

25th Anniversary AGENDA-21 Partnership Aachen-Cape Town



AGENDA 21-Partnerschaft Aachen-Kapstadt 25 Jahre Jubiläum

Die Städtepartnerschaft wurde vor 25 Jahren ins Leben gerufen, um den Austausch zwischen Aachen und Kapstadt in Sinne der Agenda 21-Ziele zu fördern. In dieser Zeit wurden über 100 Projekte in den Bereichen Nachhaltigkeit, Bildung, Kultur, Soziales und Kommunales durch engagierten Einsatz von Menschen auf beiden Seiten des Globus realisiert. Wir präsentieren hier einige Highlights aus 25 Jahren gemeinsamen Schaffens.



Jubiläumsveranstaltungen im Sommer 2025:

- 18.05.** Ehrenamtstag der Stadt Aachen, Stadtpark Aachen, 12-17 Uhr
- 02. - 05.06.** Wandbildgestaltung mit SchülerInnen der HHG, Unterführung Richterich 10-14 Uhr
- 26.06.** Vortrag "15-Jahre Klimaticket", Öcher Lab, 18 Uhr
- 30.06.** Autoren-Lesung mit Lutz van Dijk, Buchhandlung „Worthaus“, Gregorstr. 2, 19:30 Uhr
- 22.08.** Vernissage Ausstellung "25-Jahre Aachen-Kapstadt", Büro PLANBAR, Theaterplatz 7, 18 Uhr
- 23.08.** Offizielle Feierstunde, Aachener Rathaus, Krönungssaal, 11 Uhr
- 23.08.** Fairtrade-Messe, Relaunch der Aachen-Kapstadt-Schokolade, Aula Carolina, 11-18 Uhr
- 23.08.** Fest "25-Jahre Aachen-Kapstadt", Welthaus Aachen, südafrikanisches Essen & Musik, ab 18 Uhr
- 25. - 29.08.** Ausstellung "25-Jahre Aachen-Kapstadt", Büro PLANBAR, Theaterplatz 7, 14-18 Uhr
- 30.08.** Gartenfest, Heinrich-Heine-Gesamtschule mit Gemüseernte und gemeinsamen Kochen, ab 12 Uhr
- 05.09.** Offener Schulgarten der HHG, mit Picknick, Kulturroute Laurensberg, 16-22 Uhr
- 11.09.** Kapstadt Summer School-Ergebnisse, Tag der Lehre FH Aachen, Campus Eupener Straße

gefördert durch:



Änderung vorbehalten, für weitere Infos:
<https://aachen-kapstadt.de/>

Due to a lack of exhibitors, the Fair Trade Fair planned for 23 August 2025 by the One World Forum unfortunately did not take place. The relaunch of Aachen-Cape Town Chocolate was therefore brought forward to the vernissage on 22 August 2025.

The above illustrations and the schedule shown were printed as an oversized postcard and distributed at many events organised by Welthaus Aachen and the City of Aachen starting on Volunteers' Day (18 May 2025).

The schedule does not mention the annual World Festival of the Welthaus Aachen on 28 June 2025, as the Aachen-Cape Town partnership traditionally participates in this event every year with an information table. This year, a small part of the planned exhibition (in the PLANBAR office) was also shown in advance in the stairwell of the Welthaus.



The action day organised by the city of Aachen, called 'Aachen zeigt Engagement' (Aachen shows commitment) – simply referred to as 'Volunteers' Day' by those involved – provided the first opportunity to draw attention to the anniversary of the Aachen-Cape Town partnership.

A new roll-up banner was designed for this purpose, depicting some of the milestones of the last 25 years. The aim was to highlight the diversity of projects and exchanges during this period and to show that the projects had taken place on both sides of the globe. The partnership shared the stand with the One World Forum Aachen.

The people of Aachen showed keen interest in the activities of both organisations, and new members were even recruited to the association.



02.06.-05.06.2025 “Connecting” Mural in the pedestrian underpass in Aachen-Richterich

Colourful and inviting: this is how the underpass in Richterich now welcomes all pedestrians. Back in 2023 and 2024, young people from the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School (HHG), led by artist Uta Göbel-Groß and art teacher Alice Schötteler, began transforming the walls of the pedestrian underpass into a colourful work of art. Under the special theme of ‘Connecting,’ the young people continued the wall design of the pedestrian underpass in early summer 2025.

The foundation for the continuation was laid by a school exchange with Soneike High School in Cape Town in February. In an art workshop, the students developed ideas for the wall design together. The young people from HHG brought these ideas to life on the wall in June. They painted, rolled, drew and implemented the themes alone or in collaboration. The themes are life in the world, animals and humans. Symbolic and playful elements find their way into a wealth of images on the walls of the underpass: colourful, large, expressive, impressive. Everyone designed according to their own inner images, ideas and styles. The young people report that they had a lot of fun working on the approximately 60 square metre wall surface, which took place far away from their normal school routine.

Working together on the wall also fostered teamwork characterised by mutual advice and assistance: this too creates connections. Young people and teachers are proud of the joint result. The Aachen-Richterich district council made the project possible through financial support.



28.06.2025 World Festival (plus reading with Lutz van Dijk, 30.06.)



This year's information table in the courtyard of the Welthaus was shared by the Aachen-Cape Town partnership and the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School. Mayor Sibylle Keupen (right, in the green dress), who had been to Cape Town with a delegation in March 2025, obtained detailed information about the latest developments and discussed the upcoming celebrations at the town hall with the association members. The 'Changemaker' exhibition was presented in the stairwell of the Welthaus, featuring impressive portraits of some of the activists from the townships in Cape Town.

As part of the accompanying programme for the World Festival, the Worthaus bookshop, together with the One World Forum, organised a reading by South African author Lutz van Dijk from his book 'Irgendwann die weite Welt' (Someday the Wide World) at Kukuk (Kunst und Kultur im Köpfchen, the former customs house on the German-Belgian border) on 30 June 2025. The Aachen-Cape Town partnership promoted this event, introduced itself to the audience there and advertised the rest of the programme for the 25th anniversary celebrations.



01.07.2025 School readings with Lutz van Dijk



After the public evening event at Kukuk, the partnership association had organised two school readings with Lutz van Dijk for the following morning. The first reading from his children's book 'Thandi gibt nicht auf' (Thandi doesn't give up) took place at the Catholic primary school in Aachen-Verlautenheide. The author then visited the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School, where he read from his book 'Africa – Diversity and History of a Continent: Retold with African Voices' in the school library. After the reading, he took the opportunity to personally sign the copies of the book that remain in the library.



22.08.2025 Vernissage of the exhibition: "25 Years of Aachen-Cape Town"

The exhibition at the PLANBAR office was the central element in presenting the past 25 years of successful partnership to the public.

Many companions of this partnership attended the opening, as did guests from the South African twinning city, who had been invited by the City of Aachen to the official celebration on 23 August 2025 and to have discussions on the future of the partnership in the following week.





The exhibition did not claim to provide a complete picture of 25 years of partnership. Instead, it sought to showcase the diversity of the projects. To this end, important events and activities were selected:

1. Bunker mural from 2000 (start of the partnership)
2. Bicycle recycling (over 2,500 bicycles were collected and shipped to Cape Town in 13 years)
3. Faces of a Partnership (posters depicting the protagonists of the partnership in 2010)
4. Climate ticket (posters and roll-ups with projects from 15 years of garden promotion)
5. Let Me Tell You (personal exchange stories compiled in a brochure in 2020)
6. Photo project: 24 hours on the street – The other face of Cape Town (homelessness during Covid19)
7. Art projects during the school exchange between Soneike High and Heinrich-Heine-Comprehensive School (HHG)
8. Changemaker (posters about impressive activists in the townships)
9. Community Hackathon (current project in 2025 in Khayelitsha with students from Aachen University of Applied Sciences)
10. Partnership promotional materials (Golden's Flowers = tin flowers made from beverage cans / PS chocolate)

All of the partnership's projects and events from the last 25 years were ultimately presented chronologically on a timeline (a poster over 3 metres long).



Above: Mayor Sibylle Keupen and artist Uta Göbel-Groß in front of a poster of the bunker mural - Right: Bicycle recycling



Above: Faces of a Partnership 2010

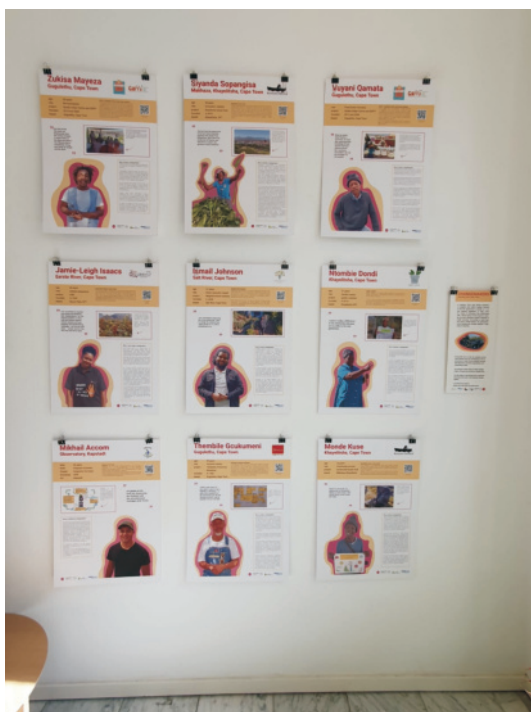
Right: 24 hours on the street – The other face of Cape Town



15 years Climaticket Aachen-Cape Town



Artprojects during the school exchange Soneike High School - HHG



Changemaker in the Townships



TIMELINE - all projects from 2000 to 2025

23.08.2025 Official Celebration in the Coronation Hall of the City Hall

Festive sequence

on the occasion of
the 25th anniversary of the twinning of the cities

Aachen – Cape Town

on Saturday, August 23, 2025
at 11.00 a.m.,
in the Coronation Hall of the City Hall
at Aachen

The musical contributions will be performed by the
pop choir project of the Aachen Music School
under the direction of Tanja Raich,
with Christoph Eisenburger on piano and Luc Nellesen on percussion.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Entrance music
'Don't stop believin', Journey

Welcome and address
Sibylle Keupen,
Mayoress of the City of Aachen

Address
Alderman Eddie Andrews,
Deputy Mayor of the city of Cape Town

Entry in the Golden Book of the City of Aachen

Music
'Africa', Toto

Address
Norbert Kuntz,
Member of the board of the Association for the Promotion of the Town Twinning
between Aachen and Cape Town e.V.

Address
Bronwen Griffiths,
Head: Sustainable Partnerships and Financing, City of Cape Town

Closing music
'Faith,' from the film 'Sing,' Stevie Wonder



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD





Guests from Cape Town
(Left to right with Printe):

Reagan Mathys
(City of Cape Town)
Tessa Graff
(Montebello Design Centre)
Alderman Eddie Andrews
(Deputy Mayor, City of Cape Town)
Bronwen Griffith
(City of Cape Town)
Manfred Braune
(University of Cape Town)
Siyanda Sipangisa
(Khayelitsha Canoe Club)
Busiswe Ngesi
(Mbekweni Farmer)

23.08.2025 Partnership celebration at the Welthaus



The carefully planned celebration took a slightly different course than expected, as the Springboks were playing Australia in rugby that evening and Mayor Eddie Andrews, a former national player, did not want to miss the game. The broadcast via projector was met with great enthusiasm by our South African guests, as their team won the match.

This was followed by the planned keynote speech 'What is at the heart of change!' by Dr Andreas Moosdorf, followed by discussion rounds and a cosy get-together with delicious Asian-African food.

To round off the evening, Adil and Aisosa (two former pupils of the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School) took to the stage and performed soulful pop ballads.



Official programme by the City of Aachen for the SA-Delegation

22 August 2025

- Reception by the Mayor, welcome and informal exchange
- Presentation of Oecher Lab, citizen participation in science & communication, bioeconomy exhibition, workshop
- Exchange with RWTH Aachen University, specific exchange on the topic of sustainability, discussion of the prerequisites for a possible student exchange agreement, short campus tour
- Opening of the exhibition 25 Years of Aachen-Cape Town



23 August 2025

- Official ceremony marking the 25th anniversary at the town hall
- Guided tour of the Centre Charlemagne and the old town
- Partnership celebration at the Welthaus

24 August 2025

- Project visits
- Border triangle (Belgium/Netherlands/Germany)

25 August 2025

- Presentation: High Tech Region Aachen
- Aachen Climate Foundation: Empowering people for climate protection, education for sustainable development
- Biodiversity in action (FLIP project)

26 August 2025

- Green procurement in the city of Aachen
- AGIT presentation and campus tour
- Participation in the summer school at Aachen University of Applied Sciences

„Design Thinking meets Social Impact“ International Summerschool at University of Applied Science 25.--29.8.2025



From 25 to 29 August 2025, the international Summer School Design Thinking meets Social Impact took place at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in partnership with the Khayelitsha Community Hub in Cape Town. Thirteen students from six countries and different disciplines spent a week working on interdisciplinary concepts for sustainable and respectful tourism that strengthens the hub's environmental and social projects.

Around 2.4 million people live in the township of Khayelitsha, which is located about 30 kilometres from Cape Town city centre. Tourism is a strong economic sector in South Africa, especially in the Cape region. The importance of tourism continues to grow; currently, around 300,000 people visit the area each year. Siyanda Sopangisa, founder of the Khayelitsha Community Hub, was also present to provide insights into the local context and the work being done on the ground, as well as direct feedback on the students' ideas and prototypes.

Another highlight was the visit by the official delegation from Cape Town, led by Deputy Mayor Eddie Andrews.

Supported by the Aachen–Cape Town city partnership, the format showed how universities, cities and civil society can work together to create transformative learning experiences and have a real social impact. On 11 September 2025, the results were presented and discussed at the University of Applied Science Teaching Day.

Management:	Marlene Lerch
Facilitation:	Michelle Dahlmanns und Rebecca Gros
Scientific Evaluation:	Prof. Dr. Miriam Barnat und Prof. Dr. Josef Rosenkranz
Photos:	Arnd Gottschalk



Final events at the school garden of Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School



On 24 August 2025, Busiswe Ngesi explained to her compatriots from Cape Town her work as a volunteer in the school garden and then at the 4 Linden ecological farm, where she had been actively involved in various projects for three months.

On 30 August 2025, Busiswe was bid farewell by the partnership in the school garden. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue and fresh garden salad. The young gardener from Mbekweni once again explained her work in the school garden and the joint learning experiences she had had over the past three months with the children and teaching staff at the school to the association members and other guests present.

As part of the Aachen-Laurensberg cultural route, the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School presented its newly designed school garden to the general public on 5 September 2025.

The event featured a talent show by former and current pupils of the Heinrich Heine Comprehensive School, a classical concert by the Euregio Chamber Orchestra and, to round off the proceedings, a film screening.

