



20 June 2022

## FREEDOM IN COMMUNITY ART DIALOGUE

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will host a Freedom in Community Art Dialogue in Mangaung, Bloemfontein on 23 June 2022. The Freedom in Community Art Dialogue will be hosted as a follow up to the resolution of the Creative Arts Summit held in March 2022.

Artistic freedom, understood to mean *"the freedom to imagine, create and distribute diverse cultural expressions free of governmental censorship, political interference or the pressures of non-state actors"* is an important hallmark of our post-apartheid dispensation. The Freedom in Community Arts Dialogue is thus intended to live up to the clarion call for *"artistic freedom [as] the extent of independence artists obtain to create art freely"*.

The session will start off with the dialogue around Freedom in the Community Arts. The following elements will be addressed in the context of the theme of this Dialogue:

- Arts and Culture
- Language Services
- Museums and Heritage
- Library Services
- Women and Freedom in the Arts
- Civil Society Structures and Freedom in the Arts

The second Dialogue will be around the idea of establishing a "Friends of the District" committee. This second Dialogue will discuss the roles, management profile, nominations as well as the election of the interim committees.

The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation in the Free State, Ms Limakatso Mahasa stated that: *"We have no doubt that these kinds of initiatives will go a long way in ensuring a structured approach of working in this sector. We need to build on the good work that has already been done so far in*



*the advancement of our creatives in the province. Freedom to express oneself artistically is a hard-won freedom and we must treasure it.”*

**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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