



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 18 May 2023

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM MONTH

The South African Museums Association (SAMA) and its members around the country celebrate International Museum Month and International Museum Day on 18 May 2023.

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) established International Museum 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 Museum Day theme, engage with the public and highlight the importance of the role of museums as institutions that serve society and its development. The 2023 theme for International Museum Day is *"Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being"*. On International Museum Day 2023, we will explore the role of museums as key contributors to the well-being and sustainable development of our communities.

Museums are trusted institutions and important threads in our shared social fabric. They are uniquely placed to create a cascading effect to foster positive change. There are many ways in which museums can contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals: from supporting climate action and fostering inclusivity to tackling social isolation and improving mental health.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM MONTH ACTIVITIES

1. Tshwane museums celebrate International Museum Day on 18 May 2023

- a. The different museums in Tshwane will host a museum exhibition on 18 May 2023 at Saulsville Library from 10:00 – 15:00.
- b. The City of Tshwane will commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 2023 at Melrose House Museum.

2. Free Entry to DITSONG: Museums of South Africa from 15 – 21 May 2023

- a. Entry to all 8 DITSONG: Museums will be free from 15 – 21 May 2023.
- b. DITSONG: National Museum of Natural History will give behind the scenes tours on 18 May 2023. These include viewing of Mrs Ples, a fossil skull believed to be a distant relative of all humankind.
- c. DITSONG: Tswaing Meteorite Crater will celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2023. The Museum will offer a scenic 7.6km hike to the crater and birdwatching throughout the week.
- d. Professor Rodney Medupe of North-West University will deliver a public lecture on 25 May 2023.
- e. Professor Charles Musiba of the University of Colorado, Denver will deliver a public lecture on 31 May 2023.



3. SAMA Free State Region Celebrate International Museum Month

- a. Museum Services Sub-Directorate of the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, will be hosting an International Museum Day event at Wesleyan Church Museum in Bloemfontein on 18 May 2023 from 09:00. They will explore the role of museums as key contributors to the well-being and sustainable development of our communities.
- b. The SAMA Free State region will host a regional conference at the National Afrikaans Literary Museum in Bloemfontein from 31 May – 2 June 2023. Various museum professionals will present papers on the role of museums in shaping and creating sustainable futures.

4. Western Cape museums celebrate International Museum Month

- a. Iziko Museums of South Africa will display a diverse range of Natural History specimens at the Iziko South African Museum on 18 May 2023 from 09:00 until 15:30.
- b. Iziko Art Education in collaboration with the Western Cape Education Department (WESED) will host an art presentation entitled: 'Opportunities in challenging times.'
- c. Join Iziko and Bee Inspired at the Iziko South African Museum between 10:00 and 13:00 on Saturday, 20 May 2023. Sample fresh honey and honeycombs whilst discovering the "Buzz about Honeybees", an exhibition highlighting the value and significance of bees.
- d. The Simon's Town Museum in collaboration with Iziko Museums of South Africa will be visiting Kleinberg Primary School and Simon's Town School.
- e. Lwandle Museum will be hosting an annual speech contest as part of International Museum Day on 18 of May and will be celebrating African nations as part of Africa Day on 25 May 2023.
- f. Hout Bay Museum will reach out to people with disability on 18 May 2023 to discover themselves and to imagine again. On 25 May, art sessions will be hosted at the Hangberg Dreams Recovery Centre. There will also be Music with Mulalo, teaching previously disadvantaged Grade 3-7 learners to make music together through singing and playing musical instruments such as drums, recorders, xylophones, guitars and more. Both events on 25 May will be in collaboration with the Denis Goldberg House of Hope.
- g. The unique Paarl home will offer tours, a market, singing and riel dancing on 20 May 2023.
- h. In honour of International Museum Day on 18 May 2023, the Afrikaans Language Museum and Monument (ATM) presents an exciting free programme on Saturday 20 May, in the centre of Paarl. With guided tours, unique riel dance performances, poetry readings, singing, a market as well as children's entertainment, the day promises not only fun, but also the opportunity to learn more about the comprehensive history of Afrikaans and the historic Language Museum. To reach out to the community, the ATM sponsors transport and meals for a group of seniors and children, and free entry for all as far as time and space allow.
- i. Huguenot Memorial Museum open day on 18 May and the annual speech contest on 25 May for Franschhoek learners.
- j. The CP Nel Museum will also be hosting the popular annual speech contest for the Greater Oudtshoorn high school learners on 18 May.



5. Eastern Cape Museums celebrate International Museum Month

- a. The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) will host International Museum month celebrations at Albany Museum and Amazwi South African Museum of Literature (both in Makhanda) on 23 May 2023. Participating museums will showcase their collections. The best three museums will win an exchange programme trip to Lower Saxony, Germany. The winning museum will win R100 000 to revamp or develop a transformative exhibition. The runner-up will win a trip to Robben Island Spring School. All the winning museums will receive flat screens to promote museum activities.
- b. Amazwi South African Museum of Literature in collaboration with Albany Museum will present 120 pairs of school shoes to local schools.

International Museum Month Partners

1. South African Air Force Museum (Tshwane)
2. Iziko Museums of South Africa (Cape Town)
3. Post Office Museum (Tshwane)
4. Lwandle Museum (Cape Town)
5. The Afrikaans Language Museum (Paarl)
6. DITSONG: Kruger Museum (Tshwane)
7. City of Tshwane: Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site
8. The Huguenot Memorial Museum (Franschhoek)
9. DITSONG: Tswaing Meteorite Crater (Soshanguve)
10. Freedom Park (Tshwane)
11. DITSONG: Pioneer Museum (Tshwane)
12. Castle of Good Hope (Cape Town)
13. City of Tshwane: Melrose House Museum
14. DITSONG: National Museum of Cultural History (Tshwane)
15. La Motte Museum (Franschhoek)
16. Geo-Science Museum (Tshwane)
17. City of Tshwane: Pretoria Art Museum
18. McHardy House Museum (Cullinan)
19. Paarl Museum
20. DITSONG: National Museum of Natural History (Tshwane)
21. Free State Provincial Museums
22. National Afrikaans Literary Museum (Bloemfontein)
23. National Museum of Bloemfontein
24. Togrers Museum (Ceres)
25. DITSONG: National Museum of Military History (Johannesburg)
26. Simon's Town Museum
27. DITSONG: Sammy Marks Museum (Tshwane)
28. Hout Bay Museum
29. DITSONG: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum (Old Bronkhorstspuit Road/Cullinan/Rayton)
30. CP Nel Museum (Oudtshoorn)
31. Voortrekker Monument (Tshwane)
32. Amazwi South African Museum of Literature (Makhanda)
33. Albany Museum (Makhanda)



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