

(Mental) Time Travel at Freedom Park

Goal

Through knowledge and information sharing, reflection and spirituality, the Mamelodi Community reconcile on a problematic and violent event from the liberation struggle, in order to reach community building and social cohesion.

Preparation

A violent episode from the liberation struggle in the Mamelodi Community is chosen by the local community, Freedom Park and a school class, a story that needs to be reconciled. Staff from Freedom Park visits the community and the school class, discuss the story, what happened, when, why etc and prepare the adults and the school class for the Time Travel event at Freedom Park. Maybe even the learners/adults choose an activity in the Time Travel Pilot: Mamelodi (massacre 21 November) 1985

Freedom Park

The learners and the community people bring the story of the struggle in Mamelodi 1985 to the Time Travel at Freedom Park. There could be photos, news clips, items connected to the story

1. Remembering the historic event, Uitspanlek

The group gathers at Uitspanlek, short presentations and background. The program starts with the story teller from Freedom Park telling a story that give some light, reflection/ inspiration on the community story; maybe a song. This is the initiation ceremony of the program.

The learners and adults are divided into eight groups/ activities, expressing the story from the community (45 minutes)

- Visual art based on the story, illustrations/ symbols on big paper sheets
- Chanting/ poetry/ prayers based on the story
- Songs and dances connected to the story
- Political speeches, connected to the story

Key Questions: Grievances and hopes

After the activities and having utilized photos, newspaper/media articles, etc. the story/event is expressed at Uitspanlek in speeches, art, poetry, songs and dances by the participants (30 minutes)

2. Cleansing and healing ceremony, Isivivane

The group walks to the Isivivane and a spiritual healing ceremony (10+15 minutes)

The ceremony starts with everyone standing in a circle around Lesaka. Then selected learners and adults express the story the way they prepared, in art, prayers, songs. A pastor might also say a short prayer. Ending with a common song

3. Walk to Sikhumbuto

The group, following all rituals for the Isivivane space such as the washing of hands, walk back to Sikhumbuto. Walking past the Wall of Names (specifically where Mamelodi 13 names are inscribed), the group observes names and proceed to the Sanctuary where the final reflection on the Time Travel take place.

4. Reflection at the Sanctuary

The Time Travel ends with reflection at the Sanctuary. Reflection includes the past event, but more on the present and the future. The Mamelodi Community focuses on how the Mamelodi Massacre has shaped the present and how they would the event to be noted, celebrated, commemorated and shared with present and future generations. Conference attendees also reflect on how they felt about the Time Travel and how such events should be remembered and learning for the future.

Time Plan, Summary

- 08.00 Preparation of the sites
- 08.30 Gathering
- 09.00 Welcome at Uitspanlek, background and presentation
- 09.20 Story teller initiation
- 09.30 Activities in eight groups at Uitspanlek
- 10.15 Performances, dance and songs at Uitspanlek
- 10.55 Walk to the Isivivane
- 11.05 Ceremony at Isivivane
- 11.25 Walk to Sikhumbuto
- 11.30 Reflection at Sikhumbuto – Sanctuary
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.15 Learners and some community members transported to Mamelodi.

This is adapted from the Time Travel planned for October 2014. The document was developed by Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar läns museum/ Bridging Ages and Freedom Park staff.