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# PRESS RELEASE

## Black-led Afrofuturistic Project Awarded Top Grant to Attend Burning Man 2023

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**Lagos, Nigeria - April 30:** The Star Kingdom of Oba, an Afrofuturism art installation inspired by the Ancient Benin Empire, has been awarded the maximum honorarium grant to showcase at Burning Man in 2023. This project aims to explore the intersection of arguably the most illustrious of the African Kingdoms with an emphasis on cosmology, magic, afro-futurism, and technology to create a unique and innovative artistic experience.

The Star Kingdom of Oba will celebrate the origins of humanity and the inter-species connection between man and animal. It is marked by nine distinct archways representing the nine main gateways into Ancient Benin. The project will cost US\$150,000 to bring to life and has recently launched its large-scale fundraising campaign.

This installation is backed by a team of three black creators - two of Nigerian descent and one African American - that bring a unique worldview and cultural richness to the project. It is also powered by ARTlunknown. which is a creative multidisciplinary agency that focuses on unconventional art that amplifies black voices globally.

"We are thrilled to have been awarded this grant and to have the opportunity to showcase at Burning Man 2023," said **Nigerian lead artist, Dipo Doherty**. "This project is not only about bringing Africa to the playa but also about uniting us in connection through understanding our shared humanity and recognizing our common ancestry across continents. It evokes recognition of ourselves as part of an intertwined global community."

"The SKO team is excited to be a part of the Burning Man community and to contribute to its mission of promoting radical self-expression and creative collaboration," said **Tayler Ava Friar, Creative Director and founder of ARTlunknown**. "With the grant awarded, the team is eager to create an immersive and thought-provoking experience that highlights the rich history and cultural contributions of Africa and people of the diaspora."

"Black art at Burning Man is not only an expression of creativity, but it is also a powerful statement of representation and visibility," said **Chief Financial Officer of Star Kingdom of Oba Jackie Omotalade**. "It is an opportunity to showcase the diversity and depth of black culture, challenge stereotypes, and promote a more inclusive and equitable society."

### About the Burning Man Event in Black Rock City

Burning Man in Black Rock City takes place annually in Northern Nevada's Black Rock Desert, the largest dry lakebed or 'playa' in North America. Black Rock City is not a festival. It is a temporary city, created by and for event participants. There are no spectators; Black Rock City does not book acts or provide entertainment. As a decommodified event, there are no corporate sponsors.

The 2023 Burning Man theme is Animalia. Black Rock City 2023 will take place Sunday, August 27 to Monday, September 04, 2023. Learn about Black Rock City 2023.

For more information about The Star Kingdom of Oba visit [www.artunknown.org/2023project](http://www.artunknown.org/2023project)

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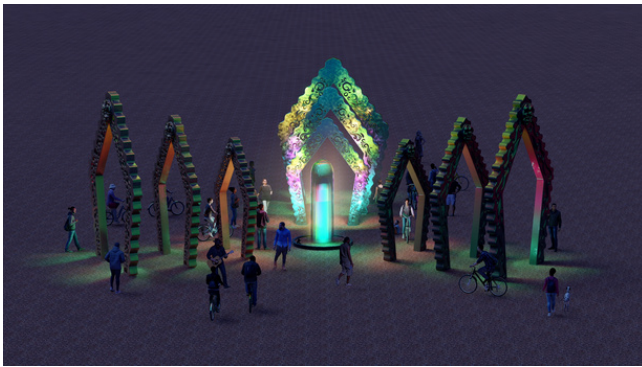


# PRESS IMAGES

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Images may be used only by accredited media in coverage of The Star Kingdom of Oba, ARTlunknown. and announcements as specified. Press requests for information, images, and interview opportunities can be directed to Tayler Ava Friar at +1(510)910-7881 or [info@artunknown.org](mailto:info@artunknown.org).

## Installation Views



Birds eye view by night



Ground level view by night

## Brand Logo



Ground level view by day

 @thestar kingdom of oba

 <https://igg.me/at/sko>

 [www.artunknown.org/2023projects](http://www.artunknown.org/2023projects)

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