



nhc

National Heritage Council
SOUTH AFRICA

an agency of the
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

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· GOLDEN SHIELD ·
HERITAGE
— AWARDS —

11th Golden Shield Heritage Awards

Finalists

11th GOLDEN SHIELD HERITAGE AWARDS FINALISTS LIST 2024

1.1.1.1 GOSHA NATIONAL CATEGORIES

National Living Treasure

	1.	Ms. Mushaisano Rebecca Matibe Mufulwu House no 108 Thohoyandou	Vho Makhadzi Matibe Rebecca Mushaino is a 94-year-old South African artist from Venda in Limpopo who makes traditional pots, flower pots, cups and other decorating materials using clay soil. She has worked closely with the University of Venda art gallery to showcase her artistic work. Vho Makhadzi Matibe has upskilled and empowered lot of people in her community and surroundings as she used heritage as a source of living.
	2.	Mr Maluta Solvin Matsheka Mbahe Village, Limpopo	Mr. Maluta Matsheka has been actively involved in the Cultural Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission conference for over a year, contributing his expertise on Indigenous Knowledge Systems. He has organized school tours and coordinated artists to promote heritage, particularly intangible and indigenous knowledge. Additionally, he has initiated a cultural village project aimed at preserving neglected ruins in his village. As the chairperson of the African Indigenous Instrument Preservation Organisation, he has also released an album featuring an indigenous

			musical instrument. Furthermore, he participated in a three-year Univen Indigenous Music and Oral Music project.
Young heritage activist			
	3.	Miss Portia Ncwane Newlands East ,Kwazulu Natal	<p>Miss Portia Ncwane, a 31-year-old philanthropist, youth and cultural activist, dance choreographer, actress, and filmmaker, hails from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. As a global ambassador for South Africa, she has promoted and preserved South African culture locally and internationally. Ncwane is a multi-award-winning creative producer and director, recognized as the first runner-up for the SHE AWARDS AFRICA 2023 Entertainment of the Year, a GAGASI FM SHERO Nominee for 2024, a Sunday World Heroic Women 2024 nominee, and a Female Founders Initiative Africa under 50 recipients. She is also a 'She Leads Africa' awardee for 2024.</p> <p>In 2014, Ncwane founded the Portia Ncwane Foundation, registered in 2016, which has developed over 6,200 youth globally through cultural training workshops. Her foundation focuses on South African cultures, including Zulu, Tswana, Venda, and Sepedi, and has implemented annual cultural training workshops in the Ink area of KwaZulu-Natal through the Siyaphambili Initiative since 2015. Miss Portia Ncwane teaches folklore dance and Zulu amahubo music at schools across KwaZulu-Natal and</p>

			<p>stages student productions. She is the founder and CEO of Sbani Media Productions, a company that creates films and documentaries focusing on African pre-colonial stories and traditional folklore. Ncwane represented South Africa at cultural festivals in Spain, Italy, Senegal, and the United States, performing and choreographing for large audiences and engaging in cultural exchanges. Since 2013, her work has reached over 36,000 people across these countries.</p> <p>Ncwane has also been a guest teacher at the Arts and Ideas Festival at Yale University, presented at the Mandela Washington Fellowship program in Washington, D.C., and the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Symposium in South Africa. She hosts online dance classes in New York and Senegal, mentoring over 25 students annually. Her contributions include choreographing for the South African Sports Awards, producing a dance and musical production titled <i>The Journey of Growing Pains</i>, and participating in various cultural events and webinars.</p> <p>In 2023, Ncwane began volunteering to mentor community organizations and traditional folklore groups, guiding them in leveraging their art for business and leadership. She has created over 150 job opportunities through her programs and developed a curriculum for traditional dancers in</p>
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			<p>KwaZulu-Natal in collaboration with Dr. Hanan Hameen, supported by the U.S. Department of State.</p> <p>Ncwane recently covered a documentary on cultural exchange in Italy and is working on a film titled <i>Igida Ngoma</i>, set to debut on September 24, 2024. Her dedication to preserving South African heritage through hands-on workshops and visual storytelling exemplifies her commitment as a cultural and heritage activist.</p>
	4.	Miss Mandy Makoti Winterveld , Gauteng	<p>Mandy Makoti’s passion for heritage began in school and grew during her time at the Gaabomotho Cultural Village. In 2015, she founded Mandy Limitless Productions to teach traditional skills, such as music, dance, and bead making to the younger generation. Her organization has successfully engaged hundreds of youths through workshops and events, fostering a deep appreciation for cultural traditions and providing a positive alternative to negative influences. Mandy’s efforts not only preserve cultural practices but also contribute to the personal development of young individuals.</p>
Voice of Heritage			
	5.	Ms. Nomawele Njongo Luqoqweni Village ,Eastern Cape	<p>Nomawele Njongo is a prominent figure in African literature and cultural empowerment. As the founder of KwaziThina Publishers in Luqoqweni, she</p>

			<p>has significantly advanced African literature and cultural heritage through several key initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. **Africa Teen Authors Book Initiative (2021) **: This program seeks to reshape Africa's narrative and encourage cultural exchange among teenagers from 31 countries, including diaspora communities.2. **Annual Anthologies**: Annually her publishing house releases an anthology of stories by African teens, addressing diverse themes such as "The Covid-19 Era" and "African Cultures."3. **Funda Mpondo Literary Festival (2022) **: which celebrates storytelling and heritage in Mpondoland, attracting a broad audience including local leaders and international guests. <p>Nomawele's work has earned her numerous accolades, including being named Brand South Africa's Play Your Part Ambassador and receiving various nominations and awards for her contributions to literature and community leadership. Her collaborations span multiple organizations, enhancing her impact in promoting African culture globally.</p>
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	6.	<p>Ms Zinziswa Soga Moantsane ,Eastern Cape</p>	<p>Zinziswa Soga, as the leader of Nobert Kevin Film (PTY) LTD, has significantly impacted the company’s efforts to preserve and promote South African heritage. Under her leadership, the documentary “Sikhumbula umaqoma” was produced, highlighting the power of storytelling in reconnecting communities with their roots, celebrating cultural identity, and preserving marginalized historical narratives.</p> <p>The documentary, which focuses on the legacy of Prince Maqoma, challenges traditional historical accounts that often glorify colonial powers and overlook the stories of those who resisted them. During Heritage Month 2023, the documentary’s tour reached thousands of people across various communities in the Eastern Cape and beyond, providing a valuable opportunity for these communities to reconnect with their history and contributing to a broader movement to reframe African history from an African perspective.</p>
CORPORATE HERITAGE			
	7.	<p>FirstRand Foundation (Mr Lesego Ndala) Randburg, Gauteng</p>	<p>The FirstRand Foundation, as part of FirstRand, aims to foster a financially inclusive society with equitable access to economic growth by empowering communities in South Africa. One of its key initiatives is the Long March to Freedom (LMTF) programme, a major exhibition of 100 life-size bronze statues representing notable figures from South African and international</p>

			<p>history. The Foundation supports this initiative through the School Sponsorship Programme, which provides public schools and youth organizations with the opportunity to tour the exhibition. This programme includes guided tours, educational worksheets, transportation, lunch packs, and gift packs, with a focus on non-fee-paying schools. Since its inception, over 4000 learners and educators have participated. The programme aims to preserve heritage, amplify historical narratives, promote cultural economy, and engage youth, with endorsement from the Western Cape Department of Education.</p>
LIBERATION HERITAGE STERWARD			
	8.	<p>Dr Lebogang Lance Nawa Hammanskraal, Gauteng</p>	<p>Dr Lebogang Lance Nawa is a prominent South African liberation struggle heritage hero whose work intertwines politics and culture. With over 40 years of experience in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage sector, Dr Nawa has gained both national and international recognition for his contributions as a cultural activist, academic, creative writer, journalist, and board member. His influence extends globally, evidenced by prestigious international awards and academic references.</p> <p>Nawa's notable contributions include his roles in public office, such as his involvement in renaming several city landmarks and erecting a statue in Tshwane. As an academic and policy specialist, he has contributed to</p>

			<p>significant reviews and policy drafts, including the National Theatre and Dance Policy and the Mpumalanga Liberation Heritage Routes project.</p> <p>As a cultural activist, Nawa founded various cultural organizations, participated in anti-apartheid solidarity activities, and currently serves as Secretary-General of the National Writers Association of South Africa. His international accolades include being named Culture Personality of the Year 2024 by the General Union for Palestine Writers and the Assembly of Jerusalemite Intellectuals.</p>
	9.	DR Khulu Zephania Mbatha Constantia Park ,Gauteng	<p>The 70 years old Dr. Khulu Zephania Mbatha, born in Johannesburg, was a student at the University of Zululand during the 1976 Soweto uprising. He left South Africa in at the time, traveling through Swaziland to Tanzania to join the African National Congress. Dr Mbatha earned his master's in 1983 and Ph.D. in 1987 degrees in philosophy from Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany.</p> <p>Under Nelson Mandela's presidency, he served as the assistant to Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, and later worked at the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in New York. He was appointed Consul-General to Munich by President Mandela. Dr Mbatha also held roles as Deputy Director General in the Department of Home Affairs, and as the first</p>

			<p>CEO of the Road Traffic Management Corporation in the Department of Transport.</p> <p>From 2008 to 2014, he was the special political adviser to President Kgalema Motlanthe, and from 2018 to 2021, he served as the special adviser on international relations to President Cyril Ramaphosa.</p> <p>In April 2020, Dr. Mbatha collaborated with the Nelson Mandela Foundation to produce and launch the "Negotiating Democracy" exhibition at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory. This exhibition, available online, details the negotiation process leading to South Africa's interim constitution and honors the leaders involved in the democratic transition.</p> <p>Dr. Mbatha is also an accomplished author and public speaker. His recent works include <i>*Scattered – A Personal Story of the 1976 Generation*</i> (2022), which recounts his experiences and those of his peers during apartheid, and <i>*My Journey from A Rural Herd Boy to MK Soldier And Then Ambassador*</i> (2022), co-authored with Ambassador Mabuse Mampane, detailing Mampane's life and his role in Umkhonto we Sizwe. In 2023, he reviewed a three-volume Handbook on Agency, Freedom, and Justice, which will be launched in October 2024 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.</p>
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HERITAGE EDUCATION			
	10	<p>Ms Paramount Chief Tania Kleinhans and /or The Institute for the Restoration of the Aborigines of South Africa (IRASA) Cape Town ,Western Cape</p>	<p>Paramount Chief Tania Kleinhans, known as Chief Tania in the Khoi & San community, has been deeply connected to her indigenous roots since high school, inspired by stories from her grandparents and visits to indigenous communities. This background led her to establish the Institute for the Restoration of the Aborigines of South Africa (IRASA) in 2003, an NGO focused on conserving both intangible and tangible cultural heritage of South Africa's First Nations. Her dedication to this cause earned her the title of Paramount Chief of the Cochqua OedasoTsi Gonnemoa clan in the same year.</p> <p>In 2011, she represented IRASA in a submission to Parliament regarding the First Nation status in South Africa. The following years saw her involvement in significant initiatives, including the National Reference Group (NAREG) for the Khoi & San peoples, initiated by former President Zuma in 2012/2013. Chief Tania served as the Western Cape Provincial Secretary for NAREG and was part of the Policy Group from 2013 to 2017.</p> <p>IRASA's work, including a comparative analysis submitted to the United Nations Permanent Peoples Forum in 2013 and participation in high-level UN meetings and a SA Human Rights Commission inquiry in 2015,</p>

			<p>highlighted Chief Tania's influential role. She was also pivotal in the Kimberley 1 and Kimberley 2 processes, which were presidentially mandated.</p> <p>Currently, Chief Tania serves as a trustee of the Western Cape First Nation Collective Trust, supporting the Riverlands Development project, and is a founding member of the District 6 Advocacy Committee, which played a key role in the restitution of District 6 property owners and continues to advocate for their rights.</p>
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HERITAGE SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER			
	12	Miss Dyondzo Chauke Cosmo City , Gauteng	<p>Ms Dyondzo Chauke collaborated with UK author Shem Diana Moses on the "Proud to Be Me" project, which promotes African identity through children's books. Chauke's substantial online presence of over 60,000 followers on TikTok, 11,000 on Instagram, and 5,000 on YouTube—enables her to share content that celebrates African heritage and instils cultural pride in the youth.</p> <p>Her commitment to heritage is also demonstrated through her early dance performances, contributions to music videos, and mentorship in traditional Xibelani dance. As the second female chairperson of the "Khomanani</p>

			<p>VaTsonga Students Society" at Wits University, she expanded cultural awareness to other institutions. Her national TV appearances on SABC Mahungu and Ngula Ya Vutivi further highlight her advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Chauke's diverse experiences, including her multicultural background and various public engagements, underscore her dedication to preserving and celebrating cultural heritage.</p>
HERITAGE JOURNALISM			
	13	<p>Mr Saziso Dlamini Kwasizabantu Mission ,KwaZulu Natal</p>	<p>Saziso Dlamini is a distinguished and multi-award-winning radio presenter and producer known for his contributions to the broadcasting industry. Starting his career as a technical producer at Radio Khwezi in 2011, he has since won over 20 awards and become renowned for his work in content production and radio journalism. Passionate about traditional and indigenous music, Dlamini has covered numerous African events as a representative of the Agenda 2063 Media Network and, as of August 2021, has led his station to 28 award nominations. He is also among the first South African media personalities to serve as a judge for the UK Community Radio Awards.</p>

	14	<p>Miss Selomina Siphosethu Phekelela Cape Town, Western Cape</p>	<p>As a climate reporter, the exploration of the intersection between environmentalism and heritage has been a focus for Ms Selomina Siphosethu Phekelela. Siphosethu wrote an article on the inaugural Slow Fashion Festival highlights how African communities leverage traditional wisdom to promote sustainable practices, demonstrating how heritage can inform an eco-friendlier future. This work illustrates how journalism can reshape society’s view of culture and climate, advocating for a resilient and sustainable future by drawing lessons from the past.</p> <p>Additionally, she conducted a research into the South African Shembe church community revealed issues regarding the illegal use of leopard skins in religious ceremonies. The reporting highlighted a solution involving Heritage Furs—synthetic leopard skins that honor Shembe traditions while protecting wildlife.</p>
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Ubuntu Honours x 2

Ibrahim Rhoda

Ibrahim Rhoda served the Strand Muslim community for most of his life, not only through his research and writing but through active citizenship.

In 2018, the University of Western Cape awarded Rhoda its inaugural gold medal for commitment of community service, in recognition of his lifelong dedication to the Strand Muslim community. Born in Strand, Rhoda was a teacher and principal of Strand Moslem Primary School for 35 years. Growing up, Rhoda became increasingly fascinated by the history of the Strand Muslim community and the significance of sites such as the nearby Sheikh Yusuf kramat (shrine). This history had been largely ignored by historians and the school curriculum. Yet, elderly members of the community could recount in detail the history, not only of Muslims in the Strand, but other communities and particular families. His interest in Muslim genealogy led him to co-found the Cape Family Research Forum (CFRF) in 2002 with other researchers. The main objective of the CFRF was to encourage ordinary people to research their genealogy. Numerous families were able to trace some of their ancestors to slaves and exiles brought from present day Indonesia and other Indian Ocean territories.

Rhoda was selected to participate in a joint UCT-UWC project on researching slave roots, which unleashed his enthusiasm for archival research. After retiring from teaching, Rhoda registered for a master's degree in history, through UWC's Recognition of Prior Learning programme. At the age of 68, he was awarded a distinction in 2006 for his dissertation, 'The founding and development of the Strand Muslim Community, 1822–1928'.

His work has shown how histories can be rediscovered through the oral narratives of community sources coupled with archival research which resulted in him "tracing the slave matriarch of our family". As his research skills grew, Rhoda became increasingly aware that "much has been written by 'others' about the Muslims and other non-Muslim communities at the Cape".

After deciding that “It is high time that we narrate and record our own version,” Rhoda became something of a heritage activist, presenting workshops to learners and beginner researchers, giving informative talks on the Voice of the Cape radio station and inspiring others to become involved in archival studies.

Rhoda published a number of articles and three books on the history of Islam at the Cape: ‘From Slavery to Citizenship: a walk through the history of a Strand community’ (2011); ‘The Strand Muslim Community: 1822–1966 An Historical Overview’ (2014); and ‘The Wentzels: a pioneering family of the Muslim Community of the Strand’ (2018).

Rhoda received the Western Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Award in 2009 in the heritage category for his contribution to public awareness of heritage resources.

Janette Deacon

She was a member of the Arts and Culture Task Group (ACTAG) and secretary of its Heritage Subcommittee in 1994/95, which served as the writing team for the White Paper on Arts and Culture in 1995, and of the writing team for the new National Heritage Resources Act and the National Heritage Council Act, leading to the establishment of both SAHRA and the NHC.

After her retirement, she was appointed to the council of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and she is also a member of the Western Cape Cultural Commission. When employed at the then National Monuments Council (SAHRA), she also served as a member of the South African World Heritage Convention Committee.

She is a member of the board of trustees of the Trust for African Rock Art and Secretary of the Southern African Rock Art Project. She was Secretary and member of council of the Southern African Society for Quaternary Research, has been a member of council of the

South African Museums Association and is a Member of the Board of the SAMA School of Conservation. She was a Vice President of the Pan-African Association for Prehistory and Related Studies.

Janette Deacon is Honorary Secretary of the South African Archaeological Society and was awarded the President's Medal by the Society in 1997. She retired in 2000 as Archaeologist at the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

After her retirement she became the first chairperson for [Heritage Western Cape](#) (HWC) as well as secretary for the Southern African Rock Art Project, she arranged courses and workshops for the nomination of rock art sites on the [World Heritage List](#). In 2016, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature from UCT for her contributions to archaeology and rock art research

Lifetime Achievement Award

Queen Katrina Esau

Affectionately known as Ouma Katrina, the nonagenarian is the last remaining fluent speaker of the critically endangered N|uu language and one of South Africa's living legends. Thought to be extinct until fairly recently, N|uu – an ancient San language from the Tuu family – re-emerged in the Northern Cape during the late 1990s when people who were able to speak the language fluently were encouraged to contribute to its survival and revival. At the time, there was only a group of about 20 older people who could speak the language fluently, among them it was Ouma Katrina and her siblings. Sadly, Ouma Katrina is the last of the group still alive.

Her Excellency #Xuu Katrina Esau made it her life's mission to preserve the N|uu language for the future by educating young people from her community in a tiny classroom at her house in Rosedale, outside Upington in the Northern Cape. In 2023 she was bestowed

with an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Cape Town as the last remaining fluent speaker of the critically endangered N|uu language and one of South Africa's living legends. Mama Katrina is the recipient of the Order of the Baobab in Silver, for a sterling job she's doing in preserving and promoting the endangered N|uu language.

Her Excellency #Xuu Esau also featured in a film, *The Lost Tongue*, which is about the young lady fighting hard, against all odds, in trying to save her mother tongue, the N|uu language.

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