## BENIN’S THREE PALACE SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATED GUILDS

### IWEBO
Personal attendants to the oba, including keepers of the royal wardrobes and regalia, as well as craft and performance guilds

1. Ogbelaka: Dancers and drummers
2. Ogbesasa: Royal shield bearers
3. Igun eronmwen: Brass casters
4. Igun ematon: Blacksmiths
5. Igbesanmwan: Ivory and wood carvers
6. Avbiogbe: Town criers or heralds
7. Owina n’ido: Weavers
8. Odonmwan: Ceremonial executioners
9. Ikpemba: Oro dancers
10. Isekpoki: Leather workers
11. Igbuzebu: Royal dancers
12. Iwifenmwen: Archers and manufacturers of arrow poison
13. Iwogun: Keepers of specific shrines
14. Ukhegie: Keepers of specific shrines
15. Iguisi: Secret tasks for the oba
16. Iwoki: Astrologists, meteorologists, and cannoneers
17. Ifieto: Ritual path-clearers
18. Ayiwa: Collectors of river taxes
19. Ogbeta: Gullengers
20. Iyoin: Leather makers
21. Various Guilds:
   - Enisen: Bead makers and royal storekeepers
   - Igbemaba: Drummers
   - Izpeziken: Royal flute players
   - Ikon: Ivory horn blowers
   - Ifieto: Ritual path-clearers

### IWEBUA
Personal attendants to the oba, including keepers of the royal household

1. Isienmwenro: Bodyguards of the oba
2. Eben: Embalmers of deceased obas
3. Ebo/Ewaise: Royal physicians and diviners
4. Ihogbe: Priests and keepers of the shrines of the royal ancestors, court chroniclers
5. Efa: Priests and diviners
6. Emehe: Performers of tranquility- and peace-forging rituals for the royal wives
7. Ahorhan: Ritual land purifiers
8. Evbiemwen: Caretakers of the princes
9. Ikpokpan: Guardians of specific shrines and dancers
10. Oguanogbe: Witch diviners
11. Iwowa: Collectors of river taxes
12. Amufi: Acrobats and eagle hunters
13. Uhunmwidumwun: Guardians of the original site of Benin City
14. Unueru: Keepers of a medicine shrine
15. Idumwun Ivbioto: Keepers of medicines for ritual purification

### IBIWE
Personal attendants to the oba’s wives and children

1. Ivbiemezi: Responsible for health and fertility of the oba’s wives
2. Ogumimwenfo: Ogun priests
3. Ibieriye: Servants of the oba’s wives
4. Iwehiaze: Responsible for specific prayers
5. Iriemila: Custodians of the oba’s cattle
6. Iwenoga: Priests

*Visual artist guilds appear in red type*