Lalela Art Center Opens in Johannesburg
BY CAROL DUBE, FACILITATOR

Located in the inner city precinct of Maboneng, Lalela Johannesburg has commenced and is here to stay!! We are steadily growing starting with 42 students in June and 145 registered in September. Working with inner city young artists has been a great motivation. We have provided a safe and creative space for our artists. The core of the organisation is to help students tap into their creative conscious and problem solve using the arts. Attendance with the younger group was astounding with their incredible commitment and consistency. As a facilitator it has been amazing to see the progress and improvement of some students who started with us during the July holidays. We have a number of talented students and we will be expecting great things from these artists. Our Friday afternoons have become a big deal for our artists. A time to chill and be creative, to seek help, engage with other artists and play games. Nonoza, one of our students said: “We are not allowed to play at our flat and we can’t play on the street, we can’t play at the park. I’m so happy that we have Lalela here and it is ours.”

A very special thank you to Propertuity and Maboneng Precinct for the wonderful space! Lalela was extremely excited and appreciative when world-renowned interior designer and ‘style icon’ Stephen Falcke agreed to undertake the interior décor of the new Lalela Centre of Arts and Innovation in Maboneng Johannesburg, our first centre in Gauteng. Aside from consistently being South Africa’s leading interior designer, Mr Falcke has been awarded the Andrew Martin Designer of the World and The Designer of the Year Award in Hawaii, amongst numerous others. Electing to counterbalance the restored industrial feel of the new Lalela premises, he chose a selection of vibrant bright contemporary materials and colours reflective of the art of Lalela - and the exciting future we anticipate in Maboneng.
A word from a volunteer
BY CATHERINE PATTERSON

The July holiday project in Masiphumelele was a great social and creative experience. The Lalela facilitators taught me to teach and play in a more socially conscious way. I admired the way they aimed to make the program as different to school as possible. Fluid, vibrant learning environments with singing, dancing and play changed the way the children responded to the moments of creative ‘work’. The program has taught me to manage classroom chaos in a more positive and effective way through meditation, singing and engaging students in movement. I learnt a lot about the way Lalela functions as an organisation. The outings to the Two Oceans Aquarium and Tears Animal Sanctuary seemed to really influence the children as they were offered different environments to learn and play and were given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of animals. The outings were carefully selected to encourage the children to care for animals and volunteer their skills to help others. Lalela thus instigates upliftment in the community by the community. I hope to join in on future programs!

Mandela Day @ O&OCT

2015 was a very successful Mandela Day. The One&Only Cape Town pulled out all the stops, with a superb series of practical hands-on presentations by external hospitality schools and the different O&O departments. It was hands-on and truly inspiring. After lunch and a tour of the hotel including viewing their art in the Lalela Gallery, the students were addressed by Internationally renown motivational speaker Gunther Pauli – the students were all spell bound by his focused attitude and presentation on Entrepreneurship. Upon completion, some of the students did an impromptu slam-poetry presentation for him. As with their initial ride to Hout Bay – and despite the rain, most of them sat in the exposed up stairs part of the bus, so enthused were they by the day. Without question thanks to the amazing input by the day. Without question thanks to the day.

Mandela Day Exhibition

BY VIOLET KALUWA, GRADE 10

A hero of South Africa, Nelson Mandela was someone who embraced the power of forgiveness, with his messages of peace bringing people of different nationalities together. On Mandela Day we were treated to a wonderful exhibition arranged by Lalela at the One&Only Cape Town. The exhibition featured wonderful artworks created by Lalela students and was dedicated to the memory and spirit of Nelson Mandela. The artwork then stood out for me was the Madiba portrait puzzle. This portrait, made by the students of Silikamva High, was made up of over 50 square pieces that once put together made up an image of Madiba. The exhibition was attended by some of our students who got to see their artwork in a professional environment. I thank Lalela for always giving us this opportunity and for commemorating one of South Africa’s greatest heroes.

Many Faces of Me

The July Holiday Program was a huge success, jam-packed with activities to keep our Lalela artists engaged, with *Many Faces of Me* as the theme. During these three weeks artists created Mardi-gras style papier mâché and special effects masks, their own Hero Books, which helped remind them that through every day actions of being kind, helpful and thoughtful, they have the “power” to be a Super Hero. Week 3 was spent going on educational outings in Cape Town and Johannesburg and afterwards using what they learnt beautifying local communities (see Snoekies Mural on pg 6).

Giving Back on Mandela Day

This year our Lalela students had the opportunity to give back their 67 minutes to members of the local community of Hout Bay. We are really proud of their hard work and open hearts, creating murals for the trauma unit of the Department of Social Welfare as well as handing out care packages to the elderly.

SELINA INGWANE, GRADE 11

To me, Mandela Day means being in service and having a positive impact on peoples’ lives. This year Lalela gave us a platform to serve the community of Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu. Myself and other Lalela members gave out packages of toiletries, blankets and goodies to the elderly. We filled the elderly with warmth as we sang and danced for them.

Being able to serve my community with pride showed to me that I can have an impact in someone’s life. Playing a role in helping the elderly also showed how much we are capable of love and respect for others. It is important that we value Mandela day and spend our 67 minutes effectively honouring the legacy of Tata Madiba.

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Our new exhibition opened on Mandela Day to celebrate Nelson Mandela’s legacy and the Rainbow Nation. Lalela facilitator Hasan Essop created and colourised an incredible large-scale collection of student portraits to represent the Rainbow Nation. Our students were thrilled to find their own photos within their artwork.

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