rethink africa
a celebration of and with yale world fellows from across the globe, highlighting revolutions in african art and culture.

panel | food | drink | tours

with special guests:

lai yahaya,
2013 yale world fellow

boima tucker,
okayafirica/africa is a country

gbenga akinnagbe,
the wire/liberated people

ginny suss and vanessa wruble,
okayafirica

bibi bakare-yusuf,
cassava republic press/2012 yale world fellow

with music by dj chief boima
Yale World Fellows

Thank you for joining us for a celebration of Yale World Fellows from across the globe. We’ll start off the party with an “unpanel” panel - a set of mini-performances by six people (including two Yale World Fellows) working to upend assumptions about the African continent. Around 6 we’ll head to the lobby for food, drink, a video booth and gallery tours (starting 6:30 and 7pm).

Presenter bios below. Enjoy.

Gbenga Akinnagbe is an actor best known for his roles on HBO’s *The Wire* and USA’s *Graceland*. He has contributed to both the *New York Times* and *Huffington Post Live*. Gbenga is a global activist and founder of *Liberated People*, an apparel company aimed at inspiring action for social change.

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf is a 2012 Yale World Fellow and co-founder of *Cassava Republic Press*. The publishing house presents stories written by and for Africans in an effort to develop a deep culture of reading across the continent, and to help transform the continent by producing alternative narratives and knowledge. *Cassava* believes contemporary African prose should be rooted in African experience in all its diversity - whether set in filthy-yet-sexy megacities or in little known rural communities, in the past or the near future.

Ginny Suss is co-founder and co-president of *OkayAfrica*, the largest US based website focusing on new and progressive music, art, politics and culture from the African continent. She is also the vice president of *OkayPlayer* (*OkayAfrica*’s sister site), *The Roots*’ web company and an online hub focusing on urban American left-of-center music, politics, arts and lifestyles. Additionally, she works on the management team for *The Roots*, the house band for late night with Jimmy Fallon.

Boima Tucker is a Sierra Leonean-American electronic musician, DJ, writer, and outspoken advocate for the cutting-edge digital music cultures coming out of many parts of the world today. His travel experiences and global music expertise launched a writing career - he’s contributed to various music and culture online and print publications including *OkayAfrica*, *Ghetto Bassquake*, *Africa Is A Country* and *The Fader* magazine. Boima continues to be inspired by the parties he knew growing up in a close knit African immigrant community in the United States.

Vanessa Wruble is co-founder and co-president of *OkayAfrica*. Previously she was a communications specialist for the United Nations Development Program, wrote several *Lonely Planet* guides to countries in Africa, was a correspondent and producer for *Current TV*, and worked on women’s issues in media as an *Echoing Green* fellow. She works closely with the estate of Nigerian musical legend and political revolutionary Fela Kuti.

Lai Yahaya is a 2013 Yale World Fellow and a lawyer, development economist, policy entrepreneur and passionate advocate for the arts. In his abundant free time, he serves as team leader of the *Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reform (Foster)*, a program pushing for greater transparency and accountability in the Nigerian oil sector.