

Public Art in Community Spaces: participatory processes towards co-creation and co-ownership.

Case Study Snapshots:

ArtMyJozi: Creative Placemaking Through Art along the Transit Oriented Development Corridors. 2017 - 2020
Commissioned by the City of Johannesburg, implemented by the Johannesburg Development Agency.

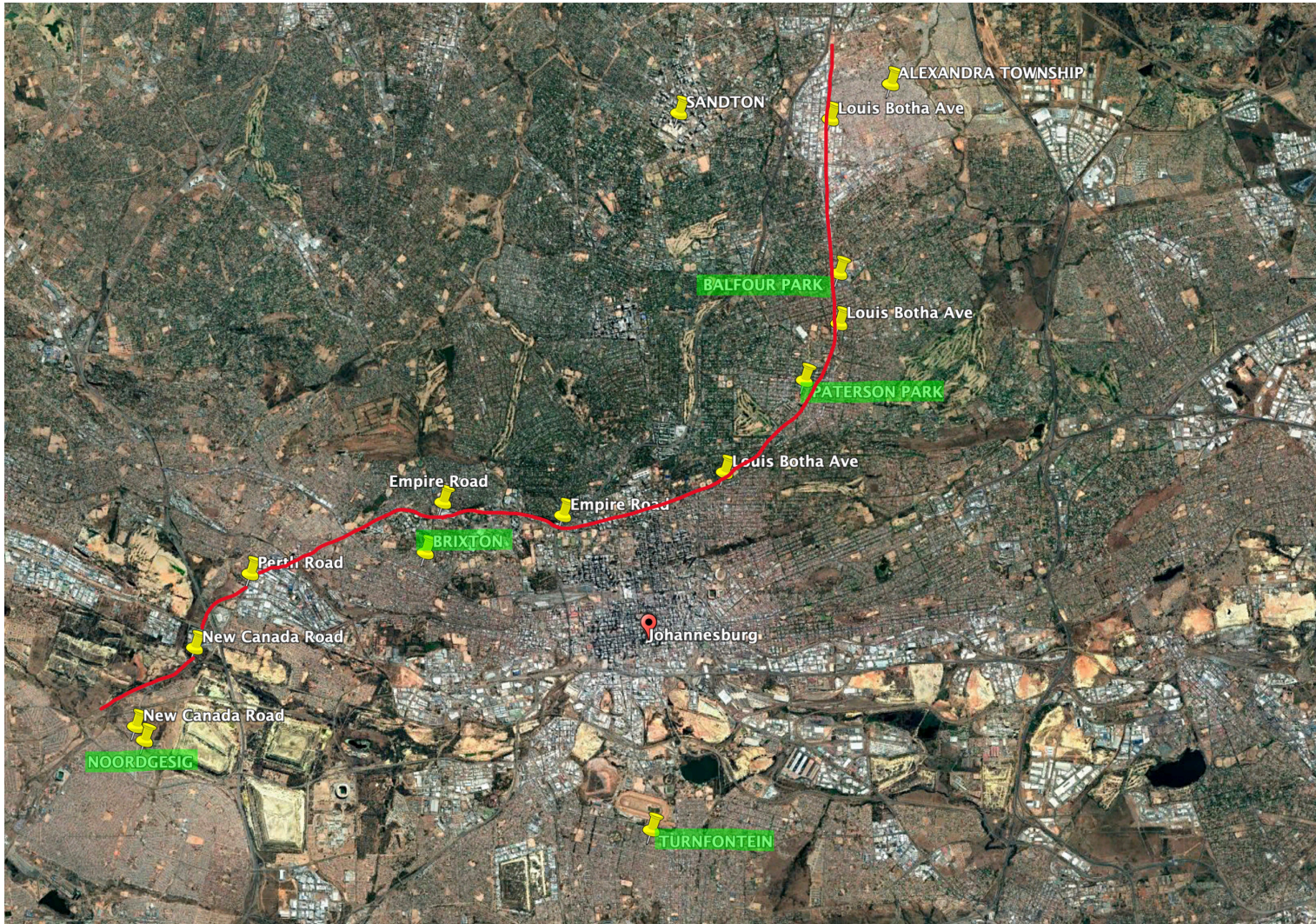
Since 2017, The City of Johannesburg through its implementing agent the Johannesburg Development Agency, in collaboration with its appointed Curator-Coordinator The Trinity Session have overseen all Place-Making Through Art along the Transit-Oriented Development Corridors. The artworks programme has unearthed and added an essential layer of cultural identity and character to the Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit System implemented along the Louis Botha / Empire Perth transit corridors, which includes public realm upgrades in the neighbourhoods of Noordgesig, Brixton, Turfontein and Orange Grove.

The three-year period of public engagement and social research has identified local narratives in relation to the greater geography and histories of the transit corridors as seen in the implementation of numerous works of art, developed and designed through methods of co-production with the local-residents and users within these neighbourhoods.

Artwork outcomes range from large scale murals, urban furniture, sculpture, video and performances to numerous site-specific events and exhibitions. The rich narratives that emerge from each of these contexts translated through creative collaborative processes has contributed to the building of an archive of oral histories. And with the sharing of personal and collective narratives, the #ArtMyJozi programme has facilitated various skills sharing, professional development and small business incubators to stimulate local-residents and creatives to develop their practice in relation to larger singular or collective projects, with a view to improved sustainability. Extract from The Johannesburg 2019 press release.

The examples that follow emphasise a range of design solutions and outcomes either inspired by or cocreated through participatory processes with youth groups identified in particular project areas of the ArtMyJozi programme. Some of these examples sit within larger outputs of commissioned work, which can be reviewed on the Trinity Session website under SELECT PROJECTS / #ArtMyJozi.

www.thetrinitysession.com



#ArtMyJozi project sites along Johannesburg's Transit Oriented Development Corridors.



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#ARTMYJOZI

I would like
belly dancing
in this park.



I would like
SCULPTURES
in this park.



I would like
A skate park
in this park.



Much of the initial public engagement and awareness building strategies in 2017, utilized pop-up workshops and exhibitions in the various project sites in order to garner the creative input of residents in relation to their expectations of what the art works programme might offer. This process which took place over a period of 9 weeks, helped inform the public and media and most importantly developed a register of potential collaborators and participants from each project geography.

ART MY JOZI - NOORDGESIG



The City of Johannesburg's upgrade programme for Noordgesig, Soweto, involved upgrading entrances into the township, a new public plaza, library and refurbishment of the adjacent park. The new library interior included a childrens area with plans for afterwork access for families. Due to the lack of suitable fabrication facilities within the township, much of the creation of works took place in plane sight, which in addition to the myriad narrative design workshops conducted with the community in the first 6 months of the programme, served to promote the artworks programme within the greater community and very often attracted the input and feedback from passers by. In this example Marcus Theunis' residence, and that of Andre Greaver - served as places of interaction, training and production. The images that follow elaborate on the various elements produced for the Library.



Library play elements in production at Andre Greaver and Marcus Theunis' respective homes.



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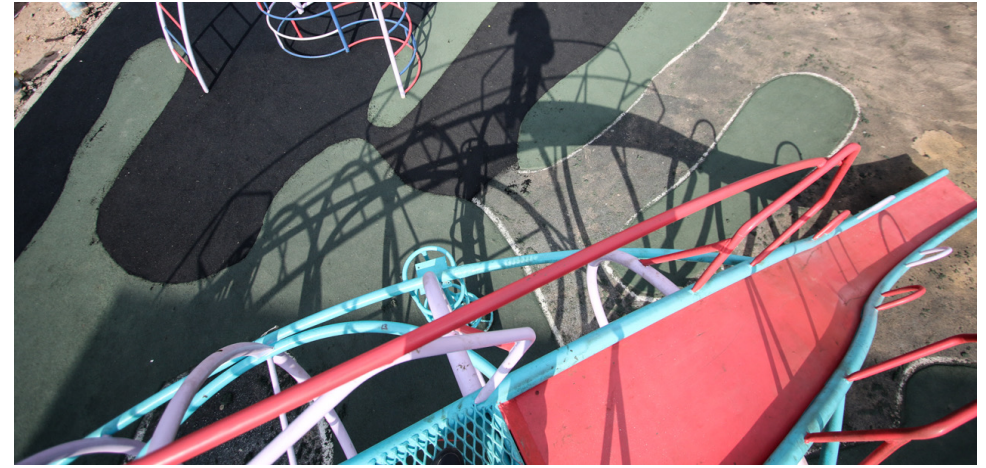
#ARTMYJOZI



Installation views of the Noordgesig Library children's area, which includes an abacus, book, interactive play blocks and bespoke letter-form furniture and shelving.



Personal identities expressed through handprints informed a process of calling on all passers by to interact by leaving their mark. The close-knit community of Noordgesig, enjoys word of mouth as an effective means of calling for participation in public activities. Andre Greaver's courtyard provided the necessary space for real time engagement. The hand theme provided solutions for surface treatments of the library mesh screen and the rubberized surface beneath the play equipment in the park.

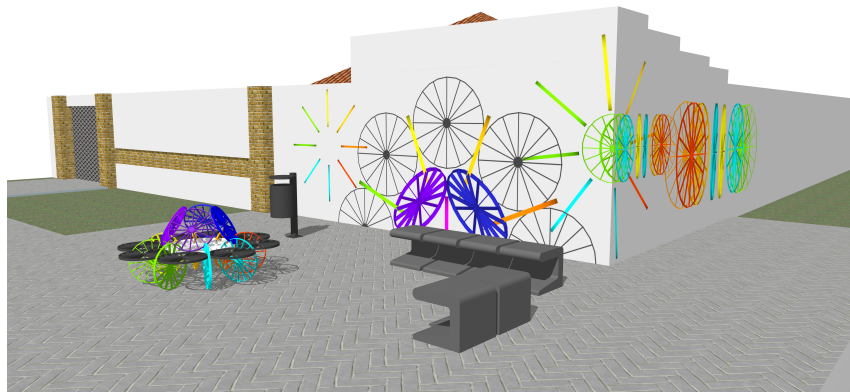
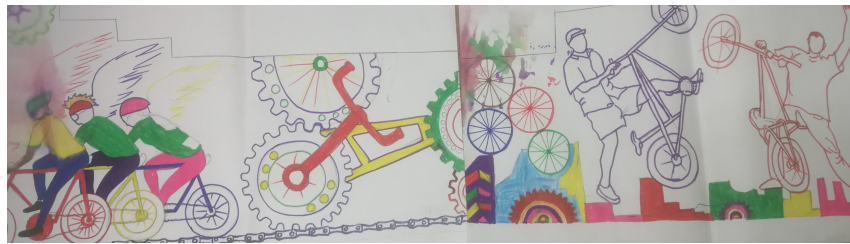


Noordgesig Library Mesh Screen view and rubberised handprints in play area



The Bicycle Mural and attendant furniture Pedalling is inspired by the Noordgesig ‘biker boys’, who call themselves 786 Cycles. The group of cyclists often gather outside Ramon’s house, who refurbishes and makes bikes from scrapyards and secondhand parts. Ramon feels a sense of responsibility to serve the youth because they live in an unfavourable environment, and it is easy for them to get involved in negative activities.

The sculptural concept – image top and right – employs bicycle wheel rims tied together. Together the elements form a table and chairs which can be used in parks and public spaces. The colours in the sculpture symbolise diversity in the community, and how the coming together of these colours create a beautiful message. The rims represent the unity and the strength of the community. The figure on the bike represents the community moving forward to a better future. Artwork by: Ramon (Riyaan), Keagan (Kader) and Muhammad from R&H Cycles.



786 Cycles collaboration on urban furniture and mural outcomes for the intersection of Major and Central Streets, Noordgesig.



Swimming Pool Murals

Inspired by a public activation with children in 2017, the resulting black and white mural is intended as a memory of that playful collaboration, using picture frames and portrait photography. The simple black and white graphic translation of the original activation serves to be visually striking and impactful as the mural spans two of the buildings, defining the western edge of the new plaza, and interacting with the new urban elements and tree planting.



ART MY JOZI - TURFONTEIN



The City of Johannesburg's programme for the Rotunda Linear Park in Turfontein, involved the creation of an extensive linear park extending from Rotunda Park. The creation of the park entailed reclaiming the central section of DeVilliers Street a broad multi lane street extending eastwards from Rotunda park. As per the urban designer's conception of the surfacing for the park, the artworks programme developed an elaborate surface painting that would integrate with and compliment the recreation spaces and pause areas envisaged by the urban design team. The Super Juniors pre-school facing onto the park was excited to participate, thus offering an opportunity to explore the learner's attitude towards the site and their aspirations for positive messaging in the surface mural.



Rotunda linear Park surface treatment mockup and completion



ART MY JOZI – BALFOUR PARK



Figure 57: Conceptual perspective of Student's Promenade along Athol rd.



Northview Highschool, Waverly Girls High: prototype design workshops exploring urban furniture and child safety concepts for the Student Promenade Urban Landscape design in collaboration with Ntsika Architects. #ArtMyJozi Placemaking Through Art Programme - Balfour Park Urban Upgrade. Johannesburg. 2018 – pres.

The City of Johannesburg's programme for the Balfour Park upgrade area, involved the upgrading of the road reserve along Athol Street, in order to improve the walkability and visibility of and for learners from St Mary's School, Waverly Girls High and Northview Highschool.

In 2018, The Trinity Session conducted a one-day tactical design workshop with participants from Northview Highschool, using a combination of found materials the learners explored scenarios that could improve the potentially dangerous edge condition between the boundary fence of the school and the current use of traffic barriers as seating.

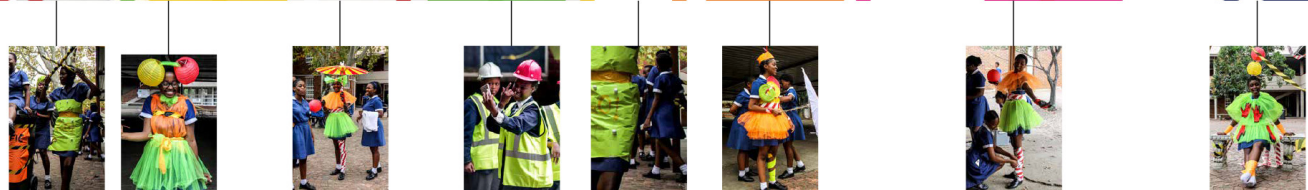


Figure 57: Conceptual perspective of Student's Promenade along Athol rd.



St Mary's and Waverly Girls High prototype design workshops exploring safety and visibility concepts through performance for the Student Promenade. 2018 – pres.

Image right: work in progress - for a large mural spanning the upgraded sidewalk on Athol Street, between Murray and Campbell Streets.



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