



Arts and culture

The Department of Arts and Culture is the custodian of South Africa's diverse cultural, artistic and linguistic heritage. It is directly responsible for several public entities including museums, art galleries, the National Archives and six playhouses.

A large proportion of the department's budget is dedicated to supporting and developing institutional infrastructure to showcase, restore and preserve South Africa's heritage for future generations.

The 2006 Budget increased the department's allocation to R84,1 million in 2006/07, R309,2 million in 2007/08 and R687,5 million in 2008/09.

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:ǀxarra//ke*, written in the Khoisan language of the !Xam people, means 'diverse people unite'.

National anthem

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

The national anthem

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.

National flag

The national flag of the Republic of South Africa was brought into use on Freedom Day, 27 April 1994. The design and colours are a synopsis of the principal elements of the country's flag history.

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



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

Fact:

2006 was an important milestone in celebrating South Africa's heritage. Apart from the 50th anniversary of the Women's March on the Union Buildings in Pretoria, it was also the centenary of the Bhambatha anti-poll tax rebellion; of Satyagraha – the technique of non-violent resistance pioneered by Mahatma

2006 South African Music Awards (Sama) winners

The Sama ceremony was held in May 2006. Some of the winners were:

Best Female Artist: Judith Sephuma (*New Beginnings*)

Best Male Artist: Jimmy Dludlu (*Corners of my Soul*)

Best Duo or Group: Bongo Maffin (*New Construction*)

Best Tsonga Music (XiTsonga) Album: Thomas Chauke (*Xidudla Kedibone*)

Best Maskandi Album: Phuzekhemisi (*Sthandwa*)

Best Newcomer: Brickz (*Face-Brick*)

Best Music Video: Lara Hollis/Zamajobe (*Magic*)

Best Instrumental Album: Wessel Van Rensburg and Mccooy Mrubata (*Kulturation*)

Best Jazz Album: Jimmy Dludlu (*Corners of my Soul*)

Best Kwaito Album: Brickz (*Face-Brick*)

Best Adult Contemporary Album (English): Arno Carstens (*The Hello Goodbye Boys*)

Best Adult Contemporary Album (Afrikaans): Anna Davel (*Godinne op die Grondpad*)

Best Adult Contemporary Album (African): Phinda (*Mbheka Phesheya*)

Best Pop Album: Watershed (*Mosaic*)

Best African Pop Album: Malaika (*Vuthelani*)

Best Rock Album: The Parlotones (*RadioControlledRobot*)

Best R and B Album: Ishmael (*Long Way Home*)

Best Dance Album: *Black Coffee*

Best Rap Album: Tuks Senganga (*Mafoko A Me*)

Best Contemporary Gospel Album: Soweto String Quartet (*Plays Gospel*)

Best African/Traditional Gospel Album: Rebecca (*Qaphelani*)

Best DVD: MIC (*Moving Pictures*)

Best-selling Album of the Year: Shwi Nomtekhala (*Wangisiza Baba*)

Most Popular Song of the Year: Ntando (*Dali Wam*)

Most Popular Artist of the Year: Ntando

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Piet Botha, Joe Correira, Al Debbo, Thandi Klaasen and Rex Rabanye

Gandhi while he was in South Africa; the 30th anniversary of the Soweto Students' Uprising; the 60th anniversary of the African Mineworkers' Strike; and the 10th anniversary of South Africa's Constitution.

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, by developing public-private partnerships and other initiatives that use culture as a tool for urban regeneration.

It was announced in February 2006 that R100 million would be channelled into these creative industries, making a major contribution to closing the gap between the first and second economies.

The department also announced that it would launch hubs in the craft and music industries.

To promote literature in indigenous languages, the National Book and Publishing Strategy aims to promote the publication and export of local literature which is likely to result in more books being translated from indigenous languages into English, and vice versa.

In addition, the establishment of a black economic charter for the books and publishing industry is expected.

To address monopolies in the recording industry, the Department of Arts and Culture, through the Moshito Music Market and the South African Music Export Council, is creating an environment that encourages small-scale music recording labels to grow their number of artists.

These developments are expected to create employment for over 5 000 people in the next three to five years.

Fact:

Arts and culture in peri-urban and in rural areas has transformed the lives of many and contributed directly to the fight against poverty. By March 2006, the Department of Arts and Culture had created 1 612 new jobs. The overwhelming

Cultural tourism

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

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

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.

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.

In November 2006, South African music group Freshlyground became the first local act to win an MTV Europe music award. They received the Best African Act Award.

majority of beneficiaries (68%) were women; while 8,2% were people with disabilities. By mid-2006, they had performed 196 154 person days of work, 44 526 of which were devoted to training.

Orchestras

The responsibility for the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal, Cape and Gauteng orchestras has shifted to the National Arts Council. The council will also be responsible for funding the Cape Town Jazz Orchestra.

Dance

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

South Africa has a range of art galleries that showcase collections of indigenous, historical and contemporary works.

In March 2006, South African David Goldblatt was named the recipient of the 2006 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, the most important photographic prize in the world.

The award came with US\$70 000 and a gold medal. It was presented at a ceremony in Göteborg, Sweden, in November 2006. A new exhibition of Goldblatt's work, curated and organised by the Hasselblad Centre, opened at the same time.

Fact:

In an effort to promote the craft of writing, particularly in indigenous languages, the Department of Arts and Culture is collaborating with Umgangatho Media on the Xihlovo xa Vutivi (Fountain of Knowledge) Project that focuses on publishing emerging writers in all languages and across all genres. By April 2006, more than 300 manuscripts had been received and 21 books produced in different languages.

Universities also play an important role in acquiring artwork of national interest. These include, among others, 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 development of South Africa's crafts industry is an ongoing priority for government, through the Department of Arts and Culture. Numerous stakeholders are involved in various initiatives to develop this sector. The development policy focuses on addressing the co-ordination of the sector; preserving indigenous knowledge systems; acknowledging living treasures, product development and training; skills development; market access; access to information; raw material; and funding.

Film

The film and video sector generates around R518 million a year. Film production is actively supported by government; just one initiative is the Film and Television Production Rebate introduced by the Department of Trade and Industry.

During February and March 2006, some 60 works by the world-famous artist, Pablo Picasso, were exhibited at the Standard Bank Gallery in Johannesburg as part of the *Picasso and Africa* Exhibition. The exhibition was also hosted at Cape Town's Iziko National Gallery in April and May 2006.

In addition to Picasso's works, a selection of African sculptures, similar to those with which Picasso may have been familiar, were also exhibited.



South Africa offers foreign producers world-class film facilitation, logistics, facilities, 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. It ensures a South African presence at major international film markets, festivals, trade fairs and exhibitions.

In 2005, the foundation disbursed grants to the value of R28,6 million for developing and producing feature films, short films, television series, documentaries and animation projects, as well as for 74 bursary students. The grants also ensured a South African presence at major local and international film markets, festivals and exhibitions.

In March 2006, South Africa's official entry for the 2006 Academy Awards, Gavin Hood's *Tsotsi*, won the coveted Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

Tsotsi, based on the novel by Athol Fugard, is about six days in the violent life of a young Johannesburg gangster.

Tsotsi stars Presley Chweneyagae, Terry Pheto, Bonginkosi 'Zola' Dlamini, Kenneth Nkosi, Mothusi Magano, Rapulana Seiphemo and Zenzo Ngqobe, among others.

South African-born actress Charlize Theron was nominated for Best Actress for her role in *North Country*.

Legacy projects

Cabinet approved these projects as a mechanism to establish commemorative structures to celebrate South Africa's past.

Some of the initiatives include:

- the Women's Monument
- the Chief Albert Luthuli Legacy Project
- the Nelson Mandela Museum
- Constitution Hill
- Freedom Park.

The construction of the first phase of Freedom Park was completed in March 2004, namely the Garden of Remembrance, access routes and parking, water and sanitation, and power and telecommunications. The second phase will include the building of a museum and interpretation centre.

The Samora Machel Monument in Mbuzini, Mpumalanga, was unveiled on 19 October 1998. South Africa's provincial and national arts and culture departments will spend R11,2 million on upgrading a monument marking the site where the late Mozambican President died. A statue of Machel will also be commissioned.

In May 2006, the Cabinet agreed to the proposed development of the following legacy projects:

- Mangaung Hall in Bloemfontein, where the African National Congress was founded
- the homes of Bram Fischer and JR Tolkien.

Museums

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

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

The construction of the new building in Pretoria that will house the National Library of South Africa started in January 2005. By mid-2006, extensions to the value of R700 million had been approved. The project is planned for completion in November 2007.

Some R1 billion will be made available over the next three years to fund public libraries.