



IKÚ BÀBÁ YÈYÈ ALÁÀFIN OF ÒYÓ

20th April, 2026

Ms. Sonia Aimy,
The Executive Producer
Reconnect Festival
5144 Victoria Avenue Niagara Falls
Ontario L2E 4E3 Canada

Dear Sonia,

RE: PATRONAGE FOR RECONNECT FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION IN CANADA

I write to acknowledge, with sincere appreciation, your thoughtful letter dated 16th April 2026, and to commend the vision, depth, and cultural significance embodied in the proposed Reconnect Festival and its accompanying Canada celebration.

It is with great interest that I have received your request for my patronage of this noble initiative. The concept of fostering unity between Nigerians at home and in the diaspora, while strengthening cultural identity and global collaboration, resonates deeply with the enduring values of the Oyo Empire and the Yoruba people at large. Your articulation of the festival as a bridge between heritage and modernity reflects a forward-thinking approach that honors tradition while embracing the future.

I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis on cultural preservation, youth education, and cross-border engagement. Initiatives such as scholarship programs, mentorship opportunities, and platforms for artistic and entrepreneurial expression are vital in shaping a generation that remains rooted in its heritage while contributing meaningfully to the global community.

The proposed Canada celebration, aimed at deepening ties with the African diaspora and fostering cultural diplomacy, is equally commendable. Such engagements not only strengthen identity and belonging but also serve as instruments of peace, understanding, and shared progress among nations.

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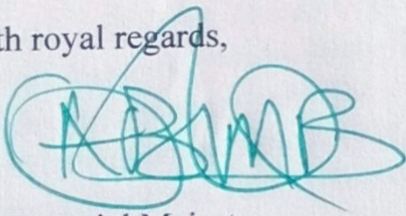
While I am honored by your invitation to serve as Patron of the Reconnect Festival, I consider it important that due diligence be undertaken to ensure that the vision, structure, and execution of this initiative align with the values and standards of the throne. To this end, I am open to further discussions with your organizing committee to review the detailed framework, including program structure, partnerships, logistics, and protocol arrangements for both the Nigeria and Canada events.

Kindly liaise with my office to schedule a suitable time for a formal meeting, where these matters can be explored comprehensively. My council and I will be pleased to receive your detailed proposals and engage constructively toward a mutually beneficial outcome.

Let me conclude by appreciating your dedication to promoting Yoruba culture and strengthening the bonds of our global community. Initiatives such as yours are essential in preserving our legacy while projecting it onto the world stage with dignity and pride.

May your efforts continue to be guided by wisdom and excellence.

With royal regards,



His Imperial Majesty,
Iku Baba Yeye
Oba Abimbola Akeem Owoade I
The Alaafin of Oyo Empire