



HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY



Gender &
Women's Rights

In this issue:

International Women's Day: Claiming women's space in leadership |

Bluez Café Renovation, Brick Bank appeal | Artists Covid-19 Relief appeal |

RIP Maxwell Sibanda

.....

UN Women - Claiming women's space in leadership

Shirley Chisholm, the first black US Congresswoman once said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair".

The future is better with women at every table where decisions are being made. Trailblazing women like Shirley Chisholm have been claiming their space and demanding women's inclusion and equality throughout history, and now it's on us.

Across all sectors, communities and societies, women have key contributions to make to leadership. From politics and corporations to sports and STEM, diverse leadership benefits everyone. Leaders need to represent the people they serve to best understand their wants and needs.

This year on International Women's Day, UN Women are celebrating women's leadership in all its forms, and calling for women and feminists across the world to claim their space in leadership and decision-making.

Read more at <https://un-women.medium.com/claiming-womens-space-in-leadership-6acc13946e2>

Purpose & Passion

A leading woman artist of Bulawayo, actress, poet and cultural activist Nomashawe Damasane said:

"I am currently serving as the Women in Theatre and Television (WITT) coordinator in Nhimbe Trust. My challenges are striking a balance between being a new mum and fulfilling my duties in the office. My other challenges are to do with just being a woman and trying to make decisions in an industry that is predominately male. How has my position impacted other young women? It has created platforms for many female artists, especially musicians and actors, to showcase their talents. It has also provided room for collaborations to take place between people of different nationalities. My advice to young people who want to pursue such similar positions is simply to say "Work hard, and never forget the passion behind your purpose. Always ensure that you know what your purpose is and always ensure that you don't stop working until you fulfil your purpose within your passion."

Bluez Café Renovation: BRICK BANK APPEAL

One of Nhimbe Trust's areas of focus in this year is the renovation of the Bluez Cafe - the bold vision to create a multidisciplinary arts centre in the heart of Bulawayo, the cultural capital in the south-west of Zimbabwe.

It started in 2017 with consultation with 60 performing artists and cultural practitioners of the city, which exposed a united need for a dedicated venue for music, dance, theatre, arts training and rehearsal spaces, accessible by all. On Africa Day 2017, artists came together in the bare space at 98A Lobengula Street in a star-studded celebration filled with such hope for the future. While Nhimbe plunged into identifying specific needs, mobilising resources and establishing partnerships, the Bluez Café space opened up with existing minimal resources and capacity; however, all activities came to a halt when the leased premises at 98A Lobengula Street, was reclaimed to resume the City's construction plans for the area. Sadly, the burgeoning Bluez Cafe vacated the building at the end of February 2018 as required, and all forward planning was put on hold.

Nhimbe Trust relocated Bluez Café to 97A Lobengula St, a very old and dilapidated townhouse donated to Nhimbe by the Youth Contact Centre, and limited activities continued – rehearsal space, video location, and popup support for artists elsewhere; for this Nhimbe Trust is grateful to its main partner, Africalia, for the ongoing institutional support.

To realise the vision of a dedicated centre for the city's producers of culture, the venue requires major renovation, costs of which are way beyond Nhimbe's capacity, and unreachable without financial support.

Nhimbe set up the BRICK BANK appeal in January, to start work on the physical, structural needs of the new premises - and invites all contributions.

Executive Director Josh Nyapimbi said:

"As the local economy continues to decline and funding for cultural is also declining globally, with the needs for culture being reduced to a mere survival and humanitarian in nature, Nhimbe has a key role to play in the city. As the technical partner for the City of Bulawayo, it is important that the refurbishment of the Bluez Café is prioritized so that Nhimbe can meaningfully deliver on its mandate."

The opportunity that remains for Nhimbe for now is to mobilize individual giving, hence this appeal for the Bluez Café, for donations to a 'Brick Bank'. Whilst the needs are much greater and wider, we are also open to receiving other forms of donations that are critical for the refurbishment of the Bluez Café."

Other stakeholders in Bulawayo's cultural industries expressed support for the refurbishment plan.

Bulawayo artist, producer and director **SAIMON MAMBAZO PHIRI** described the visions as a place where "a lot of arts find a synergy, where a lot of arts meet ... if you support Bluez Cafe and the Nhimbe Trust Brickbank Appeal you are supporting the building of the future of Bulawayo arts."

Acclaimed musician and producer **JEYS MARABINI** said Bluez Cafe is a place "... which accommodates all aspects of performing arts that brings joy to our souls. ... a plea that you and I join hands ... to ensure the success of the renovations."

Director of Victory Siyanqoba Theatre **DESIRE MOYO** - said: "Umasingazenzeli, akula ozasenzela (If we can't do it ourselves, no one will!) This is Bulawayo's very own great idea whose time has finally come. [It's] a call for you and me to donate to the vision of a centre, a venue, a cultural space, as the city's own space for cultural producers. Kindly donate to Nhimbe's brickbank project. It is our baby. Yindlovu yethu sonke (It's our elephant together!). Donate today."

Actress, poet and producer **LADY TSHAWA**, said: "I'm an artist. I enjoy having a place that I can go to, to rehearse, to go and unlock my creative brain, and Bluez Cafe has afforded me that opportunity – to create and also just be in a space with other creatives, other like-minded people. So I'm appealing to those people who ... follow the careers of many artists in the City of Bulawayo - to donate to the Bluez Cafe Brick Bank.... so that we are can be able to create more work, more music, more plays, more poetry for you, in a space that has been renovated and has the artists in mind."

Bulawayo creative **NKULULEKO NKALA**, made the appeal "...to turn Bluez Café into an amazing arts venue, where people can mingle and milk their creative juices. ... Nhimbe have been known to support arts initiatives since time immemorial. So all you need to do is just donate to the Brick Bank ... the bottom line is if we all put our hands into it, one way or the other we will have a venue here in

Bulawayo of repute, a venue that will complement whatever is already there in the City of Kings and Queens.”

NICHOLAS MOYO, Director of the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe, said “As NACZ we are quite elated with the Nhimbe Trust project of Renovate Bluez Cafe.... We recognise the work that Nhimbe Trust is doing as a private player fits very well in the bigger picture of resuscitating cultural spaces throughout the country ... spaces that have been renovated that have been standing well, they also build an image, they contribute to the image of the sector, they contribute to the building of the image of the artists that participate in those spaces. We congratulate and wish Nhimbe Trust, in the buy-a-brick project to renovate Bluez Café, a happy project.”

LES WATSON (UK) – long-time partner of Youth Contact Centre and Nhimbe Trustee, said:

“I’ve been involved with the Youth Contact Centre in Bulawayo for many years now ... if we can get this campaign underway then the Bluez Cafe will continue to support you for many years to come. So do what you can, one brick is better than none, ten bricks is better than one. Whatever you can, please support. Thank you very much.”

Nhimbe invites and urges all stakeholders and supporters of this crucial development to donate to the Bluez Cafe Brick Bank.

The cost of a single brick is pinned at USD 0.35.

Donations can be made directly to Nhimbe Trust admin@nhimbe.org.

Nhimbe Trust Covid-19 Pandemic Appeal 2020-2021

https://www.facebook.com/donate/876313056442482/?fundraiser_source=external_url

COVID-19 is unravelling a decade of progress on the status of the artist and cultural professionals in the City of Bulawayo. The social and economic impact of the pandemic has already taken a toll on the city’s arts industry. Bulawayo, which is recognised as Zimbabwe’s Cultural Hub, currently has the highest nation-al prevalence rate of COVID-19 cases.

NHIMBE TRUST IS COMMITTED TO RAISING USD 150,000 TO KEEP ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS IN BULAWAYO SAFE FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

Nhimbe Trust aims to alleviate this hold-up for vulnerable artists and cultural professionals in Bulawayo by directly supporting at least 1500 artists and cultural professionals especially youth, women and the elderly who have disproportionately been impacted by COVID-19. Nhimbe Trust's response will cover the entire cultural community of Bulawayo. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be implemented in cooperation with the Bulawayo City Council.

This appeal is to people from all walks of life to donate towards the cause in support of our vulnerable artists and cultural professionals. No amount is too small.

Please Donate!

Donations should be directed to the Facebook page (link above), which displays as

[‘Ezra’s personal emergency fundraiser’](#) – (Fundraiser for Josh Nyapimbi by Ezra Tshisa Sibanda).

THANK YOU.

Rest In Peace, Maxwell Sibanda



Nhimbe Trust joins the nation in mourning the passing on of esteemed Zimbabwean journalist, photographer and faithful promoter of the arts - MAXWELL SIBANDA - Assistant Editor of the Daily News newspaper since 1999. Max died at a Harare hospital on 21 February 2021 after a short illness.

Nhimbe's Executive Director, Josh Nyapimbi said: "Thank you Max for your selfless contribution towards the advancement of artistic freedom, and the socio-economic status of the artist and cultural professionals in Zimbabwe. You have left a void that will be hard to fill. Rest in Peace. Deepest Sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues."

Max was a supporter of Bulawayo arts who always made sure cultural activities in Matabeleland were also well covered. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Condolences rolled out from all the major media players and arts institutions in the country.

In a statement, the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) described Sibanda as a soft spoken character who distinguished himself in Zimbabwean media landscape.

Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ) president Michael Chideme said the media industry had lost a talented journalist and the organisation was saddened by Sibanda's demise. "In Max, we have lost a veteran journalist, a trainer, an inspirer and one of our senior editors.

<https://www.herald.co.zw/veteran-journalist-sibanda-dies/>

The Media Commission of Zimbabwe said "Mr Sibanda will be remembered for his love and passion for the arts and culture industries. His news pieces raised a lot of critical issues regarding the arts sector. His views and critiques were necessary in building the arts and culture sector which today has opened a number of opportunities for our arts practitioners."

<https://mediacommission.co.zw/2021/02/24/condolence-message-maxwell-sibanda/>

"I am saddened by the passing on of Maxwell Sibanda. I admired his coverage of the entertainment industry, his passion & diligence. There are no serious journalists who didn't marvel at his commitment to journalism, his respect for colleagues and his honesty! Rest in Peace MS!" wrote journalist Hopewell Chin'ono on his Twitter platform.

Read more about Sibanda's work under 'Writers in Exile', here:

<https://www.pen-deutschland.de/en/themen/writers-in-exile/ehemalige-stipendiaten/maxwell-sibanda/>

NHIMBE PULSE – FEB-MAR 2021

OUR PARTNERS



This project is co-funded by
the European Union



The Daneford Trust

