

Annual Cultural Awards 2009/2010

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This year's Annual Cultural Awards gala event was held on 21 January 2010 at the Huguenot Memorial Museum in Franschhoek and was attended by various role players in the arts and culture fields. Every year the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport hosts this event to honour men and women who have dedicated their lives to the continued growth of our culture, heritage, arts, language, libraries, museums and archives, and in recognition of outstanding achievements and contributions. The tireless and often thankless jobs performed by these dedicated men and women often go unnoticed. These awards are open to any individual, organisation or group whose efforts have made a difference within their communities and that have exceeded expectations in the preservation, promotion and development of the arts, culture and heritage landscape of our province. As is customary at this ministerial gala event, it was filled with glamour and prestige and guests were treated to champagne and oysters on arrival in the magnificent Bedouin tent. Guests comprised mainly ministers, members of the Standing Committee, representatives of statutory bodies such as the Western Cape Cultural Commission, Western Cape Heritage Council and Western Cape Language Committee; Museum board members, winners of the awards, role players in the arts and culture communities of the Western Cape, and delegates of various cultural institutions.

Trophies

In previous years the design of the trophies for all categories were

similar and created by the same artists. This year, the visual arts genre developer of the department collaborated with the Design Institute of CPUT (Cape Peninsula University of Technology) to give their students an opportunity to design a trophy for each category in line with specifications regarding height and material, and with special reference to the green / organic / cultural footprint. The design of a trophy formed part of the second year students' assignments for the second semester. The students were evaluated on the final product as well as their motivation for choosing a specific design.

Awards

The awards were presented to men and women excelling in the arts and culture field, which varied from visual and performing to literary arts, crafts, museums, language, sign language, heritage, libraries, archives, outstanding achievement by women, youth, disability, innovative projects, life achievement, and finally the MEC's special awards. Libraries featured in three categories, namely, the Best Public Library for 2009, Best Youth Services for 2009 and Best Children Services for 2009.

Best Public Library

Masiphumelele Satellite Library
Since 2003, the Masiphumelele Library offers standard core library services to the community of approximately 25 000 residents in a township near Fish Hoek. The library's outreach programmes are managed and



coordinated by Susan Alexander and their presentation relies on staff and a band of passionate volunteers. Regular events include visits by library staff to nursery schools, adult literacy programmes, computer classes, a chess club, handcrafts and games, tutoring for learners and Hero books. Staff training and mentoring is a strong feature of this year's library business plan.

Best Youth Service

Milnerton Library Children's Department

The Milnerton Library Children's Department has always been committed to use the library as a hub for learning, exploration and guidance in the community. The library provides information and tools, and supplies expertise, commitment and a passion for learning and reading. Activity programmes have been planned which include helping with school projects, motivation to succeed and achieving objectives in life on a daily basis. Under the leadership of Veronica Behm Croucher, the Milnerton Library Children's Department started and facilitated an outreach project to schools and crèches in the Milnerton area and informal communities in Marconi Beam, Joe Slovo Park and Du Noon. During the last three years the team managed to set up programmes for primary public and private schools, crèches, aftercare facilities and schools for children with mental and intellectual disabilities in the area.



Best Children Services

Rocklands Library, Mitchell's Plain

The objectives of the Rocklands Library in Mitchell's Plain include establishing a reading programme, forming partnerships with schools, establishing a chess club and forming mini libraries. The staff members of the library provided a service to the community of Rocklands and visit six primary schools, six crèches and two high schools. They network in the community on issues like awareness of safety in schools, at beaches, at home and in the work place. These programmes are all sustained on a continued basis. The Rocklands Library Drugs and Aids Awareness Kid's Club proved to be a great success, where children act out their frustrations with regard to drug activities in their communities and listen to trained facilitators on the dangers of drugs and unprotected sex.



Children make use of the library on a daily basis to take part in the chess club. The children also enjoy story-telling at the library.



▲ Seen here is (ltr) Sue Alexander (Librarian, Fish Hoek), MEC Sakkie Jenner, Noluthando Melamane and Zoliswa Mabula with their award



▲ Children's Librarian Veronica Behm Croucher from Milnerton Library with Sakkie Jenner



▲ (Ltr) Nadia Abrahams, Marlene Nelson, Theresa Denton, and Gadlisa Saydow from Rocklands Library share this moment with Neville Adonis

