

COMMUNITY HOUSE



a site of activism

41 Salt River Road
Salt River
7925
Tel: 021 - 447 7319
Fax: 021 - 447 7312
Email: comhouse@telkomsa.net

Media Release - Celebrating a home for the Community

On Human Rights Day the 21st of March 2019. Community House will be celebrating 34 years of activism, past, present and future.

Community House, in Salt River, was established in 1987 as a home to many Trade Unions and NGO's and became a pivotal hub in the struggle against apartheid.

To many activists across the province and country, Community House was home, a safe haven, a place where many campaigns against the apartheid state were launched.

Community House was declared a provincial heritage site in 2010. It presently houses twenty-four organizations that focus on labour research, popular education, gender advocacy, HIV/AIDS education, environmental issues, youth development, media production and union organization.

The event on Human Rights day will highlight the organisations and individuals who have played a seminal part in our history, and honour those who have fallen in the struggle for our freedoms. All activists and friends of Community House are invited to join the celebrations.

Several activities are planned for the day which starts at 11H00 am. These activities include an exhibition, panel discussions and cultural events.

The exhibition will showcase the work of the various organisations that are, and have been based at Community House. The panel discussions will centre on the role of activists and activism in a democracy and Women's Rights.

There will be a variety of cultural activities on offer throughout the day, including drama, choir performances, dancing, film screenings, music and poetry. The Cape Cultural Collective will be co-ordinating these activities.

Bush Radio 89.5FM will be doing a live broadcast, including interviews on the day and Cape Town TV will film the day's activities.

The event is open to all and is free to enter.

FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

SECTION 21 COMPANY (NOT FOR GAIN) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1986/0033/12/08

VAT NO: 4430126013

Background to Community House

Community House situated in Salt River Road, Salt River, Cape Town is a unique and historic site of living heritage. It has always been known as a site of activism from around the mid 1980's which has shaped and continues to shape the socio-political landscape of its extended communities. The building itself houses NGO's and Trade Unions as well as a labour and community history museum centered on the Trade Union Library and its archive. It presently houses twenty-four organizations that focus on labour research, popular education, gender advocacy, HIV/AIDS education, environmental issues, youth development, media production and union organization.

In the mid-1980's, anti-apartheid trade unions and civic and service organizations began searching for a new headquarters for their resistance campaign. The Western Province Council of Churches (WPCC) and an NGO, the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) met this need. They purchased a dilapidated auto-workshop in Salt River, an area known for its textile and light metal factories and which marks the origins of industrial unions in the province.

The site was declared a provincial heritage site in 2010.

The Cape Cultural Collective, started in 2007, is a diverse cultural group that promotes ideals of unity, inclusivity and equality and draws a link between history and the social challenges of our time. It has been driving a number of very successful arts and culture projects in the City for the last ten years including the monthly cultural programs, a poetry anthology, the celebrated Rosa Choir and a poetry production Uhadi, that was performed at the Paris Autumn Festival in 2013. The CCC launched a junior choir at the end of 2015. The CCC works closely with cultural groups from Langa, Bontehuwel, Mitchells Plain and Manenberg.

Bush Radio is Africa's oldest community radio station project based in Cape Town, South Africa.

The idea of Bush Radio started in the 1980's when community activists and alternative media producers came together to explore ways in which grassroots media could be used for social upliftment and as an alternative voice to the media available under apartheid. [Bush Radio](#) was officially formed in 1992, after two years of community consultations of all aspects of the radio station. After repeatedly applying for a broadcast license to the apartheid government in 1992, [Bush Radio](#) then decided to broadcast illegally. It was officially granted a license to broadcast in 1995.

The station serves as training radio station for many media activists and professionals both locally and internationally.

Issued by Community House, Bush Radio and the Cape Cultural Collective.

For more information, contact:

Joao Jardim Community House Manager on comhouse@telkomsa.net or 021 447 7319

Elizabeth Schutter (CCC) Elizabeth.schutter@gmail.com or 084 6162687

June Knight (CCC) june.knight@gmail.com or 079 1835170

Brenda Leonard (Bush Radio) brenda@bushradio.co.za or 0214485450