

GAUTENG ORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE CENTRES CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Overview

Our work during this period consisted of:

- Working with the Department of Arts and Culture in their vision of the National Federation of Community Arts Centres which included an International SA – European Union Community Art Centre Conference and assisting Provincial groupings with their planning and funding.
- Participating and providing input to the policy workshops on the White Paper
- Mentoring a number of our member groups in particular the Zero to Hero Film Project
- Engaging Local Government in supporting our local arts groupings
- Closing/Starting and Implementing our own funding proposals within the 5 regions of Gauteng

Department of Arts and Culture National Programme

Our involvement in this programme with the Department continued from the previous year.

Over this period we concluded on the 33 events throughout the five regions of Gauteng Province which consisted of initial training workshops that progressed into development festivals. It concluded with testing out the stokveldt concept as a way to improve sustainability in holding more regular arts events in the townships. Except for a few regions the stokveldt concept did not continue after the initial start-up. However DAC through GOMACC were able to expand participants capacity and development within the community arts sector through the development programmes.

In the latter part of this financial year, through further funding from DAC, we progressed to having 4 trainers in 4 districts in each of the five regions of Gauteng totalling 20 interventions over a three month period. In the following financial year this progresses into a further 20 adjudicated workshops in each district. The focus to assess the standard of work achieved amongst the participants.

We continued to collectively assist the National Department of Arts and Culture with the National Federation of Community Art Centres. Last year we managed and processed funding for seven other provinces. This was assisted by our compliance documentation being up to date. However towards the end of the current year the new funding was reduced to 4 Provinces as the remainder were able to manage their own compliance. The funding given to the other Provinces also addressed the same format of development workshops followed by training festivals at a grass roots level giving a chance to those in communities to further participate in the arts.

An International SA – European Union Community Art Centres Conference was hosted at Sibikwa at the end of the financial year bringing the Community Arts Sector together to assist in consolidating the sector. During this conference we were given more time to share with the conference the structure of the National Federation throughout the country and select a task team to take certain matters forward with government on behalf of the sector. The Deputy Minister of COGTA was present and requested DAC and stakeholders prepare a paper to explain the importance of CAC's in the language of COGTA especially in connection and in relation to the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF). They were also tasked to have a meeting with SALGA to share the proposed White Paper and look at policy at the local government level that would assist the arts.

At each of our Annual AGM's we have given our Regional Chairpersons the opportunity to share with the meeting the impact these interventions have made on the communities they represent and to share both the opportunities and challenges they are facing.

White Paper

In order to enable all levels of government to work together and sing from the same song book a series of policy meeting workshops on the White Paper were held nationally in the previous financial year and continued into this period where the paper was further workshopped in time for the September 2017 deadline. It will then be presented and approved by Cabinet during the course of the 2018 year. The legislation is to ensure a collective way forward for the arts. We participated within the Community Arts Sector.

Zero to Hero

We assisted Zero to Hero with the utilisation of their Lottery funding in the previous year which embraced a series of events from school documentary film making, youth days and a cultural festival. In the latter part of the financial year moving into this financial reporting period a youth documentary film programme/competition was implemented and the project concluded.

Makala Structures

We continued our involvement with the various municipal regions with the focus of stimulating more interaction and engagement between our arts bodies and the local structures. In some instances a local office has been provided, in another they would use the local Makala to provide artists to perform at certain functions.

We are hoping the current White Paper may improve these relations and at the upcoming AGM circulate what was tabled.

Other Initiatives

Our Chairperson is serving on the Board of the National Arts Council and also serves on its Executive Committee. He is appointed as the Chairperson of the Provincial Arts Councils and represents chairpersons from all Provinces on the Executive Committee. With his many years of experience in the arts he is able to share his knowledge within the NAC. He also participated in the UNESCO Quadrennial Periodic Report.

Funding

We continue to be supported by the Department of Arts and Culture in our development outreach programmes throughout the province and the country. There were delays in this current period in processing our application due to DAC moving offices and changes in management. Funds were received in the latter part of the year.

Our 2015 application to the Lottery received no response, together with many other organisations. There was a change from the National Lotteries Board to the new National Lotteries Commission in the past period. We understand they have focussed on the smaller Provinces first before considering the larger Provinces. Even though Gauteng carries a large population from all over South Africa we are still waiting our turn. This is unfortunate for development programmes as the stop start approach does not assist continuity. We understand that they may be now open for further proposals which we will test in the coming months.

Our Thanks

Our funding and thanks received this year was from the Department of Arts and Culture. The funding for Gauteng and certain Provinces was to support the Department to work towards their vision of a National Federation of Community Art Centres and to enhance arts on the ground throughout the country.

Our thanks to the Lottery where we assisted Zero to Hero to manage their Lottery funding and programming.

We sincerely wish to thank all those people who have worked with us in the development of the arts during this financial year as we continue to move forward.