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SUSTAINABILITY IN ARTS AND CULTURE FUNDING:

A retrospective exploration of *Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre* as a Case Study, 1998-2008

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A Research Report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

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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.

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My beloved husband, Lorenz Giorgi, I am eternally blessed that when I ran out of energy you carried me on your broad shoulders to the finish line. You give me strength to be at my best for our son.

Ngiyabonga.

DECLARATION

I declare that this Research Report is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Master of Arts at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other University.

Signed _____Date_____

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACH	Arts, Culture and Heritage sector
ACTAG	Arts and Culture Task Group
BASA	Business and Arts South Africa
CAPAB	Cape Performing Arts Board
CIF	Cultural Industries Fund
CODESA	Convention for a Democratic South Africa
DAC	Department of Arts and Culture
KZN	KwaZulu Natal
KZNDAC	KwaZulu Natal Department of Arts and Culture
NAI	National Arts Initiative
NAC	National Arts Council
NAPAC	Natal Performing Arts Council
NGP	National Growth Path
NLDTF	National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
PAC	Performing Arts Councils
PANSA	Performing Arts Network of South Africa
PACOFS	Performing Arts Council of Orange Free State
PACT	Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Policy
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SSDT	Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre