Dear Family & Friends of Lalela,

We are delighted to share this issue written by our students, highlighting some of the many exciting events that have taken place to date in 2016. With the launch of Lalela Live! Music Programme, our new partnership with Mellon Educate in Western Cape, as well as further collaborations in the works, our future is exciting and we can expect a steep growth trajectory. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards and appreciation,
CAT RIEPER, COO

Cape Town Art Fair

BY SIPHESIHLE BLAYI, INTERN

Lalela was honored for the third year in succession to be invited to participate in the 2016 Cape Town Art Fair, situated at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. With an emphasis on art from South Africa and the continent of Africa, the fair comprised local and international artists, gallerists and art lovers, providing an excellent and highly visible showcase for Lalela. The Lalela booth was ‘manned’ by Lalela students who proudly shared their stories and artwork, including the Mandela puzzle and the Art of Jackson Pollock.

The ONE&ONLY Cape Town Festive Event was the opportunity to launch our Best of 2015 Exhibition in the Lalela Gallery. This event marked the significant occasion of welcoming Richard Lyon as the new General Manager. Loyiso Skoti led our ever-popular Lalela Choir in festive songs. The event also comprised of sculpture activities for the children as well as a visit from Father Christmas. Without a doubt it’s an event enjoyed by all ages.
Every year Lalela identifies a number of grade 10 and 11 learners to participate in our year-long Leadership Programme. We kickstarted the year with a leadership camp held at the Back to Basics campsite near Grabouw.

**SIBONGISENI MKIVA, GRADE 11**

In the Lalela Leadership Camp we had a session where we brainstormed ideas as a group and represented them as a collective. I learned that art has a strong power of persuasion and it is a very powerful tool. I felt inspired at the Leadership Camp because the artwork was very effective. We broke the cycle of nervousness and conquered our personal fears doing presentations. If I were to tell a friend about Lalela I would tell them that it is a free environment where world leaders can be created through art.

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For the third year in succession, Lalela were proud participants in the Shakespeare Schools Festival South Africa, staged this year at the Baxter Theatre, Cape Town. Under the tireless, ever patient and remarkable leadership and direction of our volunteer Director Claire Baker the learners once again received a standing ovation. This is what our learners had to say about the experience:

"Thank you so much for the opportunity for Silikamva students to participate in the Shakespeare Festival. It is just great to witness their potential and see them blossom in this manner. Your efforts and commitment are much appreciated."

Angus Duffet, Principal Silikamva High School

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**Dance to Connect**

In December 2015 Lalela high school learners took part in the Cape Town International Dance Festival. We were privileged to work in partnership with New York based Battery Dance Company to get our learners performance ready. Twenty Lalela students were provided with intensive dance training and rehearsals, which culminated in their performance at the Cape Town Dance Festival hosted at the Artscape complex.
For Human Rights day, Lalela Students participated in civic engagement to give back to our communities. Getting an opportunity to paint this mural was an honor, especially sharing the experience with my friends. It felt like we have a voice and could educate the community.

**Miro Curriculum**
Artists were introduced to the work of Joan Miro, who broke away from traditional representational artwork by using colours and shapes to represent ideas. Inspired by his work, artists created complex, personal artworks that played with symbols, mark making, abstraction and shape.

**SIPHENATTI MARIMAN, GRADE 5**
We painted pictures that remind me of Rock Art where we used symbols and colours. We had to plan out what we were going to paint instead of just splashing colours. It was good to think and work with others doing our drawing and painting. I enjoyed having the chance to mix colours and think in terms of colour and symbols.

**Human Rights Day**
At the end of each school year, Lalela holds art exhibitions at the schools we work with. We are always delighted to see the wonderful attendance by parents and caregivers. Caregiver attendance is very important for our students’ sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. As one of our students put it, he “never felt so proud until his parents came to see his work.”

**Pollock Curriculum**
Through his “action paintings”, Pollock used unusual techniques and media to break boundaries in art and free the art world from the constraints of representation. Artists experimented with liberating their approach to art as they discovered how it felt to drip, splash and splatter paint across a canvas or piece of paper.

**NONCEBA TOTO, GRADE 12**
For Human Rights day, Lalela Students participated in civic engagement to give back to our communities. Getting an opportunity to paint this mural was an honor, especially sharing the experience with my friends. It felt like we have a voice and could educate the community.
Lalela March Holiday Program

SINELIHLE SITHELA, GRADE 7

...“This holiday program, that I greatly enjoyed doing, was packed with fun and creative things. It was a wonderful experience to learn new things and to be creative with my friends, as I have been doing throughout the year and I also met very inspiring people. We learned how to use our imaginations to make musical instruments using collected materials and learned how to play the drums. We worked together to take beautiful photographs of ourselves, with musical instruments, which we stuck onto clay plates. I am very proud to be a part of this project and it gave me ideas of how to spend my holiday creatively, instead of just watching TV! Art is Power!...”

Graduation Day

It was a proud occasion for Lalela with our first students to graduate from tertiary education. Ncedo Jako who comes from Imizamo Yethu and who completed his schooling at Hout Bay High in 2012, graduated with a Radiography diploma from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Ncedo is spending 2016 interning in rural Kwa-Zulu Natal; an experience that he feels will equip him well for the future.

Amanda Ndibongo, a former Lalela student from Imizamo Yethu graduated with a degree in Retail (Fashion) Management at CPUT and is now working for SA fashion icon Jenni Button, where she is fulfilling her dreams of becoming a senior fashion buyer and ultimately a fashion designer.

Academic Excellence

The annual Hout Bay High academic prize giving was a very proud occasion for Lalela and our learners. 18 of the 20 students who received academic achievement awards were Lalela students. It is great to see the impact we are having!
Lalela Project would like to thank the following for their continued support:

**Other Highlights**

Classroom fun with the grade 2’s at Sentinel Primary School.

Our high school learners attending the Cape Town International Jazz Festival.

Special visitor The Lion King’s Ron Kunene from the Broadway Association based in New York City with Lalela learners from Silikamva High School.

L-R: Marco Van Embden, CEO of Timeless Africa Safaris with Lalela Team and interns at the fundraiser held to benefit Lalela and Stop Rhino Poaching.

L-R: Cape Town International Jazz Festival Golf Day. Billy Domingo, General Mangope, Mike Dlala & Zukko Kubukeli and Lalela students at the Lalela Pop-up Gallery on Hole #9, Royal Cape Mowbray Golf Course.

Our group of amazing Lalela interns, ready to inspire at this year’s Cape Town Art Fair.