**CONSTITUTION HILL AND AFROPUNK PRESENT EXCEPTIONAL FESTIVE EXIBITIONS SHOWCASE**

Constitution Hill in association with Afropunk will be keeping Jozi lights on this festive season with engaging exhibitions and a ground-breaking music festival.

The festival annually hosted in New York, Atlanta, London and Paris is now coming to Joburg for the first time welcoming renowned artists such as Solange Knowles, Anderson .Paak & The Free Nationals , Laura Mvula, King Tha and more. The Constitution Hill backdrop will make for the most iconic AFROPUNK festival yet. Both AFROPUNK and Constitution Hill have been celebrated for providing a platform for activism and self-expression in their own rights and the partnership of these pioneering organizations will make for a unique and memorable new year’s eve celebration.

The partnership which also includes a collaboration with the Amacreatives to host: ***A New Black*** - a multimedia group exhibition & dialogue focusing on the individual voices of 7 upcoming contemporary artists and how they employ their artistic agency to engage with and interpret the colonial narrative that forms part of their history. It’s a call for an artistic protest - a creative riot - to reimagine new definition(s) of blackness. It’s a disruption of the status quo; a defiance of stereotypes that continue to shape & frame ideas around blackness. *A New Black* is thus, the emergence of a unique calibre of black creatives aiming to shift perspectives on what it means to be a black artist in a constantly changing 21st Century Africa.  Selected artists include Loyiso Mkize, Leeroy Jason, Zandi Tisani, Zac Modirapula, Sindiso Nyoni, Yolanda Mazwana and Zanele Mashinini.

The Constitution Hill partnership with the AFROPUNK festival has given rise to a legacy project, **IamJoburg,** an **online tourism portal,** project-managed by Travel Massive Africa. To give Afropunk guests a raw Johannesburg experience, tour operators in Alexandra, Soweto and the city centre are being assisted with developing experiential products and making better use of digital marketing.

If Afropunk is the microphone of thought then Constitution Hill is the stage for action. Designed to restore power to the disempowered, to revive hope in the hopeless, Constitution Hill is the proud host of such a progressive festival of music, art and consciousness.

**Constitution Hill December Exhibitions Programme**

During the festive season ConHill will present art exhibitions that are intended to spark lively and engaging experiences related to Constitutionalism, Human Rights, and Democracy.

***Looking Backward, Moving Forward*** is an exhibition curated by the Ifa Lethu Foundation, showing the incredible talent and fortitude of the artists who struggled against the odds, during the apartheid era, to make their art tell the stories which were so often hidden due to the marginalisation of South Africa’s majority black population. The exhibition will run until end of January 2018.

***Umama Onesibindi: Mother of Courage*** is a tribute to all the children and women across Africa who have chosen life and stood firm in the face of adversity. For the past ten years, photographer Karin Schermbrucker has travelled the continent on assignment for UNICEF, hearing and sharing the stories of women and children who have faced the giant of HIV. In every home, and over every shared moment, one thing was the same regardless of road name, country, or place: courage. The exhibition opens to the public on World AIDS Day and will close on 12 January 2018.

**Memories of the Struggle: Australians Against Apartheid** is an exhibition launched by the Australasian South African Alliance (ASAA), in partnership with the Australian High Commission in South Africa, Brand South Africa and Constitution Hill. This multimedia exhibition is a photographic timeline of events that weaves together a narrative of Australia’s involvement in the fight against apartheid.

**Palladium Exhibition:** Palladium, a well-renowned fashion boot brand is celebrating 70 years of the existence of their trendy urban cultural boot. The exhibition is a showcase of the historical timeline and background on the existence of the Palladium boot and will show, in pictures, the transformative journey that the boot has walked. The exhibition closes in mid-January 2018.

**Other festive attractions on the site**

ConHill’s **tours** will continue to keep tourists spellbound in a walk down SA’s historical memory lane of the three unique museums dating from 1883; to the present day iconic Constitutional Court that continues to author South Africa’s advance into a dawning democratic era (see attached tour programme).

For more information please contact:

Phetsile Nxumalo | Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator | p.nxumalo@constitutionhill.org.za | 011 381 3128 | [www.constitutionhill.org.za](http://www.constitutionhill.org.za)

Jeanny Morulane | GM Marketing jeanny@conhill.org.za | 011 381 3150 | 060 571 0922 [www.constitutionhill.org.za](http://www.constitutionhill.org.za)

**About Constitution Hill**

Constitution Hill is a national heritage site and home to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Constitution Hill is a site of a dark history of oppression and brutality. It was once a fort and a military defence post during the South African War and prison which was used as an instrument of apartheid as a place that was notorious for its harsh treatment of prisoners. Some of the now famous inmates were: Nelson Mandela; Mahatma Gandhi; Joe Slovo; Albertina Sisulu; Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Fatima Meer. The idea of producing a festival in a living museum that tells the story of South Africa’s journey to democracy is inspiring for all involved.

Constitution Hill is also open to the public for guided tours to the Women’s Goal museum, Number Four museum, and Old Fort museum. This includes the notorious Old Fort Prison Complex and Number 4 where South Africa’s leading political activists, including Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi, were detained. Constitution Hill is a subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency and presents an important platform for Heritage, Education, and Tourism related programmes.

**Conhill’s Tour Offerings**

**1. Highlights tour**

Our highlights tour is an hour long and alternates each hour, visiting the Women's Jail, Number Four and the Constitutional Court one hour, and the Old Fort, Number Four and the Constitutional Court the next. This tour is particularly useful for organised tours, visitors arriving on the City Sightseeing red bus and those with limited time. After the tour, you are welcome to explore the rest of the precinct on your own.

**2. Full tour**

Experience the whole of Constitution Hill – the Old Fort, the Women's Jail, Number Four and the Constitutional Court – on our full, two-hour tour. This holistic tour comes to the heart of what Constitution Hill is all about, exploring the precinct’s complex history, its mutations through time, the humiliations and injustices to which its inmates were subjected, and offering an explanation as to why the court’s presence in this place is so meaningful.

The full tour departs from the Visitor Centre twice a day, at 10am and at 1pm. Group tours can be booked for groups of 10 people or more.

**3. Night tour**

Constitution Hill is a deeply resonant space, filled with the echoes of the many men and women who were incarcerated within its walls during its 100-year history. At night, however, without the comings and goings of its daytime visitors or the buzz of the city beyond, the precinct is a different space altogether.

Our Night tour offers our visitors the chance to explore Constitution Hill beneath the night sky, giving a sense of what prisoners might have experienced during the quieter hours of their confinement.The tour starts with sundowners on the Old Fort ramparts and ends with dinner at The Hill restaurant.

Our Night tours take place on the last Thursday of every month. The tour is available for groups of 10 people or more and advance bookings are essential.

**4. Time Travel tour**

Walking through Constitution Hill with one of our highly qualified guides offers a sense of what the precinct was like when it was an operational prison. There is one way, however, to enhance this experience so that the precinct truly comes to life.

Our Time Travel tour begins by providing visitors with prisoner uniforms and officially registering them as prisoners. Men and women are separated and marched through the precinct by their warden-come-guides, who ensure that they undertake tasks specific to male and female prisoners. At the end of the tour, the two groups will reconvene for a tour of the Constitutional Court. This experiential tour is inspired by the events around the arrest of the youth on 16 June 1976, a time of heightened political tension across South Africa and one borne out in the country’s prisons, particularly Constitution Hill.

Our Time Travel tour includes lunch at The Hill restaurant and takes place on the last Friday of every month. The tour is available to groups of 10 people or more and advance bookings are essential.

**5. Walk with Madiba tour**

Nelson Mandela, fondly known by his clan name, Madiba, was incarcerated at Constitution Hill on two occasions. Once, in 1956, before being transferred to Pretoria for the Treason Trial, and again in 1962, after he was arrested in KwaZulu-Natal, the arrest that would see him imprisoned on Robben Island. Mandela visited the prison on several other occasions, however, including in his professional capacity as a lawyer to a number of people, including his then-wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. A permanent exhibition has been established at Constitution Hill in his honour.

This tour traces the steps of Mandela around the precinct, starting at the Flame of Democracy, which Mandela lit from his home in Qunu to mark the 15th anniversary of the Constitution in 2011. It then proceeds to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela’s cell at the Women’s Jail, Mandela’s cell at the Old Fort (he was the only black prisoner to be imprisoned in the white male section of the prison, in order to keep him from influencing other black prisoners) and ends at the Constitutional Court. Our Walk with Madiba tour is available for group bookings any day of the week.