

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ETHEKWINI PARTICIPATION AT THE FRENCH SOUTH AFRICA SEASONS IN NANTES AND PARIS FRANCE FROM 24 TO 27 MARCH 2013

Councillor Makhanya Deputy Chairperson Health, Safety and Social Services Committee represented Mayor Nxumalo at the French Seasons in France supported by Ms Shelley Gielink, Senior Manager International Projects and Donor Relations in Nantes and Paris from 25-27 March 2013.

NANTES

eThekwini participated at the 5th World Human Rights Forum – Mayor Nxumalo was due to sit on the final plenary of the 5th World Human Rights Forum but was unable to travel. As a result Cllr Makhanya attended the plenary but arrived too late to present a perspective on Human Rights in eThekwini. However eThekwini's attendance was noted.

A meeting was held with the IGR Department in Nantes Metropole and Cllr Makhanya met with the political head of the International Relations Department as well as Mayors of other Sister Cities of Nantes.

Cllr Makhanya officiated at the two receptions held for the French South Africa Seasons exhibition opening of Coming Home at the Maison de l'Europe and the School of Architecture. Coming Home is an exhibition of art works created by SA artists during the apartheid years, disseminated in various public and private collections around the world and returned to SA for inclusion in this exhibition by the Ifa Lethu Foundation. The funding for the exhibition was provided by the French SA Seasons and eThekwini's Sister City of Nantes.

A visit was also made to the old city of Nantes, the Abolition of Slavery Museum and a newly regenerated area similar to Durban's Point where Nantes hosts a mechanical life size elephant.



Green Capital



Mr Franck Barrau Secretary general of the World Human Rights Forum



Cllr Makhanya officially opening Coming Home

PARIS

eThekwini participated in the SA delegation to Paris for the Official Opening of the French South Africa Seasons.

Cllr Makhanya represented Mayor as part of the SA delegation to Paris to witness the official opening. A meeting was held with Minister Paul Mashitile and the Ambassador to France as well as the Chairperson of the National Arts Council of South Africa Ms Angie Makwetla, MEC N Sibhindla-Saphetha KZN Department of Arts and Culture and Minister Rob Davies.

The Commissioners of the Seasons Mr Laurent Clavell (France) and Mr Bongani Tembe (South Africa) briefed the Minister on the Seasons activities which will last until the end of 2013. The SA Government and the National Arts Council as well as the French Ministry of Arts will fund some 900 artists to visit 100 cities in France in order to promote SA in France through the arts.

Mention was made of a Pavilion in Venice which the Department of Arts and Culture has bought as part of the Venice Biennale for 6 months to showcase South Africa. Cities and departments were encouraged to use the space free of charge.

In 2014 it is intended to have the UK SA Seasons to replicate the French SA Seasons.



Gala Evening at Halles de Chailiot

The delegation attended a SA show BEAUTY by Robyn Orlin at the Theatre National de Chailiot which received a standing ovation by the audience of 1000 people. A Gala cocktail was held and the Eiffel Tower was then lit up in the colours of the SA flag.



Outcomes of visit:

IGR recommends that the eThekweni pursue the following projects within the French South Africa Seasons and the Nantes Sister City Programme.

- 1.1 Use the opportunity presented by the Minister of Arts and Culture to utilize the space purchased by the Department of Arts and Culture in Venice to showcase Durban (Durban Tourism to action)**
- 1.2 Formally sign the MOU for the next three years with Nantes Metropole in order for funding to be accessed (IGR to action)**
- 1.3 Write a report for eThekweni to participate in the Nantes Film Festival in November – Durban Film Office and IGR to action**
- 1.4 Make contact with the E'cole Design to further Design Project with ECOD – Noma Sokhela to action**
- 1.5 Write a report for eThekweni to participate in the Green City Conference in Nantes in September 2013 – IGR and Environment Department to action**

Report compiled by S Gielink – Senior Manager International Projects and Donor Relations