

Empowering the Future of D. R. Congo Creatives

WEBE MAYO BOYELE LIONEL, Cohort 54 - DRC

Founded “StandOut®” in 2017 a clothing line that promotes the mindset of standing out with more than 3000 items sold to date.

In 2020 he created “African Astronauts” a community that plays a role in the Congolese community whereby creatives are grouped and promote their talents to create an ecosystem of great thinkers that aren't limited by the challenges that come from being in a third-world country.

In 2023 Lionel founded “Young Congolese Thinker” a project in partnership with a YALI Alumni alumni whereby helping the Congolese community by doing community service in educational in DRC.



The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center is spearheading a significant transformation in the center of East Africa. Young leaders from many backgrounds come together at its hub to start a journey that has the potential to change lives. Meet Lionel, a unique person from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who melds in perfectly with YALI's lively personality. To foster an ecosystem of brilliant minds unrestricted by the difficulties of living in a third-world nation, he founded "African Astronauts," a community that serves the Congolese community by uniting creatives and fostering their abilities.

Lionel, facing challenges in growing his firm, enrolled in the YALI program in search of advice. Through the immersion experience, he was introduced to cutting-edge management techniques, dynamic leadership ideas, and a community of visionaries who shared his values. Equipped with a mentorship program and practical instruction. Lionel, not only rejuvenated his perspectives on business and civic involvement but also turned into a driving force behind community development.

Motivated by YALI's focus on the influence on society, In Kinshasa, Lionel African Astronaut's Hub will function as a fruitful center for creatives seeking financial support and networking opportunities. He will be employing sustainable business techniques, generating employment, and empowering local children with his newly acquired skills. Beyond the financial sphere, the ripple effect strengthened the community's resilience and sense of pride.

Lionel's narrative will reflect the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa's wider influence as a center that cultivates aspirations, sharpens talents and produces future-shaping leaders. After the YALI training, Lionel is utilizing the vast network and rich leadership experience and skills to advance his efforts to map the Democratic Republic of the Congo.