



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for January 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in January of 2025 (2.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We currently employ the services of a resident teacher, an assistant teacher, a general assistant, and a director. Thanks to the support of all those who have donated to our project we are able to preserve the Fiona Sargeant legacy. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners and to provide an extramural activity which is good for both mind and body.

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The Directors Report:

Students began dance classes and returned to school on the 15th of January of 2025. Nqaba and Aviwe got back down to basics over the two weeks that was left of the month.

Last year on the last day of classes we lifted the mats as there appeared to be a few places where the boards had lifted slightly. It was a good thing to do because it also allowed the boards to be aired and dry out any moisture which may have accumulated. A few days later we noticed that the floor had settled back down and just before opening the school this year we drilled in a few more screws and laid the mats back down.



Above and below: Students taking classes



On Thursday the 16th of January I received a phone call from the office of the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Ricardo Mackenzie's secretary spoke with me about having an engagement with the minister the following week. Nqaba, Patricia and I met the minister on the 21st and had a productive discussion with him. I told Minister Mackenzie what Dancescape South Africa does and mentioned some of our achievements and successes. He was very interested in what I had to say, and we hope that something productive and positive will come from this meeting.



Above: Minister Ricardo Mackenzie (on left) meeting with Patricia, Mitya and Nqaba at the Ashton Library.

On the 22nd, the DSA board met again for the final meeting of the 2024 – 2025 financial year. It was a very productive meeting.

On Friday the 24th I filmed the senior students doing various routines of classical ballet primarily for Kristine Elliott. Her organization, The Gugulethu Ballet Project, will be celebrating 20 years of existence in March of this year and she wanted something to show of

Dancescape at the event planned. I was impressed with the students who I can see have strengthened a lot. It was also a very hot day, but they pushed on without complaining.

In the last week of the month work began on applying for a grant with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DECAS). Also preparing a report for the National Lotteries Commission (NLCSA). Also, I eventually received approval to have an article published in which we publicly thank the commission for their funding. We can also now show their logo on our website and stationery.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:



Above: Senior dancers stretching.

It's a new year and we have had a great start with the students and new faces at Dancescape. Aviwe and I are complementing each other well, with the help of Mitya we were able to

inspect the floor at the studio and managed to put a few screws to stop wavering. Brought us a new broom and I think we are going to need lights for change rooms.

We have a good number of students that come to daily classes which is so nice to see. They have new uniforms and dance belts. Thanks to Mitya and Patricia for coming out to assist in recording dance exercises for a Gala and posting some on YouTube, I was also impressed with the students for working so hard on the day to make the recording possible. Thank you Dancescape and Mitya for an invitation to meet with Ricardo Mackenzie to discuss important issues regarding Arts funding for this year in the Western Cape and coming up with possible solutions.

Written by Nqaba Mafilika

We thank you for taking the time to read this report. Please visit our website at: <http://dancescapesouthafrica.org.za/> and follow us on social media. Mitya Sargeant (CEO, and Director – Dancescape South Africa)