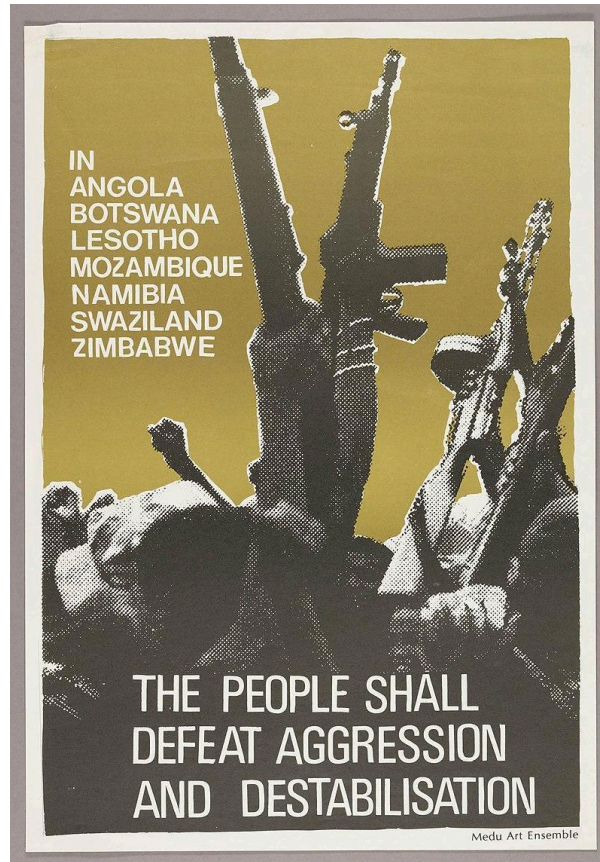


Regional Symposium
Southern African National Liberation
Movements Heritage: Museums and Cultural Centres as Places
of Learning



Medu Art Ensemble, The People Shall Defeat Aggression and Destabilisation, 1983

1 December 2023
Pretoria, South Africa



The Javett Art Centre
at the University of Pretoria



BACKGROUND

Southern African nations share a common history of colonial rule and a struggle for freedom culminating in the independence of the sovereign nation-states we have today. This Southern African Liberation Movement heritage plays an important role in the definition of citizens' ideas of identity, cultural values and interconnectedness within the region and in the globe. However, the vital history of African Liberation Movements is not as widely known as it should be due to many factors not limited to but including the time elapsed between independence and the present, collective amnesia, and a dearth of dynamic and engaging educational material surrounding the topic. In addition, young people are further removed from the histories, memories and cultural values and objects of their predecessors making the words of anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko poignant: "A people without a positive history is like a vehicle without an engine."

Building on the outcomes of the ongoing National Liberation Movements Heritage Programme¹ implemented by the UNESCO Office for Southern Africa, this project provides an opportunity to develop a dynamic pedagogical framework for museums and cultural centres, meaningfully engage communities, and ultimately deepen public knowledge of the rich history and heritage of Southern African National Liberation Movements. The potential to foster mutual understanding, regional integration, social cohesion and lasting peace are endless in safeguarding and disseminating this shared common rich heritage and history for liberation.

PURPOSE

To ensure the enhancement of public understanding about Southern African National Liberation Movements as part of the rich history and heritage of the region, this project will develop a methodology that will feed into innovative educational programmes. The methodology will outline how to meaningfully engage local communities and visitors in the telling of their memories and histories, thereby protecting and transmitting their cultural heritage and strengthening their sense of belonging and togetherness. The educational programmes that will be developed from the methodology will enable local communities and visitors alike to form a deeper awareness of the struggle for liberation Southern African nations endured, forming strong cognitive and socio-emotional impacts for all.

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/news/development-liberation-heritage-materials-kick-starts>

PROGRAMME

Friday 1 December 2023

Official Opening

07:30-08:00	Arrivals & Registration
08:00-08:30	Opening remarks & introductions Gabi Ngcobo, Curatorial Director at the Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria (5 mins) Chimbidzikai Mapfumo, National Coordinator for Culture at UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (5 mins) South Africa National Commission for UNESCO (5 mins) Terry Nyambe, Vice President of International Council of Museums (5 mins) Project Facilitator: Lineo Segoeete (5 mins)
08:30-09:15	Presentation from Working Group Findings (Zimbabwe and Zambia) “The ‘Rhodesias’” <i>From gaining independence, political freedom, and life thereafter, up to the present, what significant events have taken place? Have there been any counter narratives or offshoots from the struggle? How has the past shaped the public’s imagination on heritage? Does the past have any bearing on the present and therefore the future?</i> Presented by: Livingstone Muchefa (Curator of Education National Gallery of Zimbabwe) & Anawana Haloba (Artist, Researcher and ICOM member)
09:15-10:00	Presentation from Working Group Findings (Republic of South Africa and Namibia) “Colony Turned Imperial Power” <i>The cluster will be tasked with sharing insights on what dynamics and residual trauma still exist post-independence.</i>

	<p>Presented by: David Andrew (Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts at the Wits School of Arts), Emilia Potenza (Curator at the Apartheid Museum) & Dr. Nashilongwe Mushaandja (Independent Cultural worker)</p>
10:00-10:30	<p>TEA</p>
10:30-11:15	<p>Presentation from Working Group Findings (Lesotho and Eswatini)</p> <p>“On Monarchies and Liberation”</p> <p><i>This session offers perspectives on absolute monarchies versus ceremonial monarchies—Lesotho and Eswatini respectively—in the context of political instability and the place of liberation struggles, their causes, limitations, and successes.</i></p> <p>Presented by: Bopane Rampeta (Culture and heritage studies lecturer at National University of Lesotho) & Khulekani Msweli (Artist, social entrepreneur and community activist)</p>
11:15-12:00	<p>Presentation from Working Group Findings (Malawi and Botswana)</p> <p>“Lesser-Known Independence or Liberation Struggles”</p> <p><i>This cluster findings and contributions will cast a spotlight on critical events, moments and names, roles played plus their impact from Malawi and Botswana.</i></p> <p>Presented by: Ms. Lerato Moshwarangole (Director at Ora Loapi) & Emmanuel Ngwira (Associate Professor of Literary Studies, University of Malawi)</p>
12:00-13:00	<p>Presentation from ICOM</p> <p>Mäccmõš, maccâm, máhccan – The Homecoming – building an equal, community-based audience programme</p> <p>Presented by: <i>Elisa Sarpo (Finland)</i></p> <p><i>Keywords: Intercultural dialogue, co-creation and co-curation, community-based methods.</i></p> <p>Talking Object: Seeing Through Young Eyes – Silang Budaya II</p> <p>Presented by: <i>Haryany Mohamad (Malaysia)</i></p> <p><i>Keywords: talking object, youth, cross culture, best practices.</i></p> <p>Developing and implementing the colouring worksheet for learning about Ainu garments (coats) and Ainu patterns by the National Ainu Museum</p> <p>Presented by: <i>Kazuyoshi Sasaki; Hideto Okuyama; Akemi Oshino, Yuuka Sato (Japan)</i></p> <p><i>Keywords: worksheets, culture of the indigenous peoples, development of educational tools, evaluation of educational programs, evaluation of exhibitions, colouring, relationship between educational tools and exhibitions, garments.</i></p>

	<p>Scenario Room Programme: Historical Role Playing for Humanities Learning and Student Leadership – to Spark Dialogue on Values; Presented by: <i>Pearl Wee Ai Ting (Singapore)</i> <i>Keywords: education, values, scenario, role-play, game, gamification, museum, student leadership.</i></p> <p>Followed by a Q&A</p>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-15:00	<p>Group Discussion and Critical Reflection</p> <p><i>During this session, Symposium participants, UNESCO, Javett-UP, ICOM and community members will reflect and provide feedback on the day's sessions, as well as pave a way forward for the development of methodologies for cultural institutions on how to cover Southern African Liberation Movements.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by: Lineo Segoete (Project Facilitator)</p>
15:00-16:30	<p>Scenario-based Activity</p> <p><i>During this session, also considered a "harvest", all the participants will select the "best fruit" from the day's presentation suitable for inclusion in the toolkit. Participants will also be invited to conceptualise Scenario-based activities for museums and other cultural institutions to programme with respect to Liberation movements in their respective localities.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by: Lineo Segoete (Project Facilitator)</p>
15:30-16:00	BREAK
16:45-17:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Javett-UP (5 mins)</p> <p>UNESCO (5 mins)</p>
17:00-22:00	<p>Closing Reception</p> <p>People Who Think Together Dance Together</p> <p><i>Throughout the Symposium, participants will be tasked with suggesting music inspired by the Liberation Movements of Southern Africa and the world. This music will be played during an informal closing reception.</i></p>