

30 Years of Democracy

How (Galleries, Libraries, Museums and Archives (GLAM) continue to be essential to democracy in the present and future.

Concept Document

Opening 21 November 2024



Thabo Mbeki
FOUNDATION



Exhibition Objectives and Key Messages

The exhibition aims to show how GLAM records are essential in the present and future in order to uphold our rights

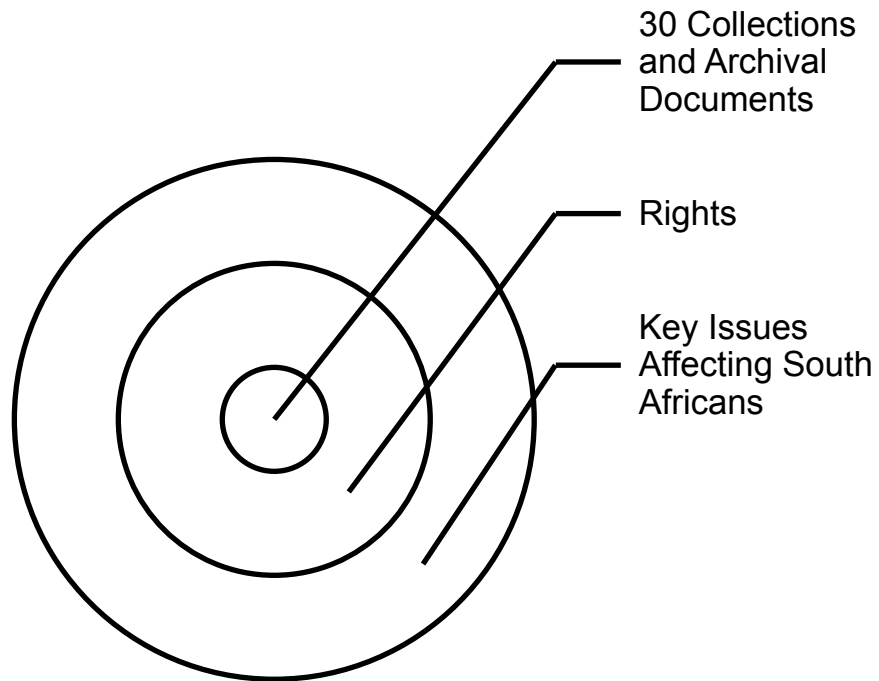
Key messages

- The Bill of Rights is a living document that is constantly affirmed in the present.
- GLAM institutions are essential to our democracy and help us uphold our rights

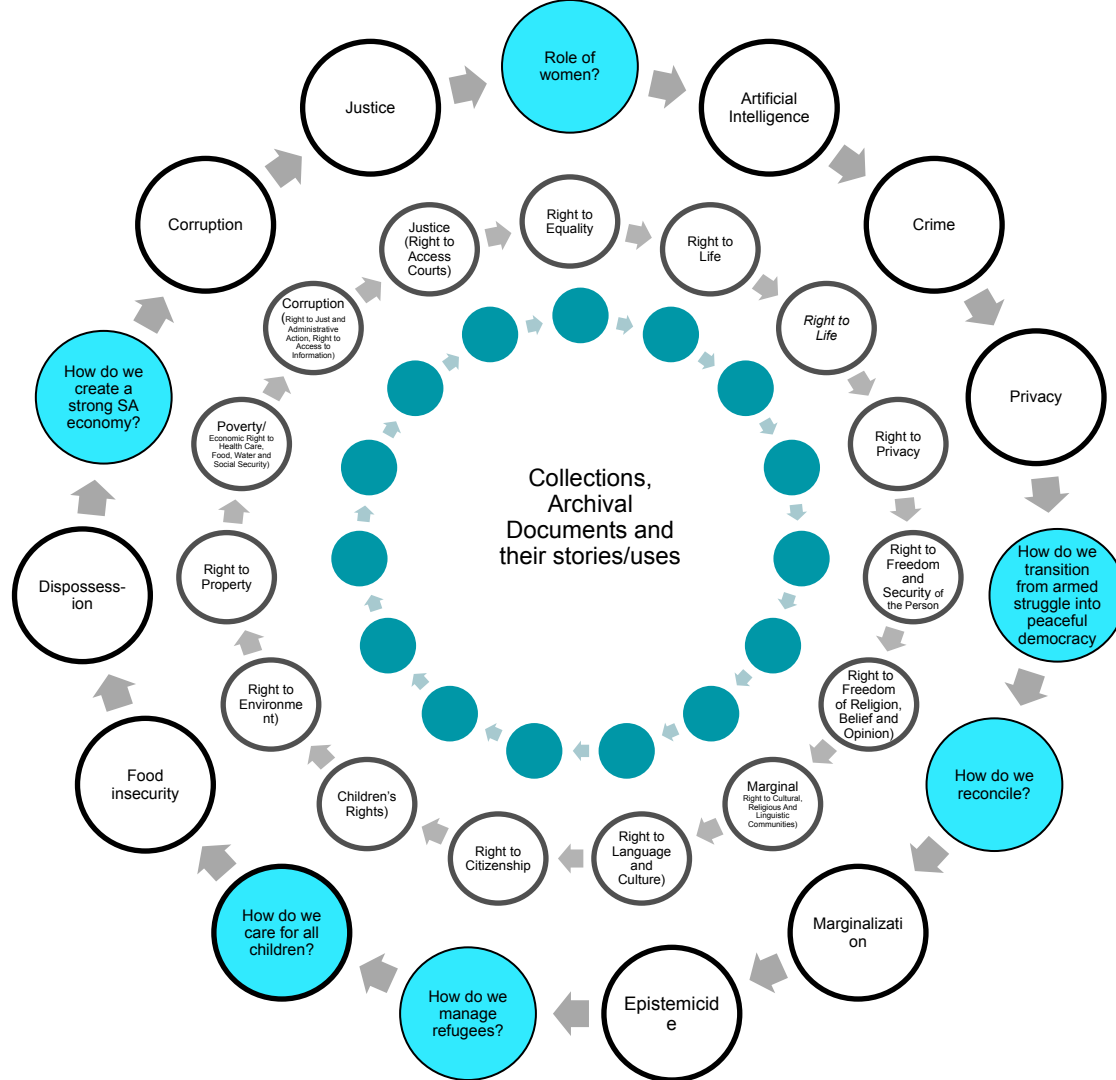
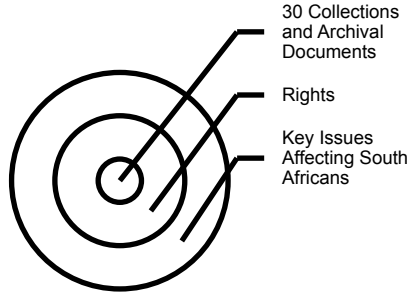
Locations and Dates

NLSA	TMPC	Iziko
1. Intro Panel 2. 8 x exterior panels: title graphics 3. 8 x content panels 4. 22 x collection texts 5. 22 x collection items 6. Graphic screensavers (computers)	1. Intro Panel 2. 5 Exterior and Content panels 3. 10 Collection texts and items- in cases	1. Intro Panel 2. 9 x Content Panels 3. Case for objects

Exhibition Structure Overview



Exhibition Structure Overview



Intro-panels examples

It has been 30 years since our first democratic elections in April 1994.

Memory institutions – Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums – help protect the rights and freedoms that are the foundation of our democracy.

Not only do they help us understand how we got to where we are today, they also help us address enduring issues that continue to affect our lives.

Galleries and Museums help us connect with the wisdom of our ancestors, affirm our right to belong, imagine, create and find commonalities with others

Like retrieving past photos or locations on our smartphones, accessing old meeting minutes, notes, reports, diary entries and more (preserved by government archives) gives us context, evidence, explanation and justification for decisions that continue to affect our lives.

From libraries, we can access books, oral history recordings, and other sources of information and imagination that help us discover and recover identity and history and give voice to suppressed ideas.

Iziko Museums of South Africa serve as a custodian of our nation's arts, cultural heritage, and foundational biodiversity collections. Our collections, exhibitions and programs connect us with our history, celebrate our cultural and natural richness, challenge injustices and promote our rights and understanding of each other.

The records of Thabo Mbeki – before, during and after his term as Vice President and then President of South Africa give us a unique insight into the thought processes and activities of an important South African leader as he shaped our country.

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) collects and preserves published documents and make them accessible to all; ensuring that knowledge is not lost to posterity.

Protecting our Rights– GLAM yesterday, today and tomorrow

1. Dehumanization/ humanization (Right to Dignity)
2. *Humanity (Right to Life)*
3. Freedom and Security-Violence/Crime/Bullying (Right to Freedom and Security of the Person)
4. Privacy-Surveillance/Privacy- social media, the state (Right to Privacy)
5. Peaceful coexistence (Right to Freedom of Religion, Belief and Opinion)
6. Roots/Marginalization (Right to Cultural, Religious And Linguistic Communities)
7. Wisdom/Epistemicide (Right to Language and Culture)
8. Connecting-Xenophobia/ Citizenship/Immigration (Right to Citizenship)
9. Belonging-Alienation/ orphans (Children's Rights)
10. Climate/food insecurity (Right to Environment)
11. Dispossession (Right to Property)
12. Poverty/ Economic empowerment (Right to Health Care, Food, Water and Social Security)
13. Corruption (Right to Just and Administrative Action, Right to Access to Information)
14. Justice (Right to Access Courts)

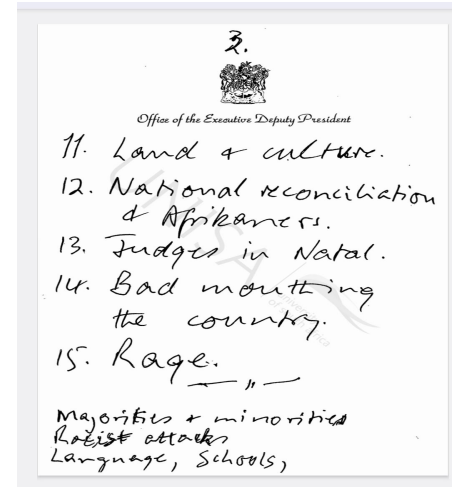
2. Reconciliation/Discrimination

Right to
Equality

Thirty years ago, we were focused on creating a society free of the racial discrimination of the apartheid years.

But all kinds of discrimination persists. By studying what worked and what didn't in the past, we can continue on our quest for reconciliation and healing.

In these notes, we can see how Thabo Mbeki, as an important leader in our journey to democracy, had to grapple with completely transforming a society based on discrimination to a country where everyone is equal.



3. Dignity/Dehumanization

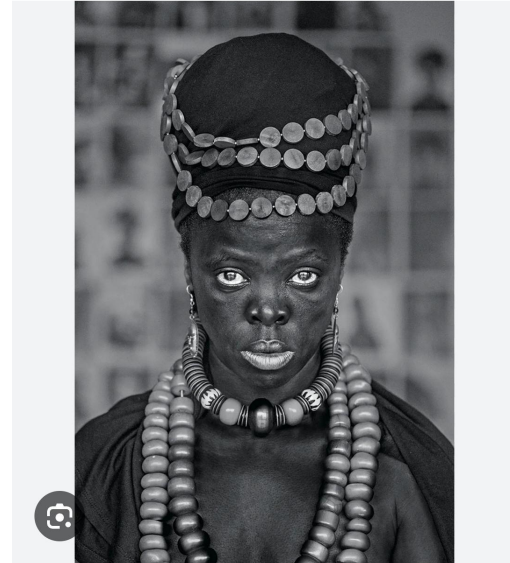
Right to
Dignity

When we stop seeing the other as human, we can justify all kinds of violence.

Art is a powerful tool to recognize humanity and dignity in others.

Zanele Muholi creates powerful self-portraits to claim her and other black lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex people's rights to exist.

OR Ernest Cole collections depicting mine workers stripped naked for inspection – any such image can be used which highlight the humiliation of apartheid. Could also use the image of the black domestic worker sitting on the grass whilst a child sits on white only bench.



4. Wisdom/Epistemicide

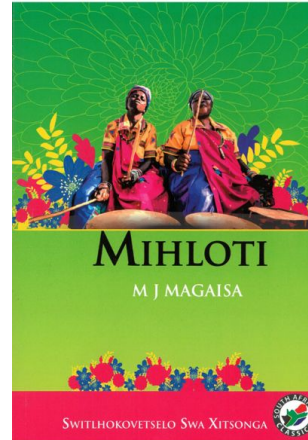
Right to
Language
and
Culture

The information we can search on the internet is only a small fraction of what exists in the world, yet we rely on it almost exclusively.

Reinvigorating indigenous language

National Library of South Africa have reprinted 105 literary classics in indigenous languages to help preserve the country's heritage- distributed to public libraries around the country.

These include the works of authors such as poet laureate S.E.K Mqhayi, S. Nyembezi, M.L Bopape, S.P. Lekaba, T.N. Maumela, T Mofolo, O.K Matsepe, D.B.Z Ntuli, D.P.S Monyaise and others.

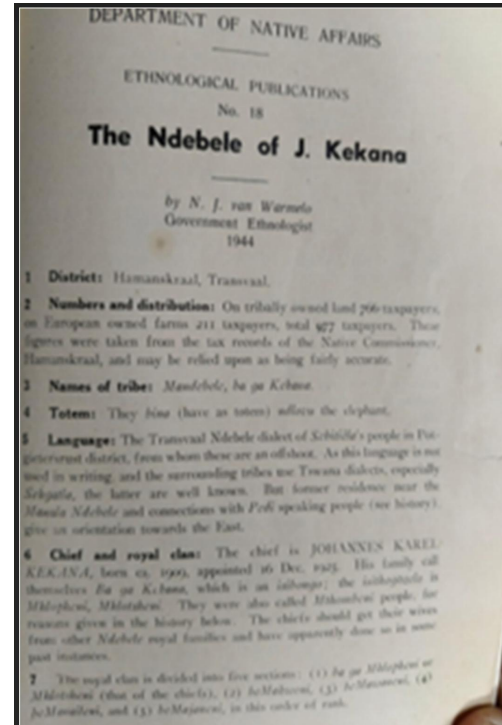


6. Recognition/Marginalization

Right to Cultural,
Religious And Linguistic
Communities

Galeshewe clan recognition

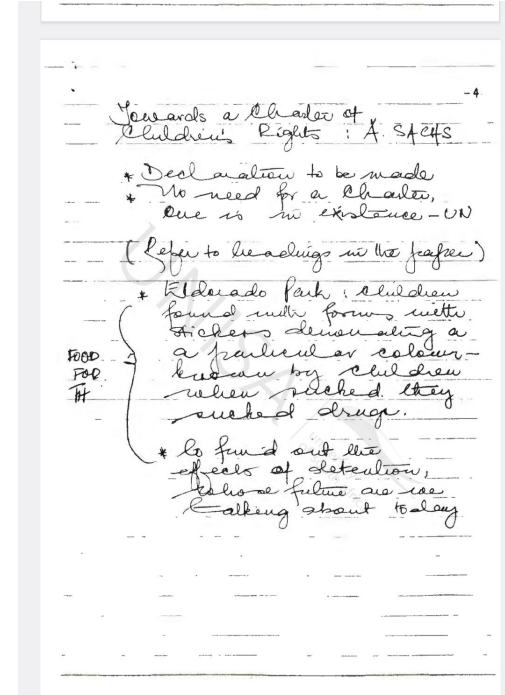
example, research on the Amandebele, J Kekana.
Information is provided on the tribal district,
names of the tribe, their Totem, language and
royal chiefs. This information contributes to the
rich cultural history of South Africa and can often
only be found at the library.



7. Belonging/Alienation

Children's Rights

As a child, Thabo Mbeki was deeply affected by struggle and resistance. As Vice President, he and other leaders inherited a system in which White children were protected and Black children were not. How to make sure ALL children grew up safe and rooted? Today this remains an issue.



9. Peaceful Coexistence

Right to Freedom of
Religion, Belief and
Opinion

It is easier to affirm the rights of people who think like you. But rights apply to everyone. As our communities get more and more diverse, can we make space for fundamental differences of religion, belief and opinion?

The Black Christ by Ronnie Harrison, depicted then president of the ANC Albert Luthuli as Jesus, persecuted by the architect of apartheid, Hendrik Verwoerd, and the former Minister of Justice, John Vorster, as Roman soldiers.

When the painting was discovered by the security police at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Salt River, Cape Town, they arrested Harrison and banned the painting. Anti-apartheid activists smuggled "The Black Christ" to Europe and it was used to raise funds to cover the legal expenses of those accused of treason by the apartheid regime.

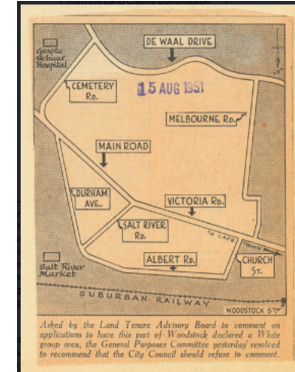
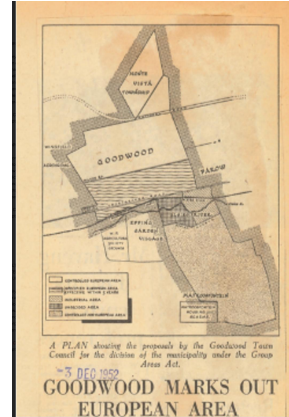


10. Rootedness/ Dispossession

Right to Property

example, research on land ownership through archives and maps. This information can help with land claims and can often only be found at the library.

Collections



12. Climate Change

Right to Environment

Iziko holds and does research on a vast collection of marine invertebrates, such as sponges and corals, which not only represent the vast biodiversity of our planet but also serve as crucial indicators of environmental health. Once valued solely for their ecological role, these organisms are now recognized for their biochemical properties that contribute to modern medicine. Our exhibitions challenge us to rethink our relationship with nature, confront climate change, and affirm our collective right to a protected environment for future generations.

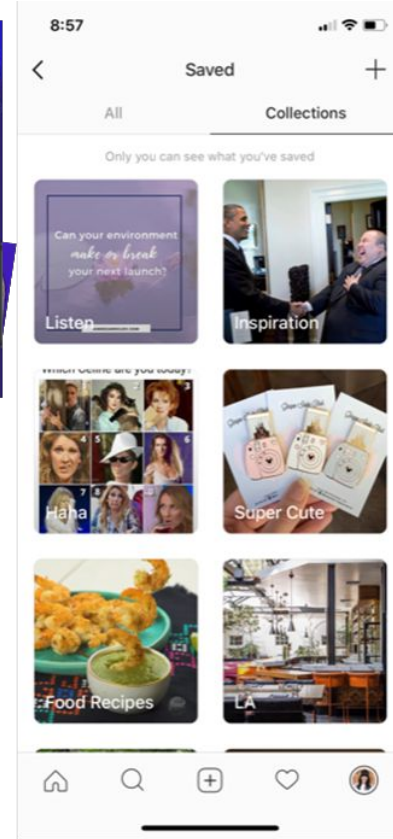
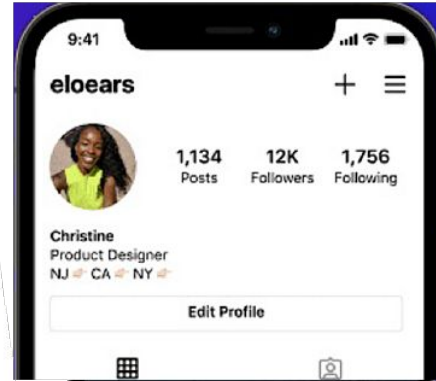
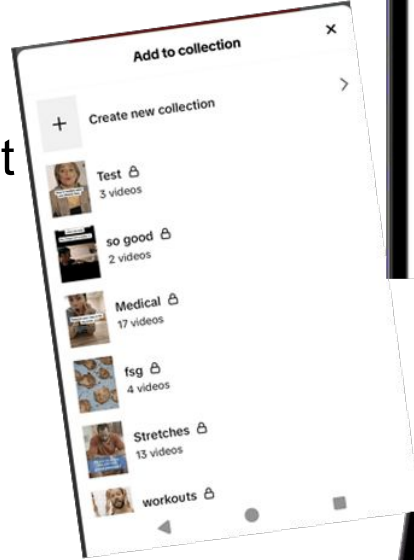
Iziko Museums' foundational biodiversity collections highlight the critical issue of climate change, emphasizing our right to a healthy environment.



Social Media Adjacent Language

Relevant and useful current language.

E.g. Restore post, saved collection, edit profile



Translations / Language

Main exhibition in English

Translated text

1. Xhosa
2. isiNdebele
3. isiZulu
4. Sesotho
5. Sepedi
6. Afrikaans
7. seTswana
8. Tsonga
9. SiSwati
10. Tshivenda
11. Swahili

