



**Media Release: Monday 20 February 2017**

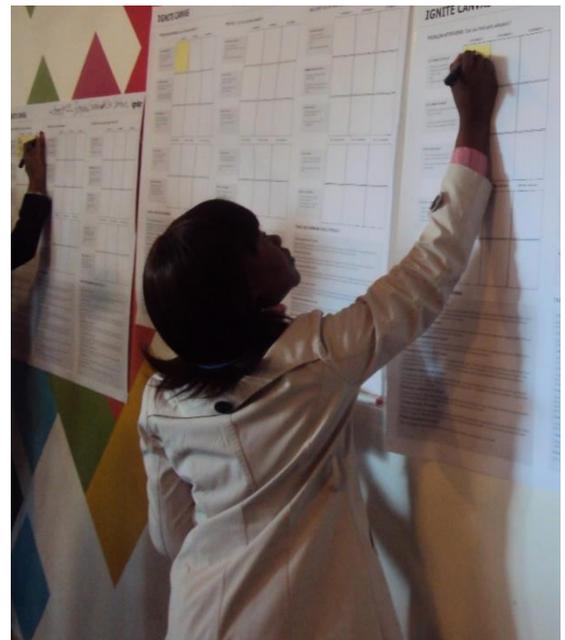
**‘BUILDING DREAMS IN PEACEFUL WAYS’: Sophiatown’s spirit alive and growing among young entrepreneurs ‘already with stripes on their backs’ said Thandi Orleyn, chairperson BPSA.**

Every February, Sophiatown’s history is often recalled in public space, because it is the anniversary of when this freehold, multi-racial suburb began to be physically destroyed under apartheid legislation, which happened between 1955-1962.

However, Sophiatown’s story did not end there: this month we are celebrating amazing green entrepreneurs who are establishing excellent businesses in Sophiatown today, 11 years after she was renamed by the City of Johannesburg. These young people are changing the face of our villages and cities and building their dreams for a better future.

The Development Bank of South Africa Green Fund Manager, Olympus Manthatha, joined business leader Thandi Orleyn, in congratulating 11 BizCre8 Award winners, for outstanding efforts in establishing their new businesses.

Judge Ajay Lalu, MD Black Lite Consulting said *‘this competition uncovered some of the best start-ups I’ve come across; I’m offering my personal mentorship to the overall winner, Elmond Khoza of LAMO Solar’*



The Awards, funded by British philanthropist, Clive Beeston, are the first to specifically promote investment in youth businesses. Prizes worth R100,000 were awarded.



The criteria for the Awards included, doing business in a way that promotes trust, ethical business practices, commitment to broader society, environmental awareness and an understanding of the opportunities, needs and the demands of the African continent. To see the video profiles of some of the BizCre8 entrepreneurs shortlisted for the awards, [click here](#).

**Overall winner Elmond Khoza receiving his trophy and R50 000**

## ***Celebrating Sophiatown through Youth***

***Entrepreneurship – BizCre8:*** [click here](#) to see a video of the best upcoming youth entrepreneurs in the green space receiving their awards.

## ***Start Your Entrepreneurial Journey - Good Things:***

4, 5 and 6 April - our business ideas workshop is aimed at start-up entrepreneurs and existing businesses. With a focus on developing creative business models to develop the next great green business concept, this workshop is the first step in the BizCre8 programme developed to take your business idea from mind to market. [Click here](#) to find out more about BizCre8 and to apply for our next Ide8 workshop.

***BizCre8 has also been shortlisted for the Gauteng Premier's Service Excellence Award in the Economic Growth: Inclusive Economy category***



**Good Things Come To Those with the drive to succeed**

**GOOD THINGS DON'T COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT**

Are you an aspiring entrepreneur (age 18-35) who would like to be a part of South Africa's next generation of green entrepreneurs? Do you dream of being the next big game-changer making Good Things happen on our continent? So don't wait - register for your opportunity to get business advice, mentoring, feasibility testing, customer research and a host of other support to get your business idea off the ground.

Cost: Able to travel to Historic Sophiatown (Gauteng based) and the WILL to succeed! Contact us on Tel: 011 473 1271 or email: [bizcre8@sophiatownthemix.com](mailto:bizcre8@sophiatownthemix.com)

DEVELOPING SKILLS • HARNESSING STRENGTHS • GROWING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ENTREPRENEURS

## **WHAT ELSE YOU'LL FIND IN SOPHATOWN TODAY**



*Opened in 2015 the Huddleston memorial building is the first new public building in the suburb for 60 years. It hosts 140 youth entrepreneurs, and a vibrant cultural programme, six days a week.*

***Jazz Encounters:*** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February - launching the national tour of **Dani Mali Quintet** ([view flyer](#)) World-class South African jazz up close, and affordable, every month!

***Sophiatown Academy of Music:*** tuition for all levels – beginners to masters: weekday afternoons and Saturdays: [www.sophiatownacademyofmusic.co.za](http://www.sophiatownacademyofmusic.co.za)

Visit ***Sophiatown's Urban Experience:*** a walking tour of this special place- EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

## Notes for Editors

Based in historic Sophiatown, BizCre8 was established in 2014 by non-profit company the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre to address sustainable youth development. We do this through supporting ethical enterprise through BizCre8 (a social enterprise), offering culture and arts for all, and sharing the heritage of the multi-cultural community so that Sophiatown's deep roots inspire what we build for the future.

The BizCre8 Awards ceremony on Monday 23 January, featured keynote speaker Thandi Orleyn, and DBSA manager of the Green Fund, Olympus Manthata. It is annual event, highlighting the opportunities for youth in the green economy sector, while promoting ethical practice and excellence in doing 'good' business. [Click here to watch footage](#)

For more information, including how to become a sponsor for the 2018 awards contact Brendon Martens

Tell: 011 477 3490

Cell: 083 686 4634

E-mail: [brendon@sophiatownthemix.com](mailto:brendon@sophiatownthemix.com)

Website: [www.sophiatownthemix.com/bizcre8](http://www.sophiatownthemix.com/bizcre8)