

WHV – The Robben Island Invitational

Robben Island, South Africa

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1999)

20 October - 29 October 2024

THE SITE - Robben Island was used at various times between the 17th and 20th centuries as a prison, a hospital for socially unacceptable groups and a military base. Its buildings, particularly those of the late 20th century such as the maximum security prison for political prisoners, witness and symbolize the triumph of the human spirit, of freedom and of democracy over oppression.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at promoting the World Heritage site of Robben Island as a platform for critical debate and life-long learning, leveraging the power of literary culture embedded within its history as a site for Freedom of Expression. The project will be a component of the Robben Island INVITATIONAL Festival as Africa's flagship international literary festival, hosting different events and featuring UNESCO Cities of Literature writers, scholars, journalists. By mobilizing volunteers, the project will implement awareness raising and hands-on activities as concrete actions to bring to light the memory of Robben Island and contribute to heritage preservation and promotion.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will actively contribute to the organisation and implementation of Robben Island INVITATIONAL Festival. They will be involved in awareness raising activities using literature and poetry to sensitize on the importance of this unique World Heritage site as a place for intercultural, intergenerational, and inter-community dialogue, as promoted by the Festival. In addition, the project will include a two-day coastline cleaning, in which the volunteers will be engaged in hands-on activities along with Festival participants at the World Heritage site.

PARTNERS - South African National Commission for UNESCO; UNESCO Creative City of Literature - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality; UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights, University of Fort Hare.

Abantu Book Festival

Mr. Thando Mgqolozana

thando.mgqolozana@gmail.com



<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>