

*Towards optimally functioning  
community arts centres in South Africa*

**Proposed strategy for  
empowering community arts  
centres**

*South African Journal of Music*

## *Audit findings*

- Policy and implementation
  - Lack of policy since 1996
  - Arts concurrent constitutional competency
- Implementation process problematic

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## *Lack of capacity*

- Institutional underdevelopment
- Inadequate management
- Low artistic skills
- Limited resources
- Service programmes not sustainable
- Limited economic and educational market access
- No support services
- No monitoring and evaluation

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## *Service delivery*

- Uneven satisfaction of service demand
- Inappropriate services
- Weak programme management
- Limited skills development
- Limited funding

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## *Relationship older and DACST centres*

- Ignored older centres during planning
- No lessons learnt
- Older centres not involved

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# *Partnerships and networkings*

- Isolation of arts centres
- Need for partnerships
- Intersectoral relations
- Problems in partnerships

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# *Ownership and community participation*

- Defined legal ownership
- Limited developmental "ownership"
- Community participation problematic

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## *Funding and repackaging*

- Inadequate funding
  - DAAGST-Provincial agreements
  - Local government limitation
- Unfavourable funding conditions
- Market demands more attractive service packages

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# *Proposed strategy*

## INSTITUTIONAL

- DACST to continue investments and oversee strategy implementation through National Steering Committee
- Update policies
- Establish Provincial Community Arts Services
- Establish provincial and local partnerships
- Differentiation of arts centres
- Develop arts centre clusters
- Establish flagships similar to museums

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# *Proposed strategy (cont)*

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

- Increased provincial and local government investments
- Focus on linkage between capacity building and service delivery programmes
- Support and mentoring
- Establish national federation of CACs

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## *Proposed Strategy (cont)*

### **LINKAGES**

- Align to national priorities such as Poverty Relief Fund and Moral Regeneration Movement
- Link to Flemish-SA programme
- Involve older community arts centres
- Link some CACs to MPCCs
- Create Arts and Science Centres
- Link to Create SA
- International twinning

# *Differentiation 4-levels*

## LEVEL A: GENERAL CULTURAL PROMOTION

- General social development
- Mass based activities
- Youth Stabilization
- Audience development
- Low tariffs
- Local artists as tutors
- Volunteer schemes
- Funding by DAC and Provinces
- Stepping stone to Levels B and C

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## *Differentiation 4-levels*

### LEVEL B: ADVANCED PROGRAMMES

- Specialisation
- Talent Identification
- Focus on economic capacity building and skills development
- Funding by Provinces, Local government, MAPPPSETA if accredited, NAC

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## *Differentiation 4-levels*

- LEVEL 0: VOCATIONAL TRAINING
  - Accredited and funded through MAPPPSETA
  - Strong links to formal education system
  - Strong arts centres like BAT, Funda, Fuba, CAP
- Funding: bursaries through NAC

*Society is what makes a difference*

## *Differentiation 4-levels*

- LEVEL OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
  - Branding services and acting as flagships
  - Conduits for funding to lower level bands (A)
    - E.g. Playhouses, Galleries
    - Funding from NAC, BASA, Private Sector, DAC and cost recovery

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## *NAC funding*

- Professional artists in centres
- Identification of talent
- Vocational training
- Arts centre management
- Administrative costs component
- Support service agencies

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