

CITY OF BULAWAYO

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1. REVIEW OF BULAWAYO ARTS FESTIVAL(BAF) 2022 EDITION

Introduction

It will be recalled that Council at its sitting on the on the 2nd of October 2019 resolved to declare the 1st to the 5th of June each year the Arts Festival Week. This was done after some lobbying by stakeholders in the creative sectors led by NHIMBE Trust, the technical partner of the City on Bulawayo Arts Festival. The thrust of Bulawayo Arts Festival is to promote the arts, culture and heritage sector by providing incubation, support and promotion of creative industries. These efforts are aimed at boosting the creative industry's economy.

2022 Edition of the Bulawayo Arts Festival

The 2022 edition of the festival was held on the prescribed dates. BAF and its partners lined up activities to commemorate the week. The City of Bulawayo in partnership with the creatives lined up performances which were done by various artistes in Nkulumane hall and at Inyathi Recreation centre in Mpopoma on the 1st of June 2022. Artists such as IYASA, Umkhathi, Khazins, Ramsey, Thandy, Prosper, Mandy, Dalu, Mbongeni, MJ, Nduzaa and MaOOtook turns to entertain the crowd that thronged Nkulumane hall. In Mpopoma artistic groups such as Bamblela Arts Ensemble, Ezimnyama, Sungura, KAISA, Khaya Arts and Simunye entertained an appreciative audience at Inyathi Recreational Centre.

The Deputy Mayor Councilor M. Ncube graced the festival celebrations at Nkulumane hall and gave a key note address. In his speech he applauded the creative community of Bulawayo for organizing the celebrations. The Deputy Mayor alluded to the importance of the day as he said:

"We are gathered today to honor the day, to celebrate our culture, identity, heritage and our future. It is crucial to recognize that these celebrations set to provide a platform for social and cultural expressions through celebration of our diversity. Bulawayo Day is therefore an opportunity to not only to celebrate who we are as a city but also to improve social and cultural cohesion among the people of Bulawayo."

The Bulawayo Arts Festival further partnered with Global Foundation of Public Speaking in organizing the Youth Leadership Capacity Building event for young leaders on the 4th of June 2022. The Conference brought together more than 300 delegates of young leaders such as Junior Councillors, Junior Parliamentarians, Head Boys, Head Girls and Patrons from the City Councillors and staff members.

Conference Resource Persons

The conference was addressed by various speakers from the Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. Motivational talks were given by leaders and representatives from various business sectors namely, Mrs Jane Ndebele, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Mr Samuel Sawunyama, Bulawayo Met Province standing in for Hon, Judith Ncube, Tayesa Banda, Regional Manager Ecobank, Petronella Mutsvairigwa, Fashion Designer, Nobubele Ngulube, Kamva Career Coaching, Jonah Nyoni, Leadership Expert and Heresy Herry, Senior Executive from Nedbank.

Conference Funding

The Junior Leadership Capacity Building conference was funded by Global Foundation of Public Speaking. The company took care of the conference costs such as refreshments and Council as per BAF resolution provided the venue which was the Large City hall. The contribution by Global Foundation of Public Speaking was much appreciated.

His Worship the Mayor of the City of Bulawayo Councillor Solomon Mguni gave the key note address. He acknowledged the efforts of the organizers and sponsors to allow the young leaders to acquire leadership skills from well-known corporate leaders while networking with their peers in a safe and secure environment in the spirit of celebrating Bulawayo as a cultural hub. He encouraged the young leaders to be able to maximize on the efforts of others toward the achievement of a greater tomorrow.

Conclusion

Admittedly this year's celebrations of Bulawayo Arts Festival were not as big as the previous festival but it was hugely successful. It is anticipated that next year's edition of the festival will be successful as well since the recently recruited Arts Culture and Heritage officer is working with the various stakeholders in spearheading the City's arts culture and heritage sectors. During this year's festival the creatives offered their services for free and Bulawayo Arts Festival and Council are grateful for the goodwill gesture from the artistes and other service providers