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PRESS RELEASE

NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

YEYETHU, SONKE: THIS BELONGS TO ALL OF US

On 22 June 2016 the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum will have inspired art lovers for 60 years. To commemorate this momentous milestone the Art Museum is launching a series of exhibitions which will culminate in a final exhibition opening on the Museum's anniversary.

The official launch to kick off the 60th celebrations will be held on the 14 October 2015 at the Art Museum starting at 17:30. The Art Museum is one of the Nelson Mandela Bay's greatest cultural treasures.

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum (previously the King George VI Art Gallery) was opened in 1956. This cultural project was made possible by a 1000 pound bequest made by eminent local architect, Victor Jones, towards the construction of the building. Matching finance from the Municipality and vigorous fund-raising helped make the Museum become a reality.

The Art Museum currently has a collection of over 6000 artworks which are accessible to the general public through exhibitions and its new website.

The planned exhibitions will explore the history of the Museum's extensive collection while paying tribute to the community of Nelson Mandela Bay who have supported us throughout our 60 years. A series of four exhibitions will link the Art Museum's collection to important and influential artists, philanthropists and patrons who helped shape the Nelson Mandela Bay art scene. The planned commemorative exhibitions will conclude with a final exhibition of the museum's collection titled "*60 years of collecting*" which will open on the Museum's 60th anniversary on the 22 June 2016.

Please join us over the coming months as we celebrate 60 years of inspiration at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum.

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