



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 11 May 2022

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS MONTH

The South African Museums Association (SAMA) and its members around the country celebrate International Museums Month and International Museums Day on 18 May 2022.

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) established International Museums Day in 1977 to increase public awareness of the role of museums in the development of society. Every year on 18 May, participating museums plan creative events and activities related to the International Museums Day theme, engage with the public and highlight the importance of the role of museums as institutions that serve society and its development. The 2022 theme for International Museums Day is “The Power of Museums”. On International Museums Day 2022, we will explore the potential of museums to bring about positive change in their communities through three lenses: The power of achieving sustainability; The power of innovating on digitisation and accessibility; and The power of community building through education.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS MONTH ACTIVITIES

1. Free Entry to DITSONG: Museums of South Africa from 16 – 22 May 2022

- a. DITSONG: National Museum of Natural History will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the discovery of Mrs Ples. There will be free entry to the vault to see the original fossil. The Museum will also host a public lecture on paleontology on 30 May 2022.
- b. DITSONG: National Museum of Cultural History will host a public lecture on Africa Day, 25 May 2022 to discuss science and innovation, and address the unemployment dilemma. This will be in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Department of Science and Technology and Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF).
- c. DITSONG: National Museum of Military History will showcase collections from the First World War (1914 – 1918), Eastern Cape Cattle Wars and the role of South African troops in the United Nations peacekeeping forces.
- d. DITSONG: Kruger Museum launched a virtual tour of the house where Paul Kruger, President of the former Transvaal Boer Republic lived. This is accessible on the link [Ditsong – Ditsong National Museums](#).
- e. DITSONG: Pioneer Museum will host bread baking lessons using the outdoor oven built in 1868. Children will learn indigenous games (such as *khati* and *morabaraba*).
- f. DITSONG: Sammy Marks Museum will showcase the art of entrepreneurship using the 140-year legacy of Sammy Marks.
- g. DITSONG: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum will be showcasing coffee grinding, jam making, *roosterkoek* baking and letter writing using feather quills as writing tools.
- h. Tswaing Meteorite Crater offers 7.6km hikes exploring indigenous plants, game and over 240 species of birds.

2. Temporary exhibition at Centurion Art Gallery, Group Art Exhibition from 9 to 31 May 2022

The Centurion Art Gallery aims to –

- Exhibit emerging talent, promoting Tshwane artists.
- Local artists exhibit their paintings, pottery, and sculptures in the gallery. These artworks are for sale.

3. **Names in Uphill Letters Exhibition, temporary exhibition at Pretoria Art Museum, from 7 May 2022 to 5 June 2022**

The project exhibits the graphic work from an accomplished freelance photojournalist and writer, M. Jacob Mawela. The exhibition consists of a visual historiography encapsulating figures in the country's history ranging from Mrs Ples (well-known Hominid fossil) dated 2, 5 million years old to past and present role-players in the sciences, politics, academia, sports, economics, literature, law, humanities, etc. Names in Uphill Letters is a never-before-seen visual presentation, which has been made possible by part funding from the National Arts Council.

4. **Commemoration of the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging at Melrose House Museum**

- a. 28 May 2022, 10:00-13:00: Lecture on the Anglo-Boer War, Louina Maree at Melrose House.
- b. 31 May 2022, 14:00 to 15:00: Annual wreath laying event at Melrose House Museum. This will be coordinated by Freddie Peters the Speaker of Vereeniging (Midvaal Municipality)
- c. 31 May 2022, 19:00 to 01:00: Friends of the Anglo-Boer War reenactment activities in the dining room of Melrose House.

5. **Dolly Rathebe Memorial Lecture in Mabopane**

A memorial lecture will be hosted in Mabopane to honour Dolly Rathebe, a South African musician and actress.

6. **International Museums Day Exhibition at the Es'kia Mphahlele Library**

The different museums will be displaying examples from their most interesting collections at the Eskia Mphahlele Library (situated in Sammy Marks Square Pretoria CBD) on Wednesday 18 May 2021.

7. **Western Cape Museums celebrate International Museums Month**

- a. The **Castle of Good Hope** will host a BRICS countries Diplomatic Corps Exhibition and Dialogue dubbed "*The Faces of War*" on 11 May 2022.
- b. The **Castle of Good Hope** will commemorate *Nakba Day* (Commemoration of the 1948 Palestinian-Israeli War when 700 000 Palestinians were displaced) on 14 May 2022.
- c. On 18 May, the **Castle of Good Hope** will host a Dutch and South African Business Networking session for the Camissa Museum.
- d. **The Huguenot Memorial Museum and the La Motte Museum** in Franschhoek will collaborate to present an art and cultural history programme for local learners from the Franschhoek Valley Community Sport and Learning Centre and Bridge House School. The programme will take place at the La Motte Museum, Huguenot Memorial Museum Annex, Saasveld Building and Nature Garden. The Huguenot Memorial Museum will also host the English Speech Contest.
- e. **Paarl Museums** will present various programmes with schools in collaboration with the Afrikaans Language Museum and Monument. Museums Day festivities will take place at Pastorielaan on 21 May and include free Museum tours, children's activities, a market, and *Rieldans* demonstration.

f. **Togryers Museum**

Togryers Museum is the Museum: in the community, for the community. On 18 May they will launch a new virtual exhibition: A historic Overview of Ceres: Then and Now. An outreach programme (also 18 May) will be hosted at the local primary schools where members of the community will share their stories with Gr 4 learners on the forced removals they experienced in 1962.

g. **CP Nel Museum (Oudtshoorn)**

The Museum will be staging the popular Museum's English Speech Contest first round and Gala Speech Contest for the Greater Oudtshoorn high school learners.

International Museums Month Partners

1. South African Air Force Museum
2. Post Office Museum
3. DITSONG: Kruger Museum
4. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
5. Department of Science and Technology
6. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF)
7. City of Tshwane: Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site
8. The Huguenot Memorial Museum
9. DITSONG: Tswaing Meteorite Crater
10. Freedom Park
11. DITSONG: Pioneer Museum
12. Castle of Good Hope
13. City of Tshwane: Melrose House Museum
14. DITSONG: National Museum of Cultural History
15. La Motte Museum
16. Geo-Science Museum
17. City of Tshwane: Pretoria Art Museum
18. McHardy Museum
19. DITSONG: National Museum of Natural History
20. Togryers Museum
21. UNISA: Anthropology and Paleontology Museum
22. DITSONG: National Museum of Military History
23. DITSONG: Sammy Marks Museum
24. DITSONG: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum
25. CP Nel Museum

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