

What is Café RETRO Kigali?

Background

Café RETRO Kigali is an innovative development project, which will use donated funds to generate sustainable revenue for years to come. By donating to Café RETRO Kigali, you will provide the foundation of a continual revenue source to fund all of Root Foundation's work with street children in Kigali! We'll explain more below:

Root Foundation, the Rwandan partner organization

Root Foundation is a 100% volunteer-run, locally founded NGO based in Kigali, Rwanda. They work with street children and youth through a variety of educational programmes that provide them with skills to help them thrive in school and also raise their self esteem and enrich their personal lives.



Since 2014, Root Foundation has created and implemented a successful range of outreach and educational programmes. Their current focus is to expand their programmes to further neighborhoods, while also developing a job training programme within their organization. Café Retro Kigali will provide income and job training opportunities to fulfill both of those goals.

RETRO, the Danish partner organization



RETRO Association has been running volunteer based, non-profit cafés in Copenhagen, Denmark since 2005 ([Café Retro](#); [Retro Nørrebro](#)). Nearly all functions in the café, apart from administration and part-time management, are done by volunteers- and all profit from the cafés has been donated to development projects in Africa. Now, we will go one step further and help a partner organization open their own non-profit café.

In September 2015, Patrick Kiruhura, the director of Root Foundation in Kigali, Rwanda, visited Retro in Copenhagen. He saw the potential for community development and project funding in the non-profit cafés, and pitched the idea for RETRO to partner with Root Foundation in opening a similar café in Kigali. Retro has also visited Root Foundation in Kigali, and is thoroughly impressed with their work, dedication and kindness.

Café Retro Kigali

The café will have three primary functions, as described below:

Fundraising:

Through careful analysis and conservative estimation, we expect Café Retro Kigali to raise at least 20.000 USD per year, which will directly fund Root Foundation's work with youth and street children. (Any donation towards the 15,000 USD needed to establish the café is actually like making a recurring donation each year!)

Job training:

In addition to providing income for Root Foundation's programmes, Café Retro Kigali will provide job training opportunities for the older street children within Root Foundation.

Hospitality is a growing business in Kigali, and the government is focused on improving both Kigali and Rwanda as tourist destinations. At the same time, the economy is growing steadily, along with the amount of people who want to spend their free time going out for coffee or tea. Café Retro Kigali will meet this growing demand for service-focused skilled labor by training the older children with barista skills, along with general service, management, and cash-management skills that will be relevant in any bar or restaurant.

Cultural hub:

Kigali has a vibrant community of musicians and visual artists, but no real venues for live music and exhibitions. The goal is to eventually have live music every week and invite artist from neighboring areas and countries to perform at the café. There will be art exhibitions, music, dance and theater performances, and other opportunities for sharing creative endeavors within the space. Café Retro Kigali will also add rehearsal rooms for musicians, art studios and classroom facilities in order to create a dynamic cultural hub alongside the café. In addition to creative activities, there will be cultural events for Rwandans and non-Rwandans to meet through language exchange, relevant lectures and games. Previous experience in Copenhagen has shown that these volunteer-run cafés are ideal spaces to foster the exchange of culture and creativity, due to the relaxed atmosphere and sense of ownership created by the volunteer community.

Summary

Café Retro Kigali strives to create space for all people to meet and interact in meaningful ways, while giving back to their community at the same time. A space where marginalized youth can receive professional training to help them find stable jobs, by joining a team of active, socially-aware volunteers from Kigali and abroad. By creating this volunteer-run café serving sustainable coffee, food and drink while giving back to society, we strive to create a lively and collaborative force for good in Kigali.



Budget

You can find our establishing budget below.

We truly appreciate any donation you are able to contribute!

The RETRO Kigali team,

Patrick, Muragwa, Paul, Molly, Peter, Maya, Regitze and many others.

Establishing budget - Café RETRO Kigali

Expenses (USD):

Expenses	Note	Amount
Equipment - bar	1)	6.000
Equipment - kitchen	2)	4.000
Deposit - premises	3)	7.200
Rent - first six months	4)	7.200
Small purchases	5)	1.500
Total		25.900
Financing		
Private donations		15.000
Public funding		7.500
Own funding		3.400
Total		25.900

Notes:

General note: We will buy everything for the café as cheaply as possible and if any funds raised are not spent on establishing the café, they will be donated on to Root Foundation's work with street children and youth in Kigali.

- 1) E.g. espresso machine, ice machine, dish washer, fridges, tables, chairs, etc. - the final level of equipment will also depend on funds available. We can e.g. start up without espresso machine, while a fridge would be indispensable in a hot climate like in Kigali.
- 2) Stove, fridges, freezers, oven, etc. - as with the bar, the menu can be adjusted according to the level of equipment we have funds to purchase. The better equipped, the better chance of success.
- 3) Based on research in Kigali we expect a rent level of 1,200 USD per month. We expect to pay a deposit of 6 months rent.
- 4) We know that many things can be delayed starting a business - not least based on volunteer workforce. Having the funds to pay the first six months of rent will give us a buffer that will possibly be necessary before the business is up and running and able to cover the first six months of operation.
- 5) Cups, plates, cutlery, etc, etc. There's always a lot of stuff needed when starting a business.

