

https://dspace.org/

Sustainability in arts and culture funding : a retrospective exploration of Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre as a case study, 1998-2008.

Tembe, Welile K.

2014-07-29
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/15055

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

This study presents an exploration of South Africa's cultural policy as a framework for achieving sustainability for the sector. Cultural policies set the parameters for the impact of funding structures on arts organizations. Reputable contemporary dance companies in KwaZulu Natal closed because of crises in funding. This becomes a concern for policymakers as it reveals unexpected circumstances and pressures under which artists operate.

The approach was a single case study focus on *Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre*, a contemporary dance company based in KwaZulu Natal. Interviews with their management addressed factors that influenced their development and sustainability. Moreover, this study unpacked their perceptions of the Provincial Department of Arts and Culture.

The Provincial department is perceived to be unapproachable and removed from the daily realities of making art. Province has Constitutional powers to affect policy change, and engage meaningfully with artists. Artists have the powers to amalgamate and set the agenda for policy reform that prioritizes their requirements.

There is a gap in literature analysing the role of Provincial government in reducing the funding pressure of national institutions. By providing accessible funding mechanisms for artists within their constituencies, Province would be placing proactive measures to encourage the sustainability of Arts and Culture.