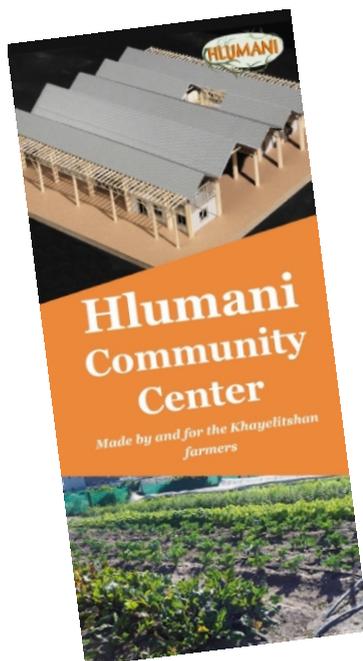


Since the last newsletter, the world has changed dramatically. The Covid19 pandemic has also had an extreme impact on our partnership.

In 2020, we had planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Cape Town - Aachen partnership. Under the motto "20-20-20", many events and activities were planned to present our variety of themes and projects to the Aachen public. The 20-20-20 programme, the participation in the SDG conference and the planned new KEZ (local municipal development corporation) project were cancelled, postponed or changed. Many things just did not take place, but some actions could be adapted with new ideas and carried out at other dates.

- Brigitte-Gilles-Award
- Anniversary Brochure
- Ideas from Cape Town for Eilendorf (suburb of Aachen)
- Guided tour @ Nelson Mandela Park
- Soup kitchens
- WORLD:LAB 2020
- We build bridges - Heinrich-Heine-Comprehensive-School
- ONE WORLD for children – Käthe-Kollwitz-School
- Climate ticket reloaded
- A community garden for Haaren (suburb of Aachen)
- www.letmetellyou.de - Stories Of A Partnership
- Gone too soon

BREAKING NEWS + + + Brigitte-Gilles-Prize for Hlumani Projekt + + + BREAKING NEWS



Hlumani - giving the future a fair chance



Student Jenny Krichel and Nika Stützel, from the Department of Landscape Architecture, were awarded the Brigitte-Gilles-Special-Prize of RWTH Aachen University. This annual prize is given to innovative projects and measures that make a significant contribution to the advancement of women. The Hlumani project, which provides a community and agro centre for the Moya we Khaya garden in Khayelitsha, is pursuing precisely this goal. The request for the planning came from the female farmers themselves in 2018. Thanks to Jenny's commitment to the workshop with the local farmers and the further development as a study project at the RWTH, an initial planning vision for Hlumani was able to emerge.

With the prize money of 2,500 €, a young woman from the Hlumani sphere will have the opportunity to participate in a "Start-Up-training" for urban farmers and thus support the further development of Hlumani.

Anniversary Brochure

The 20th anniversary in 2020 was taken as an opportunity to present the activities and working methods of the partnership in detail in a new information brochure. This booklet provides an overview of the contents and actors and presents the SDG goals that are pursued with the partnership work. The focus is on sustainability and making sustainable action visible in everyday life. In particular, the following SDG goals are pursued:

- SDG 1 & 2: we support urban agriculture projects.
- SDG 3: we carry out art and culture projects
- SDG 4: we organise school partnerships, university cooperation and exchange projects
- SDG 11: we organise projects for community cooperation, mobility and sustainable urban development
- SDG 13: we collect donations for urban gardens via the climate ticket
- SDG 16: we promote municipal cooperation
- SDG 17: we participate in official delegations and activities of different social groups.

You can view the complete brochure on our website www.aachen-kapstadt.de. It is also available for download on our website in pdf format.



Fig 1: Frontpage of the Anniversary Brochure

Ideas from Cape Town for Eilendorf (suburb of Aachen)

Ideas from civil involvement from Cape Town have already been implemented in Eilendorf in 2018 and 2019. It was shown that Eilendorf residents are satisfied with their housing situation overall. Eight students from the University for Applied Sciences for Public Administration and Management of North Rhine Westphalia presented the result of their nine-week practical project in Eilendorf in June 2020. The young professionals from the city of Aachen and the district of Heinsberg chose the topic of "Optimising urban district development by initiating workshops using the example of the Aachen-Eilendorf urban district". Thus, a topic that has been pushed for years in Eilendorf came to a conclusion. For this purpose, the students developed a questionnaire, which was made available online to interested citizens.

In addition, it was made available to all households in Eilendorf in the magazine "Eilendorf Aktuell" (available for free). The project group was able to derive its results from 420 responses. The project was initiated and supported by Martin Freude and Ron-Roger Breuer from the suburb office. Suburb Mayor Elke Eschweiler was also pleased about the students' willingness to deal with the suburb's development. Dr. Sascha Opielka supervised the project on behalf of the university.



Fig 2: Students and supervisors of the project (Breuer)

Guided tour @ Nelson Mandela Park

On 7th October 2017, the park between Goethestraße, Schillerstraße and Maria-Theresia-Allee, popularly known as "Alter-Klinikums-Park", had received an adequate name. On 18th July 2020, a guided tour took place in Nelson Mandela Park. On this occasion we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our partnership and at the same time commemorated Nelson Mandela's birthday - he would have turned 102 on this day. Birgitta Hollmann from Ecology Centre Aachen had many interesting things to say about the history of the site and its surroundings. But also her botanical explanations about the impressive trees fascinated the participants.



Fig 3: Parkentrance (Kuntz)



Fig 4 & 5: Guided tour with Birgitta Hollman @ Nelson-Mandela-Park (Kuntz)

Soup kitchens

In consultation with a major donor from Climate Ticket and through a collection during the guided tour in Nelson Mandela Park, we were able to send €1,500 to support three soup kitchens in Cape Town in July 2020. Only those people without hunger will be able to survive the Covid19 pandemic.

Dawns Soup Kitchen in Mandela Park (Khayelitsha): Dawn Mambalu is a sommelier, advises on wines and sells wines from black African winemakers. Due to the alcohol ban in Lockdown, she started cooking soups, stews and vegetables. Neighbourhood kids help chop and an online fundraising campaign raised something.

The Service Dining Rooms (est. 1935) has traditionally provided breakfast and lunch for the homeless in their space. From March 2020, meals were served on the street, with packets of soap and disinfectant for guests to take away.



Fig 6: Permanentmarking and handsanitizing (Cain)



Fig 7: Dawns stew (Mambalu)



Fig 8: Soup for the homeless in the street (Cain)

We have a long lasting partnership with HOKISA (Home for Kids in South Africa) in Masipumelele through its founder Lutz van Dijk. He put us in touch with a soup kitchen run by the Masicorp organisation in the immediate vicinity of the children's home, where mainly school children are fed who usually get a meal at school but did not receive anything there because of the school closures during the lockdown.



Fig 9: Lunchpacks for the kids (Mambalu)

WORLD:LAB 2020

From 28.09.-08.10.2020, learners of the Maria-Montessori- Comprehensive-School Aachen (grade 11) created a mural at the street underpass Moltke Park/Erzberger Allee in Aachen. They addressed the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), with a focus on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership to achieve the goals).

The WORLD:LAB 2020 project was initiated by the Bleiberger Fabrik (art school) Aachen. Due to the pandemic, it was postponed from spring 2020 to autumn and realised at very short notice with various partners between the summer and autumn school-holidays. The Aachen-Cape Town partnership took over the sub-project BUILDING BRIDGES, led by Uta Göbel-Groß + Norbert Kuntz.

The first project week took place in the KreativHaus of the Bleiberger Fabrik in Moltke Park. After learning about the content of the SDGs and their implementation in our partnership, the first ideas for individual works emerged, which were further developed in partner work and implemented on large paper-formats. The main focus was on the concept of partnering: not working alone, but in cooperation. With this approach, urban sceneries were created; the conflict water-city, capital and money were thematized; furthermore, health, poverty, flight and oppression were dealt with. These paintings became the templates for the mural in the second week and also received the recognition of the teachers involved in the project.

A central motif sifted out quickly: the holding, supporting hands - symbol for mindfulness, helpfulness, solidarity, for balance and justice. It was clear to everyone that this motif should be given a prominent place on the wall.

Fig 10: The holding, supporting hands (Kuntz)



In the second project week, the designs were transferred to the large wall surface with a difficult overall format at the street underpass Moltke Park/Erzberger Allee. Painting on the wall was a great challenge for the learners; they had to adapt to a new way of working. In partly adverse weather conditions, however, the group finally managed to complete this mammoth task in only four days. In addition to the two project leaders, the students received support from Resho Kardo, an artist from Syria. He helped to present the topic of oppression, poverty and being a refugee. At the final press event on 08.10.2020, a group photo was taken in front of the mural and in an interview the students were able to give their statements on their work on the mural and explain the contents of the overall mural.



Fig 11-15: Mural Moltke Park/Erzberger Allee (Göbel-Groß, Kuntz, Schönberg-Ehlen)

We build bridges

Since the end of 2019, the Heinrich-Heine-Comprehensive-School in Aachen has been striving to establish a partnership with a school in the Cape region. In the end, the Luhlaza High School in Khayelitsha was shortlisted. The plan to prepare this partnership on both sides of the North-South axis could not take place throughout the year due to Covid19. It was not until the end of the year that a creative project was agreed upon with the partnership's support association, in which grade 11 learners worked on the themes of the SDGs in the subject of art.

The artist Uta Göbel-Groß and the subject teacher Alice Schötteler accompanied the workshops. During four afternoons, the group dealt with the various aspects of the SDGs, connected them with "their" topics and were introduced to the possibilities of large-scale painting. In-depth reports about the conditions of their partner school accompanied the sequences.

The creative work became an immensely exciting encounter due to the cultural diversity within the group. The topics of the SDGs are preying on the young people's minds, in all their aspects. In the end, the results - designed on paper during the course - were collaged on three large banners and printed on large formats for the corridors of the school (two banners 2m x 1.5m and one banner 2m x 3m). In a video conference on 11.12.20, the results were presented to the new Lord Mayor of Aachen, Sybille Keupen, and members of the partnership. It was also suggested that one of the banners will be given as a gift to the new partner school.



Fig 16 und17: Banner - We build bridges (Göbel-Groß)

ONE WORLD for children

As part of a cooperation with the WORLD:LAB programme of the Bleiberger Fabrik, the artist Uta Göbel-Groß was able to carry out a large creative project on the theme of "Mix, Give and Take" from 11.11.-16.12.20 at the vocational college of the Käthe-Kollwitz-School with 20 enthusiastic students from the same academic year of educators-to-be. The project started with an examination of the 17 SDGs and which of these sustainability goals are relevant to the budding profession of an educator. The correspondences with the profession's own goals were registered as astonishingly high and the students plunged intensively into the creative implementation of their own ideas. The project was accompanied for 5 weeks, but will not be completed until after the lockdown in 2021. On the last date before the Christmas holidays the schools were already closed again; therefore only a video conference with the author Lutz van Dijk, who lives in South Africa, could take place. As the director of the children's home, HOKISA, where children with AIDS are cared for, he reported intensively and vividly from his everyday life and was able to answer many questions of the prospective educators.



Fig 18-21: Students of Käthe-Kollwitz-School - Inside Mural: ONE WORLD for children (Göbel-Groß)

Climate Ticket 2021 reloaded

Last year, we began to realign the Climate Ticket. In future, we want to support numerous small projects with smaller sums. The lockdown last year led to extreme food problems among the poor population in South Africa: Tens of thousands could no longer earn money as street vendors, employees in cafés and restaurants, etc. - Government action is meagre, so private initiatives have set up soup kitchens (see article Soup kitchens).

Food has a different status in South Africa than in Germany and is an existential problem for most people in the poorer neighbourhoods in Cape Town. This is all the more significant that with the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, countless initiatives were started (CAN = Community Action Network). They for instance are building or reviving own or community gardens, and thus new networks and partnerships are emerging. We have already established a number of new contacts in 2020, and in January and February 2021 Birgit Jakobs and Norbert Kuntz visited the projects we support:

- Ubuhle Bendalo, Khayelitsha (Fig 22)
- Grandmothers Against Poverty And Aids (GAPA), Khayelitsha (Fig 23)
- Gugulethu Urban Farming Initiative (GUF1), Gugulethu (Fig 24)
- Lerotholi Agri Hub, Langa (Fig 25)
- Moya we Khaya Cooperative, Khayelitsha (Fig 26)
- Eziluhlaza Food Garden, Khayelitsha
- Streetscapes, Kuilsriver



A community garden for Haaren (suburb of Aachen)

A community garden is to be created next to the suburban office in Haaren. The former garden of the St. Germanus parish is to become a public community garden. Different groups from the surrounding area will be invited to actively participate: for example, a learning and experience place can be created for the St. Germanus day-care centre.

Designs by RWTH students will show that raised beds, fruit trees and quiet zones can create a new place for gardening, learning, exchanging ideas and relaxing. The implementation of the district garden is planned for summer 2021 and is actively supported by the Haaren suburban office. Local politicians also welcome the project.

And why us? The model and ideas for the community garden are garden projects from Aachen's twin city Cape Town. There is to be direct input from Cape Town, and we also see the project as a result and a continuation of the KEZ project, the municipal development cooperation: this is how we implement impulses from the twin city!

Due to the Corona pandemic, most of the planned events in the jubilee year of the 20th anniversary of the Aachen-Cape Town partnership were cancelled - this was the starting point for the idea of initiating a digital project in the Advent season with a reflection on the partnership and its individual stories.

In addition to joint activities and work, official meetings and conversations, there are also seemingly insignificant incidents, spontaneous events or friendships that shape the partnership and make it possible to achieve the partnership goals of "Learning from each other - Acting on an eye to eye level - Sustainable action". These sometimes very personal stories are told in the Stories project. The motivation and enthusiasm of the people involved comes to light and is intended to motivate and encourage other people who are not yet familiar with the partnership to become involved and sensitise them to development policy themes.

The two project leaders Uta Göbel-Groß and Norbert Kuntz interviewed many people who have taken part in exchanges between the two cities over the past 20 years. These interviews developed into the stories that are presented in the form of texts, photos, podcasts and videos on the website www.letmetellyou.de.

On 20th December 2020, the website went online with 10 stories from Aachen and 10 stories from Cape Town, with many more to follow in 2021.



Fig 27: Screenshot of the website, 20.12.2020 (Kuntz)

Do you have an interesting, exciting, funny or heartrending personal story you would like to tell? Get in touch!

Uta Göbel-Groß: +49 2407-18620 or erbanundgoebelgross@t-online.de

Norbert Kuntz: +49 1573-4519889 or norbert.kuntz@gmx.de

Gone too soon

WE ARE SAD - Aubrey de Wet has passed away. The former head of Fairview Primary School accompanied and supported us in the school partnerships for a long time. Whoever met him was touched by his warm-hearted and hands-on cordiality. We will remember him fondly and long and think of his family in sympathy. We honoured him in the letmetellyou project with a story about his visit to Aachen in 2008, which his family enjoyed during that difficult time.



Fig 28: Aubrey de Wet 2008 in Aachen, bicycle-collection at Lousberg Primary School (Kuntz)