

UMU IGBO UNITE

IMPACT

REPORT

2025



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Dear UIU Family,

2025 has been a transformative year for Umu Igbo Unite, one defined by bold leadership, record-breaking engagement, and a deeper commitment to building a legacy rooted in **community, culture, and purpose**.

We ended 2024 with intention, executing a thoughtful restructuring of our leadership team, and ushering in dynamic, community-centered leaders across our Advisory Board and Executive Leadership Team. This change was not simply organizational, it was about aligning who we are with where we are going. The result: a stronger, more unified UIU prepared to lead our people into the future. That momentum set the tone for one of our most impactful years yet.

In August, we **celebrated our 21st Annual Convention in Dallas, TX**, themed Maka Obodo Anyi - For the Growth of Our Community. This convention drew over 2,000 attendees, our largest gathering in UIU history and served as both a homecoming and a launchpad for what's next.

Highlights included:

- The **UIUTalk Series**, featuring thought leaders like Oji Udezue and Onyeka Nchegu, culminating in an unforgettable fireside chat with Emmy Award-winning actress Uzo Aduba, which I had the privilege of moderating.
- Our UIU Pitch Competition, powered by our Tech Team, awarded \$10,000 to Juzogo Technologies, a decentralized, AI-powered ride-hailing marketplace giving drivers full control and 100% of their earnings. Riders enjoy transparent pricing and flexible ride options, reclaiming fairness, freedom, and choice.
- The Umuada Women's Circle and Umunna Men's Forum deepened engagement across age, gender and cultural discussions, mentorship and guidance.

Beyond the convention, our movement stretched wider and deeper. Our programming expanded across local chapters, national initiatives, and the homeland:

- **Chapters** hosted professional summits, family days, cultural galas, and service projects that reinforced the strength of grassroots leadership.
- **UIU Connects** launched strategic business, professional and career development partnerships, providing members with mentorship and certification programs.
- **UIUCares** continued its life-changing work across Nigeria funding school renovations, apprenticeships, hygiene education, and economic empowerment for hundreds of individuals and families.
- **UIU Teen** designed to nurture the next generation of Igbo leaders. The program empowers teens ages 13 – 18 to embrace their cultural identity, develop leadership skills, and build community across the diaspora.
- **UIU Business Incorporated** registered the for-profit arm of UIU to generate revenue through business ventures such as travel and cultural services, using proceeds to support UIU's nonprofit mission while creating sustainable growth opportunities.
- We introduced our first official international chapter - **UIU Toronto!**

Through our chapters in every region and across every initiative, we doubled down on our commitment to building a connected, thriving Igbo diaspora, one that is empowered, unified, and equipped for generational impact.

As we look ahead to 2026, I invite you to join us in **Chicago for the 22nd Annual UIU Convention**, a celebration of vision, legacy, and elevation. But even more than that, I invite you to stay rooted in the mission. Whether you serve on the national team, lead a chapter, mentor a teen, donate to UIUCares, sponsor an event, or show up in your full Igbo pride, **WE NEED YOU!**

Together, we are preserving culture, empowering community, and shaping the future. And we're just getting started.

Igbo ga-adi!

With pride and purpose,

Ijeoma Anadu Okoli, Co-Founder & CEO

Impact By The Numbers

150+

Impactful workshops, classes, and development events focused on leadership, professional advancement, financial literacy, and cultural preservation.

16

Company Sponsorships

10

Philanthropic initiatives and programs south eastern Nigeria

01

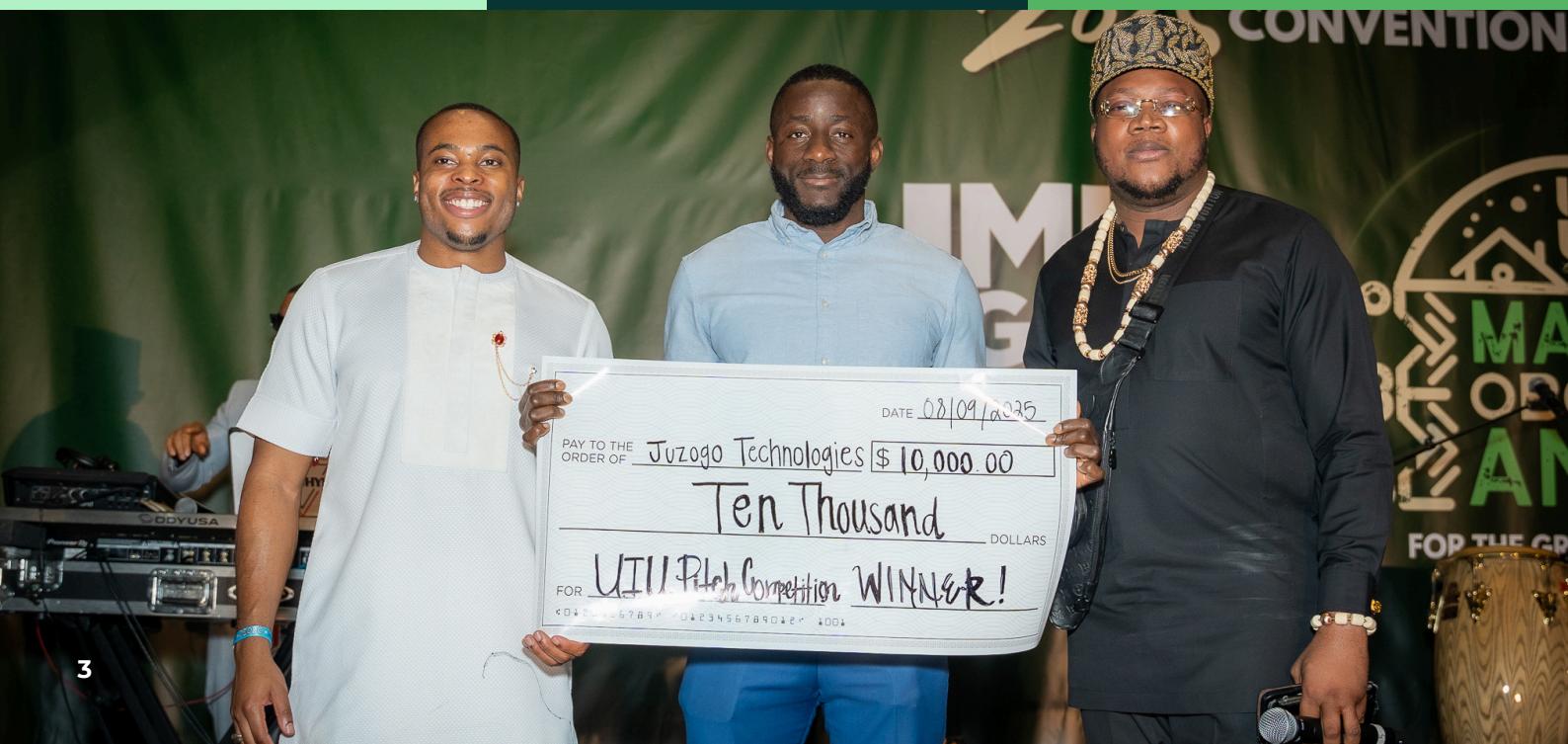
Chapter in Canada

01

Successful annual convention in Dallas, Texas

03

New established revenue streams



This year's 21st Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention welcomed over 2,000 attendees to Dallas, TX; our largest turnout to date. Professionals, students, cultural leaders, and community members from around the world gathered to celebrate 21 years of UIU's impact.

We remain intentional about selecting top-tier cities across North America that offer strong cultural appeal and locations our members are excited to travel to and explore.

The 2025 Convention theme, "**Maka Obodo Anyi – For the Growth of Our Community**," guided programming and experiences focused on empowerment, professional development, and cultural preservation.



Empowering Conversations and Insightful Panels

The convention's programming focused on high-value professional development and critical diaspora issues, featuring accomplished speakers and industry leaders.

- **Executive & Corporate Leadership:** We began with the highly anticipated session, "Breaking Barriers, Building Empires: African Leadership in Corporate and Entrepreneurial Spaces," which celebrated leaders who have shattered glass ceilings. Featured speakers included **Ijeoma Emeka (Senior Vice President, Bank of America), Elton Ndoma-Ogar (Managing Director, AlixPartners), Rosemary Osondu (Founder & CEO, Rose Style Studio), and Dr. Ijeoma Nwankpa (Physical Therapist Founder & CEP, COPE PT).**
- **Founder Development:** Finalists received exclusive private coaching in the session, "Building Investable Startups: Insights for Early-Stage Founders," led by experts like **Triet Nguyen of Render Capital and Brittani Hunter of The Mogul Millennial.**
- **Creative Income Strategies:** The panel "From Passion to Paycheck: Real Strategies for Creative Income" empowered attendees with actionable steps to monetize their passions. Panelists included **Oluchi Madubuike (Most Beautiful Girl Nigeria '21/Lifestyle Entrepreneur) and Afrobeat Artist, Emma Nyra.**
- **Keynote Sessions:** Attendees also benefited from the powerful UIUTalk session, which featured **Onyeka Nchege, Oji Udezue and Uzo Aduba.**

Cultural Engagement and Community Impact

The convention reinforced our mission of unity and cultural preservation through dedicated events and community-focused initiatives.

- **Mental Health & Identity:** The session "Unpacking the Pressure: Navigating the Igbo Identity, family expectations, and success" brought together mental health experts and community voices to discuss cultural well-being. Panelists included **Dr. Peace Amadi, Crystal Akunne (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner), and Dr. Ikenna Achebe (Mental Health Matters Global).**
- **Cultural Forums:** Traditional meetings were held with a modern focus, including Umuada (August Meeting for Women) and the Umunna Meeting. The Umunna meeting focused on reinforcing connections, discussing urgent issues, and investment in Igboland.
- **Health Partnership:** The UIUCares Health Corner, sponsored by Novant Health, offered a "Wellness is Wealth" experience, providing vital checks (blood pressure and glucose levels) and "Ask the Doc" sessions to help attendees navigate the U.S. healthcare system.
- **Heritage Education:** The interactive "Ego Na-Ekwu Okwu! - Igbo Game Show" tested language skills with over \$200 in prizes and included a cultural presentation titled "Igbo States and Your Identity".
- **Heritage Preservation:** The important conversations held during the session, with panelists **Ezinne Udezue, Emeka Afigbo, Ugochi Owo and moderated by Kennedy Ezumah and Chinekwu Oksakwe** - Preserving Igbo Stories in the Digital Age, were sponsored by My Native Tree.
- **Cultural Celebration:** Major social highlights included the "Uto Ndu! Celebrating the Sweet Threads of Our Heritage: A UIU Fashion Show" and the high-energy "Young, Rich & Igbo: The Concert & After Party". This year's concert featured renowned Afrobeat artist **Crayon** and a surprise performance from **Dr. Sid**.
- **Community Bonds:** The convention also featured social gatherings including the "Dallas Welcomes You! Umu Igbo N'Abia! Happy Hour" and a Block Party.

With record-breaking, well-attended sessions, the convention was an unmissable experience that reflected the enthusiasm and commitment of our vibrant community. From enlightening panel discussions to exhilarating performances, participants were a part of the excitement, the unity, and the unforgettable memories we created together.

This incredible opportunity to celebrate our heritage and connect with fellow Igbo professionals truly underscored UIU's ongoing dedication to fostering unity and empowering Igbo Nigerians in the diaspora.

Interaction Metrics

Attendee app downloads

925

Attendees downloaded the app
86% of the attendee list

Private messages

14,296

Private messages sent
Platform average: 465

Community Board

25,973

Community Board topic posts
Platform average: 381

Photos

405

Photos taken
62 total likes

Attendees added sessions

520

Attendees added sessions to
their personal agenda

Meet-ups

32

Meet-ups created
1,131 attendees participated

Speaker app downloads

74

Speakers downloaded the app
out of 89 convention speakers in total

Umu Igbo Unite's strength is its vibrant and growing network of chapters, which serve as the heartbeat of our organization. With 1,500+ paid members across 14 active chapters (13 in the United States and 1 in Canada), our chapters are the primary force driving our mission.

This year, our chapters executed a strategy focused on three core pillars, delivering over 165+ high-impact events and initiatives for our members and communities.

Our 2024-2025 Impact by the Numbers

Category	Key Accomplishments	
Membership & Reach	1,500+ Paid Members across 14 Chapters in the U.S. and Canada	
Professional	50+ Workshops, Classes, and Development Events	
Cultural	55+ Cultural Activities, Language Classes, and Festivals	
Community	60+ Community Service Events and Volunteer Initiatives	

The following accomplishments underscore the strength of our membership and its commitment to our mission.

Pillar 1: Professional & Economic Empowerment

Our chapters are committed to building generational wealth and securing professional advancement for our members:

- Hosted 50+ high-value workshops, including tech career panels, resume-revamping sessions, and a 3-part financial literacy series on savings, investing, and retirement.
- Facilitated targeted networking events with professional groups and seminars on homeownership and investing.

Pillar 2: Cultural Preservation & Promotion

We are dedicated to celebrating, teaching, and preserving our rich Igbo heritage for the next generation:

- Secured an official Igbo Day Proclamation from a state governor.
- Sustained bi-weekly Igbo language practice groups and virtual classes.
- Hosted high-attendance Annual New Yam (Iri-Ji) Festivals, traditional dance classes, and "Okwu Ndi Igbo" dialogues with community elders.
- Supported cultural advocacy, including dialect coaching for a professional stage play.

Pillar 3: Community Service & Civic Engagement

Our chapters demonstrated a profound commitment to Ndu n'otu (Life in Unity) through 60+ targeted service events.

- **International Impact:** Supported the UIUCares Girls' Health Program, funding and distributing feminine hygiene kits to 72 girls in Anambra State, Nigeria, and in local communities.
- **Civic Leadership:** Collaborated with non-profits to host city-wide candidate forums for local elections.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Created a first-of-its-kind Summer Mentorship Program for Igbo youth and supplied educators with classroom materials.
- **Direct Local Aid:** Volunteered thousands of hours at food banks, Habitat for Humanity, park clean-ups, and Christmas toy drives.

Through the **UIUCares Foundation**, UIU drives sustainable programs that create positive change and expand opportunities for Igbo communities globally. In 2024–2025, the Foundation advanced its mission to restore, educate, empower, and uplift communities across South-Eastern Nigeria, impacting more than 10,000 lives.

Four Pillars of Global Impact

- **Restoration Series:** We renovated classrooms, computer and electronics labs, sanitation blocks, and established libraries across Imo and Anambra States, improving learning environments for 5,800+ students.
- **Education Programs:** Our Back-to-School, Technology, and Scholarship Programs equipped and supported more than 1,400 students across four states. We continued scholarships for 40 secondary school students to fuel academic success.
- **Health Initiatives:** We delivered comprehensive health programming, including malaria prevention, menstrual hygiene education, and eye-care outreach. These initiatives reached over 850 women, girls, and community members, improving health and participation rates.
- **Wealth Creation & Relief:** Our direct relief efforts trained 50 women in entrepreneurship, provided food relief to 250 families, supported 5 artisans through apprenticeships, and fed 2,900 inmates at Christmas.

These collective efforts continue to build healthier, educated, and economically resilient communities throughout Nigeria.



The **Business Development team (UIU Connects)** focuses on creating a robust economic ecosystem that drives commerce back to our community while providing high-value resources and exposure to our partners. We successfully activated several key initiatives this year that generated engagement, revenue, and career growth for our 1,500+ members.

Strategic Initiatives Driving Growth and Exposure

1. UIUConnects Strategic Partnership (ITExperience)

UIUConnects formed a strategic partnership with ITExperience to deliver tangible career benefits. This collaboration provides UIU members with free access to sought-after certification courses and mentorship opportunities through Coursera. This year, 40 members signed up, 15 members successfully completed their certifications, and several participants reported landing job opportunities shortly after completion—demonstrating immediate ROI for career development efforts.

2. AI-Matched Private Dinner (AfroTech)

We strategically partnered with Blavity, Inc. and Cyber Pop-up to sponsor the exclusive AI-Matched Private Dinner: African Diaspora Edition during the AfroTech conference. This high-value networking event leveraged an AI system to curate intimate groups, ensuring meaningful connections. Our involvement demonstrated a commitment to fostering professional advancement and innovation, allowing us to directly engage over 100 high-potential African professionals in the tech and business sectors.

Revenue Generation & Internal Commerce

3. Vendor Relationships & Convention Revenue

We successfully developed and established relationships with entrepreneurs and companies to provide them with prime visibility at our flagship convention. These vendor placements drove significant internal commerce, generating \$15K in revenue during the convention and providing a direct economic benefit to participating businesses. Many vendors reported selling out of their inventory on-site, confirming the high engagement and spending power of our member base.

The **UIU Office of Technology** continued to strengthen the digital backbone of our organization, leading high-impact initiatives that advanced innovation, security, and the member experience. In 2025, the team not only stabilized and modernized our systems, but also led one of UIU's transformative programs to date; the Pitch competition.

UIU Startup Pitch Competition

The Technology Team led the 2025 UIU Startup Pitch Competition, a prominent platform for emerging African founders across the diaspora. This year, finalists received direct 1:1 coaching from industry leaders within the Techstars mentor network. The finals competition judges included **Onyeka Nchegu (SVP & CIO, Novant Health)**, **Dr. Obianuju Okafor (Tech Consultant & Startup Advisor)**, **Ariel Lopez (Founder & CEO, Knac)**, and **Joshua Taylor (Startup Advisor & Investor)**. Their combined mentorship elevated the readiness, storytelling, and investor appeal of each finalist. This year's winner of the \$10,000 cash prize was Oge Okolo - founder of **Juzogo**, a decentralized, driver-owned ride-hailing platform putting 100% of earnings back into drivers' hands.

Since the competition's inception, UIU has awarded over **\$50,000 in non-dilutive funding** to early-stage founders, helping them accelerate their ventures and gain meaningful visibility in the global innovation ecosystem. The competition has become a flagship program showcasing UIU's commitment to economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and the future of African innovation. The competition will be transitioned to the Professional Development team starting 2026.

2025 Accomplishments & Digital Transformation Progress

WhatsApp Community Migration

The team executed a smooth and well-coordinated transition from Workplace to WhatsApp Communities, enabling faster communication, improved accessibility, and a more unified member experience across all chapters.

Decommissioning Legacy Systems

The Technology Team retired the Workplace provisioning workflow and began sunsetting legacy ClubExpress modules, reducing operational complexity and strengthening our long-term digital infrastructure.

WhatsApp Community Help Bot

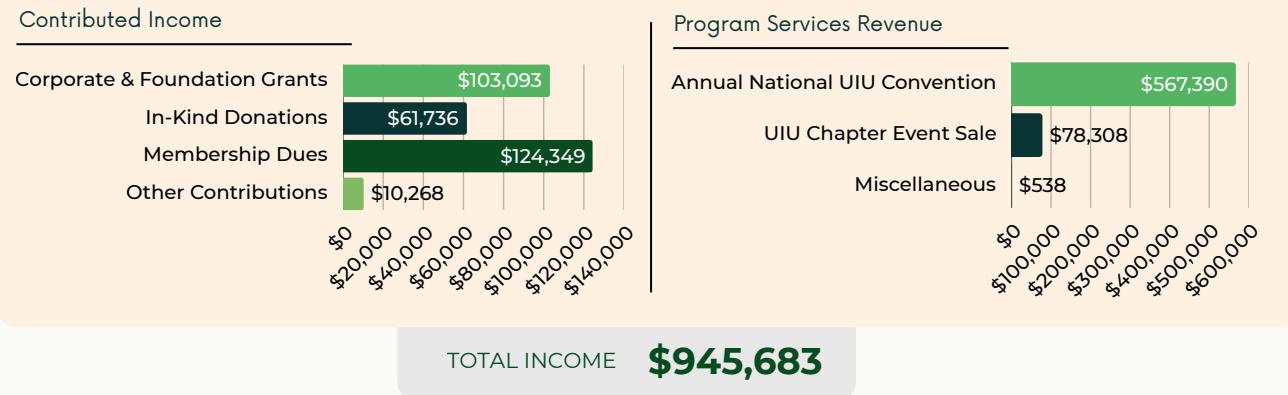
The team completed development of the organization's first help bot, designed to streamline FAQs, support onboarding, and improve the self-service experience for members nationally within the WhatsApp environment. This bot will begin rollout starting Q1 '26.

2026 Outlook

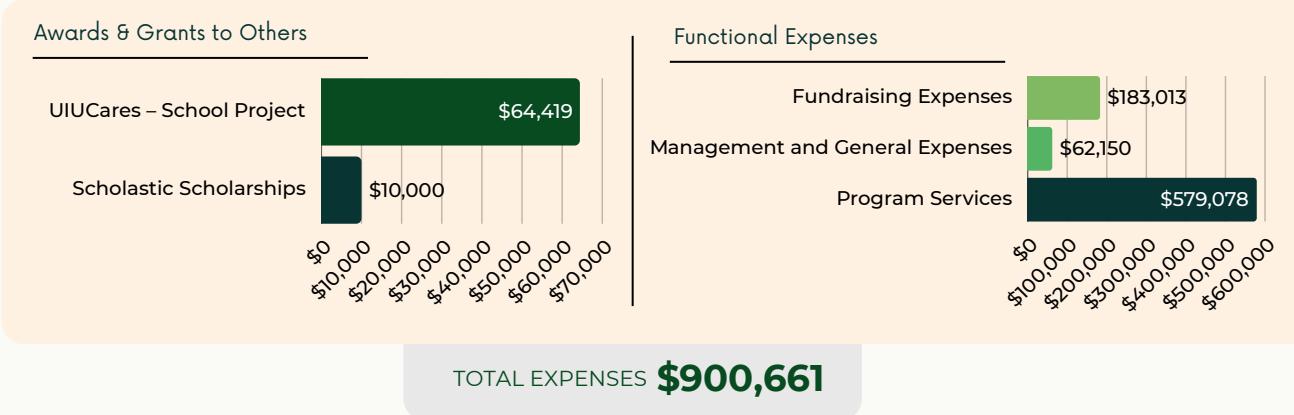
In 2026, the Technology Team will continue strengthening UIU's digital foundation through a focused approach centered on privacy, security, and AI-enabled productivity. Key efforts, amongst others planned, include launching a digital membership card and expanding automation through AI-driven tools across UIU teams.

2025 Year-To-Date Finances

Income:



Expenses:



As of 2025 year-to-date, Umu Igbo Unite has generated \$945,683 in total income, with the majority coming from the Annual UIU Convention and membership dues, along with generous contributions from corporate and foundation partners. Our total expense figure is \$900,661, with the largest share allocated to program services, reinforcing our commitment to cultural preservation, community empowerment, and diaspora engagement.

While this progress is encouraging, continued donor support is essential to sustain and expand our impact. Strategic investments are needed to grow UIUCares programs in Nigeria, advance UIU as an organization, strengthen leadership development, and bring our five-year vision to life. We welcome mission-aligned partners to join us in building a stronger, more connected Igbo community.

Key Sponsors: \$10K+

- **\$10,000 Gwacham 5 Foundation**
- **\$12,000 Angela Nwandum**
- **\$20,000 RRTQ**
- **\$25,000 Novant Health**

Partner with UIU today!

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Looking Ahead

Year	Strategic Focus
2025 - 2026	Strengthen financial oversight and sustainability through diversified revenue, a centralized business resource hub, strategic partnerships (UIU Tourism & UIU Merch), and career mentorship programs.
2027	Enhance efficiency and governance while expanding UIU's influence through digital tools, strategic partnerships and premier positioning for Igbo talent.
2028	Expand UIU globally while advancing career development, scaling the Igbo Language Program, and positioning UIUCares as a leading philanthropic force.
2029	Elevate UIU's global impact through a Cultural and Economic Summit, diaspora investment initiative, strategic Igbo collaborations, and a strengthened digital presence.
2030	Cement UIU's legacy through cultural and economic sustainability, a long-term endowment, global humanitarian impact, and a robust leadership pipeline.



Partnerships & Business Expansion

Infrastructure & Governance Strengthening

Scaling & Global Expansion

Cultural & Economic Powerhouse

Sustained Impact & Legacy



Sponsor Recognition

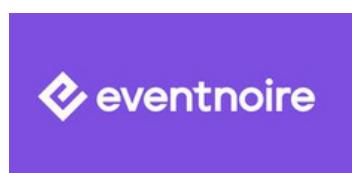
We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed sponsors whose support has been instrumental in our success. Your generous contributions have empowered us to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve. Without your vision and dedication, our important work would not be possible.

Through your sponsorship, we have been able to implement critical initiatives, create meaningful opportunities, and provide much-needed assistance to our community. Your belief in our mission has inspired us to go above and beyond, and we are truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

On behalf of our organization and those whose lives have been positively affected, we express our deepest gratitude. Your commitment to making a difference serves as a beacon of hope, and we are honored to have you as our valued sponsors.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey
towards a brighter future!

2025 Sponsors of Umu Igbo Unite



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Azih



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Kingsley
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Ukaegbu



Oji
Udezue



Onyinye
Igbokwe



Paul
Njoku



Uche
Anadu Ndefo



Ugochi
Owo

Executive Leadership Team



Ijeoma Okoli
Chief Executive Officer



Osi Ibekwe
Chief Operations Officer



Paul Njoku
Chief Finance Officer



Chinedu Okpukpara
Chief Strategy Officer



Kingsley Ufere
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Nnamdi Kanaga
Head of Cultural Preservation



Adaku Onwuzurumba
Head of Community Engagement



Stephanie Acho
Head of Community Engagement

UIU bridges the gap so that we are one

for sponsorship

[click here](#) 

or contact:
sponsorship@umuigbounite.com

2026 National
Convention

August
6th – 9th, 2026

For all other
inquiries

4062 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste A-317
Atlanta, GA, 30319

contact@umuigbounite.com

interact with UIU

www.umuigbounite.com



Umu Igbo Unite is a non-profit 501 c(3) US based organization that consists of a wide range of professionals and college students (21+) of Igbo heritage residing in the US and Canada. Our membership targets people from all parts of the South-Eastern Igbo speaking states of Nigeria including: Abia, Anambra, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Bayelsa, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-River and Rivers states.