



ARTS AND CULTURE

With its rich and diverse roots, South Africa boasts a colourful array of arts and culture that includes, among other things, craft, dance, literature, music, architecture, theatre and visual arts. This unique heritage plays a significant role in social regeneration, unity and reconciliation.

ARTS AND CULTURE

As South Africa prepares to welcome guests to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, there will be a focus on sharing the country's arts and culture with visitors and creating a legacy for the future.

The Department of Arts and Culture is tasked with creating an environment conducive to the growth, development and flowering of South Africa's arts, culture and heritage landscape.

Arts and culture initiatives Investing in Culture

Investing in Culture is the department's flagship programme to eradicate poverty, providing the necessary skills to enable people to assume greater responsibility for their future.

The Department of Arts and Culture has, through the Investing in Culture Programme, funded and supported 394 projects to the value of R285 million since 2005.

About 10 938 beneficiaries were provided with job opportunities primarily in the craft sector. About 45% of jobs were created for women, 39% for youth and 4% for people living with disabilities.

Other initiatives include:

- Indigenous Music and Oral History Project
- Heritage Month celebrations
- Mosadi wa Konokono (Woman of Substance)
- Youth in Arts
- Artists in Schools Project
- Art in Correctional Facilities Programme.

National Coat of Arms

South Africa's coat of arms was adopted in 2000.

Symbolism

Rising sun: a life-giving force

Protea: beauty and the flowering of the nation

Ears of wheat: fertility of the land

Elephant tusks: wisdom, steadfastness and strength

Knobkierie and spear: defence of peace

Drum: love of culture

The motto, *!Ke e:/xarra//ke*, written in the Khoisan language of the !Xam people, means "diverse people unite".



Legacy projects

Monuments, museums, plaques, outdoor art, heritage trails and other symbolic representations create visible reminders of, and commemorate, the many aspects of South Africa's past.

Government has initiated several national legacy projects to establish commemorative symbols of South Africa's history and celebrate its heritage.

The legacy projects include the:

- Women's Monument
- Chief Albert Luthuli's house in KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal
- Battle of Blood River/Ncome Project
- Samora Machel Project
- Nelson Mandela Museum
- Constitution Hill Project
- Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance
- Khoisan Legacy Project
- Freedom Park Project
- Dulcie September Legacy Project
- 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Legacy Project.

Other projects underway are the 1981 Matola Raid Memorial in Maputo, Mozambique; the rehabilitation and development of the Lock Street women's prison in East London into a museum; the development of the former apartheid state security site Vlakplaas into a heritage memorial site; and the OR Tambo Memorial Project in Bizana in the Eastern Cape.

In July 2009, South African opera singer Pretty Yende (24) achieved a world-first by taking home all the main prizes in the prestigious International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Vienna, Austria. This University of Cape Town School of Music graduate won the first prize in the Opera and Operatta categories and took home the Audience Prize as well as the International Media-Jury Prize. She also won seven special prizes, which are sponsored by the jurors and donors.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and culture organisations

The following organisations play an active role in preserving and promoting South Africa's arts and culture:

- National Heritage Council
- South African Heritage Resources Agency
- South African Geographical Names Council
- National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC)
- arts institutions such as the State Theatre in Pretoria, Playhouse Company in Durban, Artscape in Cape Town, Market Theatre in Johannesburg, Performing Arts Centre of the Free State in Bloemfontein and the Windybrow Theatre in Johannesburg
- Business and Arts South Africa
- Arts and Culture Trust.

Cultural industries

The Cultural Industries Growth Strategy capitalises on the economic potential of the craft, music, film, publishing and design industries. The Department of Arts and Culture provides support in the form of financing, management capacity, advocacy and networking, and by developing public-private partnerships and other initiatives that use culture as a tool for urban regeneration.

Cultural tourism

Cultural festivals, African-cuisine projects, cultural villages, heritage routes and story-telling are areas that can benefit from South Africa's booming tourism industry.

Arts festivals

The Department of Arts and Culture provides financial support to various arts and culture festivals.

The National Arts Festival, held annually in July in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, is one of the largest and most diverse arts gatherings in Africa.

In 2010, the festival will be extended to cater for soccer fans visiting the Eastern Cape for the Soccer World Cup.

Other major festivals are held in Oudtshoorn, Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein.

In August 2009, *District 9*, a space alien movie shot and set in Johannesburg with a cast of “unknowns”, opened as Hollywood’s number one film in the United States of America, grossing more at the box office in its first weekend than it cost to make. The film was directed and co-written by South African Neill Blomkamp. It was nominated for four Academy Awards in February 2010.



Theatre

South African theatre is internationally acclaimed as being unique and of top quality.

The theatre scene in South Africa is vibrant, with many active spaces across the country offering everything from indigenous drama, music, dance, cabaret and satire, to West End and Broadway hits, classical music, opera and ballet.

In recent years, South African theatre has taken the entertainment world by storm with commendable reviews for *Umoja*, *The Lion King* and *Kat and The Kings*. The reception these productions receive in capitals of the world testifies to the high quality of indigenous South African theatre.

Music

While local music styles such as South African jazz have influenced African and world music for decades, gospel and kwaito are the most popular and most recorded styles today.

Kwaito combines elements of rap, reggae, hip-hop and other styles into a distinctly South African sound.

Kwaai Jazz is gaining popularity.

Orchestras

The NAC is responsible for funding the KwaZulu-Natal, Cape and Gauteng orchestras as well as the Cape Town Jazz Orchestra.

Dance

South African dance is unique in its vitality and energy. More and more South African dance companies, individual dancers and choreographers are being invited to perform at festivals throughout Europe, Australia and the United States of America.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Contemporary work ranges from normal preconceptions of movement and performance art or performance theatre, to the completely unconventional. Added to this is the African experience, which includes traditional dance inspired by wedding ceremonies, battles, rituals and everyday life.

The Dance Factory in Johannesburg provides a permanent platform for all kinds of dance and movement groups, while the Wits (University) Theatre is home to the annual Dance Umbrella, a showcase for new work.

The Cape Town City Ballet is the oldest ballet company in the country.

Visual arts

Art galleries in South Africa's major cities (such as the Durban Art Gallery in KwaZulu-Natal; the Johannesburg Art Gallery in Gauteng; the South African National Gallery in Cape Town; and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape) display collections of indigenous, historical and contemporary work.

Universities also play an important role in acquiring artwork of national interest.

These include collections housed in the Gertrude Posel Gallery of the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of South Africa Gallery in Pretoria, the Edoardo Villa Museum and other galleries at the University of Pretoria, and a collection of contemporary Indian art at the University of Durban-Westville.

Crafts

The craft industry has been identified as a strategic sector for the economic upliftment of South Africans. The crafts industry has the potential to create meaningful jobs and the Department of Arts and Culture has begun to consolidate the marketing and distri-

Izulu Lami, meaning "my secret sky" in Zulu, a feature film directed by South Africa's Madoda Ncayiyana, received the Dikalo Best Feature Film Prize at the International Pan-African Film Festival, held in Cannes, France, in April 2009. The 11-year-old Sobahle Mkhabase of KwaZulu-Natal won the Best Actress Award at the Tarifa Festival in Spain for her role in the film.



By mid-2009, the Cape Town Film Studios were under construction near Khayelitsha. The studios, hailed as the industrialisation of film-making in the country, could have positive spin-offs for other industries.



The goal is for the Cape Town Film Studios to become the film-making gateway between Africa and the international world.

The studios received a R16,3-million allocation from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Phase One, which includes sound stages, production offices, workshops, retail spaces, commercial offices and light industrial facilities was scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2010.

Cape Town Film Studios are the first custom-built, Hollywood-style studios in South Africa's history.

bution of South African products to international markets such as Art Mundi in Brazil.

In 2009, the department established the annual National Craft Awards where 60 crafters across the nine provinces were recognised and awarded prizes for their contribution to craft development.

The Annual Beautiful Things Craft Supermarket continues to provide market access for this young industry. The Department of Arts and Culture Craft Emporium and retail outlets will provide yet another platform for craft development.

Film

Film production is actively supported by government; just one initiative is the Location Film and Television Scheme introduced by the Department of Trade and Industry.

South Africa offers foreign producers world-class film facilitation, logistics, talent and administration-management services.

Television production accounts for more than a third of total film/television revenue, with local-content quotas increasing the demand for programming.

The National Film and Video Foundation develops and promotes the film and video industry in South Africa. It is also involved in the development of projects that appeal to targeted audiences and have greater commercial returns.

ARTS AND CULTURE

In September 2009, JM Coetzee was nominated for the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for his work *Summer-time*. Coetzee won the prize previously for *Lives and Times of Michael K* and *Disgrace*.



Literature

South Africa has a rich history of literary output that has been well received locally and internationally. Fiction is written in all of South Africa's 11 official languages – with a large body of work in Afrikaans, in particular.

The new pop culture in poetry, often referred to as “spoken-word poetry”, is one of the most celebrated art forms throughout the country and beyond. Poets such as Lesego Rampolokeng, Lebogang Mashile, Kgafela oa Magogodi, Blaq Pearl, Jessica Mbangeni and Mark Manaka are household names in the genre. There are regular platforms created to give these poets opportunities to hone their skills.

The current generation of writers is also making its mark on the world stage, with writers such as Zakes Mda, Niq Mhlongo and the late K Sello Duiker having their novels translated into languages such as Dutch, German and Spanish.

The Department of Arts and Culture has launched the Indigenous Literature Publishing Project, aimed at producing a series of publications in different languages, by writers from different backgrounds across South Africa. This project aims to stimulate the growth and development of literature in indigenous languages and generate new readerships. In 2008/09, 24 titles of African classics were reprinted.

Museums

More than 300 of the about 1 000 museums in Africa are in South Africa. The Department of Arts and Culture subsidises most museums, which are otherwise autonomous.

The Cape Town Book Fair broke its own record in 2009 with 50 494 people attending over four days. About 7 190 children visited the fair.



The department pays an annual subsidy to 13 national museums, ensuring the preservation of artefacts and collections that are important to all South Africans.

National Library of South Africa (NLSA)

The NLSA is a custodian and provider of the nation's key knowledge resources. It is mandated by the NLSA Act, 1998 to collect and preserve intellectual documentary heritage material and to make it accessible worldwide. It ensures that knowledge and information are not lost to posterity and are available for future research.

National anthem

The national anthem is a combined version of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* (*God bless Africa*) and *The Call of South Africa* (*Die Stem*).

**Nkosi sikelel' i Afrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.**

**Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke,
O se boloke setjhaba
sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika –
South Afrika.**

**Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.**

**Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.**

ARTS AND CULTURE

National symbols

South Africa's national symbols are:



National animal:
Springbok



National bird:
Blue Crane



National fish:
Galjoen



National flower:
King Protea



National tree:
Real Yellowwood

National orders

South Africa's national orders are:



The Order of
the Baobab



The Order of
Mapungubwe



The Order of the
Companions of OR Tambo



The Order of
Luthuli



The Order of Mendi for
Bravery



The Order of
Ikhamanga