Dear Friends of LALELA

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our 2nd newsletter of the year. It has been a busy term filled with lots of exciting events and activities undertaken by the Lalela team and learners. We are proud to report that our learners once again received a standing ovation at the Shakespeare Schools Festival for the 4th consecutive year. As always, Mandela Day was inspiring with all our Lalela learners from across the country giving back to their communities. Our ground-breaking Heart Map Programme has made huge progress in the Western and Northern Cape. We share the highlights of our annual fundraiser in New York and Lalela is thankful for the tremendous support received at the event.

We hope you enjoy all the highlights in this issue!

Warm regards,

CAT RIEPER, COO

Mandela Day, Cape Town

To celebrate Mandela Day, our Lalela team and learners from several programmes across South Africa engaged in various activities. In the true spirit of Ubuntu, our Cape Town team united to pay tribute to Madiba by painting homes of those affected by the devastating fires in Imizamo Yethu community using fire retardant paint. Through this process we not only beautified the community, but hopefully prevent another fire of such magnitude from occurring again.

"Mandela Day was not just about painting houses for me, but it was about bringing hope for a bright day ahead. We were helping people get through a hard time, from being fire victims to survivors, picking up the pieces and moving on. That on its own was humbling, making me not only sympathise, but also empathise with this community."

SIPHESIHLE BAYI, LALELA ALUM

Mandela Day, Maboneng

Our Lalela Maboneng team and learners were beautifying the Renal Paediatric Unit of Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital in Johannesburg. This was a great opportunity to bring colour and joy to the children who receive treatment there.

"Although 67 minutes was not enough, it was symbolic because it allowed me to really add value on that day."

AMOS KABULO, 17 YEARS
Cape Town

In April, Lalela hosted a school holiday programme in Hout Bay. However, following the ravaging fires in March, our Cape Town team did not run the normal programme. In the aftermath of the Imizamo Yethu fire, the Lalela team focused on providing a safe space to allow children to share their thoughts and feelings. The children engaged in telling stories of their communities and experiences through a psychosocial tool called the Hero Book. Our younger artists created bracelets with beads representing different words of strength which they could wear to remind them of the hero within.

Maboneng, Johannesburg

During April, Wits Art Museum in collaboration with Lalela hosted art-making workshops for the high school learners from Maboneng. Temporary studio spaces were set up every day in a different gallery space, so the teens could have a chance to learn new art-making skills whilst exploring the exhibitions. All participants live in the inner city close to the museum and were visiting for the first time. With this programme, we hope that the participating teens developed a long-lasting connection with African art and found value in the museum.

In celebration of Human Rights Day, Lalela Maboneng was privileged to partner with Constitutional Hill to host the “We the Children” exhibition. Constitution Hill is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa’s turbulent past and, today, is home to the country’s Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens. Artworks were inspired by the Bill of Rights. The exhibition was curated by Artist Proof Studio who also sponsored the framing of the art. Artworks exhibited included acrylic paintings, linocut prints, collaged paper and photography.

Lalela is proud to announce the commencement of a groundbreaking collaboration with the National Arts Council of South Africa. Teachers of Creative Arts, Life Orientation and Life Skills for grades 6 – 9 in all nine of South Africa’s provinces will be trained in Lalela’s distinctive Heart Map curriculum.

The Heart Map curriculum was developed to help students overcome perceived differences by interviewing each other in pairs to learn about their common fears, challenges, talents, desires and dreams. This national endeavour focuses on promoting social cohesion through education. Heart Maps have been shown to cross demographic and psychographic lines including barriers of culture, xenophobia, gender, race and economics. Thus far, Lalela has trained 173 teachers from 124 schools in the Western and Northern Capes, reaching over 23 000 learners in these two provinces alone. Mark Oppelt was one of Lalela’s first students to create a Heart Map. Now as a Lalela Facilitator, he was able to share his personal story when we were training the teachers in the Western and Northern Cape.

“I did not realise how one can make art so interactive. I really became aware of others’ circumstances. I also loved the manual, it is just amazing.”

TEACHER FEEDBACK

Mark Oppelt
Lalela students meet Penny Siopis

Lalela learners in Grades 10-12 from both Silikamva and Hout Bay High schools had the privilege of meeting one of South Africa’s most prolific artists, Penny Siopis at her studio. These learners had a once in a lifetime opportunity to have Penny share her artwork and technique with them. The end result was for Lalela learners to paint “Penny-inspired” artwork.

By adapting the play to fit our South African context, I suddenly had a true appreciation for our rich and diverse culture.

CINGA VANDA, 19 YEARS

Shakespeare

For the fourth consecutive year, Lalela was proud to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival South Africa, hosted at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town. In true Lalela style, the students adapted MacBeth to incorporate the different South African languages and renamed it Makhubetha. Our students were amongst the 2000 students who performed from across the country. We were honoured that our set was sponsored by Epik Sets and the costumes by Annie’s Angels. Once again, Lalela students outshone themselves, receiving a standing ovation.

Assitej Awards

Lalela learners were honoured to paint the Heart Maps for the 2017 Assitej Global Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. Assitej is an international alliance of professionals involved in theatre for children and young people. Lalela learners attended the award ceremony at Baxter Theatre, Cape Town to present the artworks in person.

I was thrilled to meet the person whom I had painted a heart map for. It felt very special and unique going up the stage in front of everyone.

FAITH CHIGUMBU, 14 YEARS

Penny Siopis was very natural, kind and inspired us to continue loving art. She taught us that an artwork has its own story.

KEYSHA OPPERMAN, 14 YEARS
In commemoration of the Soweto Student Uprising of June 16, 1976, our Lalela Cape Town Leaders hosted an outstanding event at Kronendal Primary School in Hout Bay. These Lalela leaders planned and organised the entire event and the theme was “Bringing our different communities together”. The day began with a vigil for all the women and child victims of the perpetuating abuse and violence in the Western Cape. We had great attendance with over 250 students at the event where Lalela learners from 3 communities showcased their talents and passions. Another highlight of the day was the innovative showcase of a student fashion label called YESUU, designed by Lalela alum Simphiwe Bentle.

Maboneng, Johannesburg
Lalela Maboneng learners celebrated their Youth Day at the NASREC Expo Centre. Our learners had a practical experience as DJs at a radio station booth and also participated in a live campus radio show.

The Rhinos are coming
In order to celebrate the wonderful initiative that raises funds and awareness of the plight of rhinos in Africa, Lalela Board member, Marco van Embden invited Lalela students to paint a rhino sponsored by Timeless Africa Safaris. The beautifully painted Lalela rhino would form part of many rhinos which will be displayed around the city, surrounding towns and wine farms. Lalela was delighted to participate in this great campaign.

New York City Fundraiser
Lalela was proud to bring former student and now facilitator Siyolisi Bani along with Lalela Hout Bay High School student Nikita Albertyn to New York City for our annual fundraiser thanks to the support of South African Airways. Both Siyolisi and Nikita participated in a live Q&A with Lalela CEO, Andrea Kerzner, sharing stories of their background and the impact Lalela has had on their lives.

What made it more special for me was the fact that we as Lalela leaders organised and managed the event, definitely teaching us a thing or two about organisational skills. It was a June 16 to remember!”

WONGA LUCAS, 20 YEARS

My highlight was when we went to The Guggenheim Museum of Arts and MoMA to see some of the best art in the world!

NIKITA ALBERTYN, 17 YEARS

A big thank you to all Lalela’s generous donors & sponsors for this fantastic opportunity.

SIYOLISI BANI, LALELA FACILITATOR
Lalela Project would like to thank the following for their continued support:

Lalela Maboneng learners interviewed by local television stations about their artwork on exhibit at Constitution Hill.

Lalela Female Empowerment students proudly display their journals.

Lalelalive! learners received a visit from NY Board Member, Shaun Osher (centre) and musos Peter Greenwall and Jarrod Ashton here with Rus Nerwich from Woodstock Academy of Music.

Lalela Maboneng learners interviewed by local television stations about their artwork on exhibit at Constitution Hill.

Lalela learners from Silikamva High school visit the South Africa National Gallery.

Lalela learners interviewed by local television stations about their artwork on exhibit at Constitution Hill.

Lalela high school students from Maboneng create artwork inspired by South African Artist Jody Paulsen.

Lalela learners from Silikamva High school visit the South Africa National Gallery.

Lalela learners’ artwork inspired by Robin Rhode.

Lalela alumni with Liz Biden, owner of the recently opened six-star Silo Hotel in the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town. Lalela artwork will be displayed throughout the Hotel.

Vibrant artwork produced by Lalela learners at Tomorrow Trust.

Lalela learners’ artwork inspired by Robin Rhode.

To learn more and support great work, visit Lalela.org