

American Spaces Program Highlights

PAS Bujumbura hosts many programs in its network of American spaces: the American Center Bujumbura, the American Corner Kamenge, the American Corner Gitega, the American Shelf Ngozi, and the soon-to-be added Ubuntu American Shelf.



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English Conversation Opportunities.

On February 4 Ambassador Higgins led the weekly Friday English club discussion at the American Corner Kamenge about U.S. Presidents. Embassy personnel and EFMs have been leading the discussions most Fridays on diverse topics such as human rights, health, and sports. The youth present are very interactive and engaged, and Friday attendance has begun to increase to 30 as they get a regular chance to interact with Americans. The Ambassador's visit also received a lot of attention on social media.



AMERICAN SPACES PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Virtual English Discussion Club, Entrepreneurial talk series, American movie screening + discussion, MOOC, English Language learning and Women and girls empowerment, Storytelling for kids, Entrepreneurship sessions, English club, Computer literacy, cultural club, Tuesday for women, Wednesday for Women, Ted Talks and discussion, Educational advising, Alumni engagement through speaker programs and YALI RLC EA chapter Burundi roundtable discussions.

Outreach to high schools in the Central region

On February 14, 2022, Martin Luther King American Corner Gitega conducted an outreach to St. Bernadette Secondary School. The objective was to inform the public about American spaces program opportunities and EducationUSA. Students discovered the existence of AC Gitega Programs and free resources for everyone : books, computers and internet. The Director of this corner, Rosette Butoyi, also motivated them to practice their English and use it every day. She invited girls to participate in program for women scheduled every Tuesday.



American Corner Gitega is open to people of all ages. Below is the English lesson for children aged six to eight. They are learning basic English words such as numbers from one to twenty.



AMERICAN SHELF NGOZI.

On February 13, American Shelf Ngozi held its second day of the English training through the Peace English Club. Trainees are mainly university students. They learned greetings and self-introductions during the first lesson, where they reviewed the English they learned in secondary school.



On January 29, 2022, members of the Kids English Club met at the American Shelf Ngozi for their Saturday club. They learned the months of the year that they successfully mastered through a song. They also watched English cartoons and developed their listening skills through songs. Kids English Club members are from various elementary schools in the surrounding area.



On January 27 the American Center Bujumbura sponsored an interactive program on entrepreneurship via three platforms: the U.S. Embassy Facebook page, Humuriza International TV, and Humuriza FM Radio.

The program featured Mandela Washington Fellow and IVLP Jean Berchmans Siboniyo, who is the founder of an entrepreneurial association called AMEBE, and ILO-certified Guillaume Ndayizigiye, who is the Legal Representative and President of an entrepreneurial training group called AFORGER. They held a joint presentation on the topic “Why Entrepreneurship is not a refuge for the jobless, but a demanding choice”. Four thousand people viewed the discussion.

Virtual participants in AC Gitega

On February 27, Martin Luther King American Corner Gitega organized a viewing party of entrepreneurship for unemployed secondary and university students. The facilitators helped audience understand how to run businesses and encouraged them to never give up. To those who had questions about financing, the trainers advised them to start small and grow bigger. The U.S. Embassy moderator shared a link to existing funding opportunities with the Public Diplomacy Grants Program.





Edutainment event at American Shelf Ngozi

The American Shelf Ngozi organized on January 4, 2022, a guitar show with the theme “Sing Peace and Love”. Talented musicians, including Fulgence, the AS Ngozi Coordinator, entertained AS patrons through English and Kirundi songs. The AS Ngozi coordinator talked to the audience about different educational and cultural opportunities that AS Ngozi offers, mentioning that all of the services are free of charge.