



Community Arts Centres: Progress Report

DAC Community Arts Centre Programme





Aims of the Presentation



★ Give a detailed progress report

★ Outline plans for the future



★ Present CAC Awards Initiative

★ Give a list and categories of CAC





Background



- ★ The community arts centre programme of the Department of Arts and Culture is four years old this year.
- ★ The early vision was titled “towards optimally functioning Community Arts Centres in South Africa”.
- ★ Strategies were developed to achieve this overall vision and amongst them was the initiation of provincial projects in which all the CACs participated.



Background Cont...



- ★ An Interim Structure representing Community Arts Centres in South Africa was formed in 2002
- ★ 2003-4 provinces established their provincial Steering Committees and forums for CACs
- ★ A national body was established in 2004 as the National Forum of CACs and became an official umbrella body of CACs.



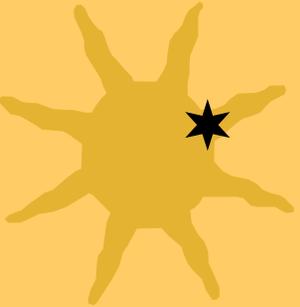
Background Cont...

- ★ The main aim of forming these forums was to remove centres from operating in isolation and to have a civil society structure that would work with government to tackle all the challenges that CACs are faced with.
- ★ Between 2003-date the Eastern Cape seconded its officials as managers in all the centres in the Province. Free State and Kwa- Zulu Natal also have appointed managers in their Arts Centres.



Lessons Learnt

- ★ The Community Arts Centre Programme is not integrated within DAC, provincial and local government programmes, though all the arts, culture, heritage and arts education and training activities are through them at a local level. A percentage of expertise from all units should be invested in community arts centres. This will apply to all Arts, Culture and Heritage Institutions. CACs provide a platform for a visible service delivery by government at grass root level. This calls for a coordinated approach by DAC in addressing challenges at community arts centres.





Lessons Learnt Cont...

- ★ Community arts centre's management, financial process and legal ownership do not exist. DAC, provinces and municipalities should work together to establish these pillars that continue to hamper progress.
- ★ Create a model centre or a flagship that has a committed budget at each province, which will support all other centres. In this case we can improve an existing centre by putting all the necessary equipments, personnel and programmes.



Lesson Learnt Cont...

- ★ There are no committed funds on a continuous basis for CACs particularly at provincial and local spheres of government. As a result whatever funding is invested in CACs does not add any value on a long-term basis. There is a need for at least 5 year funding for programmes and activities to become viable, sustainable and of value to the community. Failure to provide this funding will lead to vandalism of infrastructure.





Lessons Learnt Cont...



The Arts and Culture Management Training that was initiated through the SA-Flemish Community Arts Centre Project, becomes a National Training Support for CACs. It will also provide for capacity building for CACs management including management board and local government officials.





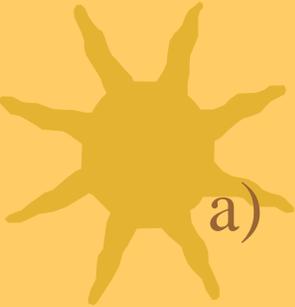
Achievements

- ★ The 3-year SA-Flemish bi-national agreement on CACs has been successfully completed. The aim of the project was to develop a sustainable policy-driven network of Community Arts Centres throughout the country. Two Community Arts Centres in **Free State** (Zamdela and Thabong), **Kwa-Zulu Natal** (Stable-Idontsha) and **Limpopo** (Thohoyandou Centre and Giyane) were identified.
- ★ The project sought to





Achievements Cont...



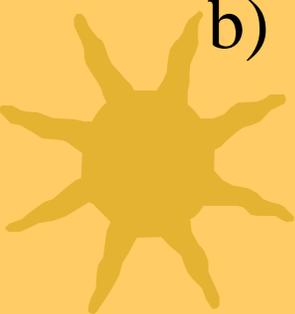
a)

develop these three centres (and consequently the clusters of centres they represent in their regions) into well-functioning community centres both with regard to management and infrastructure, and with regard to the contents of the activities.



b)

develop a functioning model to be implemented in other provinces.





Achievements Cont...

The project has delivered the following:

- ★ A report on SA-Flemish Community Arts Centre project has been produced.
- ★ A policy framework for Community Arts Centres: DAC will incorporate the policy framework into wider Policy Review Process.



Achievements Cont...



- ★ The Arts and Culture Management Training implementation has started with the development of a draft Training Manual by a consortium appointed to implement this training in the Province of Limpopo, Free State, Kwazulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape. This is a pilot project and will be reviewed and rolled out to all the other remaining provinces in 2007-2008 financial years. Management Teams of about 5 people including, the manager, local government official, district official, a member of management board and a tutor at each centre will be trained under various aspects of management, fundraising, human resources, financial policies etc. This is a MAPPP-Seta accredited course. DAC will incorporate this training into its National Training Support for management in CACs and local government in the medium to long term. DAC hopes to enhance it to include many challenges that community arts organisations, arts NGO, traditional leadership and heritage organisations grapple with at a local level.



Achievements cont..



- A diversity of short-medium term programmes have been implemented in the 6 community arts centres in the three provinces of Limpopo, Free State and KwaZulu Natal.
- State of the art computers have been installed at Thohoyandou Community Arts Centre as a Photographic Studio and general computer training and usage.
- The 6 community arts centres have each received 2 office computers and colour printers. Thohoyandou and Giyani Arts centre in Limpopo, Zamdela (Sasolburg) and Thabong Arts Centres in Free State; and Stable Theatre (Durban) and Indonsa (Ulundi) in KwaZulu Natal.



Achievements cont...

- ★ DAC has in the past four years committed funding for CAC programmes. About 40 community arts centre projects were funded to kick-start activities at the centres while trying to put systems in place. The National budget for CAC Programme was R1 million in 2002-03, R 3 million in 2003-4, R5 million in 2004-5, R 5 million and R 2 million in the current financial year.





Achievements cont...



★ While MINMEC has provided a platform for interaction and cooperation, many Provincial Plans do not show any financial commitment.



★ The DAC's Investing in Culture Funding has funded 11-community arts centre projects that have the potential for growing into small cooperatives, to the total of R7 million in the previous financial year.



★ DAC has donated furniture to some CACs across the country.



Achievements cont...



The established National Forum for community arts centres has opened doors for government to work with communities and assist in terms of coordinating proposals, projects at provincial level. In North West for example the Provincial Committee has initiated 4 District Community Arts Centres in Districts that have not had them before.





Challenges

- ★ Community Arts Programming Community Arts: Centres offer very limited and not so relevant programmes.
- ★ Municipal Planning and the IDP processes: Community Arts Centre or Arts and Culture in general does not form part of the Municipal planning processes. This makes it difficult for the centres to receive any attention in any form from municipalities.



Challenges cont...



- ★ Community Development and Participation: CACs are good interventions for community development and participation. This has not been explored yet.



Challenges cont...



- Policies for Community Arts and Arts Centres: There is a need for local cultural policies for community arts and Community Arts Centres. The national policy framework for CACs should provide guidelines for the development of such. DAC can learn from other countries in Africa and elsewhere where there are good policies for community arts.



Challenges cont...

- **Sustainability of Community Arts Centre Projects:**
In the past four years we have not created a sustainable community centre project, due to management capacity and financial constraints. DAC has have funded projects on an adhoc basis and when the duration of a project ends because the funds have been exhausted everything stops. Though the Department is planning to have systems in place soon, there is a need to learn how other CACs in other developing countries have made it.





Challenges cont...

★ Funding:

A committed maximum funding of at least R 1 million per centre is necessary depending on the locality and the nature of programmes delivered. All the past four years interventions have proven that this is essential. CACs are under resourced





Challenges cont...

- ★ Community Arts Centres' role in social cohesion and promotion of inclusivity:
CACs are suitable institutions that can promote social inclusivity and cohesion. This needs to be explored looking into what models are successful in areas that were torn by wars and conflicts that are starting to come out of the situation with the medium of arts and culture.

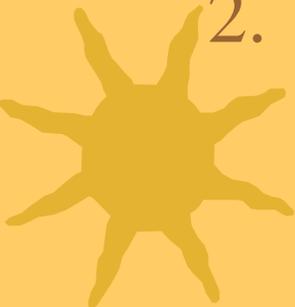




Plan of Action *2006/2007*



1. Launch of a Community Arts Centre Awards.



2. Engage DPLG and counterparts at Provincial Level with regards to the Integrated Development Planning (IDP)



3. Increase bi-national agreements and exchange



Current Status of CACs



There are currently four categories of CACs:

- ★ New RDP Centres
- ★ Historical/Older Centres that operate as NGOs
- ★ Community Initiatives that were established as a result of community's needs and passion for cultural activities.
- ★ Centres that are established by either municipalities or provinces.





End



★ Thank you

