



Community Engagement Initiative: Pankop Mathanjana Art Day

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About

The initiative was an art day held on the 16th of August from 10:00-17:00 at the youth community centre in Mathanjana. There was a group of 8 artists that facilitated 6 workshops: drama, dance, fine arts, conceptual photography, zines, and poetry. The purpose of the art day was to 1) impart skills so that the children are able to use the different art disciplines as art expression in their own lives, 2) have the day



be therapeutic, a day to distress and get away from the daily adversities of life and 3) to foster social connectedness by providing the opportunity to socialize, meet new people and even bond and get to know the next person outside of the usual activities. The 30 children in attendance came from 2 different branches of SOS Mathanjana. We arranged to have different disciplines to better cater for everyone and increase chances of enjoyment.

Supporters and Collaborators

Synergos assisted with the arrangements, helped to ground the work in social connectedness and sponsored transport for the facilitators. TUT Printers sponsored us with paper to make books for the children, Sam Maseko assisted us with boxes of bottled water, the facilitators baked cupcakes, the Herman family provided crayons and colored pens. SOS organized the venue and catered food for everyone.

Benefits to Research

The work confirmed the theory and gave life to my research. I began to witness how group art naturally births resilience, psychosocial well-being and social connectedness. We saw the children offering of themselves through the art expression and were at awe of how receptive they were of each other's contributions. We observed the support and encouragement they gave to each other when it became difficult to some. We all went through a journey, of meeting and holding back, to us gradually forming a bond, loving and laughing and then not

Watch the [video](#) showcasing the youth during the day!