

MEBALA YOUTH STUDIOS

GREENING BOTSWANA ONE TREE AT A TIME



In accordance with the European Union's policy of Climate Diplomacy, and in answer to the President's call to #GreenBotswana, Mebala Youth Studios proudly hosted a number of stakeholders for a tree planting ceremony at the Lady Masire Youth Centre in Gaborone West on Friday 17th February 2023.

Our guests, including Deputy Ambassador to the European Union in Botswana and SADC, Ms Sylvia Bopp-Hamrouni; the Director of the Department of Forestry and Range Resources; Principal Ms Baitshepi Hill; Programs Director from the Department of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture Mr Kefemtse Phoi; Country Director of Friederich Ebert Stiftung, Mr Thilo Schöne; representatives from the Gaborone West Kgotla; Mebala Youth Studios Board Member, Ms Mimi Modimakwane; Bophirima Ward Counsellor, Mankie Sekete and Mr Guy Williams, a local sustainability expert, came together to share in their commitment in seeing a greener and more sustainable Botswana.

The EU delegation has donated a Baobab tree and several citrus fruit trees to Mebala Youth Studios, and it serves as a prelude to a longer term plan to develop educational gardens for permaculture and community development in the Gaborone West area.



Mebala Youth Studios' vision is to empower Botswana youth to be global citizens who are recognized for their unique talents, culture and skills.

SAFE SPACES START WITH US



Charity Chinsinga
Mebala Youth Studios
Centre Manager



Neo Mokgosi
Mebala Youth Studios
Safe Spaces Co-Ordinator



Priscilla Mokgosi
Mebala Youth Studios
Resident Artist



Takudzwa Muhita
Mebala Youth Studios
Youth Counsellor

COALITION AGAINST GBV AND MEBALA YOUTH STUDIOS HOST SAFE SPACE SESSION

Our first Safe Space Session was held on Friday, 17th of February, from 3pm to 6pm at the Mebala Youth Studios premises in Gaborone West, in collaboration with the Botswana Trans Initiative.

The session was themed 'The Self Love Club' and it aimed to celebrate self love, and highlight how it builds foundations for healthy romantic relationships. We were joined by Mr Thatayamodimo Mhalapitsa, who discussed Intimate Partner Violence. Mr Mhalapitsa is a versatile counselling and mental health practitioner with experience in HIV/AIDS programming and human rights activism, particularly in the LGBTQIA+ space. He is both experienced and professional in dealing with marginalised communities, thus we trusted he would bring the necessary level of sensitivity and depth to the session discussion.



The session targeted young people, both single and in relationships, who are interested in learning about healthy relationships and understanding Intimate Partner Violence. The intention is to create a relaxed space for young people to get to know each other, and have open conversations about their experiences, and to establish an empathetic community of safety where bodily autonomy and mutual respect are the founding principles of the space. GBV messaging is often one size fits all in its approach, and we believe these sessions will allow us to dig into the deeper nuances of how it is affecting the lives of young people in Botswana, and what we can do to change it.



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MURALS OF HOPE

In the first partnership of its kind, Mebala Youth Studios resident artist Priscilla Mokgosi painted an anti-GBV mural at the Phase 4 Gaborone West Kgotla.

The mural is painted on an old sign board depicting a beautifully illustrated Motswana woman with the words 'Mosadi: Thari Ya Sechaba' written in her hair. The piece is intended to bring attention to the role of women in society and to raise awareness about the scourge of gender based violence that affects them.

Kgosi Arnold Somolekae shares our concern for the increasing rates of gender based violence in the country and welcomed this use of art to encourage vital dialogue about the situation at hand.

We hope to extend this project to include Kgotlas around the country and we welcome any parties interested in collaborating and supporting this work. If you would like to get involved, email dumelang@mebalayouthstudios.org with the subject line: MURALS OF HOPE

BUSINESS ART AND SCB



At the start of February the Futuremakers Botswana team was honoured to host Standard Chartered Group Corporate Affairs, Brand & Marketing, and Group Compliance Ms Christine Matambo.

Ms Matambo met some of our Futuremakers alumni to gain a better appreciation of the entrepreneurship landscape for youth in Botswana, including members from the Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted who joined our last cohort of Aspiring Entrepreneurs. Matambo's visit was a great moment for the Futuremakers Botswana team to touch base with the wider interest of Standard Chartered Bank Group and a welcome opportunity for our Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Start Up Growth Futuremakers alumni to pitch their business and meet the wider SCB family.

Ms Matambo also participated in a mosaic art session with members of Standard Chartered Bank Botswana and Mebala Youth Studios staff, designed to highlight creativity and sustainability by using recycled tiles and materials to create art.



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KANTHARI: VISION AND PURPOSE



Mebala Hosts Kanthari Founders

On 2 February 2023 Mebala Youth Studios welcomed kanthari founders Sabriye Tenberken and Paul Kronenburg to Botswana.

Kanthari is an international institute for leadership, based in Trivandrum, Kerala, South of India. They offer a 12-month, scholarship-based training course that equips global citizens with all the tools required to start and run an impact making organisation.

Founded by Sabriye and Paul, kanthari's philosophy of change is grounded in the belief that the 'problem' is the solution. Sabriye herself went blind as a child, and has gone on to win numerous awards for her work with blind children in Tibet. She taught us that when approached with the right tools, difficulties and differences present opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

We extended an invitation to Mr Ramabokwa from the Botswana Association Of The Blind And Partially Sighted (BABPS) to join and meet Sabriye and Paul to learn more about their work, and discuss ways that we can improve the lives of blind people in Botswana. In particular, we are interested in information about affordable assistive devices for the blind. As the Asian market develops more low cost technologies, it proves a promising horizon for accessible and affordable technologies to be developed and produced, and it would be wonderful to see Botswana benefit.





START UP GROWTH

Open for Applications

Futuremakers Botswana Start-Up Growth 2023 Program is now open for applications. This is a 2 month program designed for Youth who want to GROW their business.

Applications close 30 April 2023.

Assessment centre & registration 8th-10th May 2023.

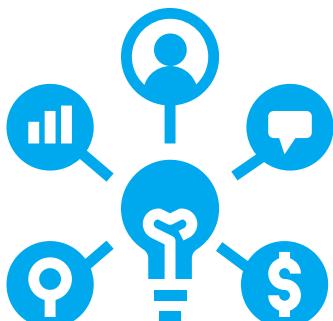
Classes commence on 17th May 2023.

APPLICATION LINK:

<https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/TUQMWEtl>

Classes:

- Business Innovation
- Individual Innovation Plans
- Customer Relationships, Customer Segments and Sales
- Cost Structure and Revenue Streams
- Pitching Training and Preparation



8.30 AM - 4PM EVERY WEDNESDAY

MEBALA YOUTH STUDIOS
LADY OLEBILE MASIRE
YOUTH CENTRE
PLOT 13304
GABORONE WEST

Become a Futuremakers Mentor

Futuremakers is looking for professional Business Mentors who can mentor aspiring youth entrepreneurs in their business endeavours.

Futuremakers is a project by the Standard Chartered Foundation, through Standard Chartered Botswana, Youth Business International (YBI) and Mebala Youth Studios. YBI has over 20 years of experience with Business Mentorship.



What is the Futuremakers Business Mentorship Program?

The program is for the trainees of the Aspiring Entrepreneurs and the Start-Up Growth programs.

The Aspiring Entrepreneurs Program takes young people from developing their business idea into a business plan, and then to implementing their business plan for real.

The Start-up Growth Program takes youth businesses further in their pursuit of growth.

Therefore we are asking for your:

- full commitment
- time
- patience
- business acumen
- openness and willingness to share

Potential mentors should have a background in business, as an entrepreneur, or as an economic professional.



How long is the program?

The Business Mentorship program is a sixteen (16) weeks long program, in which you will meet with your mentee at least eight (8) times for an hour and a half, every second week.



How does mentorship work?

During the Business Mentorship program a mentor and a mentee will be paired for a minimum period of four (4) months. In this period the mentor will provide support to the mentee in implementing his/her business plan or growth plan.

Interested in being a part of the Futuremakers Business Mentorship? Send an email with a short motivation and CV to: russell.aobakwe@mebalayouthstudios.org