportunity to shape one of Africa's most influential data and technology gatherings, contributing to a programme that centres community voice, feminist principles, and African innovation at the highest level.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit the following to info@pollicy.org with the subject line Application: Data Tamasha Africa 2026 Curator by 24th April 2026:

- A CV or brief professional biography
- A brief letter of interest showing your relevant expertise or community connections, and why you want to curate at Data Tamasha Africa 2026.

Applications from anywhere in Africa, especially women, gender-diverse individuals, people with disabilities, and applicants from underrepresented regions, are strongly encouraged.

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