

# NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



## Naming and Renaming 2022

PUBLICATION



# CONTENTS

## Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future

## Mission

To offer a diverse range of life-changing education experiences for a better world

## Values



<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Phase 1: Residences</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Phase 2: Gqeberha campuses</b>	<b>8</b>
Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences	8
Faculty of Education	10
Faculty of Engineering, The Built Environment and Technology	11
Faculty of Humanities	12
Faculty of Law	13
Faculty of Science	14
Ocean Sciences Campus	15
<b>George Campus</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4. Naming and Renaming into the future</b>	<b>26</b>



# INTRODUCTION

The Naming and Renaming programme of Nelson Mandela University symbolically signals the University's commitment to transformation in naming places, spaces and buildings that enhance the Mandela name while entrenching the institution's ever-growing intellectual identity.

This ongoing process is part of the renewal of the academy, talking to how heritage can be used to build social solidarity and promote social justice.

It dates back to 20 July 2017, when Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University was officially renamed Nelson Mandela University: the only higher education institution in the world to carry the name of South Africa's first democratically elected President, and one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

This year, on 20 July 2022, our institution marked five years of bearing this name, providing fresh impetus to reflect on our institutional values which include ubuntu, social justice and equality, and environmental stewardship.

The University's strategic trajectories have been refined and moved forward since the renaming year of 2017. These include areas such as Revitalising the Humanities, the Ocean Sciences Campus and the Medical School. Engagement and transformation have been repositioned through a new executive management portfolio with links between research, learning and teaching. Gender studies have been foregrounded as an issue deeply embedded in the social inequalities the University seeks to address. Another imperative for the University is to become the pre-eminent academic expression of Mandela and the establishment of a Transdisciplinary Institute for Mandela Studies (TIMS) is part of this.

The use of institutional culture and symbols reflects the journey The University has been on since the renaming in 2017. The University has been deliberately engaged in an introspection of the meanings of Mandela for the University community.

The University is no longer named after the metropole in which it is located, but after the global icon's resonant vision, values, and commitments to a more equal, socially

just, and democratic world order. Extensive consultations were undertaken to discover what this name means to staff and students. Over the past five years, these consultations have been expanding across faculties and campuses to address how the University, as a community, can live the legacy of its namesake in impactful and sustainable ways.

The concept document developed in consultation with students and staff, seeks to locate the naming and renaming project within a set of fundamental principles and criteria which will help build social cohesion as well as reflect our new identity.

Covering seven campuses and dozens of spaces and places, the University opted to take a phased, precinct-based approach as follows:

- Phase 1: Student residences in Gqeberha
- Phase 2 started in 2019 but, due to the interruption caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, was delayed until 2022. It has now continued with:
  - Faculty buildings and spaces
  - George Campus buildings
- Phase 3: Other buildings and spaces identified through consultation, including administration buildings
- Phase 4: Campus names

## NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY GUIDELINE AND CRITERIA

The Naming and Renaming Policy Guideline provides a progressive guide for revisiting existing names as well as naming future buildings, identified spaces and roads in keeping with the vision, mission and values of the University.

The policy guideline considers the University's vision, mission and values, and resonates the Constitution of South Africa and the ethos of Nelson Mandela.

The Naming and Renaming Policy Guideline specifies multiple criteria for deciding on any name change. These guiding principles and criteria include:

- Redressing imbalances of the past which seek to affirm the indigenous peoples and history of the provinces in which the University is located.
- According and resonating with the vision, values and strategies of the University, whether this is with reference to places, historical events, geographical features, flora and fauna, or concept words.
- Names chosen should as far as possible serve to build social cohesion at the University and inspire present and future generations.
- Giving consideration to the function or feature of the building or space that is being named.
- The primary users, at the time, of a building or place being named or renamed should be given opportunity to make inputs to its name.

In considering the names of people, these need to have had an identifiable national and international significance. They also should include the fields of culture, politics, sport, education and scholarship. Furthermore, they should reflect race and gender equity.

The policy guideline exists not only to facilitate the process of naming and renaming but also to promote the University's transformation agenda.

The name-change process positions the University as an agent of change, embracing values which uphold and respect human dignity and promote equality for all.

Stakeholder engagement therefore has been key in ensuring that the names considered are mutually acceptable.

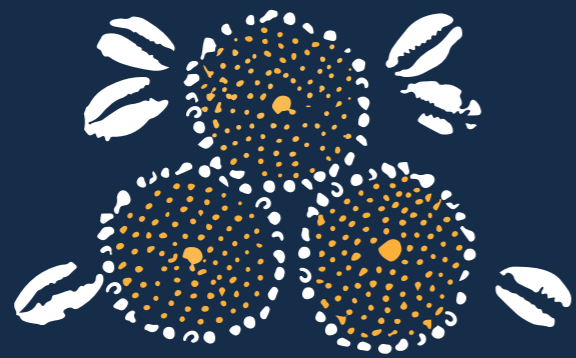
The process is an opportunity for students, and the University community, to engage in deeper dialogue with regard to name changes.

Various sub-committees have been established to guide the process and, regardless of the starting point, all proposed choices must go through an institutional approval process.

This starts with the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee and its Naming and Renaming subcommittee and continues through to the University's highest governing body, Council.

While the correct governance approvals are being followed, permission from the family or trust after whom a building is to be named is also sought.





# RESIDENCES

## PHASE 1

The Naming and Renaming programme saw the renaming of eight student residences on campuses in Gqeberha, then Port Elizabeth. The University's Student Representative Council (SRC), as the independent voice of students at Nelson Mandela University, spearheaded the name change process with a series of consultative meetings among students, starting in April 2018. Each of the families or trusts whose names were selected were approached for permission and the necessary approvals, and each request was met positively.

### Claude Qavane Residence (formerly Xanadu)

Claude Qavane (1970–2002) was an anti-apartheid activist, politician and intellectual who was born in Kwazakhele in Gqeberha. He was also a student at the-then Port Elizabeth Technikon (now part of Nelson Mandela University), and expelled for his campaigns against financial exclusions and other discriminatory practices in higher learning institutions. Undeterred, he enrolled at Vista University (now also part of Nelson Mandela University) to read for an LLB degree. While studying law, Qavane realised that mobilising young people in education had a direct impact on the type of society they would later create.



### Solomon Mahlangu Residence (Unitas)

Dedicated to the emancipation of his people, Solomon Mahlangu (1956–1979) died a martyr to the cause of freedom. As a young man, he watched, with growing concern, student protests against the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in African schools. Tried and convicted under the Terrorism Act, he was sentenced to death by hanging and was executed on 6 April, 1979.



Mahlangu's death intensified international anger against the apartheid government in South Africa.

### Sarah Baartman Residence (Melodi)

Born in the Gamtoos River valley in the Eastern Cape, Sarah Baartman (1789-1816) is one of our most significant forebears – a symbol of the resilience of women and the tragic consequences of colonialism. With a Khoi father and San mother, she inherited the ancestral mantle of the first peoples of South Africa. She was taken to Europe, where she was given the abhorrent nickname of "Hottentot Venus" for her body shape and put on humiliating display as a sideshow attraction. She died in Europe and her remains were finally brought home and laid to rest in Hankey in 2002.



### Lillian Ngoyi Residence (Veritas)

On 9 August, 1956, a bold and determined politician marched with 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Lillian Ngoyi (1911-1980), gifted public speaker and rising star in the ANC and resistance circles, led the march in protest against the apartheid government law requiring women to carry pass books. The outspoken politician endured severe hardships as a result of her activities, spending much time in solitary confinement while imprisoned under the 1960 state of emergency.



### Hector Pieterse Residence (Letaba)

This young activist is an anti-apartheid icon. Few images capture as powerfully the courage of student anti-apartheid activism as the grainy, black-and-white photograph of dying Soweto schoolboy Hector Pieterse (1963-1976). Taken by news photographer Sam Nzima during the Soweto Uprising on 16 June, 1976, it has become a global symbol of resistance – and a sobering reminder of the sacrifice and bravery of thousands of schoolchildren and students dedicated to upholding their basic rights to freedom and education.



### Sol Plaatje Residence (Protea)

For famed South African linguist, translator and author Sol Plaatje (1876-1932) the pen proved mightier than the sword in his struggle for the country's liberation from colonialism. Co-founder and first Secretary General of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) – later the African National Congress (ANC) – Plaatje was an intellectual, journalist and politician. As this is a senior residence, students wished to name it after a stalwart and intellectual giant who not only played a significant political role, but left an indelible literary legacy.



### Charlotte Maxeke Residence (Lebombo)

A principled, fearless leader, Charlotte Maxeke (1874–1939) was a talented academic and one of South Africa's first black women graduates. History celebrates Charlotte Maxeke as a phenomenal political force, aptly honoured as "Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa".



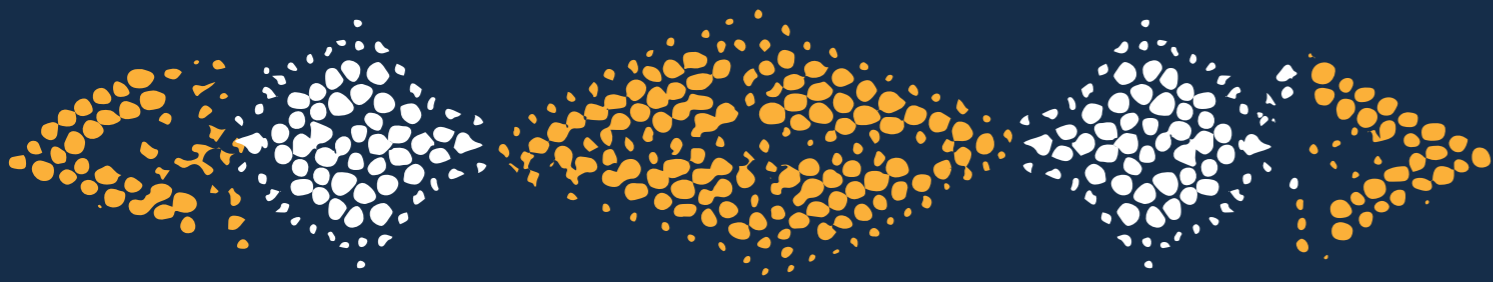
Maxeke fought on two fronts – politics and education – and backed by her beloved African Methodist Episcopal Church, she was committed to providing South African children with quality schooling.

### Yolanda Guma Residence (Oceana)

Yolanda Guma (1986–2015) was destined to lead an extraordinary life. Her commitment to uplifting fellow students, powerful management skills and determination to succeed underpin her hero status among those who knew and admired her. Her resolve to use education as a tool for both personal and community upliftment bore fruit in 2005, when she enrolled for a Bachelor of Administration degree at the then Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). A youth leader, academic and student activist, Guma lived in the-then Oceana Residence for the duration of her undergraduate degree.



The former Oceana Residence on Second Avenue Campus was renamed Yolanda Guma.



# GQEBERHA CAMPUSES

## PHASE 2

On the Gqeberha campuses, the Naming and Renaming process has been developing across the seven faculties of the University, as follows:

### FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

#### Vulindlela

##### THE OVAL BUILDING

The isiXhosa word Vulindlela means pioneering. This building on Second Avenue Campus is a lecture venue.



#### Heshima

##### MMM LOUBSER AUDITORIUM

Heshima is a word originating from KiSwahili that means respect. This building on Second Avenue Campus is a lecture venue.



#### Ulwazi

##### BUILDING 123

Ulwazi means knowledge in both isiXhosa and isiZulu. This South Campus building contains lecture halls for the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences and the venues, until now unofficially unnamed, will now bear a name which reflect this.



## FACULTY OF EDUCATION

### Isivuno BUILDING 6

The isiXhosa word Isivuno means crop or harvest, and holds a similar meaning in isiZulu.



### Masakhane

#### FOUNDATION PHASE BUILDING

The Foundation Phase building on Missionvale Campus is named Masakhane, the isiXhosa word meaning “let’s build each other up” and in this context alludes to curiosity, willingness and hunger for knowledge. It is also a political slogan of solidarity.



### Imbewu

#### RESOURCE CENTRE

The word Imbewu means seed in isiXhosa and isiZulu. This centre on South Campus nurtures the seed of learning for students and staff.



## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

### Mapungubwe

#### NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

The ancient city of Mapungubwe in Limpopo is an Iron Age archaeological site rich in biodiversity and cultural importance. Before it was abandoned in the 14th Century, it developed into the largest kingdom on the sub-continent. Mapungubwe is thought to have traded gold and ivory with China, India and Egypt and today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



# Newtonian

## NEW NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

Named after the physicist and mathematician, Sir Isaac Newton, this South Campus building was formerly known as the new new engineering building. Newton was a major figure in the Scientific Revolution of the 17th Century. Perhaps best known today for his work in the field of mechanics, his three laws of motion are the basic principles of modern physics and led to the formulation of the law of gravity.



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

# Ingoma

## BUILDING 10

The Rwanda-Rundi origin of the word Ingoma means drum reign or kingship. Ingoma is a Department of Music lecture venue.



# Nomhle Nkonyeni

## BUILDING 35

Renowned actress Nomhle Nkonyeni (1942-2019) was born in New Brighton, Gqeberha. She was a pioneering black stage actress who formed part of the renowned Serpent Players, founded by Athol Fugard. Nkonyeni gave herself entirely towards developing and preserving the arts in South Africa, and has had a significant influence on the younger generation of artists.



## FACULTY OF LAW

# Dulcie September

## LAW SERVICES BUILDING

Dulcie September (1935-1988) was an anti-apartheid activist born in Athlone in the Western Cape. Her work with various resistance groups throughout her life, particularly the ANC, was incredibly influential in the fight against apartheid. September was assassinated in 1988 and naming this Cuyler Street building in her honour celebrates her contribution to human rights.



# Pius Langa

## NEW LAW BUILDING

Former Chief Justice and head of the Constitutional Court Pius Langa (1939-2013) was born in Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga (formerly known as the Eastern Transvaal). He was dedicated to improving the quality of life of his fellow South Africans through a colourful legal career spent largely in service of the disadvantaged and oppressed. It is therefore appropriate to name the newest building in the Faculty of Law after this legend in the legal profession.



## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

# Mvezo

## BUILDING 12

The village of our namesake's birth, Mvezo is on the banks of the Mbashe River, not far from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. This South Campus building is a lecture venue



# Katherine Johnson

## BUILDING 13

African-American mathematician Katherine Johnson (1918-2020) was a NASA employee who was critical to the success of the first and subsequent US-crewed space flights. She is considered an American hero and pioneer. Among other pioneering space missions, she developed calculations that helped the US launch its first astronaut into space in 1961 and safely land Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969, among other pioneering space missions. The Physics and Chemistry departments use this building on South Campus as a lecture venue.



# Inkanyezi

## BUILDING 127

This South Campus building is an administration and lecture venue, and draws its new name from the isiZulu word for star, Inkanyezi.





## OCEAN SCIENCES

### Eleanor Xiniwe

#### STRATEGIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND ADVANCEMENT (SRMA) BUILDING

Eleanor Xiniwe (1863-1919) was a pioneer of business in South Africa who was also actively engaged in politics and striving for social change. Born Eleanor Ndwanyana at Annshaw Mission near Middelburg in the Eastern Cape, she married Paul Xiniwe in 1885. They opened the first hotel for Africans in 1894 in Qonce (formerly King William's Town) and established several other business interests. After Paul's death in 1902, Eleanor continued to successfully run her various business enterprises in Qonce and East London. She was a talented musician and the Temperance Hotel became renowned for its musical evenings. The couple were members of the African choir, which toured England between 1891 and 1892 to raise funds for a technical high school in Kimberley.



## GEORGE CAMPUS

The following buildings on the George Campus are included in Phase 2 of the University's Naming and Renaming process.

### Athenkosi Mbangatha

#### STINKWOOD

Former Nelson Mandela University student Athenkosi Mbangatha (1992-2020) was born in Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape village of Thaweni. While studying nature conservation on George Campus in 2018, Mbangatha was voted onto the SRC and, from there, her political passion took her forward to become secretary of the ANC Youth League in Ward 27, Flagstaff. Those who knew Athenkosi remember her as a peacemaker, teller of jokes and leader.



### Bavelile Hlongwa

#### AKKERDRAAI

Former Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources Bavelile Hlongwa (1981-2019) was not only a politician but also a chemical engineer. Born in KwaZulu-Natal, Hlongwa was an aspiring and energetic leader who was passionate about the plight of women and youth in South Africa.



### David Webster

#### YSTERMARTINS

Academic, anti-apartheid activist and anthropologist David Webster (1944-1989) was a founding member of the Five Freedoms Forum and a committed comrade in the United Democratic Front. He was assassinated by apartheid security forces outside his home in Johannesburg in 1989, nine months before Nelson Mandela was released from prison.



# Denis Goldberg

## AKKERDRAAI FLATS

Professor Denis Goldberg (1933-2020) was a South African political activist and freedom fighter in the struggle against apartheid. Goldberg was accused No 3 in the Rivonia Trial, where Nelson Mandela was No 1 and Walter Sisulu No 2. He was also the youngest of the 11 defendants, and spent 22 years in jail after being convicted of sabotage.



# Emlanjeni

## LAUNDRY

The isiXhosa word Emlanjeni means “at the riverside”, and also a place of joy, tranquillity and harmony.



# Fatima Meer

## PAMPOENKRAAL

Activist, educator and author Fatima Meer (1928-2010) was a founding member of the Federation of South African Women (Fedsaw). The federation organised the anti-pass march on the Union Buildings in 1956. Durban-born Meer was the first black woman to be appointed as a lecturer at a white South African University, the University of Natal, and the only banned person ever granted permission to teach at an educational institution. Meer worked tirelessly to improve race relations and promote justice, reconciliation and non-violent action.



# Indlovukazi

## OUTENIQUA RESIDENCES

Although in isiZulu the word Indlovukazi means a female elephant, in the SiSwati language it is the title for a female monarch of Eswatini.



# Iziko

## DINING HALL

The literal translation of Iziko from the original isiXhosa is “at the fireplace”.



# Johnny Clegg

## PHOENIX

Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg (1953-2019) is known for his vibrant blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms. This South Africa musician, born in England, became not only a musician but also an anti-apartheid activist known internationally for breaking through cultural and racial barriers.



# Kaunda Ntunja

## TIERKOP

An award-winning rugby commentator and Currie Cup winner, Kaunda Ntunja (1982-2020) was a true rugby pioneer. The East London-born sportsman was the first black South African schools rugby captain and then moved on to become a passionate isiXhosa language rugby commentator for SuperSport.



# Mieta Nontinam Leholo

## WINDHEUWEL FLATS

George struggle veteran Mieta Nontinam Leholo was a leader in the ANC and the ANC Women's League until her death in 2019 (DOB unknown). She played a significant role in ensuring the provision of education for black children in the George area.



# Nadine Gordimer

## KAMASI

Nadine Gordimer (1923-2014) was a South African writer and political activist who was awarded the 1991 Nobel Prize in Literature. The judges recognised Gordimer as a writer “who through her magnificent epic writing has ... been of very great benefit to humanity”. Exile and alienation were major themes in her writing which often focussed on the effect of apartheid on the lives of South Africans.



# Nathaniel Julies

## FURNTECH/DE HOEK

Nathaniel, who had Down Syndrome, was just 16 years old when he was killed as an innocent bystander, allegedly by police officers. The young victim had grown up in tough socio-economic conditions.



# Reeva Steenkamp

## KALANDER

South African model and paralegal Reeva Steenkamp (1983-2013) was a victim of intimate partner violence. As Steenkamp was a Nelson Mandela University alumnus, students felt it was important to commemorate the life of this well-known face of gender-based violence.



# Richard Maponya

## WINDHEUWEL HOUSES

South African entrepreneur Richard Maponya (1920-2020) was a property developer and black business pioneer. He was best known for building a business empire despite the restrictions of apartheid, and for his determination to see the Gauteng township of Soweto develop economically.



# Sindiso Magaqa Heights

## NEW RESIDENCE

A former Secretary General of the African National Congress Youth League, Sindiso Magaqa (1982-2017), fought tirelessly towards the vision of economic freedom. As a principled social facilitator and a serious lobbyist, Magaqa placed himself on the front line of the struggle for freedom.



# SRC Chambers

## MARULA

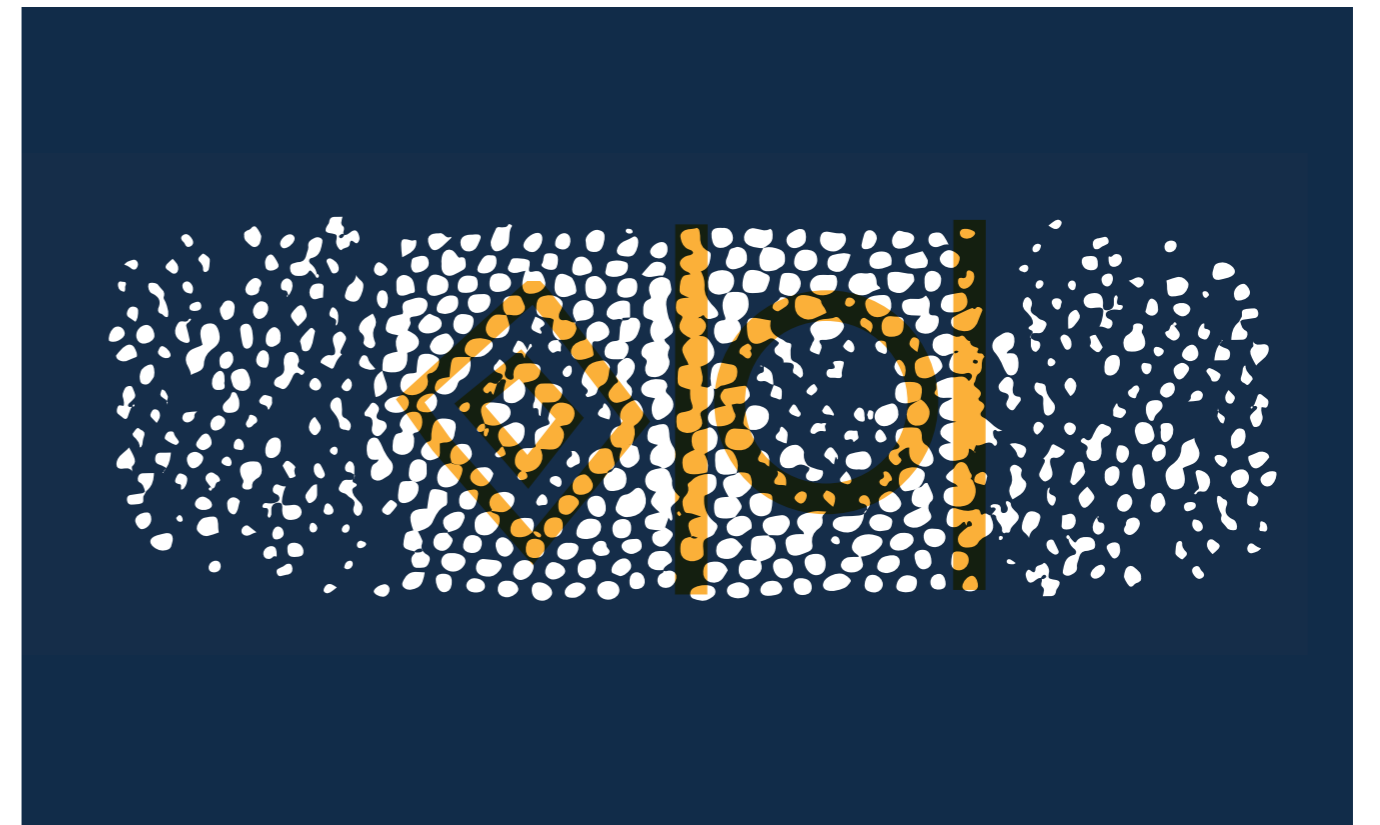
The Student Representative Council Chambers are a hub where student leadership plans and initiates student activism and a vibrant student life.



# Sophiatown

## REC CENTRE

Sophiatown is one of South Africa's most famous and oldest black townships, known predominantly for its political legacy and rich heritage of jazz and blues.



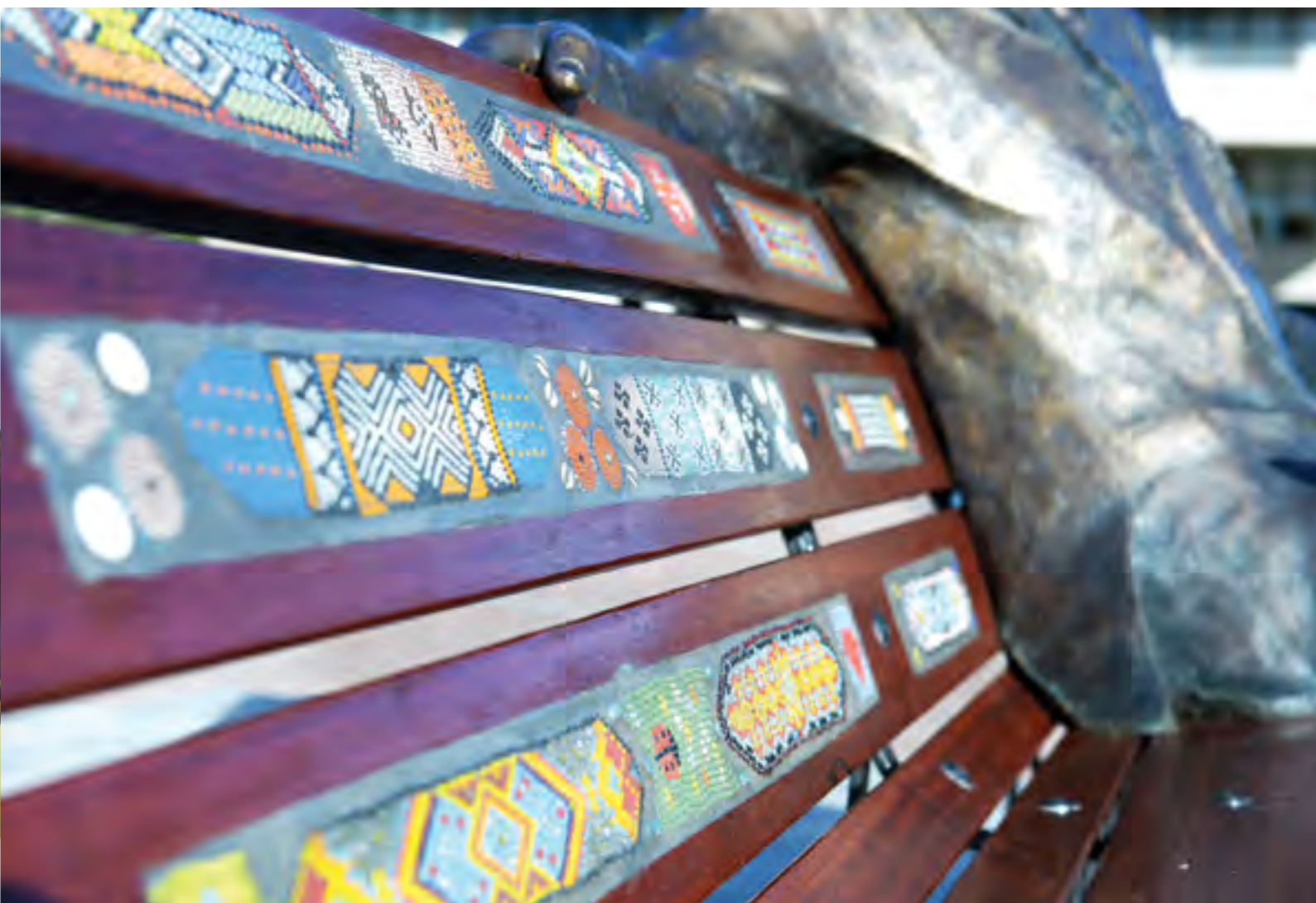


# NAMING AND RENAMING PROCESS

The Naming and Renaming process has been, and continues to be, a dynamic and fluid transformation project, reflecting on and adapting to developments of the past five years within and external to the University as it looks ahead to the future. Given its magnitude, a phased approach is being taken to ensure smooth implementation across all campuses and precincts identified for renaming.

It is a process, however, that is gaining traction and momentum as more staff, students and community stakeholders make their voices heard about places and spaces which are important to them.

This publication gives a broad overview of Phase 1 and Phase 2.



// Public art on campus celebrates the search for knowledge, while promoting the free exchanges of ideas. It is clear that the arts thus have the ability to enrich and transform an institution such as Nelson Mandela University



Unveiling of the Mandela Bench Project  
VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SIBONGILE MUTHWA  
25 May 2018



# Change the World

PO Box 77000,  
Nelson Mandela University  
Gqeberha, 6031

[info@mandela.ac.za](mailto:info@mandela.ac.za)



[naming.mandela.ac.za](http://naming.mandela.ac.za)

