



# COLLECTIONS CONFIGURING

The South African heritage landscape

The 87th SAMA National Conference

FOR ENQUIRIES [ayanda.simelane2@durban.gov.za](mailto:ayanda.simelane2@durban.gov.za) | [dtlhoaele@nmsa.org.za](mailto:dtlhoaele@nmsa.org.za) | [samakzn.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:samakzn.secretary@gmail.com)

## PRESS RELEASE

29 September 2023

### The South African Museums Associations' National Conference 2023

The theme for this year's conference which will take place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Luthuli Museum, KwaDukuza is **"Re/collections and Reconfiguring the South African Heritage Landscape"**. The theme considers issues that have affected South Africa in the recent past but also continue to pose as challenges. The theme challenges museum professionals and practitioners to consider the role of museums in a country that must deal with a traumatic past and still grapples with reconciliation, a society that is affected by climate change and environmental issues, a society that is grappling with social ills and a society that aspires to take advantage of opportunities that are presented by modern technology. Museum professionals are challenged to envision the future of South African museums. How do we recollect and reconfigure this landscape?

Museums are not only repositories of artifacts and specimens, but they also play a critical role in shaping the public's understanding of culture, arts and the environment. Therefore, museums have a unique responsibility to promote sustainable development and contribute to the wellbeing of their visitors and communities.

In addition to promoting sustainability, museums can also contribute to the wellbeing of their visitors and communities. Museums can provide spaces for relaxation, reflection, and learning which can help reduce stress and improve mental health. Museums can also promote social inclusion by bringing people from different backgrounds and communities together and providing opportunities for dialogue and understanding.

However, achieving sustainability and promoting wellbeing in museums requires a significant shift in thinking and practice. Therefore, how do museums adopt approaches that consider the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic issues? What is the role of different stakeholders and communities in adoption of these sustainable practices?

The conference will attempt to deal with these issues through various sub-themes and panel discussions which will be rounded off with a tour of heritage sites around the area one of which is the internationally renowned Sibudu Cave, a rock shelter and important Middle Stone Age site.

This landmark conference will be opened by the Honourable MEC: Sport, Arts and Culture Dr. Ntuthuko Mahlaba, and South African Museums Associations (SAMA) President Dr. Bongani Ndlovu

## PRESS CONTACT

SAMA KZN

Mr. Wonder Xulu

[XuluW@kzndsac.gov.za](mailto:XuluW@kzndsac.gov.za)